



Community Safety Initiative Consultation Report

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The photographs in this report were taken by the children from Tallaght West as part of the CSI consultation process.

The views and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of CDI.



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A big thank you goes to the group of residents from Tallaght West who became our survey team. They remained fully engaged and optimistic despite the often times adverse weather conditions. Their belief in the possibility for change inspired all of us.

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CDI have saved the best till last as we would really like to express our gratitude to all the children and young people who participated in the CSI project. Their honesty was inspiring. Their ability to see things so clearly was encouraging and their belief in the possibility for change provides us with the energy to move forward with this project. With their support we are assured of positive change in Tallaght West.

Joyce Cahill
Dr Suzanne Guerin
Dr Tara Murphy

Background

The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) began as a planning initiative in 2003 to support better outcomes for children in Tallaght West (TW). A consortium of 23 members representing community leaders, residents and professionals working in TW developed the outcomes-focused 10-year strategy A Place for Children. Based on this long-term strategy, a detailed implementation plan was agreed for 2007-2011, against which a major investment, co-funded by the Office of the Minister for Children, through the Prevention and Early Intervention Fund, and The Atlantic Philanthropies, of a total of 15 million euro has been made.

The CDI Community Safety Initiative (CSI)

The need for an initiative aimed at improving community safety was identified in the early consultation conducted by the Dartington Social Research Unit, (How Are Our Kids? CDI 2004). Safety within the community, particularly in relation to children's safety, was a shared concern among residents. Consequently this became a key focus of the CDI strategy, with the CSI adopting a new approach to building and enhancing community. Residents, the Gardaí, the local authority and other stakeholders will develop and implement a community safety contract and associated activities that identify and address the most common factors that negatively impact on the community's experience of safety. It will:

- Build on and integrate current Garda initiatives
- Ensure that community residents are actively involved in guiding its focus
- Use participatory methodologies to develop the contract and to select activities that improve community safety as well as increase individual's perceptions of safety within their community.

A representative group from the four communities of Tallaght West and key stakeholders will be selected to guide the implementation of activities, and to ensure widespread communication about the work. Through this co-operative initiative, it is expected that strong community

engagement will help to reduce the high levels of anti-social behaviour and crime that currently exist in the neighbourhoods. This is challenging work in that it requires open and honest communication and commitment from all parties. It may also offer positive involvement routes to those who have become disconnected from mainstream family and community processes.



"Everyone is throwing rubbish around. I feel disgusted people don't care about the area. If this place was clean it would make me feel really happy and proud.

Glen Zoka,
St Anne's Primary School



"If someone comes along and finds this bottle it will be smashed. This makes me feel sad because someone could get hurt".

Anne Osborne,
St Anne's Primary School

Introduction

This report will outline CDI's Community Safety Initiative (CSI) consultation process which took place from October 2006 to April 2008 and the subsequent research carried out in the area of Tallaght West (TW) in relation to the safety concerns and issues held by residents and service providers. It will outline the methods used to train residents to carry out the survey, the findings from the research, and the groups involved in the process (e.g. residents, statutory and voluntary agencies).

The purpose of the CSI is to develop a community contract based on the findings of the research. This includes the main issues outlined and prioritised by all those who participated in the consultation. The CSI will be implemented by a steering committee made up of representatives from the four communities, (i.e. Brookfield, Jobstown, Fettercairn and Killinarden), as well as representatives from Tallaght Youth Service, South Dublin County Council, the local Gardaí, the Travelling community and other ethnic groups.

This report provides the background to and describes the consultation process to date, the methodology of the research undertaken, and indicates the way forward.

The outline of the report is as follows:

Section One explains the methodology used by CDI to pilot the community contract while looking for support from community groups.

Section Two describes how CDI gathered suggestions from focus groups to improve community engagement and the physical environment.

Section Three details the development and piloting of a community safety survey.

Section Four informs how CDI gathered the views of children and young people both in and out of school settings.

Section Five gives details of how a group of residents were trained to carry out the safety survey and includes the findings of the survey.

Section Six specifies the process of feeding the findings back to the community.

It should be noted that the consultation process focused specifically on individuals' perceptions of personal safety. Inevitably discussion took place regarding environmental issues, policing, resources and service provision, but these are not the main concerns of the report. The full extent of facility development, improved training and policy implementation and enhanced relationships between service providers and the community may not be captured within this document. Whilst a process such as this will almost inevitably focus on gaps and difficulties, many positive developments were acknowledged by service providers and residents alike, and these are incorporated into the body of the report.

Overview of the CSI Methodology

Given the participatory nature of the CSI, it was important to ensure that there was clear consultation with, involvement of and feedback to the community during all stages of the process. There were six stages in the process;

- **Stage One:** (October 2006 - March 2007) Consultation with existing community groups and service providers with the purpose of a) informing them of the recent work of CDI and specifically the CSI, b) asking them to consider the idea of a community contract, c) looking for their ongoing support and backup in its development. The groups were also asked to identify safety issues in their area.
- **Stage Two:** (April 07- July 2007) Community groups were updated on the CSI, members were asked to identify and/or establish links with other groups within the community. The primary aim was to invite suggestions to improve the physical environment, and to develop ways to improve community engagement.
- **Stage Three:** (August 07 - November 2007) A safety survey was designed and piloted with a small number of individuals in order to establish its readability, clarity and to ensure that it was community-friendly. Community groups were also asked to identify individuals, (e.g. community residents who might be interested in carrying out the safety survey.
- **Stage Four:** (January 08 - April 2008) Consultation with children and young people took place in and out of the school setting. The purpose of this consultation was to explore children's and young people's experiences and perceptions of safety within the community.
- **Stage Five:** (January 08 - February 2008) A group of residents were trained by CDI to carry out the survey. These surveyors were supported by the CDI Community Engagement Co-ordinator to gather information. Residents (both adults and young people) as well as service providers were asked to complete an anonymous survey. Information from the survey was analysed to identify the most common responses both across Tallaght West and within each of the four target areas.
- **Stage Six:** (June 2008) Findings from the survey were fed back through a series of local meetings with both residents and service providers.



"Graffiti here is close to my house, my friend did it".

Seán O' Bairei,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude



"This is a lovely picture of flowers. There is loads of colours. Things can be nice if we make an effort".

Sharon Marum,
Sacred Heart Senior School

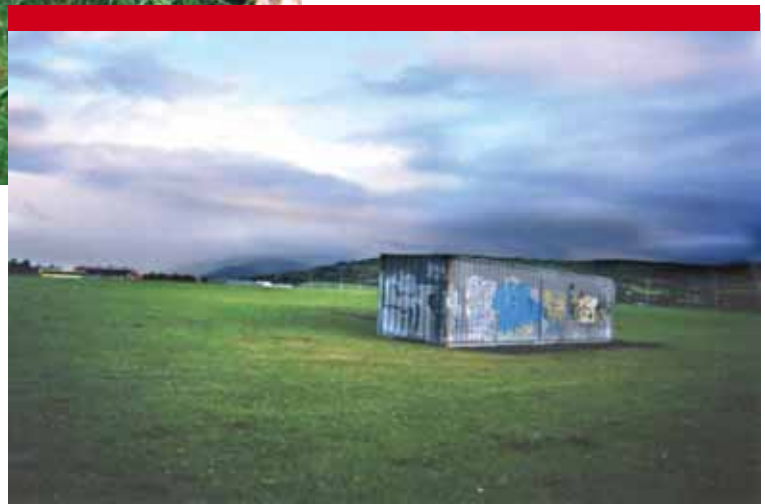
A further aim of these set of meetings was to prioritise the issues identified through the safety survey, identify an agreed set of goals and identify individuals for nomination to the CSI Steering Committee.

These stages are now described in greater detail. Direct quotes are used as far as possible.



"This is on our field, it is dangerous and someone could get caught in wire. It is full of rubbish".

Leah Whelan,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude



"This is not there that long and is already full of graffiti. It makes me feel unsafe to think people don't care".

Jade Costigan,
St Anne's Primary School



"Rubbish everywhere, it's a disgrace. I see it all the time".

Dylan O' Neill,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

1.: Stage One: Initial Consultation (October 06 - March 07)

In Stage One of the consultation process CDI consulted with 14 groups which consisted of both service providers and community groups. Several community groups were well established within TW. The number of participants ranged from 4-20 and they are named in Table One below:

Table 1: List of Groups Consulted in Stage One

Community Groups	Service Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An Cosán Young Mother's Group ■ An Cosán Men's group ■ An Cosán Senior Citizens Group ■ Jobstown Estate Management ■ Killinarden Estate Management ■ Brookfield Senior Citizens ■ Tallaght Youth Service youth group Brookfield ■ Community residents/neighbours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local Business's x3 (e.g. local shops, public houses) ■ Community Workers (from South Dublin County Council) ■ Community Gardaí (from Tallaght Garda station)

The CSI planning group, (i.e. Dr Suzanne Guerin, Lecturer in Research Design and Analysis, UCD School of Psychology; Ms Katie Keogh Programme Co-ordinator, CDI and Ms Joyce Cahill, CDI, Community Engagement Co-ordinator later to include Dr Tara Murphy, Research and Evaluation Officer, CDI), carefully considered what type of information could be gathered from the community at the early development stage of the initiative. The following list of questions was compiled for the community groups:

1. What safety issues are you aware of in your community that you would like addressed?
2. In your opinion what challenges are there in addressing the safety issues in your community?
3. Can you name anything in your community that makes you feel safe?
4. What do you think of the idea of a community contract?
5. In your opinion could your group support a community safety contract?
6. In your opinion what obstacles would prohibit the contract working?
7. Would you like to be involved in the CDI safety initiative?
8. How would you like to be involved?
9. In your opinion what can CDI do to involve more people from the community?
10. In your opinion what can CDI do to build up trust in the community?

During the consultation process CDI also felt there may be safety issues specific to service providers. CDI also wanted to identify other potential community and safety developments taking place in TW in order to avoid duplication. Service providers were additionally asked the following four questions.

- What is working well for you in the community?
- What barriers do you meet in your work in the community?
- What would you like to see happening as a result of the community contract?
- Have you any suggestions as to how the community contract could work in the community?

1.1: Feedback from Consultation with Community Groups

The following section reports key responses from members of the community groups identified in Table One. These responses are summarised as themes under relevant research questions where appropriate:

Question 1:

What safety issues are you aware of in your community that you would like addressed?

Responses to this question are recorded under the following themes:

- Gardaí /Crime
- Physical Environment
- Community Engagement
- Young People

Gardaí / Crime

- Lack of Garda presence in the community
- Speed
- Burglary
- There is a huge amount of fear in standing up to thugs
- Not enough people reporting crime
- No trust in Garda
- The community don't have a real understanding of the role of Community Gardaí
- Lack of police response
- Drunken attacks / assault
- Racism
- Anti-social behaviour

Physical Environment

- Litter
- Dumping rubbish
- Fires and burnt out cars

Community Engagement

- Strong sense of apathy
- Lack of interest in the community by residents and agencies
- Lack of community spirit in the community

Young People

- Lack of activities for young people

Question 2:

What challenges are there in addressing the safety issues?

- Garda and SDCC need to work with the community
- Community residents have no faith in Gardaí
- Apathy in the community
- Community believe SDCC do not care about this community
- There are no consequences for stepping out of line
- There should be reward systems for sticking to the rules

Question 3:

Can you name anything in your community that makes you feel safe?

