



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
NATIONAL CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 The national Neighbourhood Watch survey was developed by Neighbourhood Watch Network to better understand the impact of Neighbourhood Watch on levels of crime victimisation, fear of crime and feelings of safety, neighbourliness, community cohesion and loneliness, and the current reach and diversity of Neighbourhood Watch.

1.2 The design of the survey was supported by University College London and informed by previous research from Nottingham Trent University into the Crime Survey of England and Wales. It also includes some questions from the What Works Centre for Wellbeing survey tool for measuring loneliness.

1.3 The findings of the national survey will be used by Neighbourhood Watch as a national baseline and support the development and evaluation of the 2020 -2025 Neighbourhood Watch Strategy. Neighbourhood Watch regions will also be provided with a summary of their own results to inform their activity and be able to use the survey or relevant sections from it, to evaluate their impact locally.

2. Methodology

2.1 The survey was conducted online using the Survey Monkey platform from 26 September – 16 November 2022. All responses were anonymised and were analysed in large groups to avoid any attempt at identifying individuals or group of people.

2.2 The survey was shared with Neighbourhood Watch members and non-members via Neighbourhood Watch communication channels, Police force community messaging systems, and shared through the communication channels of our partners. This methodology is a non-probability sampling technique, and the sample can therefore not be guaranteed as representative of the general population.

2.3 A total of 25,293 responses were received. This is a significant increase on the responses for the 2021 survey (14,083).

3. Executive Summary

3.1 There is a clear link between Neighbourhood Watch and how safe people feel in their local areas. Neighbourhood Watch members are much more likely than non-members to think that crime has decreased and significantly more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety.

Q1

We asked for respondents' County or Borough. The map shows the areas with the highest levels of response to the lowest. London is divided up into its constituent boroughs which although helpful in defining those communities, it is less helpful in showing clearly the response in the areas. The largest single area for response was Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (1,586)

The table below shows exact numbers in an alphabetical format.

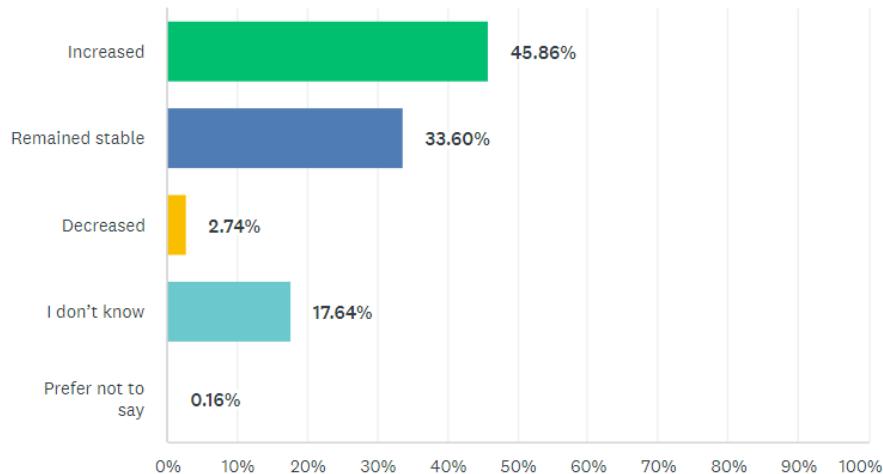


Avon and Somerset	220	Greater Manchester	149	North Wales	364
Barking & Dagenham (London)	65	Greenwich (London)	106	North Yorkshire	476
Barnet (London)	151	Gwent	20	Northamptonshire	752
Bedfordshire	548	Hackney (London)	6	Northumbria	596
Berkshire	773	Hammersmith & Fulham (London)	20	Nottinghamshire	875
Bexley (London)	88	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1586	Oxfordshire	405
Brent (London)	59	Haringey (London)	7	Redbridge (London)	13
Bromley (London)	108	Harrow (London)	25	Richmond upon Thames (London)	21
Buckinghamshire	492	Havering (London)	21	Shropshire	224
Cambridgeshire	582	Herefordshire	114	South Wales	74
Camden (London)	54	Hertfordshire	80	South Yorkshire	791
Cheshire	777	Hillingdon (London)	60	Southwark (London)	9
City of London	100	Hounslow (London)	22	Staffordshire	552
Cleveland	252	Humberside	295	Suffolk	69
Cornwall	324	Islington (London)	21	Surrey	794
Croydon (London)	126	Kensington and Chelsea (London)	9	Sussex	1024
Cumbria	147	Kent	593	Sutton (London)	49
Derbyshire	658	Kingston Upon Thames (London)	20	Tower Hamlets (London)	16
Devon	749	Lambeth (London)	17	Tyne and Wear	132
Dorset	656	Lancashire	1514	Waltham Forest (London)	7
Durham	500	Leicestershire	1177	Wandsworth (London)	20
Dyfed-Powys	22	Lewisham (London)	35	Warwickshire	283
Ealing (London)	28	Lincolnshire	637	West Midlands	318
East Riding of Yorkshire	333	Merseyside	53	West Yorkshire	1196
Enfield (London)	17	Merton (London)	12	Westminster (London)	7
Essex	181	Newham (London)	9	Wiltshire	508
Gloucestershire	670	Norfolk	72	Worcestershire	358

Q2

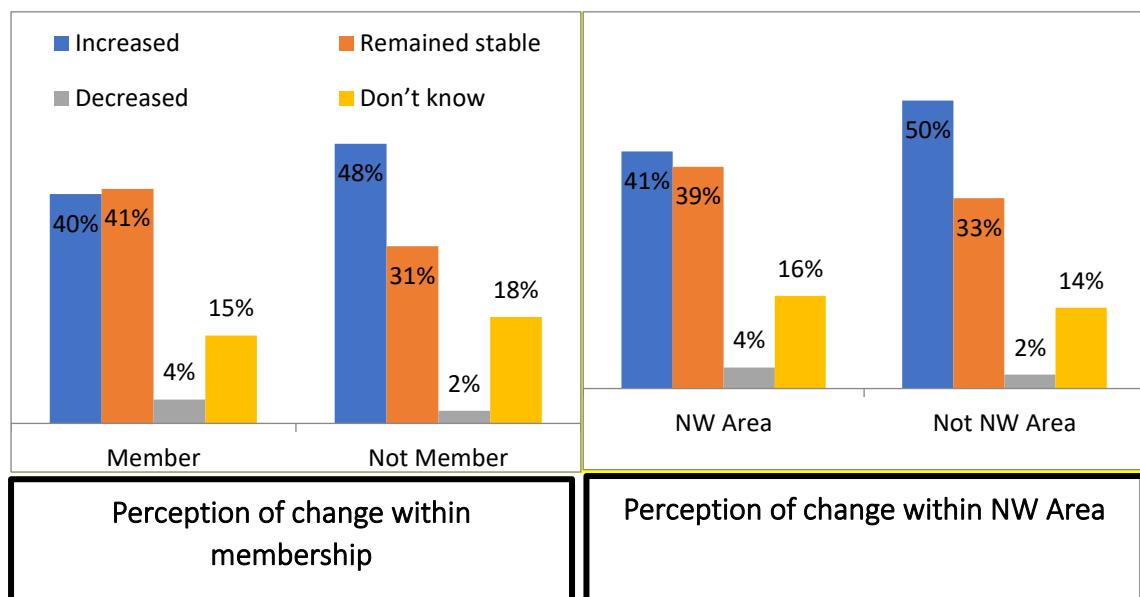
In the past year do you think crime levels in your neighbourhood have?

