



LINCROFT SCHOOL

Community Safety

By Emma Riley



How is the safety of your community being maintained?

Introduction

I chose to research community safety as this is an area that interests me and that I was partly concerned about. I chose my research question because it sums up what I was wanting to know about community safety.

Methods

Interview

I interviewed two PCSOs from Bedfordshire police. It was a semi structured interview. I audio recorded it and then transcribed it. I then analysed the transcribed interview.

Questionnaires

I gave 22 questionnaires out to the public and about community safety. To make sure it was ethical we asked the public who participated to sign a consent form but not to put their name on the questionnaire.

My findings

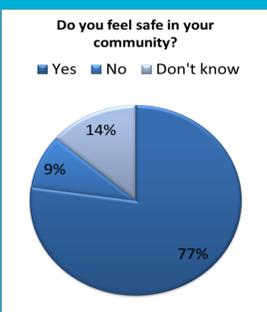
Interview

One of the ways the community is being maintained is by PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers). I interviewed two of the PCSO's from Bedfordshire Police about their role in the community:

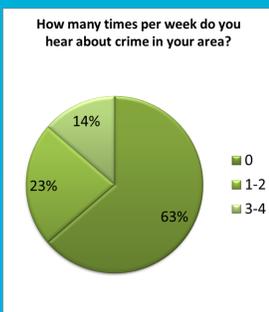
PCSOs have many different roles and tasks to carry out during the day, many of which are aimed at supporting the community. PCSOs are very community based; they walk around their area and engage with the community: school engagement, speaking to different clubs such as Brownies and Scouts, speaking to the vulnerable and elderly members of the community, going into care homes and going into peoples homes that are supporting living to see how the police can help. PCSOs also gather intelligence such as the car registration numbers of burglars and the people in the community who are persistent offenders. They gather this by, again, engaging with the community and "sticking their noses in". They are the eyes and ears of the police. PCSOs also start the initial investigation of a crime such as a burglary. They make contact with the victim and offer support, they also refer them to different organisations: fire services, housing association, drugs workers, alcohol workers, ambulance, anti-social behaviour teams, the council, environmental health, and highways. PCSOs operate by something called a CARE principle. The C is Contact, the A is agree, the R is referral and the E is empathise. The difference between PCSOs and Police Officers is that Police Officers don't have the time to support you whereas the PCSOs role is to support you and be there to help you.

Questionnaire

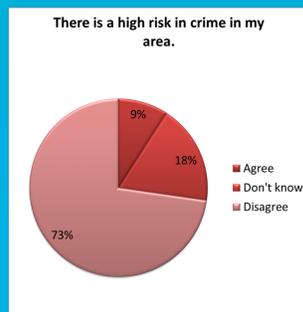
I gave out 22 questionnaires, about community safety, to the public. The public were from a range of places and aged between 10-75 years old. To make sure it was ethical, I asked the public who participated to sign a consent form but not to put their name on the questionnaire. These are the results. The question asked is the title.



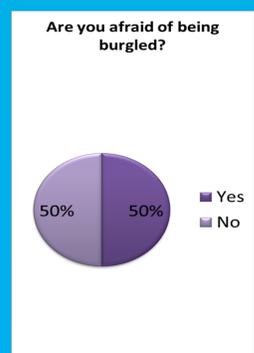
Most people said they feel safe in the community.



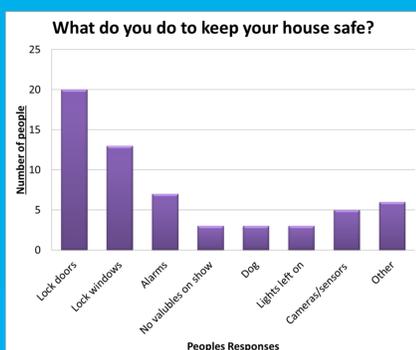
Most people don't hear about crime in there area.



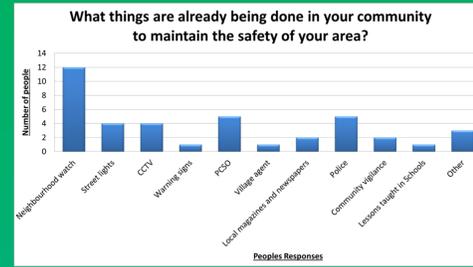
Most people don't feel that there is a high risk of crime in their community.



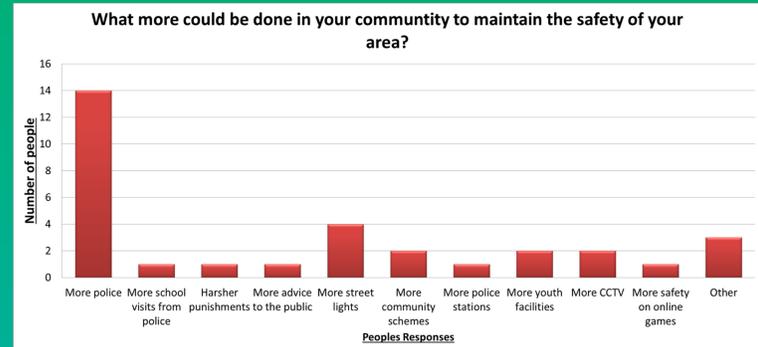
11 people are afraid of being burgled and 11 people are not afraid of being burgled; this is an equal amount.



There is a wide range of ways to keep your house safe. Most people lock their doors but not many people don't leave valuables on show, have a dog that keeps them safe or leave their lights left on.

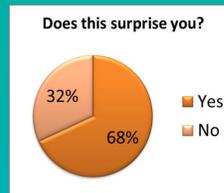


There is a wide range of things being done in my community to maintain the safety of the area. The most mentioned was Neighbourhood Watch and the least mentioned was Warning Signs, Village Agents and lessons taught in schools.

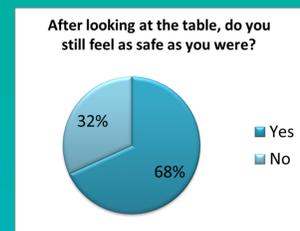


There were lots of ideas about more things that could be done in the community. The most popular idea was more police.

I then showed the public a table about crimes in certain areas and asked them questions about it. Here are the results.



Most people were surprised by the information on the table



After looking at the table, most people said they felt as safe as they did before looking at it.

	Bromham and Turvey:34	Bedford Town Centre:175	Clapham and Oakley:39
Anti-social behaviour	7	34	11
Bicycle theft	0	3	0
Burglary	7	2	5
Crime damage and arson	3	9	3
Drugs	2	4	0
Other crime	0	6	0
Other theft	2	18	1
Possession of weapons	0	2	1
Public order	0	14	1
Robbery	1	2	0
Shoplifting	0	47	0
Theft from the person	0	5	0
Vehicle crime	1	4	7
Violence and sexual offences	11	30	10

Quotes from questionnaires

I feel safe in my own home. Regardless of whether we know how much crime there is, it is still going on, so how safe we feel is dependant on our immediate surroundings e.g. family and home environment.

A fairly high level of community feeling within the village assures you that other people are looking out for you too

A visible police presence – even irregularly – would make the community feel more safe and give the feeling that the police were more accessible should we need them.

Conclusion

From my research I have found out about lots of different ways the safety of the community is being maintained. I now feel much safer than I did knowing about the ways the safety of the community is maintained. I have discovered that people do feel safe in their community and they do not hear or worry about crime. I have also discovered that there are many ways to stay safe in your home as well as in the community.