There was a very poor response from the majority of participants in relation to this question. However the following items were identified:

- Knowing my neighbours
- Safety alarms can make you feel safe, but in this day and age even they offer little protection

Question 4:

What do you think of the idea of a community contract?

- Good idea but not sure how you could get it to work
- It would be hard to implement
- It cannot work unless there are consequences for actions
- Something has to be done, why not a contract?
- About time someone did something
- Parents need to be made aware of the effect of their children's behaviour on the community

Question 5:

Could your group support a community contract?

All participants responded positively to this question, though most of them expressed concerns about how the contract could be implemented. Despite this participants still showed a willingness to support its development.

Question 6:

What obstacles would prohibit the contract working?

- Getting people to sign a contract. I know lots of bullies who won't sign and will not like us signing either
- Gardaí need to be more active in the community. The laws should be enforced to enable residents to feel safe
- Parents' attitude
- People who like to break the law
- Fear of residents to get involved

Question 7 & 8:

Would you like to be involved in the community safety initiative? How do you see yourself being involved?

- Yes but not sure how we could be involved
- Need to know more information before a commitment is made
- Would like to be updated on its progress. When more details are available a decision can be made

Question 9:

What can CDI do to involve more people from the community?

- Keep the community informed through newsletters, public meetings, newspapers, leaflets etc
- Hold public meetings
- Be honest with people
- Explain how it will change lives
- Nominate a co-ordinator on each street as well as an area co-ordinator who could act as a link from the community to the Gardaí

Question 10:

What can CDI do to build up trust in the community?

- Build community spirit by organising the following:
 - Fun days
 - Sports day
 - Clean up of the area
- Be honest at all times
- Keep community informed of what is happening
- Show the benefits of being involved
- Offer training/support to be involved

1.2 Additional feedback from consultation with service providers

What is working well for you in the community?

- The bike police get a good response from the community, it allows for visibility in the area and the building of relationships with children in the area
- One to one conversations work really well with the youth of the area as it is more difficult when youth are in groups
- Awards in school / police have set up an award system with the primary schools in the area where children are acknowledged for doing good in the area
- Gardaí link with South Dublin County Council, (SDCC) on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Visiting schools
- Traveller sites liaison between Gardaí and SDCC

What barriers do you meet in your community?

- Lack of willingness to report crime
- Will not supply vital information when reports are made which would enable police to act on report
- New communities do not know the difference between general police force and community police
- Some residents want problems to be addressed yet they do not want anyone held accountable
- Trust issue/ residents don't trust police
- Clinics set up by SDCC and Community Police are not used by community
- Frustration from service providers as to what power they have to change things
- Individuals expressed fear of being associated with service providers in the community due to danger of attack
- Some organisations are perceived negatively in the area
- More housing causes more ASB

What would you like to see happening as a result of the community contract?

- More positive attitude towards the police within the community
- More youth involvement
- Find different methods of getting the information out to the community, leaflets do not work
- Clearer links with the community and Community Police
- More involvement with the elderly in the community. Elderly people are a resource which is not being tapped into

Have you any suggestions as to how the community contract could work in the community?

- Get residents more involved
- Peer support
- Ensure all levels of the organisations are aware of the importance of those working directly with the community

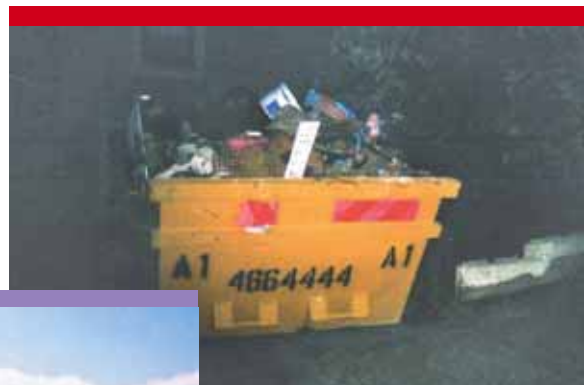
1.3 Summary:

The most frequently stated issue in relation to community engagement is the fact that residents feel no one cares and that the community itself can be apathetic. The challenge for us all is to identify successful methods of working together. It is essential that service providers work alongside residents and community groups in an equal, respectful and open manner so that there is shared decision making and all actions are followed through. This can only happen through participatory consultation and ongoing support and understanding so that all stakeholders feel equal and deserving. Residents need to be encouraged to take ownership of their area and information dissemination is seen as one of the barriers to the lack of engagement from community residents.

The Gardaí who participated in this stage of the consultation process acknowledge that one of the biggest issues they face is the local community having neither the faith nor the trust in their ability to create a safe space for all. Gardaí fully understand that it is vital that reporting crime is made safe to ensure that they are in a position to carry out their duties and that residents who do report crime are assured that something will be done without the fear of retaliation. Local residents also named the need for trust between Gardaí and the community as a key element of any community.

In relation to the importance of the physical environment, non residents who either work in or visit the area recognise the negative effects that issues like litter, graffiti and burnt out cars have on the people living in the area, whereas residents feel it makes it very difficult to be proud of where they live and impacts on individuals' self worth.

The previous findings clearly demonstrate that there is considerable commonality across the issues identified in Stage One, by both the community groups and service providers.



"It is better to use the skip than throw rubbish around".

Matisho,
Sacred Heart Senior School



"This used to be a crèche, it got burnt overnight it was thrashed. People go inside when it's dark and take drugs".

Lisa,
Sacred Heart Senior School

2: Stage Two (April - July 07):

Three main issues were identified during Stage One; 1) Gardaí and their ability to create a safe community, 2) the impact of the physical environment 3) and community engagement. It was decided that issues relating to the Gardaí would be considered over the life of the CSI intervention. Therefore Stage Two focuses on the remaining two issues. This stage was also used to identify a) residents who might be interested in carrying out a survey b) safety issues for frontline staff.

A list of questions were compiled by the above planning group in an effort to gather possible solutions to the issues identified and posed to community groups (Table 2). CDI also took the opportunity to ask for support in connecting with other groups to widen the consultations and their assistance in identifying residents who would be interested in carrying out the safety survey. The following questions were put to the community groups:

1. Can you suggest any methods which can be used to engage with the community?
2. Have you any suggestions as to what can be done to improve the physical environment in your area?
3. Are you aware of any other groups in the area which CDI could meet?
4. Can you identify any residents who may be interested in carrying out a survey? (each group was supplied with the surveyor criteria) (Appendix 1)

Service providers (Table 3) were asked to focus on safety issues relevant to frontline staff. The following questions were put to service providers:

- What impacts on me feeling safe doing my work?
- What would help me to feel safer?
- What key issues are faced by frontline staff in their work?

Table 2: List of Groups Consulted in Stage Two

■ Young Mother's Group An Cosán	■ YMCA Men's Group
■ Jobstown Estate Management	■ Brookfield Estate Management
■ Brookfield Senior Citizens	■ St Maelruain's Parent Group
■ St Anne's Parent Group	■ Community residents
■ Tallaght Youth Service (TYS) Fettercairn Youth Committee	■ Local Youth Committee Brookfield & Fettercairn

Table 3: Service Providers Consulted in Stage Two

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Inspector of Community Policing■ Mediation Bureau■ South Dublin County Council■ Cluid Housing■ Tallaght Youth Service■ RAPID■ Tallaght Partnership■ Young Mother's Group (An Cosán)■ Garda youth diversion programme, (KEY & JAY projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Juvenile Liaison Officer, (JLO)■ Teen Counselling■ Home School Liaison Officer's Cluster Group, (HSLO)■ Sophia Housing■ Community Welfare Officer, (CWO) (HSE)■ Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency, (JADD)■ National Education Welfare Board (NEWB)
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2.1 Findings from Phase 2

The following section reports key responses from participants in relation to these questions. These are summarised under themes where appropriate.

Question 1: Can you suggest any methods which can be used to engage with the community? Though participants suggested the following list they all expressed a great deal of frustration in their own attempts to engage residents. Participants found this task daunting and were largely negative about previous attempts to involve the local community.

- Newsletters
- Public meetings
- Newspapers
- Leaflets
- Be honest with people
- Get residents more involved
- Focus groups
- Not sure we can really engage with the community as many members do not wish to be involved in anything
- CDI to get out in the community meeting people and word of mouth will carry the message
- Street parties in summer as a forum to engage people
- Same people engage all the time so it will be good to stay in touch with them

Question 2:

Have you any suggestions as to what can be done to improve the physical environment in your area?

Feedback to this question is recorded under the following themes:

- Young People
- Family Support
- Environment

Young People:

- Sports facilities would reduce anti-social behaviour and prevent a lot of problems
- Jobstown need stables similar to that in Fettercairn as there are lots of horses around the area and it would be a good way of getting kids involved
- So many children have quad bikes and scramblers, which are very dangerous. It would be great if we had a track for them. This would ensure we are not complaining every time they find an activity they like
- Has to be an alternative facility for those not interested in sports
- Get young people involved in the area
- Get schools involved with the teaching of respect and guidelines to parents and children

Family Supports:

- There is nothing you can do to the physical environment until you set up supports for families that work
- Too many rewards for bad behaviour and no incentives for good law abiding residents
- Give parents guidance and support in parenting, teach parenting skills

Environment:

- Flower baskets to hang from lampposts, the community would be responsible for them but they would bring colour into the area
- 3 tier flower baskets (similar to those in Tallaght Village) would be nice at the entrance to the estates
- Plant more shrubs, trees and flowers
- New shop front in Kilclare as the place is a dump and draws anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Removal of kissing gates in parks as they do not allow bikes or buggies easy access. It is ok to have a bollard if SDCC are concerned about joyriding
- Proper lighting in football pitch (Jobstown)
- Proper lighting along river area, the present lights are always out of order
- Green spaces to be preserved and maintained
- Trees along the main street (Fortunestown Road)
- Clean up the litter
- Give incentives to people to get involved in keeping it clean
- SDCC to play a bigger part in the upkeep of the community
- SDCC gave plants to residents. It needs to be more constant
- When SDCC are upgrading homes give residents the choice of colours, windows etc. this could help to promote ownership
- SDCC should set up a loan system like credit union to upgrade homes, cost could be added to rent
- Quicker response from Gardaí

Question 3:

Are you aware of any other groups in the area which CDI could meet?

All groups supplied information on other groups CDI could connect with. Many of these groups were already part of the consultation process and are listed in Tables 2 and 3.

Question 4:

Can you identify any residents who may be interested in carrying out a survey?

All groups volunteered to put the word out and get back to CDI with contacts for individuals who might be willing and able to support the survey.

2.2: Additional findings from Service Providers:

Question 5:

What factors impact on how safe I feel doing my work?

- Ambiance: litter, environmental factors, dogs, planning
- Psychological: lack of familiarity, changing environment
- How your organisation is perceived locally, e.g. as the "baddy"
- Hard to build relationships because of high turnover of staff, getting to know each other
- Your role has an impact on how safe you feel, e.g. statutory vs. voluntary
- Location i.e. central Vs peripheral
- Internal policies re: keeping safe, supporting staff and how difficulties are dealt with
- Day and night workers present different problems
- Drugs: unknown clients, chaotic dynamics, unpredictability
- Chaotic lifestyles
- Intimidating violence
- Incapacity to engage in the community
- Focus on positive events in the community, shift perspectives
- Members of the group do not feel listened to within their own organisation, therefore they believe nothing could really change
- Community workers should be used to build bridges within the community, but the laws should be enforced by others

Question 6:

What would help me to feel safer?