Answered: 23,373 Skipped: 1,920



Data for all respondents show that 46% of people think that crime has increased.

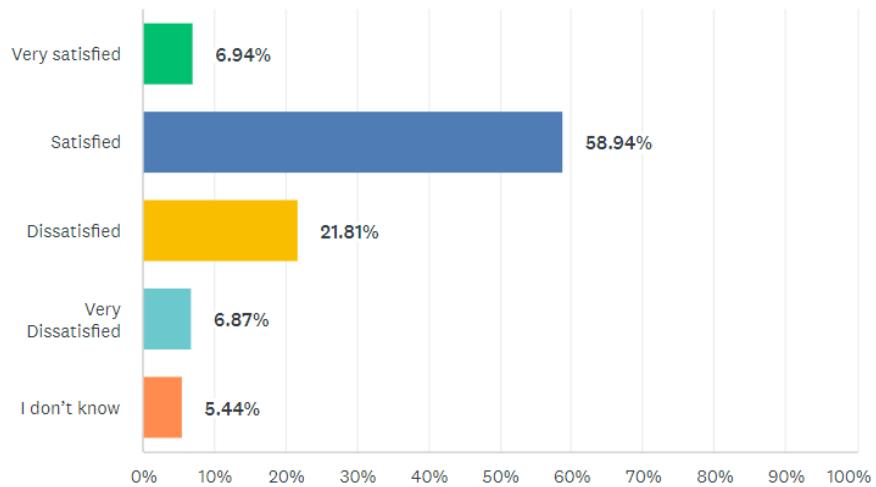
For NW members this figure falls to 40%, with those who think it has stabilised at 41% and 4% think that crime has reduced. Those who do not live in an NW area are most likely to think that crime has increased. 50% of them think that crime has increased.



Q3

In general, how satisfied are you with your personal safety from crime?

Answered: 23,373 Skipped: 1,920



Around two thirds (66%) of everyone responding were either satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety. When we separate NW members to look at their figures, this changes to almost three quarters (74%). This could be due to the information that NW members are offered in terms of local crime statistics, and the fact that they are in regular contact with local policing colleagues.

Those who are members of NW or live in a NW area are most likely to be very satisfied or satisfied with their personal safety from crime compared to those who are not members or are not in a NW area. Reversely, those who are not in an NW area are most likely to be dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



Q4

We then asked which kinds of crimes people are most concerned about.

Overall, **respondents are most likely to be concerned about Having their home broken into and something stolen or having their vehicle stolen or property stolen from their vehicle**. There are no clear differences between members and non-members or those in a NW area or not in an NW area.

	Yes – Member	Not Member	Yes – in NW area	No – not in NW area
Having your home broken into and something stolen	64%	66%	64%	66%
Having your vehicle stolen or property stolen from your vehicle	54%	56%	54%	56%
Online crime	47%	43%	46%	44%
Other frauds and scams	44%	42%	43%	43%
Criminal damage to your property	32%	38%	32%	39%
Having property stolen from your person while you are out	33%	37%	33%	37%
Being harassed, threatened, or verbally abused in the street?	28%	37%	29%	37%
Having your bicycle stolen	16%	16%	16%	14%
Sexual harassment or assault in the street	10%	13%	10%	12%
Hate crime	7%	8%	7%	8%
Domestic abuse	2%	2%	2%	2%
Other	14%	16%	14%	17%
None of the above	8%	7%	8%	7%

When broken down by age, we can see that for 16–24-year-olds (99) their biggest worry is being harassed, threatened, or verbally abused in the street (55%). They also mention spiking, dog theft and knife crime as other categories they're concerned about.

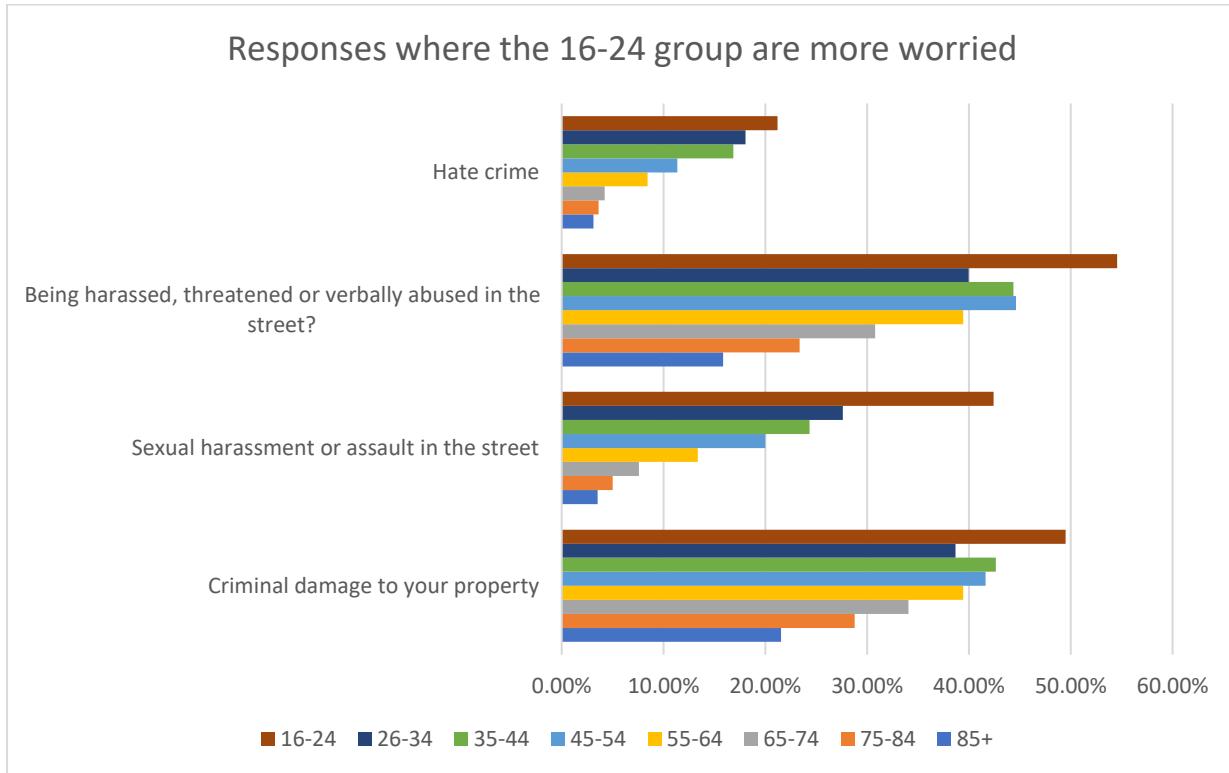
For 25–34-year-olds, (931) their biggest concern was about having their vehicles stolen (56%). This group also mention drug offences, road rage and dog theft.

