



LCSP Survey Results 2016

Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership



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This report is produced by the Safer Communities Service, Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership.



Introduction & key findings

The Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) survey was live for thirteen weeks from 15th August 2016 to 11th November 2016. The survey was available online at the LCSP website and in paper form from district council offices. The survey was promoted by Community Safety Officers within each district in various ways and within LCSP partner agencies. The survey has previously been conducted by the East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (ELCSP) covering Boston, South Holland and East Lindsey. Comparison with surveys conducted in previous years has not been made due to the expansion of the survey to include all Lincolnshire districts¹.

Key findings

- 858 people responded to the survey, most surveys were completed online. 51% of respondents are female, 48% are male. The largest proportion of surveys were received from people in the 55-64 age group (22.5%). 95% of respondents identified as being white British.
- Selecting from a list of anti-social behaviour issues, the top three problems identified by respondents are rubbish and litter lying around (42%), people being drunk or rowdy in public places (32%) and people using or dealing drugs (30%).
- Selecting from a list of community safety issues, the largest proportion of respondents are worried about being a victim of burglary (31%) and anti-social behaviour (30%). 19% of respondents are not worried about being a victim of anything in their local area.
- 33% of respondents stated they feel less safe than they did 12 months ago, the majority (56%) feel about the same as they did 12 months ago. South Holland is the only area where most respondents said they feel less safe than they did 12 months ago (52%) rather than feeling the same.
- In the most part, respondents feel that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour have stayed about the same in the last year (crime = 46%, ASB = 42%). Very few respondents feel that levels have gone down.
- Opinion is relatively split on whether people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area, 28% tend to agree where 25% neither agree nor disagree. Respondents in Boston and South Holland particularly disagree with the statement. In Boston 47% tend to or strongly disagree, in South Holland, 52% tend to or strongly disagree.
- 41% of people feel that drinking in public places is an issue in their local area, the majority of which (62%) feel that the issue is both day and night. Respondents in Boston and South Holland are most concerned about drinking in public places.
- A slightly larger proportion of respondents tend to or strongly disagree (36%) that the police and other public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour than those that tend to or strongly agree (32%).
- The most common suggestions for what the partnership should focus on were ASB, alcohol and speeding/road safety.

¹ Data tables are available at district level should comparison with previous years be desired.

Recommendations

Despite limitations (see end), the current survey provides a useful indication of how Lincolnshire's population feels about their safety and issues affecting their communities. The following recommendations are based on the most prominent results of the survey.

Recommendation 1: The current survey results highlight that anti-social behaviour is still a prominent issue for most residents. Partnership focus and response to anti-social behaviour is strong however most of the issues raised indicate a concern about lower level anti-social behaviour which might not be at the forefront of multi-agency response. Thought may be given to how medium and standard risk anti-social behaviour incidents are managed as well as work relating to perception of certain behaviours (i.e. youths hanging around). The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Management Board would be best placed to address this.

Recommendation has been passed to the Chair of the ASB SMB to action if appropriate.

Recommendation 2: Burglary is a concern for a lot of respondents. At present there is no multi-agency focus on burglary from the LCSP. In the short term, with the proposed multi-agency crime prevention and community safety plan from the Police and Crime Commissioner in mind, it is recommended that the current activity or response of individual partners in relation to burglary (e.g. neighbourhood watch schemes) is collated and in turn communicated to the public. The aim would be to reinforce and help to reassure the public of agency response. Longer term, an assessment of the current levels of burglary reported to the police will be considered in the next LCSP Strategic Assessment 2018-2021 which is due to be conducted this year. The results of this assessment will indicate if and how the partnership can respond to these concerns.

LCSP rejected this recommendation.

Recommendation 3: Although the analysis of the survey responses cannot identify particular areas that are of concern to residents, there is a general anxiety relating to speeding and road safety. The Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership should be sighted and may wish to address and respond to these concerns. At present, the survey does not have any focus on road safety; therefore a focus area in the next survey may provide better detail relating to the extent of concerns.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership attended LCSP and are sighted on this recommendation.

Recommendation 4: Community cohesion and the presence of foreign nationals in Boston and South Holland have been identified as an issue for respondents to this survey. Some of the comments made are alarming. Although much attention has already been given to how these issues are managed, consideration to if and how the LCSP respond is required.