- Local knowledge, knowing who, where etc
 - Environmental, signing, lighting
 - Estate management and planning
 - Focus on assets, positives
- Sharing information, managing confidentiality across organisations
- Organisational policy, personal responsibility

- Parent support to manage teenagers
- Improvements re: public transport, Garda presence
- Maintain links between organisations and community
- Breaking down "them and us"
- Feeling part of the community
- Places to establish links, facilities etc,
- Need for consequences for bad behaviour
- Anticipating problems
- Staff training and awareness raising - predicting problems, dealing with aggressive behaviour
- Relationship building in the community, non judgemental
- Filtering of clients - those most chaotic get referred elsewhere
- Safety at work policy, mobile phones/ clock in/out, working in pairs
- A collective understanding and promoting of what is acceptable and all have a responsibility to support each other, and not appear to condone anti-social behaviour
- More efficient response from Gardaí in providing files
- Doing the small things can prevent the big issues arising
- Zero tolerance

Question 7:

What key issues are faced by frontline staff in their work?

- Cars being damaged as a result of challenging residents
- Dealing with unpredictable clients, drug use, psychiatric problems, firearms etc
- Health and safety issues when identifying houses which have been left uncared for
- Emotional impact for staff following suicide, self harm, deaths etc
- Adequate response from statutory organisations e.g. Gardaí or HSE, regarding child protection issues tends to be reliant on individuals rather than organisations
- How can we ensure that policies are child friendly?
- Refusal to work with very vulnerable families from some organisations

2.3 Summary:

In Stage Two the concentration on the key themes of engagement and the physical environment provided CDI with a clear picture of the common struggle in each of these areas. The discussions which took place moved across the spectrum from naming frustrations, difficulties and pressures, to acknowledging the positive developments and significant investment of recent years. Whilst there was a clear sense that policies, training and physical facilities have greatly improved, deeply rooted concerns remain regarding effective working relationships.

Service providers feel their work is strongly impacted by residents' perception of their organisation, their inability to engage with the community and the high turnover of staff and

the problems arising from that in relation to building relationships. Frontline staff would like a stronger voice in their organisation as they deal with the community and are aware of the community struggles. Service providers also named a number of areas in which their organisation could improve their sense of safety, through policies, training and relationships.

Residents struggle to engage other residents and feel this is due to the lack of community spirit. They express the need for family support in dealing with teenagers. There is common agreement that lack of community spirit is a key concern.

In terms of environmental issues, residents and service providers alike feel the need to create ownership in the community and residents have suggested some possible ways to begin this process of ownership.

Underpinning all of these discussions is the need to engage more effectively with a wider audience throughout Tallaght West, and a recognition of the difficulties implicit in this process.



"Everyone in Tallaght does that (graffiti). That's what they do for fun. If there was a wall that children could draw on it would be great".

Olemida
St Anne's Primary School,



"Stuff in this playground isn't ready, the swing is broke. A child cut their leg as one of the bars is broken and he fell off".

Calvin Coorlyle,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

3: Stage Three: Development of the Community Safety Survey (August 2007 - November 2007)

During the development of the community safety survey, it was piloted with 50 participants in order to determine its readability. Those completing it defined key concepts related to the CSI and established a baseline for the community's perception of safety in TW. Concepts such as the nature of community and the elements of a safe community were explored, as were key issues and goals for the CSI. The baseline assessment will provide a framework for the evaluation of the work of the CSI.

The survey was collected in the four communities of Tallaght West, (Jobstown, Fettercairn, Brookfield and Killinarden). It targeted the following:

Table 4: List of Targeted Groups for Pilot Survey

- Young people
- Men
- Women
- Parents
- Business's e.g. Bus drivers, local shops,
- Senior Citizens
- Service Providers e.g. Priests, Doctors, Public Health Nurses
- Ethnic Minority families
- Travellers

3.1 Pilot Survey: Findings

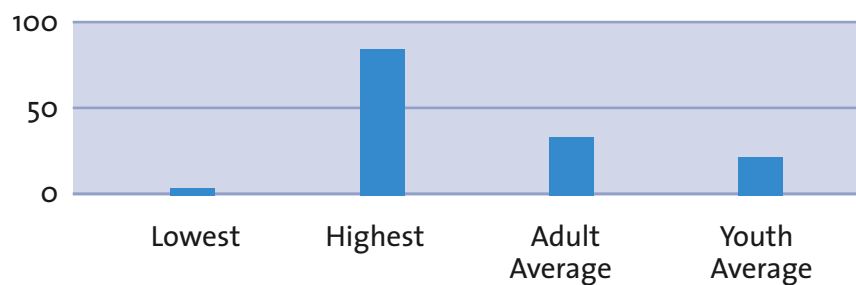
In total, 52 individuals completed the Community Survey as part of the pilot. Of this group, just over one-third were female and almost 45% were male (10 people did not report their gender). In addition, while the group were predominantly in the 26-55 age group, surveys were also completed by individuals in the 18-25, 56-65 and 66+ age groups.

The largest group reported that they both lived and worked in the Tallaght West area, with others reporting that they either lived or worked here. The group were mainly from the Jobstown or Killinarden areas, but all four target areas were represented. The group had lived/worked in the area for between two and 33 years (average 16 years). Just under two thirds of the group who lived in Tallaght West reported that they had children and this group had between one and seven children (the average was three children).

People completing the pilot survey were asked to indicate their definition of community, their definition of what constitutes a safe community, who should be involved in making the community a safer place and finally, what were the most important things needed for this to happen. A copy of the survey is included in Appendix 2. A broad range of responses was given and these were reviewed to identify common themes, which were then included as options in the final survey, and asked how safe they felt both themselves and their children were in their community.

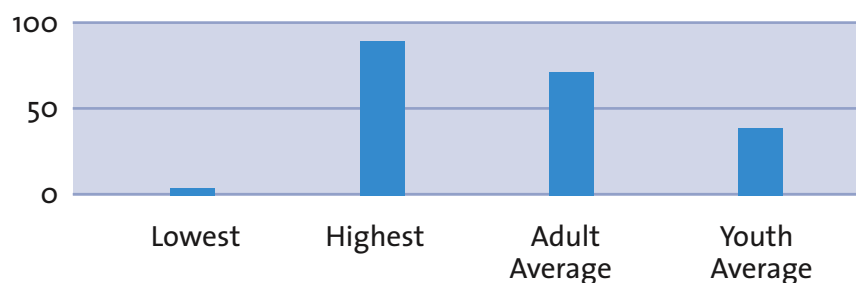
- For personal safety, the group's ratings ranged from 0 (not at all safe) to 100 (completely safe), with an average of 36 out of 100, which would suggest a low level of safety.
- However, most people scored between 8 to 64, which suggests low to moderate feelings of personal safety.
- With regards to their children's safety, the group's ratings ranged from 0 (not at all safe) to 100 (completely safe), with an average of 26 out of 100, again suggesting a low level of safety.
- However, looking at the range of scores most people scored between 0 and 54, again suggesting low to moderate feelings of children's safety.

Chart One: Ratings of Safety



The group were also asked to indicate the two problems specific to safety in the community that they would like to change. The nature of the problems cited was broad and were reviewed to identify common themes, which were then included as options in the final survey.

Chart Two: Severity of Problems



- When asked to rate the current severity of these problems, the ratings ranged from 36 (with 0 = not a problem) to 100 (couldn't be worse).
- The average rating (across the two problems) was 79 out of 100, which would suggest significant problems.
- Also most people scored between 63 and 95 out of 100, therefore suggesting a high range of seriousness.

Finally people were also asked which two goals they had for the community safety initiative. Again the range of responses to these questions was broad and were reviewed to identify common themes. These themes are not reported here as they were included as response options in the final survey.

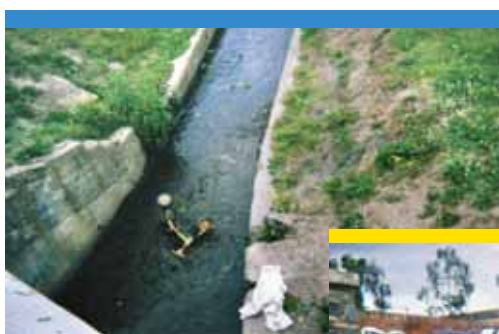
- When asked to rate how close they felt they were to reaching these goals, peoples' ratings ranged from 0 (we have reached this goal) to 100 (we are very far from reaching this goal), the average rating (across the two goals) was 62, suggesting that people felt some distance away from these goals.
- Looking at the range of scores, most people scored between 30 to 94 out of 100, suggesting that there were lots of different views among the group.

Finally, the survey included a set of questions designed to measure people's sense of Community.

A further aim of the pilot study was to check if these questions were appropriate for use in this study. It was found that the questions measured general sense of community and a how attached people felt to the place where they lived (called Place Attachment). These scales were found to be related to people's perceptions of safety and their goals for the community safety initiative, but not to the rating of problems, which suggests an interesting pattern. This was given consideration in the full survey findings.

An additional aim of the pilot study was to identify community residents or activists who would carry out the community safety survey. A set of criteria was written up highlighting the requirements necessary for surveyors which were as follows:

- Must live in the community of Tallaght West
- Must be over 18 years of age
- Must be available for two days training (dates provided)
- Must commit to collection of 25 surveys in 10 days
- All surveyors will be Garda vetted



"People throw stuff into the river, birds drinking poison because of this bacteria".
Josephaine,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

3.2 Summary

Taken together these findings suggest that the survey was a useful method by which to gain information about and insight into people's feelings and concerns regarding the issue of safety in the community. It will be useful in both identifying issues and goals relevant to the CSI and providing a baseline picture of the extent of the problem in TW. In general, the survey was clear and measured exactly what it was supposed to measure (validity). The survey was revised based on feedback from the surveyors to include tick box options for some of the questions.



"Graffiti area is full of dirt and glass. I like the graffiti, but don't like where it is. I feel graffiti wrecks the estate. It should be done inside the community centre".
Leah Whelan,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

4: Stage Four: Children and Young People (January- April 2008)

4.1 Post Primary Schools:

A survey was conducted with two randomly selected in 2nd and 5th year classes from each of the four secondary schools in TW (Jobstown, Killinarden, Brookfield and Fettercairn) in order to explore young people's experiences and perceptions of safety within the community (Appendix 3). The findings from the survey of young people are reported in the next section. However, this section describes the discussions with young people prior to completing the survey and also the consultation with primary school children.

School visit:

Members of the CDI visited each school twice. The first visit asked students to participate in the CSI survey by obtaining parental consent. Several exercises were used during the first visit to encourage students to consider safety within their community. For example:-

Exercise 1: Brainstorm

The class was broken into groups of three or four and asked the following questions:

- What makes you feel safe in your community?
- What makes you feel unsafe in your community?
- If we could only fix one of these problems which one do you feel is the most important one to tackle?
- What can we do to fix this problem?

Exercise 2: Children's Rights

The purpose of exercise two was to increase students' awareness of children's rights and basic needs.