Q4

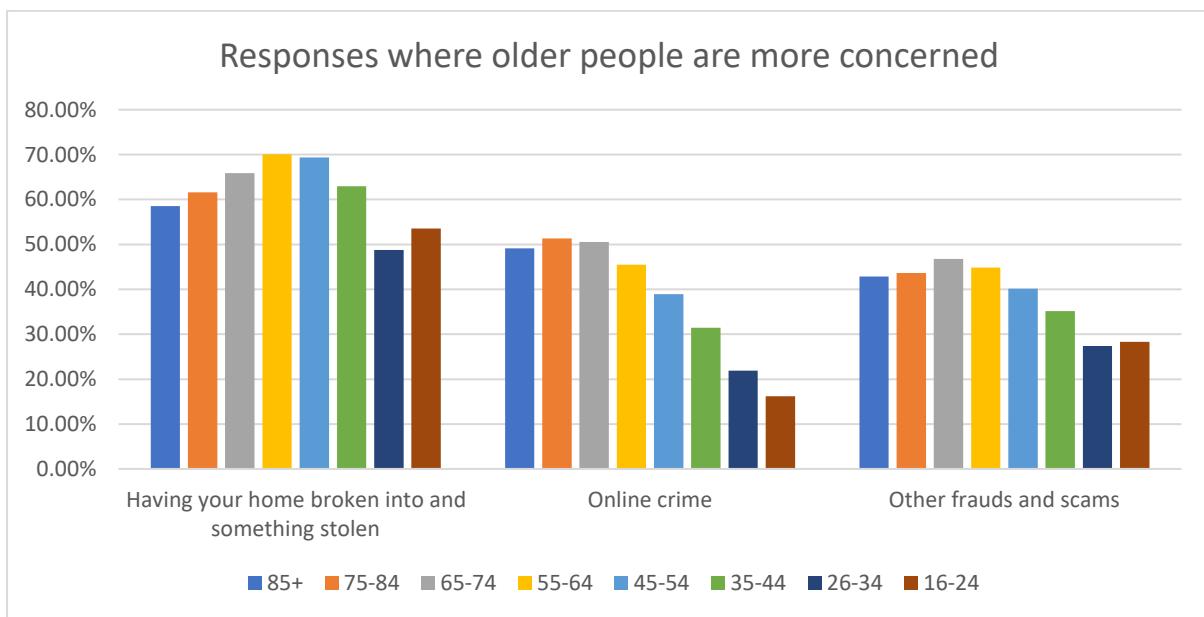
continued

Age Breakdowns

We can see from the data that there are specific crimes which are more important to younger people than to others. Street crime – harassment, hate crime, and sexual assault/harassment, plus damage to property:



For elderly people, we can see that they are less concerned about violent crimes (harassment, street robbery) and slightly less concerned about burglary, theft and criminal damage. Focussing their worries on online crime and scams.



Q5

We asked which crimes respondents were worried about experiencing in the coming year both on a local and national level. Responses differed substantially on this point.

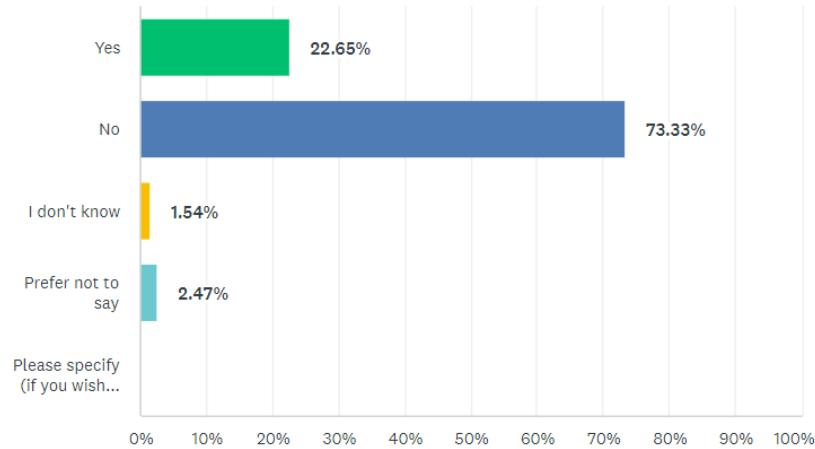
The figures show that respondents are much less likely to be worried about issues locally. Whilst Fly-tipping; Antisocial behaviour and Burglary are the leading local issues; Knife Crime or other serious violence; Online Scams /other fraud and Cybercrime are the leading issues from a national point of view. The following heatmap shows clearly the differences:

	IN MY AREA	NATIONALLY
Fly-tipping	64%	53%
Antisocial behaviour	59%	67%
Burglary	57%	55%
Speeding	56%	44%
Car Crime	54%	53%
Drug dealing / County Lines	54%	68%
On line Scams /other fraud	45%	71%
Bicycle theft	32%	38%
Knife Crime or other serious violence	32%	73%
Assault or street harassment	31%	65%
Cybercrime	31%	69%
Dog theft	31%	49%
Rural / Heritage Crime	30%	47%
Violence Against Women and Girls	20%	64%
Domestic Abuse	17%	57%
Hate Crime	17%	56%
Child Exploitation	16%	63%
Modern Slavery	13%	60%
Terrorism	8%	62%
None of the above	2%	5%

Q6

Have you been a victim of any crime in the past year? (whether or not it was reported to the police)

Answered: 23,373 Skipped: 1,920



23% of respondents had been a victim of crime in the past year. The figures for NW members and non-members on this question are very similar.

Q7

Of those respondents who had been a victim of crime in the last year, 36% had experienced street harassment, 24% criminal damage, 16% online crime and 15% vehicle theft (of the vehicle or property in the vehicle). Crimes appearing in the 'other' category ranged from attempted burglary, theft from garden (sheds), road rage to hit-and-run car incidents and telephone fraud/abuse.

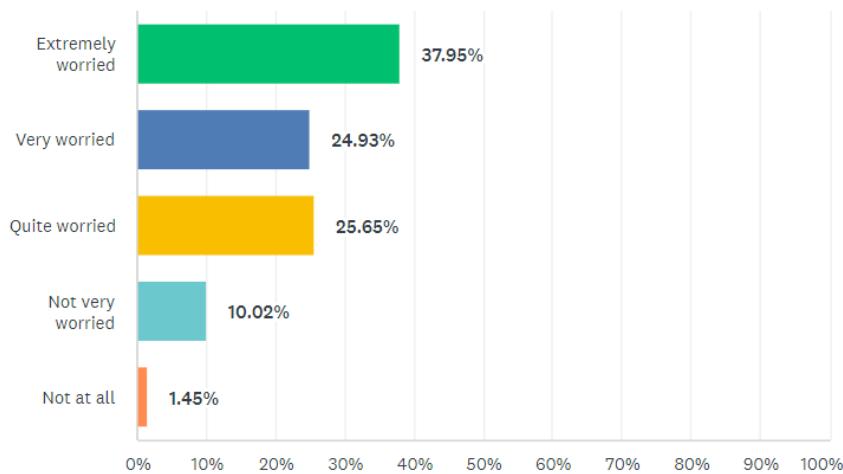
While only 12% of respondents who had suffered a crime in the past year had been burgled, 63% of all respondents worried about becoming a victim of burglary.

Type of crime experienced in the past year	Frequency amongst total sample	Frequency amongst those who experienced crime in the past year
Being harassed, threatened or verbally abused in the street	8%	36%
Criminal damage to your property	5%	24%
Online crime	3%	16%
Having your vehicle stolen or property stolen from your vehicle	3%	15%
Having your home broken into and something stolen	3%	12%
Hate crime	2%	10%
Sexual harassment or assault in the street	2%	7%
Having your bicycle stolen	2%	7%
Having property stolen from your person while you are out	1%	6%
Domestic abuse	1%	4%
Other frauds and scams	4%	16%
Other	5%	25%

Q8

How worried are you about the cost of living crisis and the effect this will have on you personally?