Recommendation has been passed to the Chair of the ASB SMB to action if appropriate.

Recommendation 5: The Community Safety Team at Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) plan to address the limitations of the current survey which are identified at the end of this document, seeking input from the LCSP where appropriate. As part of addressing the limitations of the current survey, an evaluation of promotion activity undertaken by partner agencies is suggested.

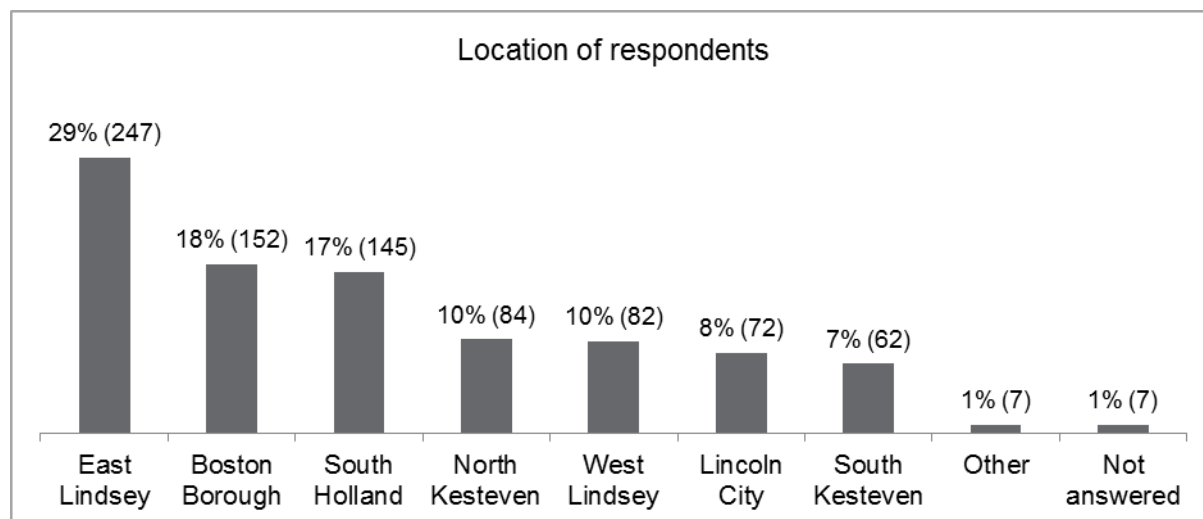
LCSP agreed this recommendation and it will be addressed prior to the next survey release.

Recommendation 6: Feedback to the public relating to the survey is important. The LCSP should consider how the results of the survey, key messages and consequent activity are communicated to the public. A potential communication plan is being drafted by the Community Safety Team (LCC) and will be presented to the LCSP for consideration.

Recommendation agreed.

Overview & demographics

858 people responded to the survey, 69% responded online whilst 31% responded via paper copy. Although the number of surveys returned is similar to that of previous years², more would have been expected given the expansion to include the other four districts in Lincolnshire. The number of respondents is not particularly representative of the population when broken down by district. Overall, 0.1% of the population of Lincolnshire responded.