- The class was broken into groups of four;
- Two members of the group were asked to be the parents and the remaining two were asked to be the children in the family;
- Students were informed that an atomic bomb had been dropped in TW and they had a limited amount of time to pack their belongings and make their escape;
- Students were asked to choose 20 items or belongings they would take with them as a family. There was no restriction on the type of items the family could take with them;
- During the session there were a number of 'news bulletins' stating there was only one route out of town so students were asked (as a family) to reduce the number of items until eventually each group was left with only four items. This task required student to be decisive; to problem-solve; and to agree on the final set of items;
- Finally, an open discussion occurred where students were asked to share their ideas and the difficulties they encountered in completing this task.

Exercise 3: 'Growing up in Tallaght West'

- Students were asked to imagine they were a parent (i.e. 20 years from now) and imagine that one of their children asked them about what it was like to grow up in TW. What would they tell their children? The object of this exercise was to look at children's perception and experiences of growing up in this area in 2008. Responses to each exercise are recorded below.

Feedback from Exercise 1:

Question 1:

What makes you feel safe in your community?

- Sports clubs;
- Swimming;
- Community centres.

Question 2:

What makes you feel unsafe in your community?

- Drugs
- Gangs
- People looking for fights, weapons / knives
- Wrecked buses, people smoking hash on buses
- Being attacked for nothing
- Can't walk into other areas
- Young people drinking in the street
- Litter - the place is filthy
- Can't play in fields cause if you fall you could get Aids from all the needles
- Young people having sex, dirty condoms all over the place

Question 3:

If we could only fix one of these problems which one do you feel is the most important one to tackle?

The following is a list of the top priorities named by the children:

- Drugs / needles
- Gangs
- Underage drinking
- Speeding cars

Question 4:

What can we do to fix this problem?

- Provide clubs for teenagers to stop them hanging around

- Give them somewhere they can hang around where they won't get into trouble
- Help drug addicts by educating them, educate school children about drugs and alcohol, for example;
 - Bring really bad photos into the school to show what damage can be done with drugs
 - Get people who used to be on drugs to talk to children in school
 - Educate children from young age about drink and drugs
 - Make sure people who give drink to teenagers gets into big trouble
 - Fine or charge off licence and pubs that provide drink to teenagers.

4.1.8: Feedback from Exercise 2:

This was a 'fun' exercise for students allowing them an opportunity to role play. Some of the discussion during the exercise may offer some insight into their experiences, such as:

"We don't get on; we will be getting a divorce".

"The kids are not used to having daddy around".

In terms of the exercise objective to agree key items, the most common were: mobile phones, makeup, Nintendo, play-stations, and i-pods. However, the final list of items that families commonly agreed on was: food, water, shelter, clothes. Each family was asked why and how they came to make the final decisions about the final selection of items.

"We thought if we were out there with nothing what we would need to survive".

"Once we thought about survival we knew we could not survive without food, water, shelter and keep warm".

Following this exercise children were given an age appropriate description of CSI and asked to use this opportunity to speak to CDI on behalf of similarly-aged children in the school and in the wider community through their participation in the safety survey.

4.1.9: Feedback from Exercise 3:

The children were asked to think of what messages they would like to pass on to their own children about their experience of growing up in TW. Some members of the group wrote stories while others wrote a couple of bullet points. The following excerpts represent several students' opinions of growing up in TW:

"There are a lot of good things in Tallaght like swimming, dancing, singing and fun clubs for young children like us".

"Too much building; too many apartments; the new road is so much hassle. They are taking up too much of the fields for the Luas tracks which we are not happy with. We need our field for exercising, pets, hang out, football etc".

"Most children in the estates do not have an aim in life and do not see the point in staying in school or going to college".

Other experiences of living in Tallaght included:

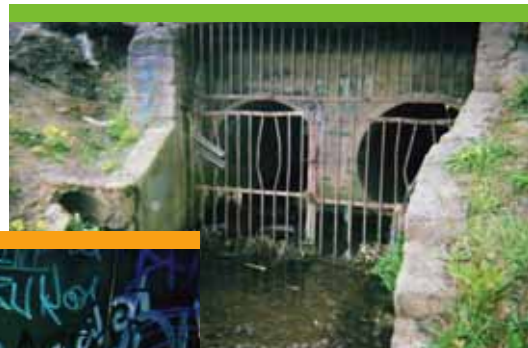
- Very dirty, Graffiti on walls;
- Drinking on the streets;
- Nothing for us to do we are bored;
- Teen girls getting pregnant;
- Drug dealing everywhere, everyday;
- Gangs in the estates, gangs riding motor bikes ruining the fields, gangs robbing innocent people or things like ipods, mobile phones etc;
- Vandalism, murders and shooting are very scary;
- Robbed and burnt out cars, houses and shops;
- Park with nothing in it, no street lighting;
- Some houses are scruffy;
- ASB, can't keep anything it gets stolen e.g. bikes;
- Extremely dangerous at night, never walk alone at night;
- Lack of police;
- No pride in saying where you are from;
- Summer is good hangin out with homegals and homeboys. Many parties but they always lead to fights. It is fun but where there is fun there is danger.

4.2: Primary Schools

The questionnaire was adapted for primary school children but following CDI's experience with the first group to complete the survey it was decided that the survey was not an effective method of harnessing the views of children.

From our observations the children found it difficult to generate answers to the questions which led to them leaving blank spaces or alternatively copying from their friends. After much consideration, it was agreed to undertake this element of the consultation on a group discussion basis to explore children's perceptions of safety in their community.

This was undertaken by identifying a small sample of 5th class students, (n = 10) from primary schools to participate in a ' p h o t o g r a p h



"Graffiti is done all the time. This makes me very angry."

Glen Zoka ,
St Anne's Primary School

"This is a scruffy place; all the kids go in there. People go to the toilet in there and others drink and throw needles in there. If you fall in you can catch warts and germs. There are rats in there too".

Calvin Coorlyle,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

competition'. Four primary schools took part in this exercise, which consisted of 120 children, 40 of whom received a disposable camera. The schools were visited twice to complete this exercise.

Classrooms and children were selected as follows:

1. One 5th class was randomly selected in each of the four participating primary schools.
2. 10 children from each of the selected classes were randomly selected using a raffle system (each child had an equal chance of being selected).
3. Each child was provided with a disposable camera and asked to take pictures representing what it is like for him/her to live in TW.
4. All photos were developed by CDI.
5. During the second visit children were asked to select two photos which were meaningful to them and provide an explanation for why s/he chose those two.

Prior to CDI's first visit a raffle was held by the class teacher in order to determine the ten children who would receive a disposable camera. It was explained to the children that a permission slip was required when using photos of people and it was important to have parents' consent if the person was under the age of 18.

Members of the CDI team visited the primary schools on two occasions. The purpose of the first visit was to ask students to participate in the CSI photo project by obtaining parental consent. An exercise was carried out using the "Photospeke Materials" (from Copping On Training) to encourage students to consider safety within their community. Through Photospeke, children came to realise that it is possible to capture a story in a picture.

On the second visit CDI returned to class with the photos. Each of the ten children were given their photos and with their classmates asked to discuss the photos. They explained to their classmates why they took the photos and what it meant to them.

The overall prize for best photograph was a digital camera for the school. The competition was judged by Joe Horan, County Manager, SDCC, Rachael Murphy, Tallaght Youth Service and two representatives from Jobstown Community College Youth Council, Shauna Fitzgerald and Sarah Wigglesworth. There will also be a report on this, and the child who took the winning photograph will appear in the local newspaper(s)

Photospeke:

Photospeke is a collection of laminated photos representing child, family social and political aspects of everyday life. The exercise was as follows:

The entire class took part in this section of the consultation. The class was broken into pairs and each pair was given a group of photos from the Photospeke collection. Each pair was asked to choose one photo between them which represented how safe they feel. There was then a discussion about what they saw in the picture, what the children thought was happening on it. This exercise proved effective in allowing the children to role play use their imagination and tell a story. Following this exercise ten children received a disposable camera.

Photo Competition:

From the selection of 27 photos the groups were asked to choose 2 favourite photos. The child was then asked to explain why s/he decided on the final photos. One of the CDI team recorded the feedback from the children.



I can see this from my house, people write on the wall and burn stuff. It is not nice

Lisa Orr,
Sacred Heart Senior School



"The community centre is a place where you feel safe".

Karen Hyland,
Sacred Heart Senior School

4.3 Summary

During two sessions with the primary school children, their views on safety in Tallaght West were explored using pictures. Children were inclined to set very realistic goals, the focus was on the more practical safety issues e.g. litter, graffiti, lack of green spaces, over-building and burnt out cars.

The issues raised by children indicate a high level of commonality on issues from parents and children alike. This information will be used along with all other feedback by the CSI Steering Committee and will influence the development and implementation of the community contract.

5: Stage Five: Report on Community Safety Survey (January 2008 - April 2008)

In order to work with the wider community in TW, it was important that the community itself decided on the aims and focus of the Community Safety Initiative. The process of doing so has been outlined above, describing how views were sought from a wide range of stakeholders. In order to increase engagement with the survey, community members were trained to collect the survey data.

5.1 Training for Surveyors

Through local groups, phone calls and connections made through the pilot survey 28 residents were identified and expressed an interest in carrying out the community safety survey. Of this 25 residents took part in survey training. The training consisted of two 3 hour sessions. Surveyors were supplied with information and materials relevant to the implementation of the survey during a final session.

The following section provides a more detailed description of the training sessions.

Session 1:The following topics were covered in session one

- Purpose of study
- Confidentiality
- Voluntary Participation
- What will happen to the results of the study?

Purpose of study: The surveyors made a commitment to the collection of 20 surveys each. They were informed that the survey would assess the views of people living and working in Tallaght West on the topic of safety in the community. The survey was anonymous and took about 15 minutes to complete. There were no risks associated with completing the survey.

Confidentiality: Surveyors were informed that all individual surveys would remain confidential and all individuals were to be asked not to put their names on the survey.

Voluntary Participation: Surveyors were also informed that it was up to the participant to decide whether to take part or not. Participants in the survey were randomly chosen, details of which are discussed in training session two.

What happens to the results of the study?: It was explained to the surveyors that only some people will not agree to participate in this study which means that the results might be skewed because we did not obtain answers from people who refused. Surveyors were asked to remind participants in the survey that:

- Only members of the CSI team including CDI, had access to the surveys
- A report would be compiled and made available to participants and other groups in the community
- The study's results could be published in journals and presented at academic conferences
- The information collected would be stored in a locked filing cabinet in CDI and on a password-protected computer
- Finally the information collected from the survey will be destroyed after a set period of time: after 10 years for hard copies of the survey and 20 years for electronic copies.

Following the discussion of the above topics the surveyors were requested to do the following:

- Go through the survey and clarify each question
- Complete a survey themselves
- Discuss questions and potential answers and provide feedback (e.g. Are the questions clear? Can you anticipate any questions that might be raised? How might these be answered?)
- In pairs, role play collecting and completing the survey

Between the first and second training session, the surveyors were asked to complete the survey with two people (e.g. family members, colleagues, friends or neighbours) and to record any comments or observations made. This provided surveyors not only with an opportunity to implement the survey but allowed CDI to gain feedback in relation to the actual questionnaire (i.e. whether it was user-friendly; were the questions easy to understand; did it offer participants the opportunity to share their opinions and experiences, etc).