Answered: 5,091 Skipped: 20,202



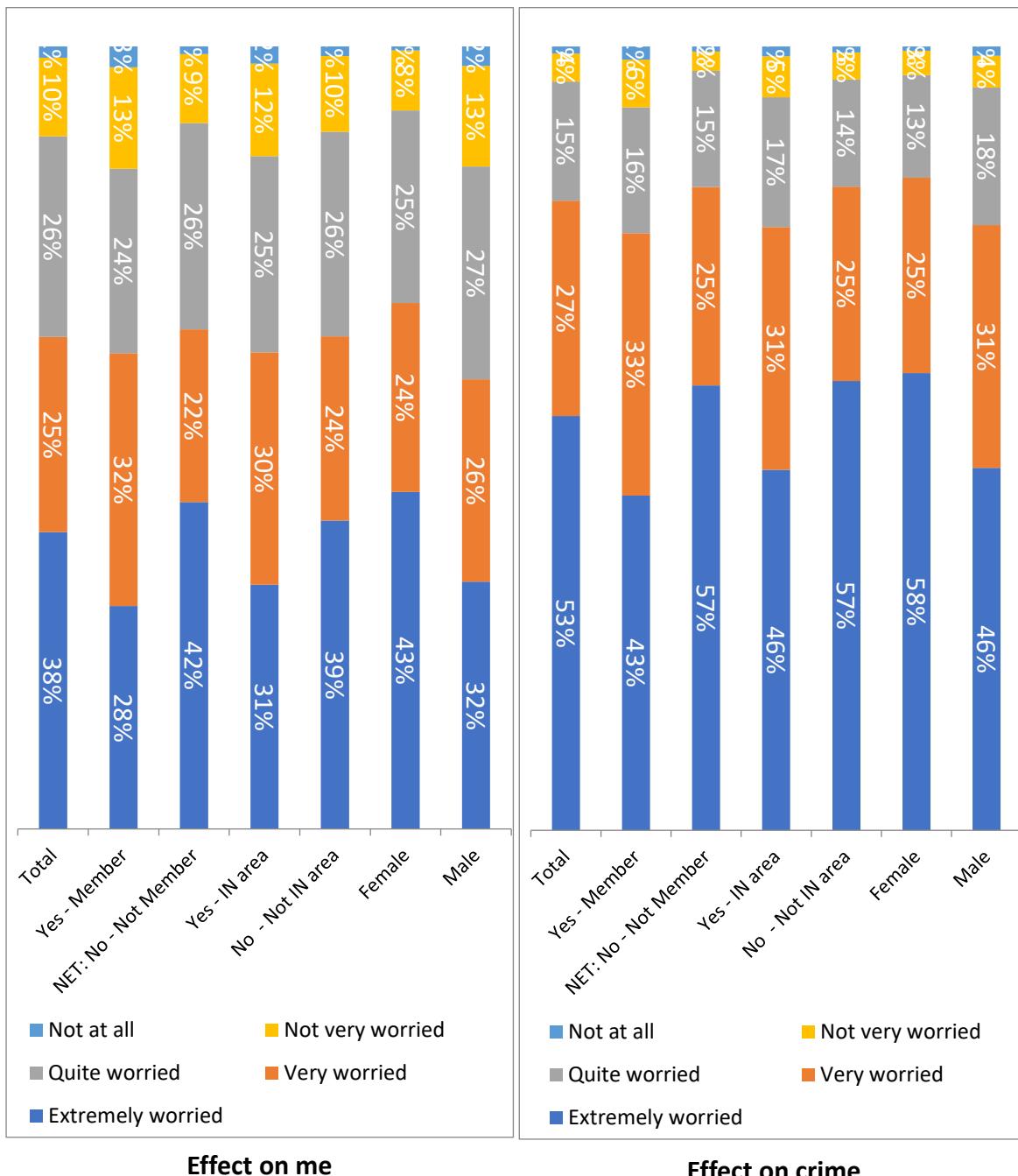
This year, we wanted to know more about how the cost-of-living crisis was affecting people, and how it had impacted on their perception of crime. Fewer people responded to this question (5,091) but the vast majority – 89% - of them were concerned (Extremely worried 38%, Very worried 25%, Quite worried 26%). Only 11% were not. (Not very worried 10%, Not at all 1%).

Please see **Q9** where we have compared the responses to this question with the fear of crime associated with the cost-of-living crisis.

Q9

There are some very clear concerns about the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. Overall, respondents are more worried about the effect on crime than they are of the effect on themselves. Those who are NW members or in a NW area are least likely to be "significantly worried".

Women are also more likely to be concerned about crime than men.



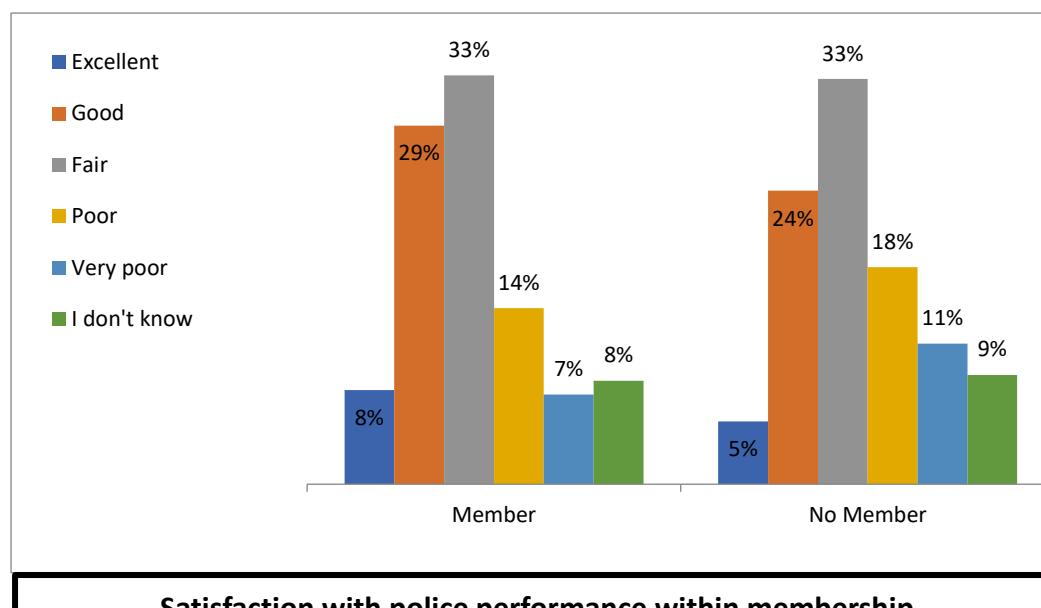
Q10

We asked: Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police IN YOUR AREA are doing? (IN YOUR AREA being within 15 minutes' walk from where you live)