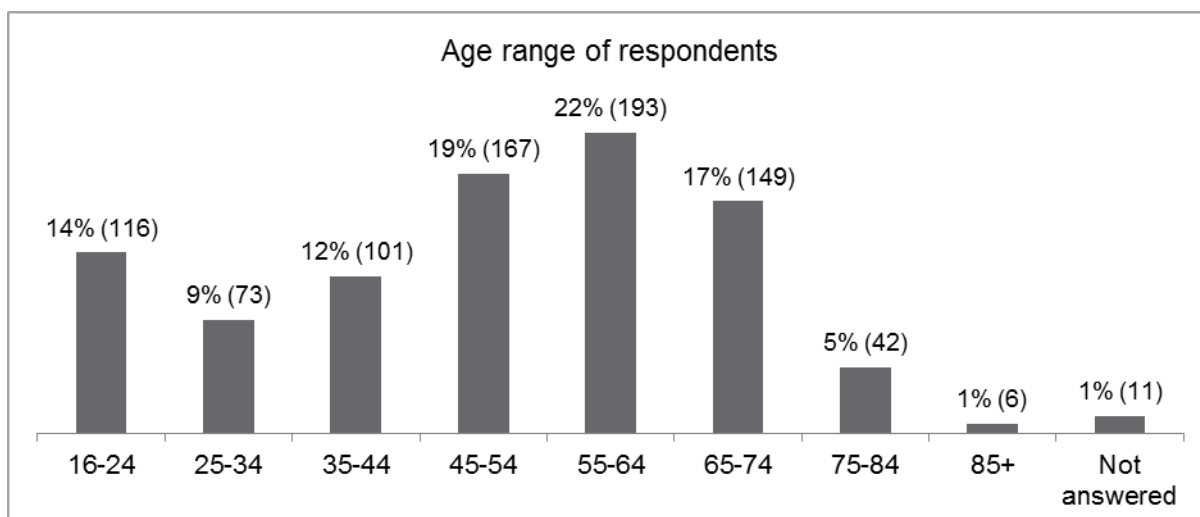


The majority of respondents reside in the east of the county, particularly East Lindsey. 1% (n=7) of respondents selected 'other' when asked which borough, city or district they live in. These respondents have been included in the analysis as all but one identified that they worked in Lincolnshire and therefore are appropriate to consider in terms of community safety.

District	Population Over 16 (Mid-2015)	# Respondents	Responses per 1,000 population
Lincolnshire	611,454	858	1.4
East Lindsey	117011	247	2.1
Boston Borough	54627	152	2.8
South Holland	75854	145	1.9
North Kesteven	92467	84	0.9
West Lindsey	76972	82	1.1
Lincoln City	80888	72	0.9
South Kesteven	113635	62	0.5
Other	-	7	-
Not answered	-	7	-

1.4 people per 1,000 population (16+) of Lincolnshire responded to the survey. Using this as a baseline; residents in East Lindsey and Boston are overrepresented in the survey responses, whilst residents in North Kesteven, South Kesteven and Lincoln City are significantly underrepresented.

² Previously the survey was conducted by East Lincolnshire CSP for the three eastern districts – East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland. In 2015 there were 856 surveys completed, in 2014 there were 961.



Responses were received from across most age ranges, with the largest proportion being those aged 55-64 (22%, n=193).

51% of respondents are female, 48% are male and the remaining 1% either identified as Transgender or did not answer.

Age group*	# Responses from female residents	Responses per 1,000 female population (16+)	# Responses from male residents	Responses per 1,000 male population (16+)	Total responses	Total per 1,000 population (16+)
16-24	60	1.6	56	1.4	116	1.5
25-34	43	1.0	30	0.7	73	0.9
35-44	75	1.8	26	0.6	101	1.2
45-54	99	1.8	67	1.3	167	1.6
55-64	93	1.9	100	2.2	193	2.0
65-74	51	1.1	98	2.1	149	1.6
75-84	14	0.5	26	1.1	42	0.8
85+	<5	<0.5	<5	<0.5	6	0.3

*Those respondents who did not answer age or gender questions have been excluded from this table.

Using the baseline of 1.4 respondents per 1,000 population (16+) of Lincolnshire there are specific groups which are underrepresented in the survey responses.

Based on gender alone, both the male and female population of Lincolnshire are equally represented in the survey. When broken down by age, males aged between 25 and 44 are underrepresented where males aged 55 to 74 are overrepresented. Distribution of responses from the female population is relatively even across all age groups excluding those aged 75-84 who are underrepresented in the survey responses. Both male and female residents over the age of 85 are underrepresented.