CDI anticipated a number of issues would arise from this exercise and therefore set aside time in the second stage of the training session to look at any problems, concerns, questions and solutions.

Session 2: The following topics were covered during session two:

- Overview of Random Sampling
- Anticipated problems and suggested solutions, based on the feedback from sample surveys.

Participants in the survey would be randomly sampled to ensure that the survey was representative of the views of the community. The concept of random sampling was explained as follows:

Random sampling tries to ensure that information collated is broadly representative of the target group. The Surveyors understood this concept.

The following are a list of issues raised by the surveyors during the training sessions:

- Problem 1: A house is empty when the surveyor visits it.
- Solution: Try this house on another day or at another time. This will indicate that we are trying to get as random a sample as possible.
- Solution: If the first solution fails, try the next house and go from there.

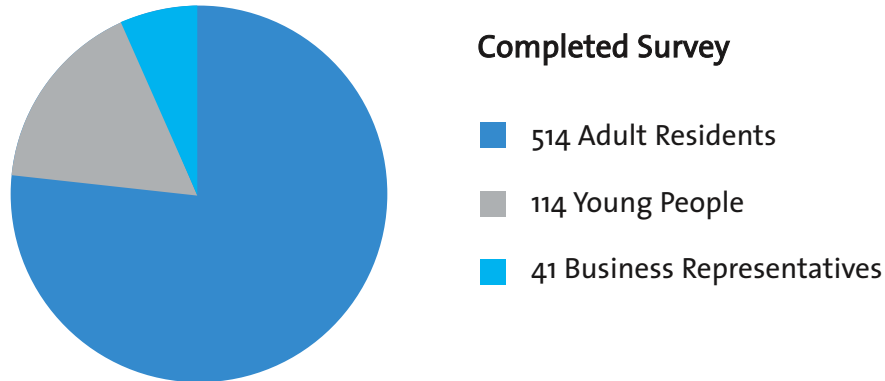
- Problem 2: The surveyor is concerned about an incident that took place or an observation they made during an interview with a participant.
- Solution: Record this incident/ observation in the incident logbook and bring it to the attention of the CDI team.

5.2 Survey Findings

Who Completed the Survey?

In total 669 individuals completed the Community Safety Survey.

Chart Three: Who Completed the Survey?



This group included:

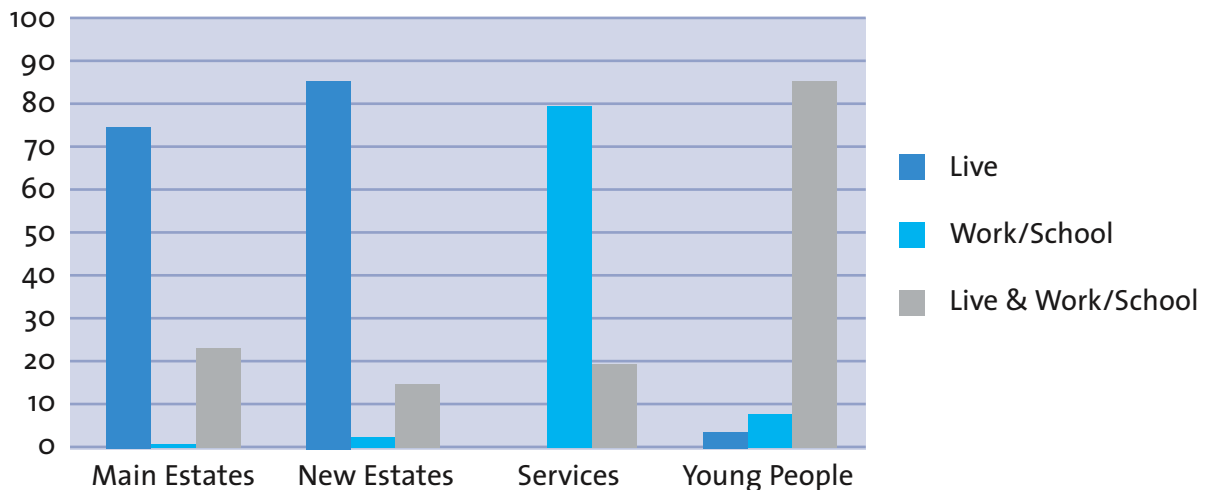
- 514 adult residents (76.8% overall) from across the four areas of Jobstown, Killinarden, Fettercairn and Brookfield and the new estates of Mc Uilliam and Swiftbrook.
- 114 young people (17.0%), including those both in and out of school.
- 41 representatives of businesses and services in Tallaght West (6.1%).

The majority of the respondents overall were female. There was also a broad spread of age groups in the survey. The majority of the young people who completed the survey were aged between 12 and 17 years of age, however a number of out of school youth were also sampled and these young people were older. In the adult sample, the group were aged from 18 to over 66 years, with the majority aged between 18 and 45 years.

Living and Work Patterns

Adults and young people completing the survey were asked to indicate whether they lived or worked/went to school in Tallaght West.

Chart Four: Living and Working Patterns



- As expected the majority of the residents groups reported that they lived in the area, but a number did work in the area also.
- Among the Youth sample, the majority lived and went to school in the area as expected.
- While the majority of those who completed the service provider/business survey only worked in Tallaght West, 20% also lived in the area.

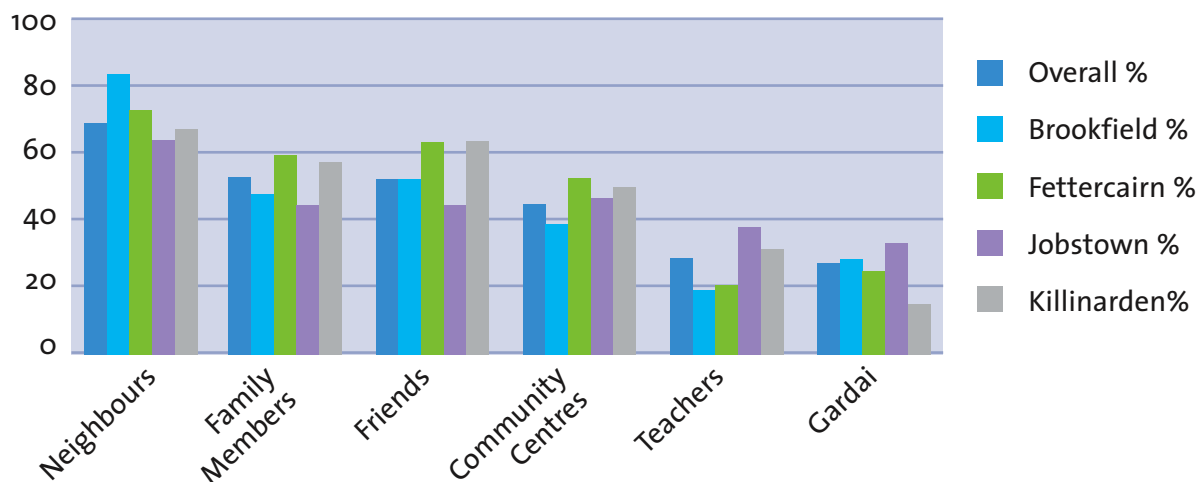
Residents in the four main estates had lived or worked in the area for between six months and 40 years, with an average length of time of 17 years, while residents in the new estates had lived or worked in the area for between six months and 28 years (average 5 years). The young people had lived or gone to school in Tallaght West for an average of 11 years. The members of the Services group had worked in the area for between 6 months and 30 years, with an average of 10 years. Given these findings it suggests that many of those living in the new estates had previously lived in other areas of Tallaght West.

Finally, adults living in Tallaght West were asked to indicate if they had children and if so, how many children they had. Overall, just over 80% of the respondents across both the main estates and the new estates reported that they had children. The number of children ranged between 1 and 13, with an average of three children per family.

What does the Word 'Community' Mean To You?

People were asked to indicate their definition of community, and the responses across the groups were examined. The top five responses are reported in Chart Five below and the chart also reports the breakdown across the four groups.

Chart Five: Responses from Adults Regarding the Nature of Community



Looking at this information, a number of patterns are clear.

- Most people define their community based on the people in their immediate surroundings (neighbours, families, and friends).
- This was also reflected in the comments from young people, who completed this question as an open-ended question. Sample comments included *"Friends neighbours family are the*

¹ The design of the adult survey allowed for the number of people to be calculated, and these figures are represented in graphs. However the survey of young people used open-ended questions, which were reviewed and the main themes are commented on following the graphs.

people I think of when I think about the word community", "People that live around me", and "when I think of community, I think of neighbours and other local people that live around me".

- It is clear that people were less likely to consider groups like politicians, foreign nationals and businesses and places like the library and meeting halls as part of their community, as these were not ranked in the top five.

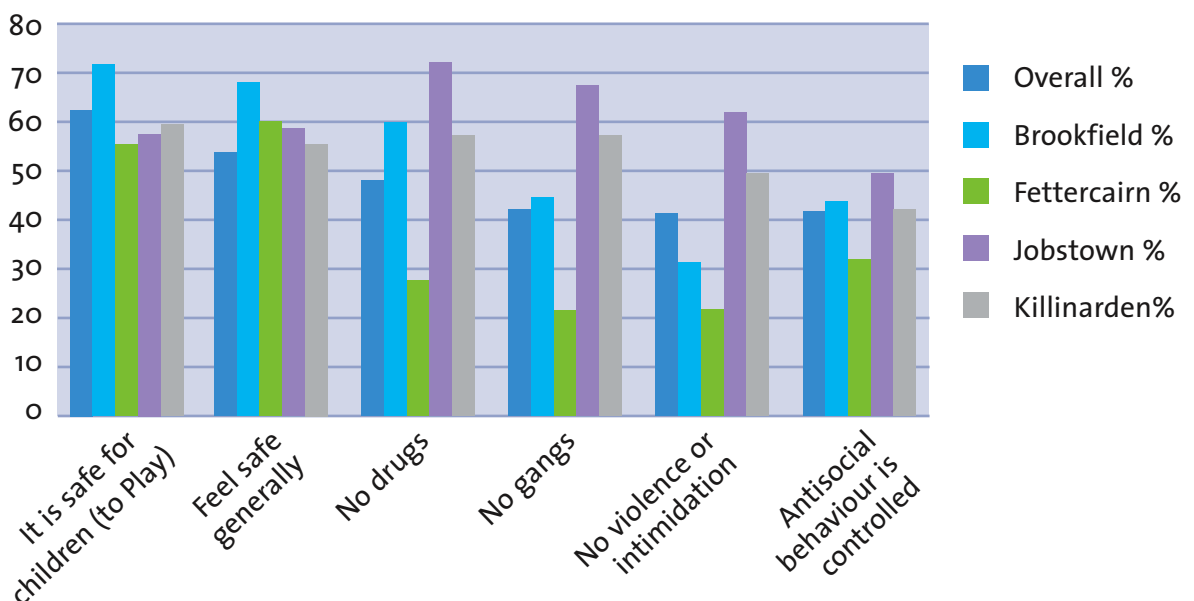
However, the young people appeared to refer to social aspects of their community more than adults, mentioning sporting and community activities and organisations. For example, "I would think of places where there is a lot of interaction between people that organise events & provide support e.g. Citywise, local G.A.A. clubs, Tallaght Leisure Centre", "friends/family, Citywise, the police, clubs church, leisure centre, schools, playschools" and "youth workers, families, crèches, play grounds, schools, shops, community centre, church."