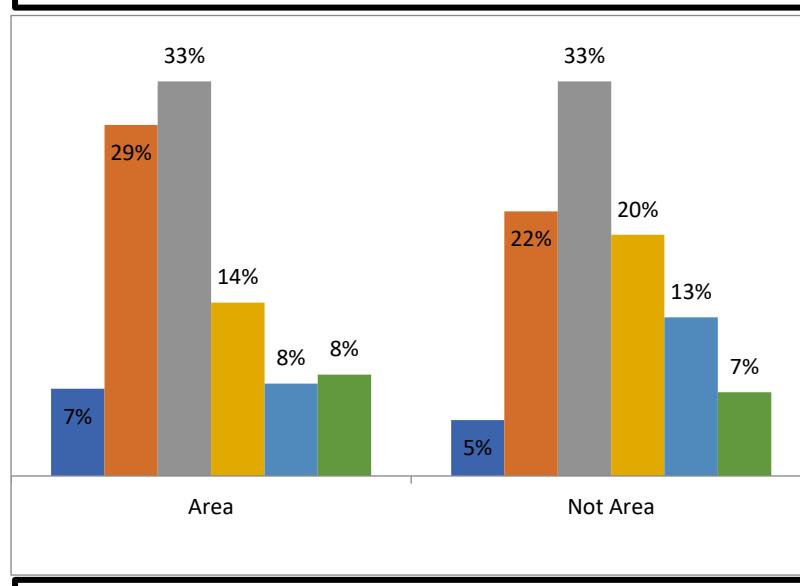
Members of Neighbourhood Watch are 8% more likely than non-members to think that the police are doing an excellent or good job.

Members and those who live in a NW area are distinctively more likely to think police are doing an excellent or good job (37%) this is the same as 2021, but an increase on 2020 (33%). Whilst the same number of respondents in each group think the police do a fair job (33%).

Those who are not members or are not in a NW area are more likely to think they do a poor (18%) or very poor (11%) job in their area.



Satisfaction with police performance within membership



Satisfaction with police performance within NW Area

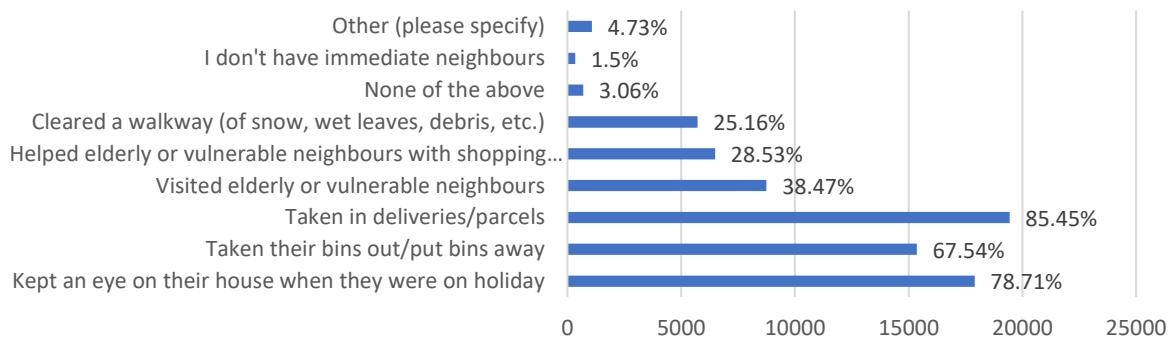
Q11

Community is a key aspect of the work of Neighbourhood Watch Network, as it requires reaching out to local people and involving them in taking action and sharing information to reduce crime – and the fear of crime. We asked a range of questions to establish the level to which people engage with their neighbours. Most people (85% said they took in deliveries and parcels for their neighbours).

We asked which, if any, of the following things, have you done for your neighbours over the past year (tick all that apply)?

This question received a strong response, with more than 22,000 people answering as follows:

Q11. Which, if any, of the following things, have you done for your neighbours over the past year (tick all that apply)? Responses

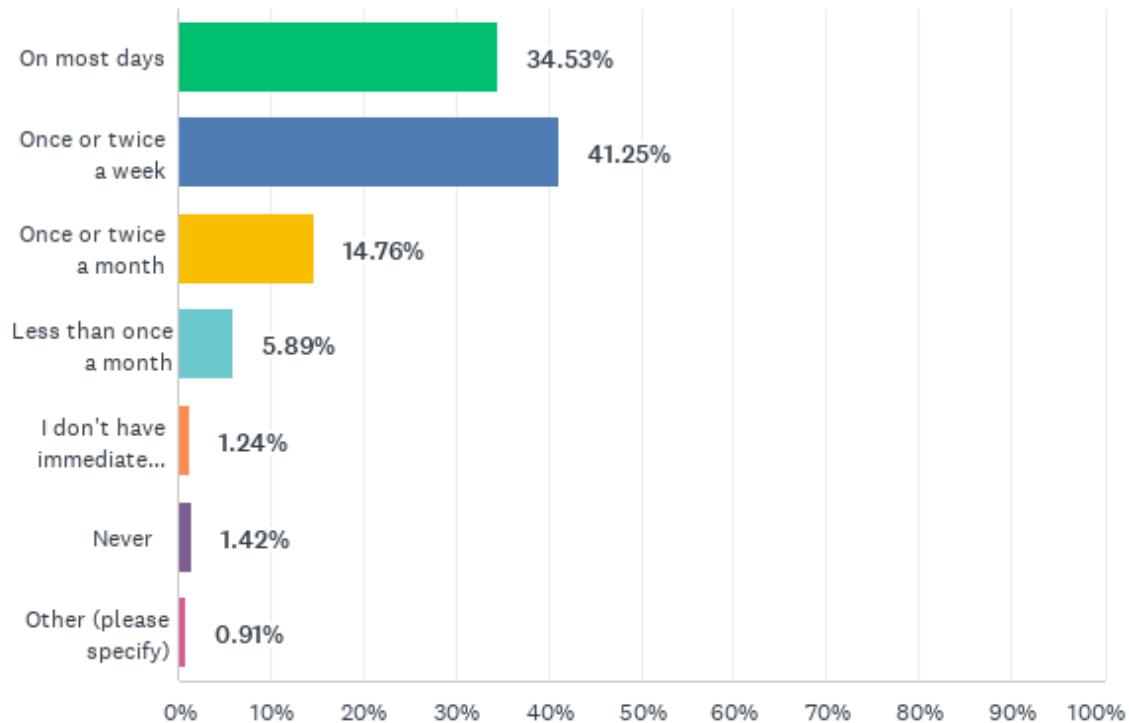


We looked at a comparison between NW members and non-members – the difference was marginal showing a very similar level of commitment to their community.

Other things that respondents did for their neighbours include looking after neighbour's pets, taking a neighbour to a GP's surgery, cutting lawns, litter picking and collecting photos/CCTV footage to assist with solving crime.