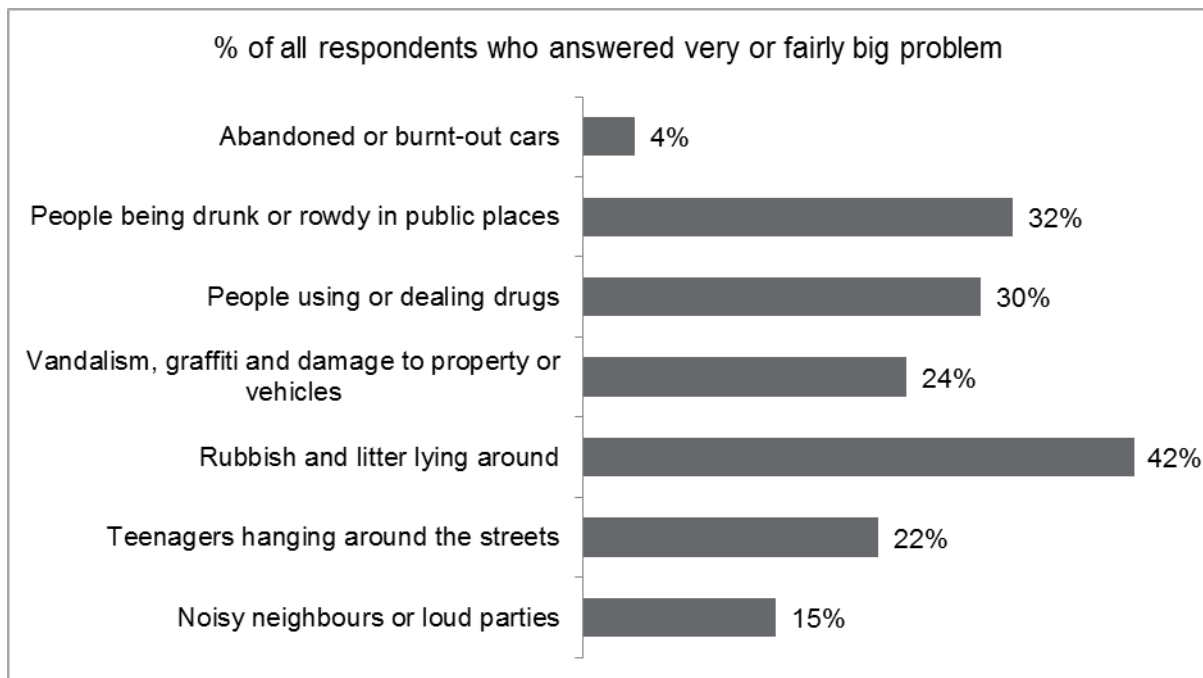
95% identified as being White British. 2% did not answer, 2% identified as mixed ethnicity and the remaining 1% included various ethnicities including Asian, Chinese and Black.

Perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour

How much of a problem do you think each of the following are in your local area (by local area we mean the area within 15-20 minutes walking distances from your home)?

- Noisy neighbours or loud parties
- Teenagers hanging around the streets
- Rubbish and litter lying around
- Vandalism, graffiti and damage to property or vehicles
- People using or dealing drugs
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places
- Abandoned or burnt-out cars

Rubbish and litter lying around; people being drunk or rowdy in public places and people using or dealing drugs are identified as the main problems for the largest proportion of respondents.



42% of respondents feel that rubbish and litter lying around is either a very or fairly big problem however 36% of respondents feel that rubbish and litter lying around is not a very big problem. Of those who feel rubbish and litter lying around is a very or fairly big problem, most reside in Boston (57% of respondents who live in Boston answered very or fairly big problem) and South Holland (61% of respondents who live in South Holland answered very or fairly big problem).

Most find that people being drunk or rowdy in public places is either not a very big problem (27%) or not a problem at all (35%) however 32% find that it is a very or fairly big problem. Again, South Holland and Boston have the largest proportion of respondents who feel people being drunk or rowdy in public places is a very or fairly big problem (59% and 55% respectively). 35% of respondents in Lincoln City also feel that people being drunk or rowdy in public places is a very or fairly big issue.

30% of respondents feel that people using or dealing drugs in their area a very or fairly big problem. Boston and South Holland have the largest proportion of respondents who feel people using or dealing drugs is a very or fairly big problem in their area (43% and 38%

respectively). 29% of respondents who live in East Lindsey also feel that people using or dealing drugs is a very or fairly big problem in their area.

The table below shows the age ranges who find the top three issues most problematic:

Issue	Age range								Not answered
	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	
Rubbish and litter lying around	44%	44%	37%	36%	47%	46%	33%	17%	27%
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	41%	49%	32%	31%	31%	30%	12%	0%	9%
People using or dealing drugs	42%	34%	36%	28%	30%	23%	12%	0%	18%

Table: Respondents answering very or fairly big problem as a % of all respondents in each age range.

Most respondents feel that noisy neighbours or loud parties were either not a problem at all (52%) or not a very big problem (29%).

Teenagers hanging around on the streets are thought to be a fairly big problem to 16% of respondents. The majority however feel that this is either not a very big problem (35%) or not a problem at all (39%).