It is interesting to note the level of consistency across the four communities, with only slight variations in the frequency with which particular groups were mentioned. For examples teachers were replaced in the top five in Brookfield and Fettercairn by South Dublin County Council and the Gardai respectively.

What is a safe community?

The survey also explored definitions of what constitutes a safe community, and the top responses from adults are reported in Chart Six.

Chart Six: Responses from Adults Regarding the Nature of Safe Community



- The two top responses overall focused on feelings of safety, while the next three most frequent related to the absence of particular behaviours.
- Looking across the four communities, while there is some consistency, there are also notable differences such as Jobstown having a higher score for No drugs, while Fettercairn showed much lower levels on this question.

Again young people responded to this issue in an open ended question, but there was agreement with the issues reported by adults. Young people talked about feeling safe in their community, for example "A 'safe' community to me would be one where I feel free to be myself, walk along and travel without worry of harm", "A place where people should feel safe walking around their estate or neighbourhood", and "its a community where people feels at ease and secure".

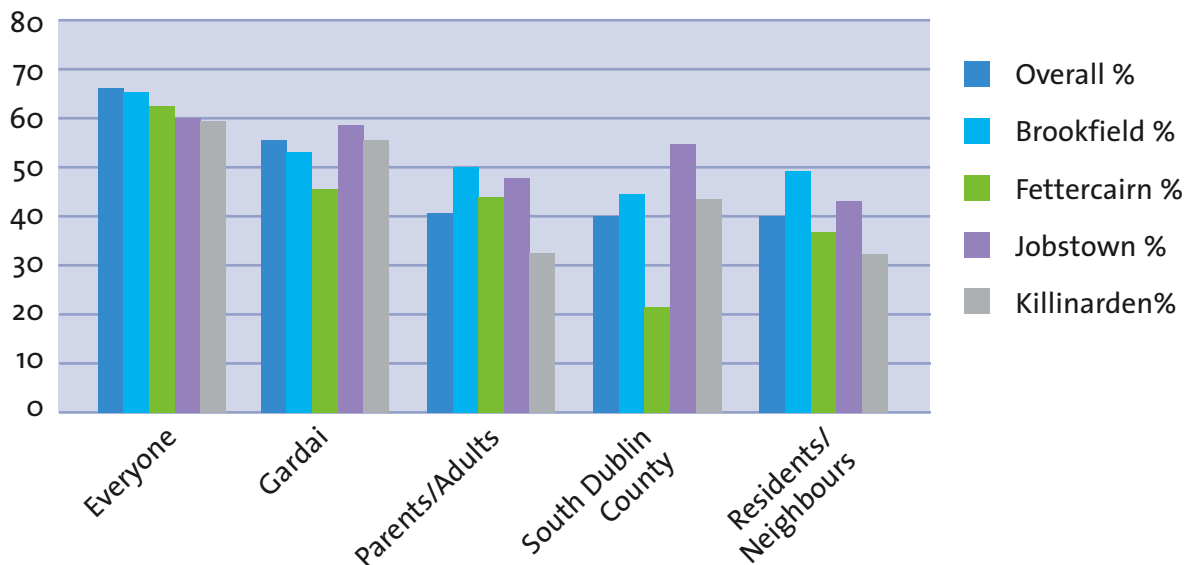
However, there appeared to be more reference to the absence of problems than the presence of positive elements, for example, "no drugs, violence, alcohol, robbed cars", "no gangs hanging around the street. No robbed cars", and "where people are free to develop & live and there is no fear of criminals, drug pushers or even gangs of threatening youths hanging around. An area where people are friendly".

One other key point highlighted by the responses in the tables is that the responses across these categories were all relatively high, indicating how common these views are.

Creating a safe community

Having indicated what they considered a safe community to be, people completing the survey were asked to indicate who should be involved in making the community a safer place (see Chart Seven for responses from adults).

Chart Seven: Responses from Adults Regarding Who Should be Involved in Creating a Safe Community:



Looking at the main patterns from the findings:

- Over two thirds of the overall group who completed the survey felt that everyone should be involved in tackling this issue, and this was a frequent response across all four communities.
- Following this other common responses included a mix of individuals (parents, residents) and organisations (Gardai, County Council, etc).

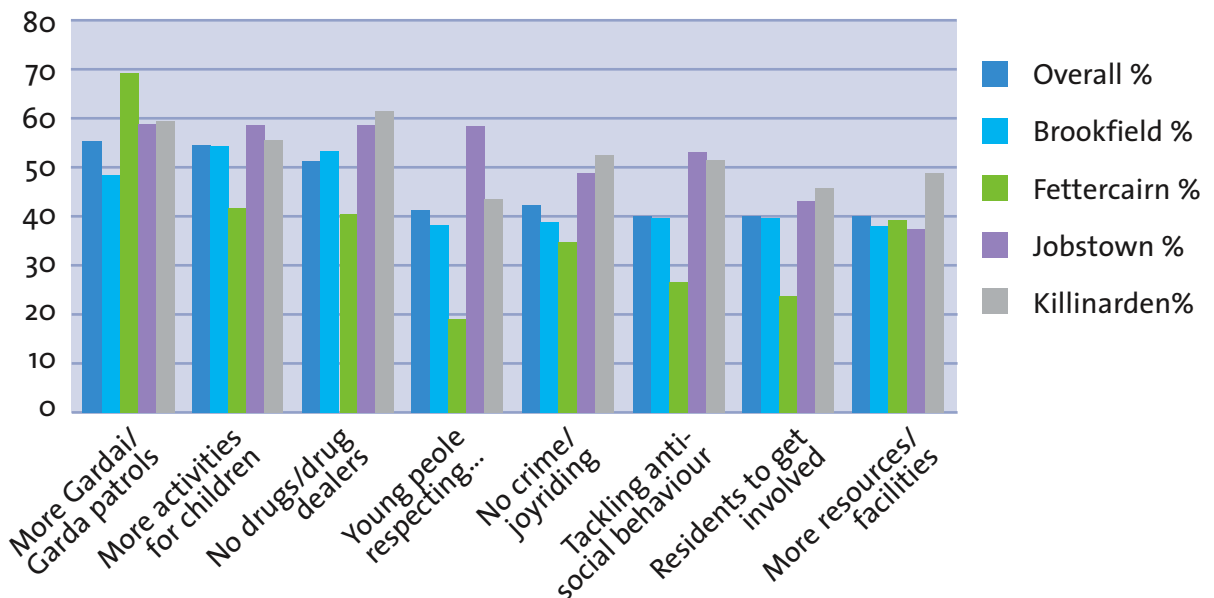
- Again there is a level of consistency in the top five responses across the four areas. However it is interesting to note that children and young people only appeared in the top five in one area, Fettercairn.

Looking at the responses from young people, the need to include everyone was a common response, while the same groups were referred to in other comments. As one young person reported, "I think of a combination of different people from different backgrounds, such as parents, TD's/politicians etc., people with responsibility in places such as Citywise, schools, GAA club. There should also be a voice for the young & old, and maybe a Garda". Developing this point, many young people saw a role for themselves in making their community a safer place.

Most important things needed to make Tallaght West a safe community

The next question in this section of the survey explored what were the most important things needed for Tallaght West to be a safe community (See Table Eight for responses from adults).

Chart Eight: Responses from Adults regarding the steps needed to make communities safe



The responses represent a range of views including promoting positive issues such as respect and communication and reducing challenges such as drugs, crime, etc.

These were also common issues among young people.

As with the responses to the question on the nature of a safe community, it is interesting that the responses across these categories were all relatively high, indicating how common these views are, however there were some differences across the four communities.

While all communities stressed the need for more Gardaí and activities for young people, adults in Fettercairn saw the need for more resources or facilities, while in Brookfield there was a need to get residents involved.

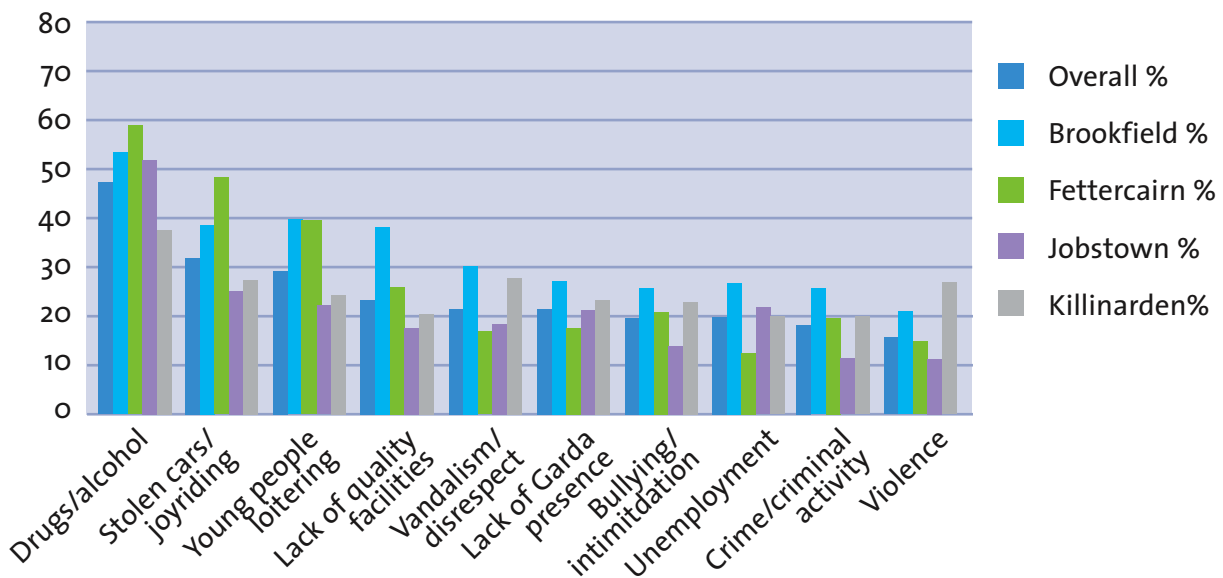
In the next section on the survey respondents were asked how safe they felt they and their children were in their community.

- For personal safety, possible ratings ranged from 0 (not at all safe) to 10 (completely safe).
- The average rating among adults completing the survey was 5.7, suggesting a moderate perception of the level of safety.
- With regards to their children's safety, the average rating was slightly lower at 4.4.
- The average rating among young people completing the survey was 6.3, suggesting a moderate perception of the level of safety among this group also.

Main Problems in the Community

Respondents were also asked to indicate the two problems specific to safety in the community that they would like to change. The nature of the problems cited was broad and the responses from adults are reported in Chart Nine. The most frequently cited problems were drugs/alcohol, stolen cars and gangs/groups, issues which were also reflected in the young people's responses to open-ended questions.