Q12

Respondents were asked how often they spoke to their neighbours, specifically more than just a 'hello':

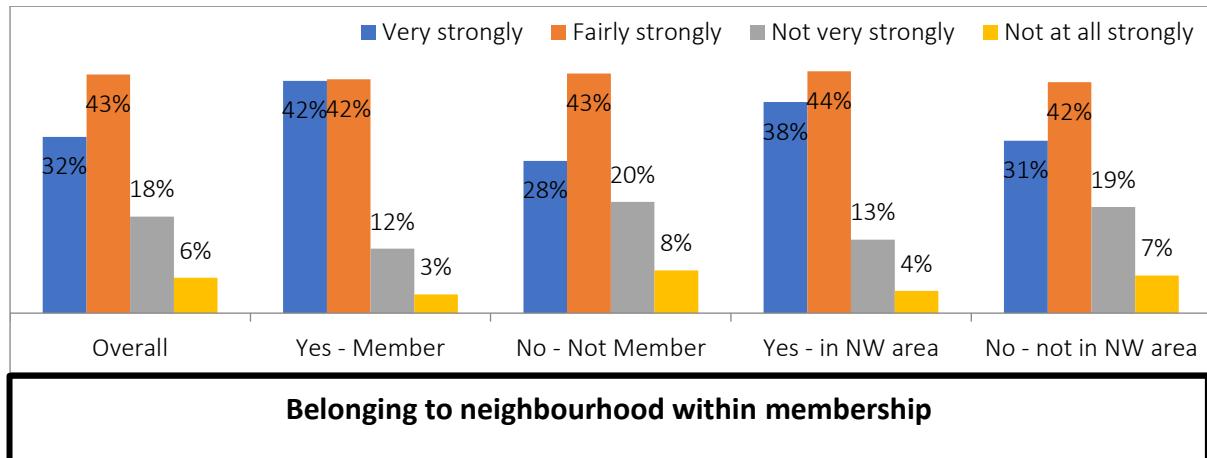


On making a comparison between NW members and non-members, figures showed that those who are members or live within a NW area **relatively as likely** as those who are not members or do not live in a NW to have chats with their neighbours.

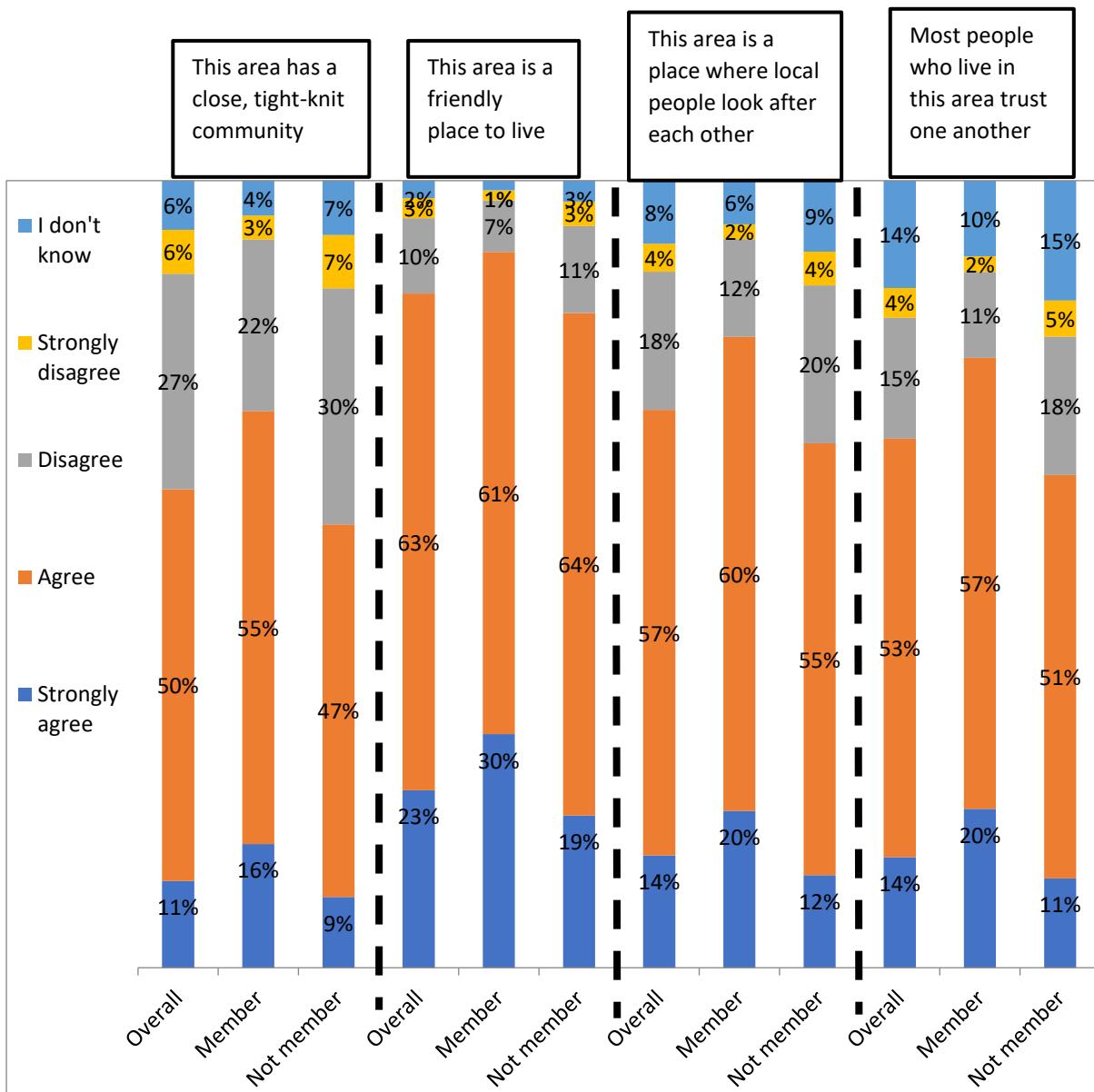
Q13

We asked: How strongly, if at all, do you feel you belong to your neighbourhood?

Those who are NW members or live within a NW area are **much more likely to feel very strongly** that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood compared to those who are not members or do not live in a NW area.