Vandalism, graffiti and damage to property or vehicles is not a very big problem or no problem at all to 71% of respondents, 25% do feel that it is a very or fairly big problem in their area. 40% of respondents living in South Holland feel that vandalism, graffiti and damage to property or vehicles is a very or fairly big problem in their area.

Abandoned or burnt-out cars are not a problem at all to the majority of respondents (66%), 4% find that abandoned or burnt-out cars are a very or fairly big problem.

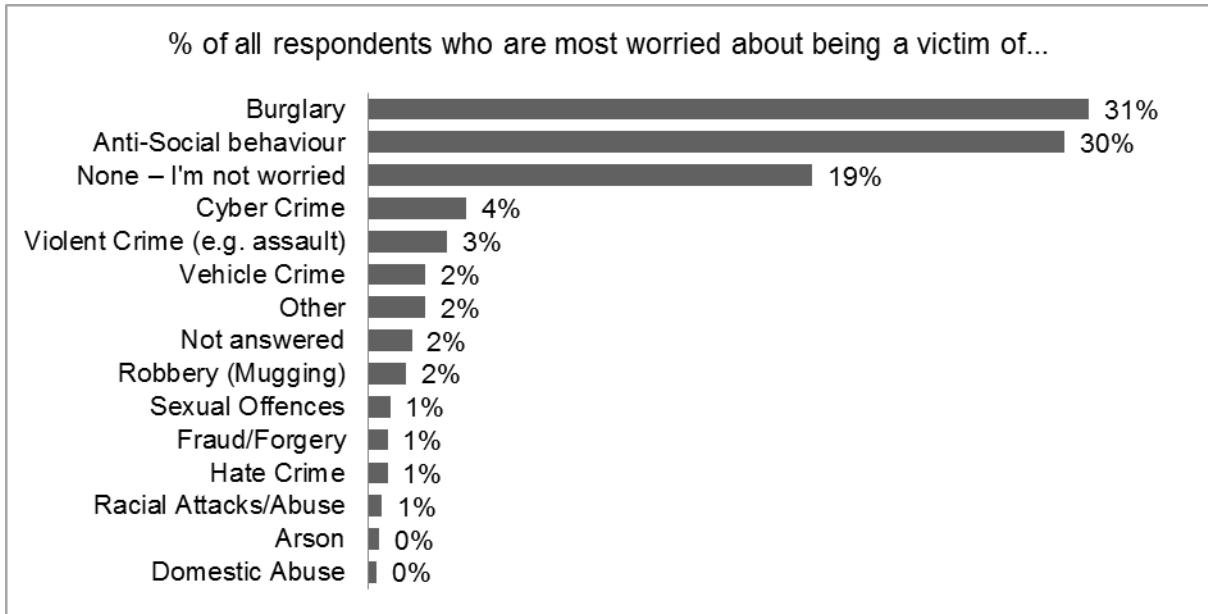
What, if anything, are you most worried about being a victim of in your local area?

Selection: Anti-Social Behaviour, Arson, Burglary, Cyber Crime, Domestic Abuse, Fraud/Forgery, Hate Crime, Racial Attacks/Abuse, Robbery (Mugging), Sexual Offences, Vehicle Crime, Violent Crime (e.g. assault), None – I'm not worried, Other – please specify

The largest proportion of respondents are worried about being a victim of burglary (31%) or anti-social behaviour (30%). The next largest proportion of respondents are not worried about being a victim of anything in their local area (19%).

Originally, 111 (13%) respondents selected 'Other' however 92 of those respondents specified something already listed. For the purpose of this analysis those responses have been added to the relevant pre-existing selection. The remaining 19 respondents who selected 'other' had varying concerns including rural crime and terrorist attacks, the only 'other' concern raised by more than 3 respondents is speeding (n=9).

No one area has a particular concern other than anti-social behaviour or burglary.



Respondents aged 45-54 and 55-64 are most worried about being a victim of burglary than any other age group; 37% of respondents in both age groups are concerned about burglary.

Respondents aged 25-34 are most worried about being a victim of anti-social behaviour. 42% of respondents in the 25-34 age group are concerned about being a victim of anti-social behaviour.

Do you feel more or less safe in your local area than you felt 12 months ago?

The majority of respondents feel about the same in terms of safety as they did 12 months ago (56%). However 33% stated they feel less safe than they did 12 months ago.