Chart Nine: Responses from Adults Regarding the Most Pressing Problems

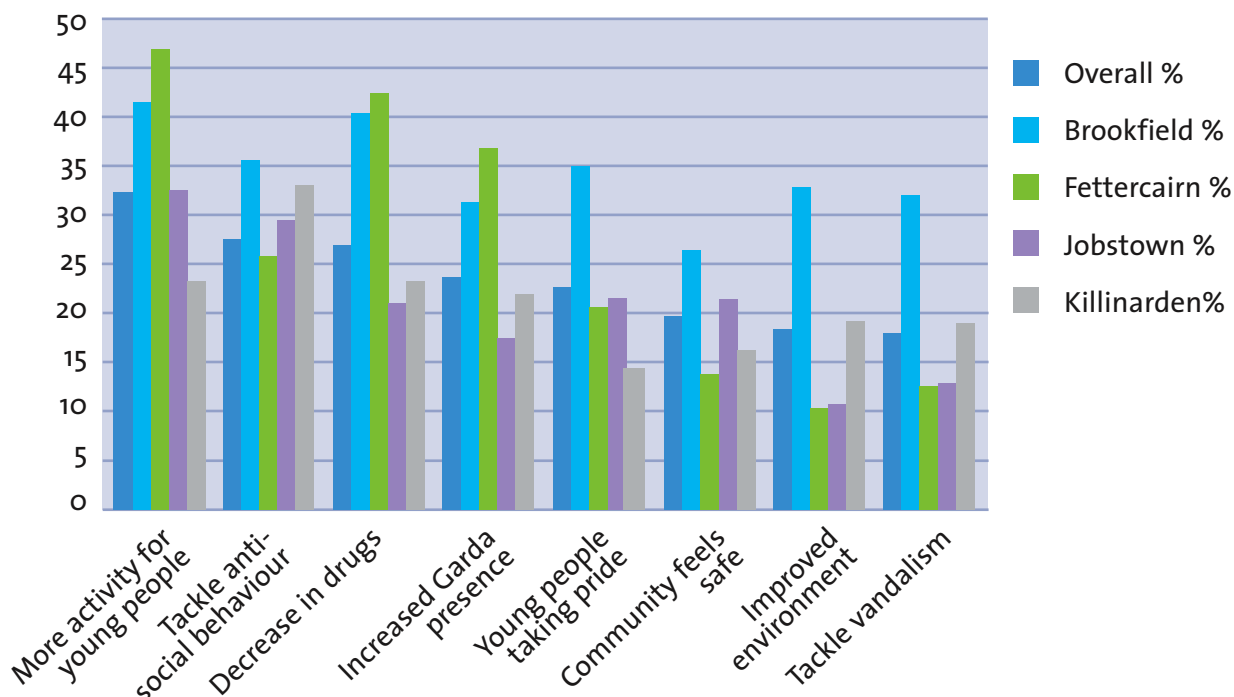


When asked to rate the current severity of these problems, (with 0 = not a problem; 10 = couldn't be worse) the average rating (across the two problems named by respondents) was 8.0 for adults, which is in the higher end of the possible scores. This suggests that adults see these issues as being very significant. This was also the case for young people, whose average rating (across the two problems) was 7.4.

Goals for the Community Safety Initiative

Respondents were also asked which two goals they had for the Community Safety Initiative. Again the range of responses given by adults was broad and the responses are reported in Chart Ten.

Chart Ten: Goals for the Community Safety Initiative



- The types of goals the respondents would like to see from the CSI included increasing activities for young people, increasing their pride in their area and tackling problem behaviours like anti-social behaviour, drugs and vandalism.
- Again there is clear consistency in the main goals across the four areas, with some variation around issues such as vandalism and improving the environment.

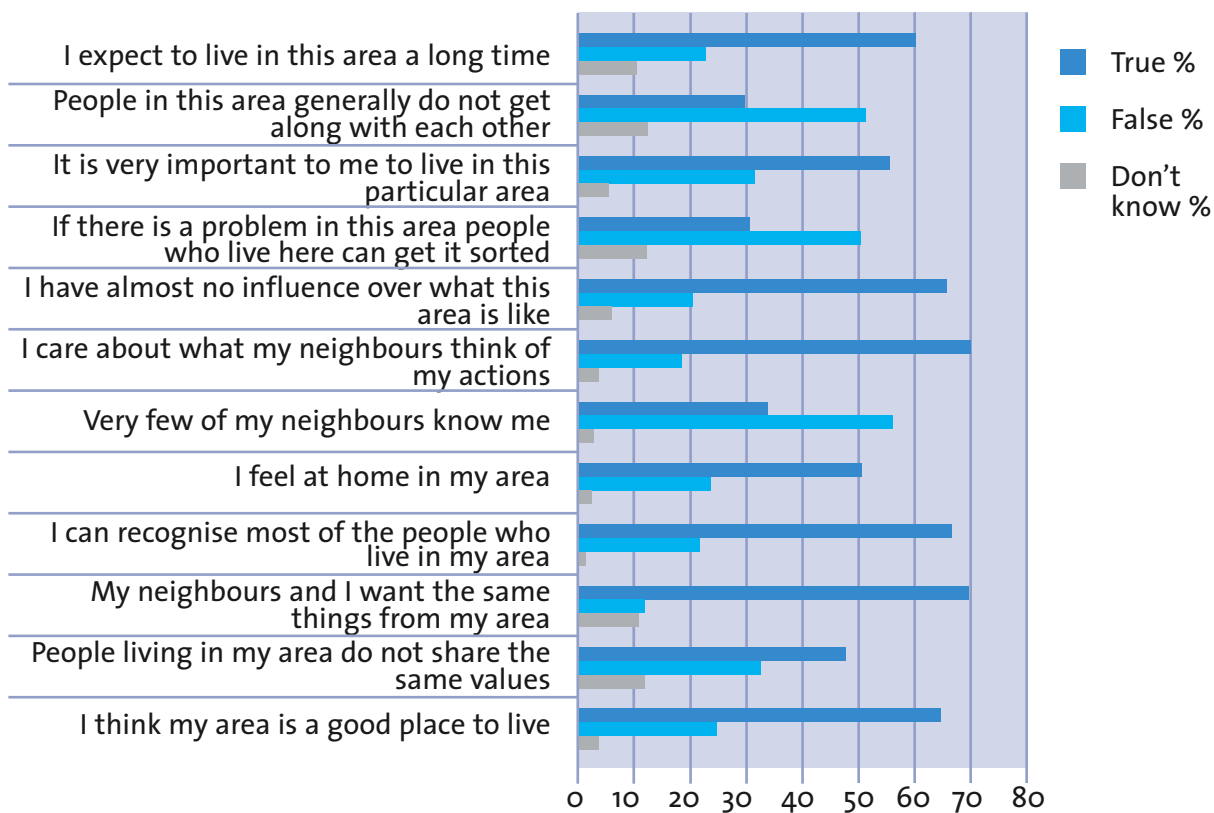
Young people also highlighted similar issues, for example "I'd like to see less gangs of young people hanging around with nothing to do & intimidating people & instead get involved in community activities" and "to have no gangs and then people wouldn't be afraid to do the shop or walk round the corner".

When asked to rate how close they felt they were to reaching these goals, with ratings ranged from 0 (have reached this goal) to 10 (very far from reaching this goal), the average rating (across the two goals) among adults was 7.9 suggesting that people feel they are somewhat far away from their goals. The average rating (across the two goals) among young people was 7.1, suggesting a similar outlook to adults.

Responses Regarding a Sense of Community

Finally, the survey included a set of questions that tapped into the sense of community people felt and the responses to the questions are reported in Chart Eleven. These findings represent the views and experiences across adults, young people, residents and service providers.

Chart Eleven: Responses to the Sense of Community Questions



In relation to those statements which indicate a positive sense of community, responses are generally very strong;

- However the responses to the negative statements, such as "People living in my area do not share the same values" and "Very few of my neighbours know me" tend to be more variable with similar numbers reporting that this is true as report that this is false.
- Interestingly the negative statement that most people reported was mostly/completely true was the one which stated, "I have almost no influence over what this area is like", with over two-thirds (69.5%) agreeing with this statement. This suggests that participants feel have little influence in their community.

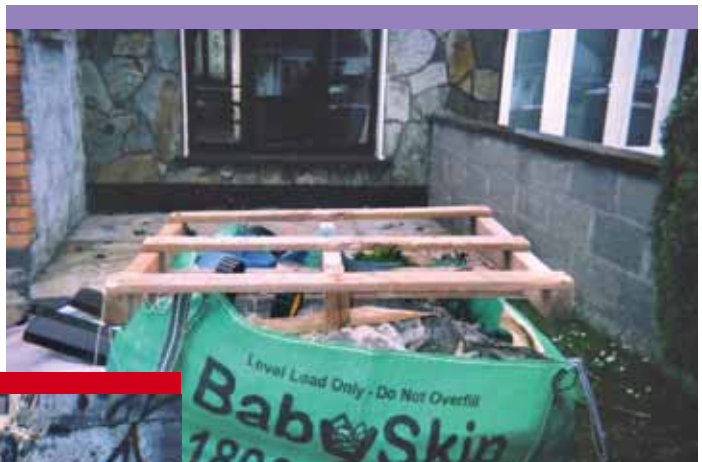
The survey closed with a number of general questions relating to the groups' sense of community more generally.

- Only a small proportion of the group (13.6%, n = 91) reported that the sense of community was very strong, while just less than half (45.5%, n = 305) reported a moderate sense of community.

- However just under half of the group reported that it was very important that they feel a sense of community in their area (48.7%, n =326), and another third (36.9%, n = 247) reported it was 'somewhat important'.
- Less than one in ten (8.3%, n = 56) reported that it was not important for them to feel a sense of community.

5.3 Summary

The aim of the Community Safety Survey was to allow adults and young people living and working in Tallaght West to have a say in identifying the issues and goals for the CDI Community Safety Initiative. The survey has identified a number of issues the community are concerned about, as well as possible goals for the programme. The information gathered during this process will be invaluable in progressing the work to promote safety in Tallaght West.



"The skip is a good way to promote recycling. The rubbish gets taken away so there is no need to have it all over the streets".

Ciara Purdy,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

"The wall is smashed, horses are kept here. I really don't feel good when I look at this".

Nicole Holt,
Sacred Heart Senior School

6: Stage Six: Feedback and Consultation (June 2008)

Findings from the survey were fed-back to participants through a series of meetings. Subsidiary aims of these meetings were to a) prioritise the issues identified through safety survey, b) identify an agreed set of goals and c) identify individuals for nomination to the CSI Steering Committee. Those consulted in Stage 6 included:

- Service providers
- Residents of the four communities
- Young people

6.1 Consultation meetings

Two meetings (with separate groups) were held with service providers while public meetings were held in each of the four communities. A community meeting was also held specifically for young people. These meetings were advertised using the following methods:

- Local newspapers
- RAPID weekly newsletter
- Posters (designed by CDI trained community mentors²), were placed in local community centres, health centres, local shops and Post Offices
- Local groups were contacted and asked to spread the word in their communities.

It was extremely difficult to get residents to attend the public meetings. As well as all the advertising for these meetings the CDI Mentors put a lot of work into engaging with residents and promoting the public meetings. Based on the feedback they received during the promotion of the meetings they were assured of a large turnout and were frustrated when that did not happen.

One of the Mentors noted:

"There was a very good response to the survey and very few of those surveyed had any difficulty completing the questionnaire. Many of those surveyed were keen to attend follow up meetings. Yet there was a very low turnout at the public meetings. This was both disappointing and contradictory".

The overall turnout at the public meetings was 54 people (18 of which were young people from the areas). There was no traveller or ethnic minority representation at these meetings.

General Findings from the Meetings

Several comments were made by individuals and groups during the meetings in relation to the survey findings, and these are highlighted under the following themes.