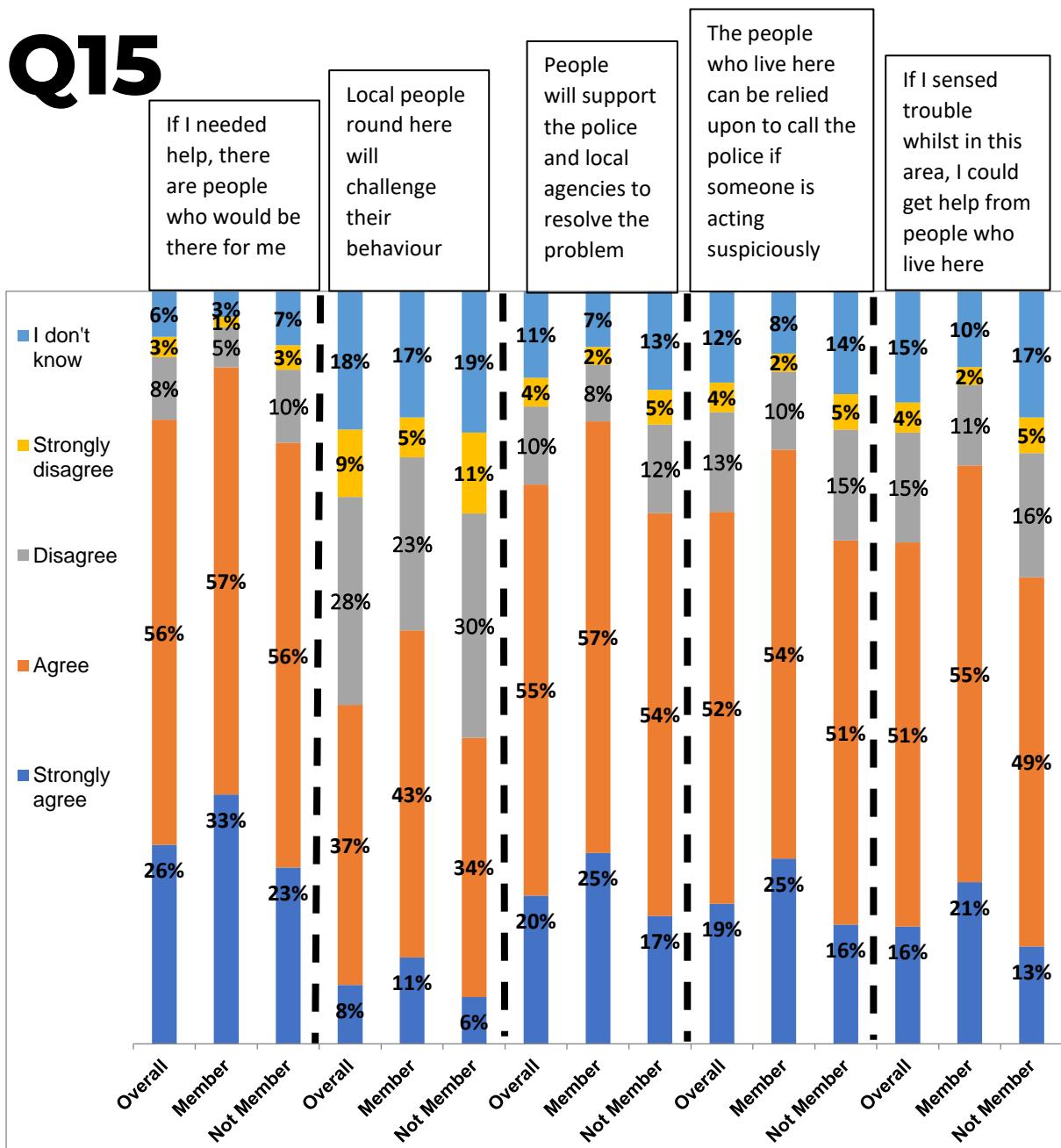
Q14



Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the statements above.

As seen previously, those who are NW members are distinctively more likely to strongly agree or agree with statements about a sense of belonging to their local area. Overall, **NW members seem to have a better perception of their local area.**

Q15



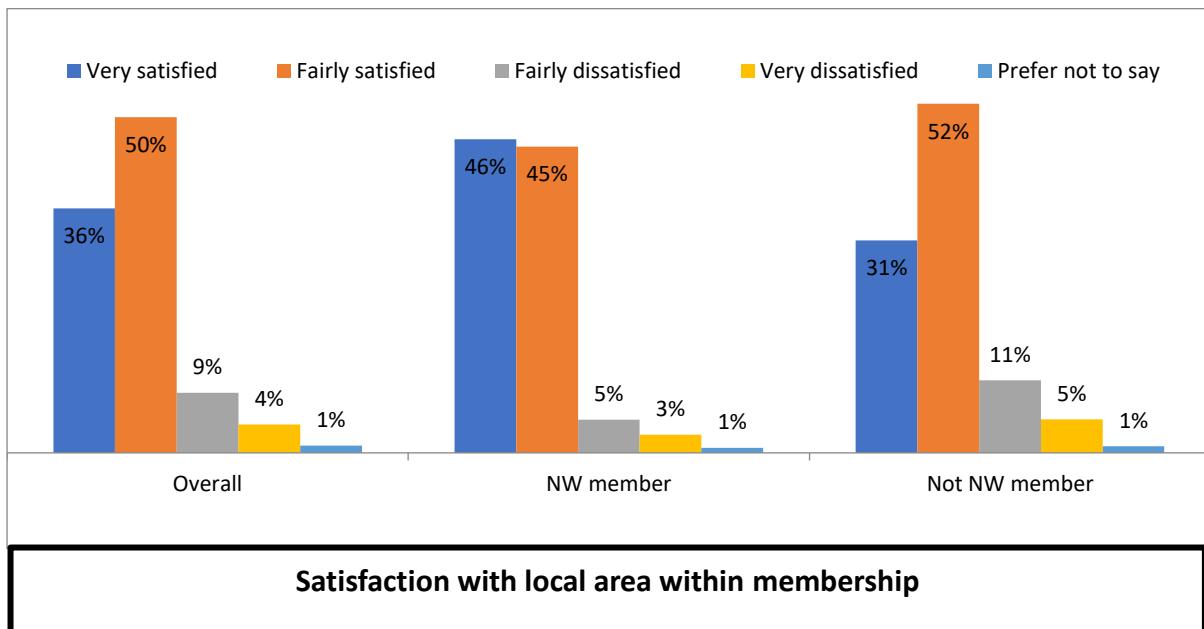
Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the statements above.

NW members are more likely than non-members to have faith in their local community in fighting crime. They have a better perception of people's in their local area in supporting the police too.

Q16

We asked 'Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?'

These results show that NW members are much more likely than non-members to be **very satisfied with their local area** – the combined figure is 91% v 83%. Those who are not members are more likely to be fairly or very dissatisfied.



Q17

Respondents were asked how often they experienced the following feelings:

	That you lack companionship			Left out			Isolated from others			Lonely		
	Member	Not Member	Overall	Member	Not Member	Overall	Member	Not Member	Overall	Member	Not Member	Overall
Hardly ever or never	63%	55%	58%	64%	55%	58%	67%	58%	61%	67%	60%	62%
Occasionally	27%	28%	28%	25%	28%	27%	23%	26%	25%	23%	26%	25%
Often	7%	10%	9%	6%	9%	8%	6%	9%	8%	6%	8%	8%
Always	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%

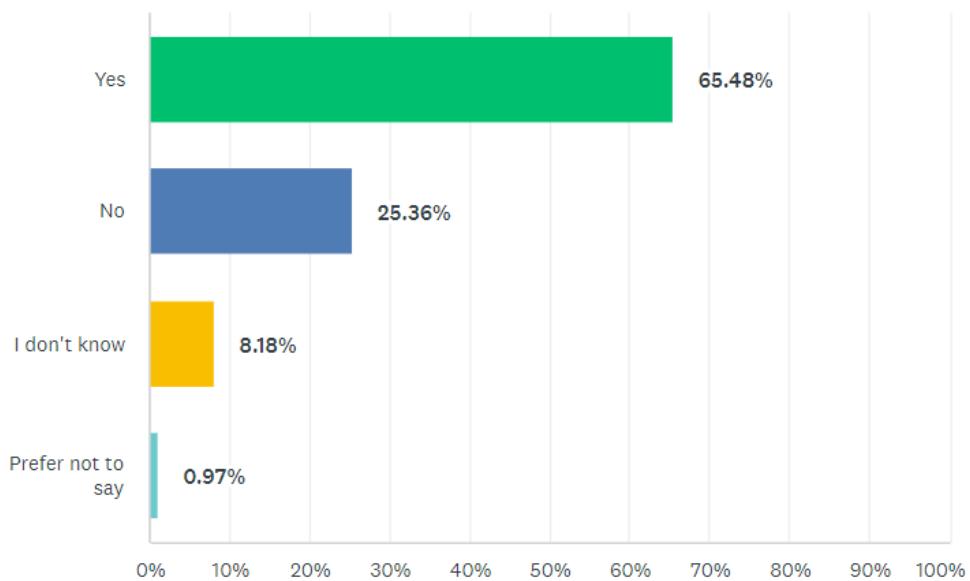
NW members are less likely than non-members to experience loneliness across all factors. 63% compared with 55%.

Q19 & Q18

Overall, three quarters of respondents are NOT neighbourhood watch members and overall, half of respondents do not live within a NW catchment area.