South Holland is the only area where most respondents said they feel less safe than they did 12 months ago (52%) rather than feeling the same. Aside from South Holland, all other areas have a clear majority who feel about the same as they did 12 months ago but there is still a relatively large proportion who feel less safe.

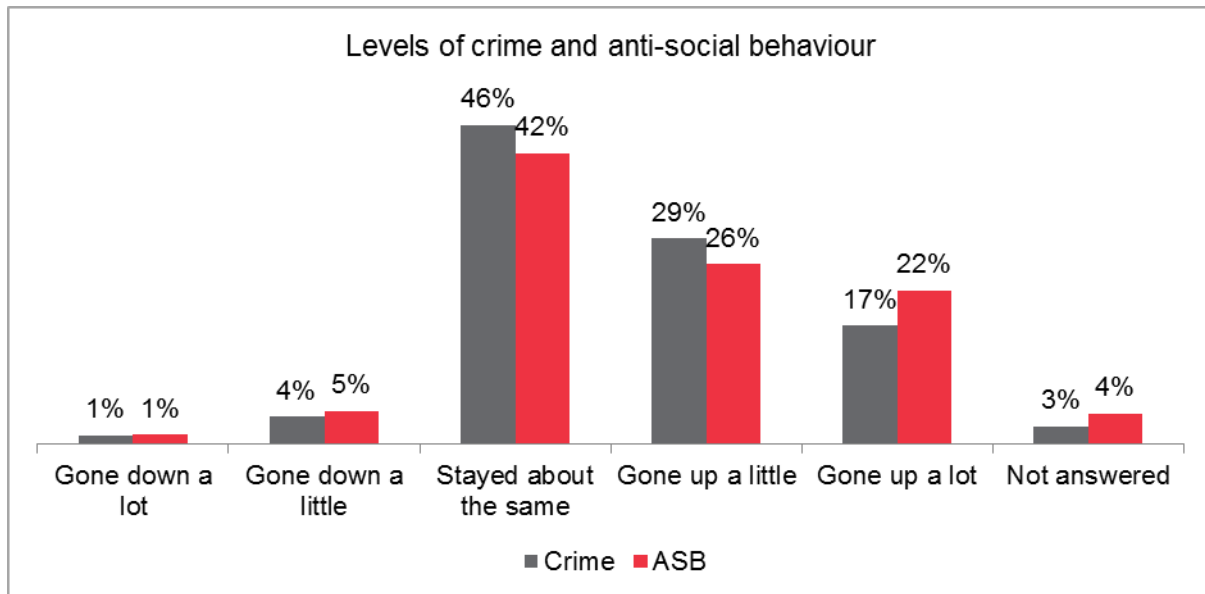
District	I feel safer	I feel about the same	I feel less safe	I am new to the area	Not answered
Boston Borough	4%	51%	43%	1%	1%
East Lindsey	11%	62%	21%	6%	1%
Lincoln City	4%	53%	39%	1%	3%
North Kesteven	5%	71%	19%	4%	1%
South Holland	6%	41%	52%	0%	2%
South Kesteven	2%	61%	31%	2%	5%
West Lindsey	2%	61%	32%	4%	1%
Other	29%	57%	14%	0%	0%
Not answered	0%	57%	0%	0%	43%
Total	6%	56%	33%	3%	2%

The age groups with the largest proportion of respondents who said they feel less safe are 25-34 (47%), 45-54 (42%) and 55-64 (40%).

For those who say they feel about the same in terms of safety as they did 12 months ago, the question does not address whether the respondent felt safe or unsafe 12 months ago.

Do you think that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour have gone up or down in the last year?

In the most part, respondents feel that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour have stayed about the same in the last year. Very few respondents feel that crime or anti-social behaviour has gone down since last year (5% and 6% respectively).



Although the largest proportion of respondents across all areas feel that levels of crime have stayed about the same in the last year, respondents in some areas feel levels have gone up a lot. In Boston, 28% of respondents feel that crime levels have gone up a lot in the last 12 months, 30% of respondents in South Holland also feel that crime levels have gone up a lot in the last 12 months.

46% of respondents in South Holland feel that levels of anti-social behaviour have gone up a lot in the last 12 months, more than those who felt levels had stayed the same or decreased; 31% feel that levels have increased a little. 32% of respondents in Boston also feel that anti-social behaviour levels have gone up a lot in the last 12 months, a slightly larger proportion than those who feel levels have stayed about the same (30%).