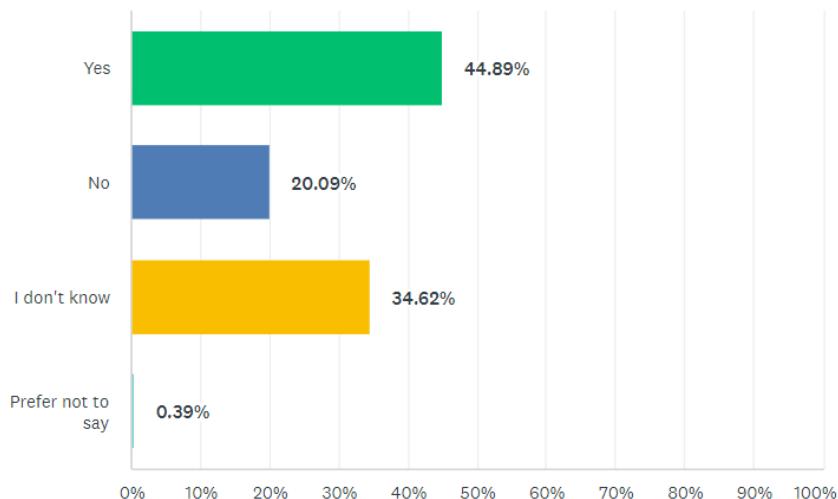
Are you currently a member of Neighbourhood Watch?

Answered: 10,204 Skipped: 15,089



Is there a Neighbourhood Watch Group covering the area where you live?

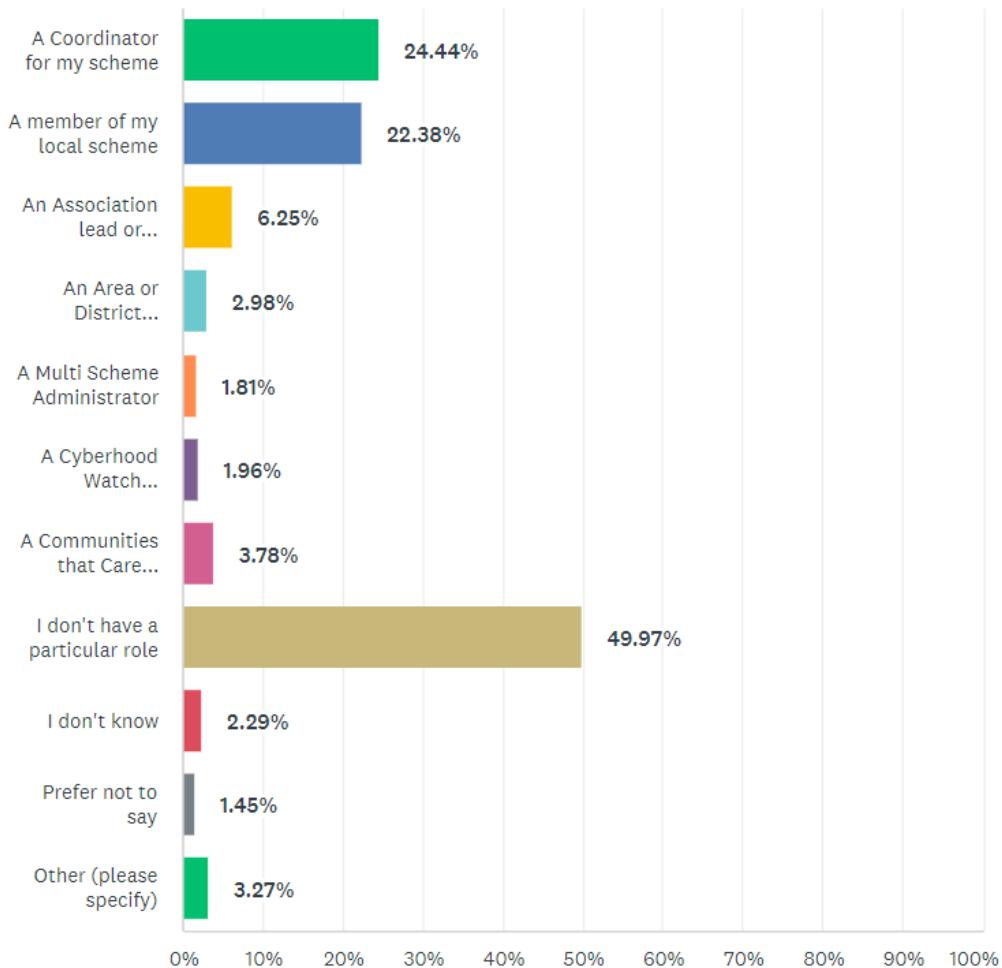
Answered: 22,742 Skipped: 2,551



Q20

Do you have a particular role with Neighbourhood Watch?

Answered: 6,636 Skipped: 18,657



Most NW members do not have a particular role within NW and about a quarter of them are coordinators for their local scheme.

Q22

Following on from those receiving information and advice from Neighbourhood Watch, we asked through which channels people accessed crime prevention advice or other information.

Amongst those who live in a NW area, the **NW newsletter is the most common channel** to be receiving both local and national information from NW. The NW website and NW reps are also popular channels. There is a certain amount of uncertainties about On line Neighbourhood Watch events.

	Local	National	I don't know
Neighbourhood Watch newsletter	50%	21%	15%
Neighbourhood Watch website	43%	21%	15%
Directly from a Neighbourhood Watch representative	40%	16%	16%
Neighbourhood Watch social media channels	28%	11%	21%
Online Neighbourhood Watch events such as webinars, training sessions,	22%	11%	25%

Neighbourhood Watch Activity

Receiving information

Respondents were asked if they receive enough guidance and advice about how to protect themselves and their households from the crimes that they are concerned about. Within the membership, over half (58%) say they receive all of the information they need and 35% say they receive the advice about some of the crimes that concern them.

Non-members are much less likely to receive this advice. Their responses were balanced between receiving what they needed at 43% and some of the information 44%.

Local activity

In addition to regularly sharing crime prevention advice, Neighbourhood Watch activities also focus on supporting vulnerable people in their area or improving the local environment as well as sharing information and advice on tackling crime. When asked, the most common activities identified by respondents are supporting vulnerable people in the community (23%) and arrange / support activity to look after or improve the local environment (22%).

We asked 'How often, if at all, do you act upon crime prevention advice from Neighbourhood Watch?'

This was only asked of those in NW areas. Amongst those who live in a NW area, **half of respondents usually act upon crime prevention advice** from Neighbourhood Watch. Non-members are much less likely to do so.

Demographics

Age group

The majority - 75% of respondents - were aged 55 and over, which is consistent with the 2021 (at 74%). The 16-24 age group account for less than 1% of the total.

Gender

We asked: 'How do you describe yourself?' Half of all respondents were female, 48% male and 2% preferred not to say.

Ethnic Grouping

93% of respondents were from a white background, 2% from a mixed/multiple ethnic background, 2% Asian background 1% Black/African/Caribbean background, and 1% from any other ethnic group.

Income and Accommodation

We asked, 'In which of these ways do you occupy your accommodation?' 22,202 people responded to this question. The vast majority (83%) of respondents either own their house outright or with a mortgage. The remaining 17% are split between shared ownership, renting privately, renting through a housing association or other/prefer not to say.

Asked about income, one quarter of respondents did share their income but within those who did, over half own less than £40,000 a year.