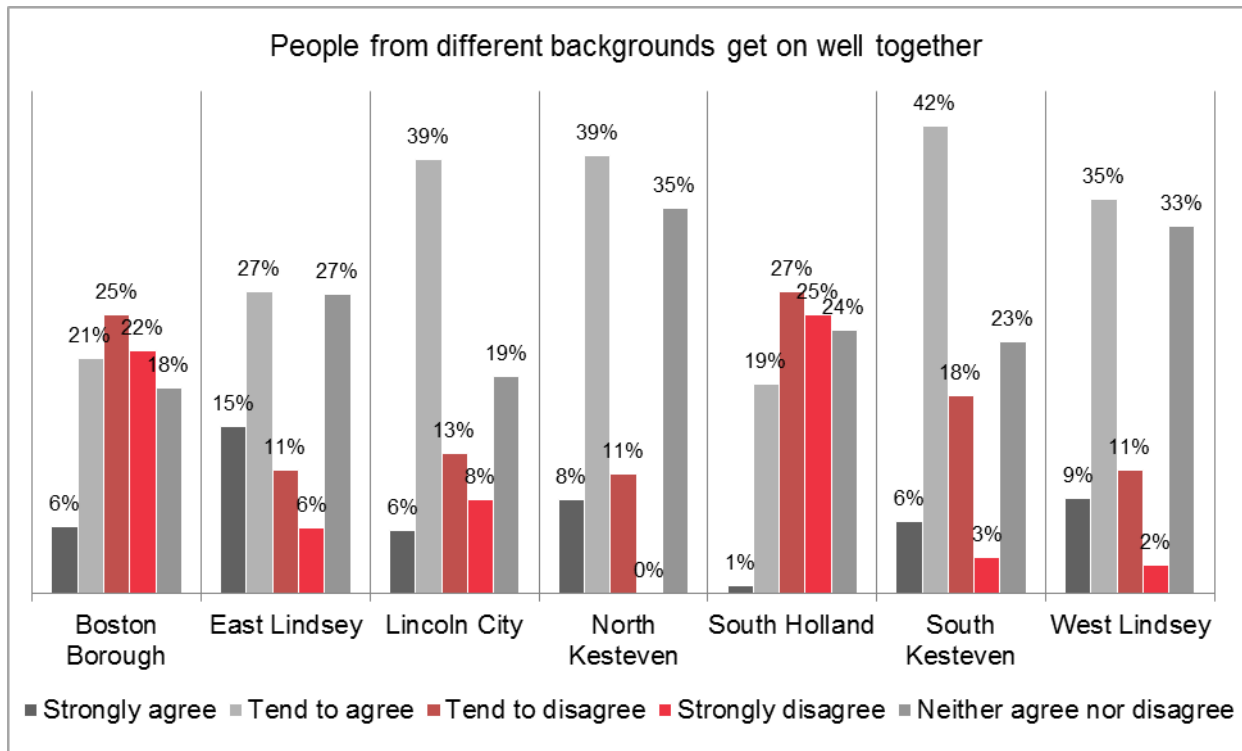
To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?

Opinion is relatively split on whether people from different backgrounds get on well together, 28% tend to agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together while 25% neither agree nor disagree.

The older age groups are more likely to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together. 57% of respondents aged 75-84 tend to or strongly agree compared to 34% of 16-24 year old respondents who tend to agree. The age groups most likely to disagree that people from different backgrounds get on well together are those aged 25-34 and 35-44 where 36% and 35% of respondents in each age group disagree. Only 14% of respondents aged 75-84 disagree.

Opinion varies depending on area; there are a larger proportion of respondents in Boston and South Holland that tend to or strongly disagree that people from different backgrounds

get on well together. In Boston, 22% strongly disagree and 25% tend to disagree compared to 21% who tend to agree. In South Holland the proportion is larger with 27% tending to disagree and 25% strongly disagreeing compared to 19% who tend to agree.



Do you feel that people drinking in public places is an issue in your local area?

The majority of respondents do not feel that people drinking in public places is an issue in their local area (58%). Of the 41% that do feel that people drinking in public places is an issue in their local area, 62% feel that the issue is both day and night.

People drinking in public places is an issue mostly in Boston where 70% of respondents answered 'yes'. In South Holland 66% of respondents feel people drinking in public places is an issue. In both Boston and South Holland, most respondents feel that people drinking in public places is an issue at both day and night time.

District	% of Respondents who feel people drinking in public places is an issue
Boston Borough	70%
South Holland	66%
Lincoln City	39%
East Lindsey	33%
South Kesteven	31%
West Lindsey	17%
North Kesteven	10%

The Police and other local public services

How much would you agree or disagree that the Police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour?

A slightly larger proportion of respondents tend to or strongly disagree (36%) that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour than those that tend to or strongly agree (32%).

A larger proportion of respondents in East Lindsey, Lincoln and North Kesteven tend to agree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour; where a larger proportion of respondents in South Holland and West Lindsey tend to disagree. In South Holland 27% of respondents also strongly disagree, considerably more than in any other area. Respondents in Boston and South Kesteven neither agree nor disagree with the statement although in South Kesteven the margin was small between those who neither agree nor disagree and those that tend to disagree.

District	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Don't know & no answer
Boston Borough	6%	20%	21%	20%	26%	7%
East Lindsey	9%	32%	13%	11%	19%	15%
Lincoln City	10%	24%	22%	15%	18%	11%
North Kesteven	12%	38%	19%	5%	14%	12%
South Holland	6%	13%	31%	27%	19%	4%
South Kesteven	6%	19%	26%	15%	27%	7%
West Lindsey	9%	20%	29%	11%	22%	9%

What issues do you think the partnership should focus on in your local area?

653 (76%) people made comment regarding what issues the partnership should focus on. Comments were received by most people in most areas, over 75% of people in all areas except East Lindsey (67%) made comment about what the partnership should focus on.

Of the 76% that made comment, nearly 1,000 suggestions were made (one person can suggest more than one focus area). The most common suggestions were ASB, Alcohol and Speeding/Road Safety. Police visibility and drugs were not far behind. Burglary and the requirement for more resources and effectiveness were next most common suggestions.

Suggestion	# of People suggesting	% of all comments made
ASB	191	21%
Alcohol	166	18%
Speeding/Road Safety	136	15%
Police visibility	81	9%
Drugs	81	9%
Burglary	47	5%

Resources and effectiveness ³	47	5%
Damage & vandalism	23	3%
Rural crime	22	2%
Hate crime/community cohesion/foreign nationals ⁴	31	3%
Violence (incl. domestic abuse and sexual violence)	17	2%
Street Lights	11	1%
Other ⁵	51	6%

Respondents who feel the partnership should focus on anti-social behaviour mostly commented on general anti-social behaviour and did not mention specific activity. Teenagers hanging around, street drinking and litter were however mentioned by multiple people (between 30 and 50 respondents per behaviour).

Lincoln and North Kesteven have the largest proportion of respondents who feel the partnership should focus on anti-social behaviour (38% and 30% respectively).

Boston and South Holland have the largest proportion of respondents who feel the partnership should focus on alcohol (35% and 46% respectively).

North Kesteven and South Kesteven have the largest proportion of respondents who feel the partnership should focus on speeding and road safety.

³ Comments were received which relate to the police and local authorities requiring more resources to respond to issues including increasing number of police officers, retaining PCSOs and improving response to calls.

⁴ A number of people used the comments to express negative opinion relating to foreign nationals and expressed concerns relating to community cohesion

⁵ Other includes a selection of comments and suggestions which don't fit into any other category and where the count is not enough for a category on their own

Limitations

There are limitations to the current format of the survey and how it is conducted. Three main limitations and what could be done to mitigate these are as follows:

- Response levels are similar to previous years when the ELCSP conducted the survey however the response levels are not as high as would be expected considering the expansion to include the whole of Lincolnshire. The number of responses does not provide a wholly representative sample of the population of each district of Lincolnshire which makes the sample less reliable. Greater promotion of the survey which is structured more evenly across each district and within each agency would improve responses.
- Although the survey asks which town or village respondents live in, this is not routinely or uniformly completed and therefore actual analysis of this is not possible. Improving area identification would make analysis of the survey results more meaningful. For example if post codes were provided for each response more targeted analysis and activity could be conducted; recognising that anonymity would need to be considered.
- The survey at present is heavily weighted towards anti-social behaviour; the way in which questions are formed could be considered leading. Review of the questions and consideration of the desired outcomes of the survey would improve results and the ability of the partnership to respond.