2 CDI in conjunction with Tallaght Youth Services provided training to local residents from Tallaght West to enable them to mentor other residents, and support them in community participation and development. The Mentors are determined to help build community spirit by both being involved in their community and getting others involved with them.

- Young people
- Community engagement
- Parental support
- Gardaí and crime
- Drugs
- Structures and services: and
- The physical environment

Young People:

- Surprise was expressed that only 20% felt young people's respect for their community was an issue
- "Loitering" is more of an issue in Fettercairn than the other three areas, possibly as a result of the changes in the physical environment and the lack of spaces for young people to hang out
- Informal controls over young people appear to be gone
- "They can't write children off at 12 or 13, that's what happens with some of the organisations"
- More activities for young people requires community investment
- Young people need informal, unstructured space
- It was suggested that the focus on activities for young people, are a reaction to people feeling intimidated by them 'hanging out' or loitering
- How honest are young people when they are consulted about issues?
- There were contradictory statements re: activities for young people, some suggested there is nothing for them to do. Others felt there are plenty of services and activities, but people may not be aware of them and aren't encouraged to participate
- If there is a hangout space for young people, it is possible it could become a place to be bullied. Lack of proper supervision is an ongoing issue
- Young people felt that money cannot solve the safety issues identified or help with the setting of goals, e.g. it cannot solve the problems with drugs. They are confident that drug issues can be solved
- Many adult residents felt that young people have no fear of authority

Community Engagement:

- Residents felt that so many of their neighbours don't want to get involved and this may be due to low community spirit
- They agreed that there is a need to get more people involved. It's always the same people who are involved
- How do you get people to take responsibility?
- How can we help communities to take responsibility without crossing the line into taking organisations' roles?
- Participation can be impacted by cynicism and their lack of belief that things can change
- Residents need to see results in order to buy into the process

- Some experience "burn out" with having previously attempted to make change with little effect
- There is a need to consider innovative ways to maintain people's involvement.

Parental support:

- No point blaming parents - sometimes they are burnt out and can't cope but we have to help them see the long term impact, focus on "what do you want for your child?"
- Lack of parental control is an issue. There should be a curfew. It's only a few families who let the area down.

Gardaí/ crime:

- There is a major problem with Gardaí chasing people or stopping and searching for no apparent reason
- Violence came up as more of an issue in Killinarden than elsewhere in Tallaght West
- Some areas felt there has been a marked increase in Gardaí presence recently, and it was questioned whether this was related to the CDI survey
- If people feel there is a Gardaí presence and that they are approachable and easy to access, they are more likely to engage in consultation
- There is uncertainty about how crime reports get managed by the Gardaí. Some feel they are taking a risk in making such a report, and there experiences of intimidation
- Vandalism is just a form of anti social behaviour.

Drugs:

- The desire for no drugs or drug dealing in the community is something to be harnessed
- Fears regarding how to manage drug debts are very real
- There was a variation across the communities in how serious this issue is.

Structures and Services:

- Do the media play a part in creating negative perceptions of safety?
- Discussions and actions need to recognise the inequality of power in the relationship between statutory service providers and those living in the community
- It is difficult for people to feel they have any control when they feel disempowered themselves
- Agreement that a range of organisations need to be involved e.g. education, clergy
- People need knowledge about services, where to go for help and how to access services
- How well informed are people about what existing services are in the community?

Physical Environment:

- Houses being left empty attract anti-social-behaviour
- Estate management officers can be asked to mediate with their neighbours which isn't always appropriate

- The SDCC has focused on physical developments e.g. building houses, apartments etc. Environmental responses to safety have sometimes been detrimental to the community e.g. high walls.

6.2 Prioritising Goals:

The following were the most frequently cited goals:

- Decrease in drugs
- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Increase Garda presence
- More activities for young people
- Young people taking pride in their community/themselves

In order to prioritise the issues each participant was asked to vote on the goals in order of importance. The votes were counted and in smaller groups a discussion was held on a specific goal facilitated by a member of the CDI team. Each small group was responsible for coming up with suggestions as to how to reach the set goal. The groups were then asked to consider what actions could be taken to deal with the issue being discussed and who else needed to be involved in the process of dealing with the particular issue.

6.3 Summary

A public meeting was held in each of the four areas of TW. Despite the public meetings being widely advertised they were poorly attended. Overall 54 people participated in these meetings including 18 young people.

Findings from the survey were discussed during these meetings and participants were asked to prioritise the main issues and goals. Following this, participants were asked to agree on a set of goals to be tackled through the CSI project. Additional goals were identified during these meetings where relevant. Nominees to the CSI Steering Committee were also sought.



"There are lots of pretty things in Tallaght. It is not all bad, the rose represents love and peace and danger in the thorns".

Jamie,
Sacred Heart School



"People always throw rubbish in here, they light fires at night and that may catch onto the houses".

Josephaine,
Scoil Chaitlin Maude

7: Actions and Next Steps

7.1: Actions agreed:

A list of actions agreed at public meetings by participants are listed below under the following themes:

- Community Engagement
- Information Sharing
- Developing Trust
- Young People

Community Engagement:

- Get people motivated
- Build on community involvement through the following:
 - Build leadership skills within the community
 - Training / Mentoring/ coaching etc
 - Build community spirit through:
 - Street Parties
 - Celebrations e.g. Halloween, Christmas, Summer projects
 - Clean ups
 - Draw on those already involved to increase participation

Information Sharing:

- YODA is interested in working creatively with young people in the community
- Have a large concentration of service provider in each area on dates agreed by all agencies working together
- Develop a community based task force to deal with Anti Social Behaviour to include Gardaí, SDCC, etc
- Identify creative ways of informing people about services and events e.g.
 - Web texting: expansion of the SDCC connect project to out of school initiatives

Developing Trust:

- Make it safe to report crime through establishing the following:
 - Anonymity
 - Confidentiality
 - Support from the court system by informing them of what is happening in the community and gaining support in upholding the CSI contract
 - Set consequences for anti social behaviour
 - Improve response rate from the Gardaí
 - Create Garda presence - getting to know them

Young People:

- Build sports capacity as it is a way of getting the community engaged
- Create informal spaces for young people to hangout
- Provide permitted walls for graffiti

7.2 Next Steps

A CSI Steering Committee is currently being formed. The Committee will comprise up to 15 members plus an Independent Chair. These will include: two community representatives from each of the four communities, Gardaí, Tallaght Youth Service, South Dublin County Council, and representatives from the ethnic minority and travelling communities. The committee will be responsible for acting on the needs as identified through the community safety survey, supporting the implementation of appropriate actions, identifying test sites in each of the four communities where the contract will be implemented and providing advice and support in the development and implementation of a community contract.

In addition, the CSI will be evaluated by an independent evaluation team from the Child and Family Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The evaluation will develop alongside the CSI and will use participatory methods of engagement to ensure that participants and stakeholders in the CSI (including children, young people, residents and service providers) are fully consulted during the implementation of the CSI.



"This car was burnt outside my house; my little sister could hurt herself on it"

Lisa,
Sacred Heart School



"Even if you're not on the beach you can look out your bedroom window and see a sunset. It makes me feel happy because it is good."

Anne Osborne,
St Anne's Primary School

Conclusion

This report outlined CDI's Community Safety Initiative consultation process which took place between October 2006 to April 2008 and the subsequent research carried out in the area of Tallaght West in relation to the safety concerns and issues held by residents and service providers in the area. There are three key action themes arising from this report: Young People, Physical Environment and Community Engagement.

With regard to the focus on young people, this report found contradictory evidence that young people either lack the opportunity to participate in activities or are simply uninterested in the activities offered within their areas. It was suggested that sometimes what is required is an unstructured safe place for young people to hang out, alongside the more formal activities and facilities.

According to Josie Appleton, regarding a curfew that has been introduced in Britain

"Children and young people are part of our communities and will always congregate - it's a natural part of growing up and very few youngsters who meet in public places are actually committing any criminal or other offence. Young people often gather in groups because it makes them feel safer, choosing places near shops because they are well lit and busy. In many cases they are actually unaware that their presence alone can seem intimidating to others. Teenagers are treated almost as another species, immune to reasoning and social sanction." (Appleton, July 2008,).


CDI is committed to a process which listens to what young people want and involves them in the development and design of facilities that directly affect them.

Living in a clean and safe environment is a fundamental right. Issues relating to the physical environment and the ambiance of the community were regular themes, with residents expressing a strong desire to improve these aspects of their lives. However it can be difficult to take pride in the community when there is a predominant belief among individuals that they have no power, say or control over it. Being part of the decision making, in the most basic sense, may make all the difference in terms of how individuals perceive their community e.g. when rubbish is collected, when graffiti is cleaned up etc.

Taking pride in where you live does not come naturally in Tallaght West. There is an unspoken understanding that this community does not belong to the residents. A sense of community requires a shared goal, a shared sense of ownership and most importantly, a common desire to achieve these together.

What makes people get up and participate is one of the major issues in carrying out any new initiative. Based on the views expressed at the public meetings and the low turnout alternative methods of engagement may need to be considered.

"Something has to be done" is the clear message across all groups consulted, however all were unsure as to what action or what direction is required. It was felt that it is vital to manage fear, attitude, responsibility and engagement in order to build on community spirit. The community contract is seen as a positive move forward and service providers stated that the community contract would improve relations between providers and the community and build stronger links.



Whilst there are differences in priorities and goals across the four communities and between the community and service providers, the implementation of this initiative still requires considerable thought and planning. The consultation process has highlighted the commonality of issues and both community residents and service providers face the same issues in their daily lives and the CSI provides a focused opportunity to support collaboration and a joined up approach. Partnership between these stakeholders which is underpinned by trust, affirmation and recognition of strengths will be vital to driving this exciting and innovative intervention. CDI is confident that the enthusiasm, expertise and integrity exist within Tallaght West, and looks forward to harnessing some of this in the years ahead.

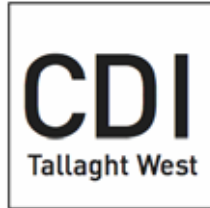
The capability of the community has to be taken into consideration in order for any real partnership to take place. Real exchange can only be built on respect for the uniqueness and integrity of each individual. The potential is here for remarkable and fruitful relationships which would help facilitate self determination.

Bibliography

Josie Appleton, www.spikedonline.com (accessed August '08).

Appendix 1





The Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) is looking for your help. CDI have always promised that the community will lead this project and we are once again looking to gather the opinions of the community to lead the Community Safety Initiative (CSI). Are you interested in helping us? CDI will carry out a survey in the area of Tallaght West and would like community residents to be the survey team.

If you can answer yes to the following questions, you are what we are looking for. Please fill in the form and return it to Joyce Cahill before October 26th

1. Do you live in the area of Killinarden, Jobstown, Fettercairn or Brookfield?
2. Are you over 18yrs?
3. Are you available for training on 7th & 13th November from 10am - 12.30pm?
4. Can you commit to collecting 25 surveys during the week of the 19th November?

***Note: The survey team will be garda vetted.
(Please fill in the details below and return to Joyce Cahill,
(address below)***

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact: Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____



Appendix 2



CDI: Community Safety Initiative

INFORMATION SHEET for COMMUNITY SURVEY

Background: The Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative Ltd (CDI) began as a planning initiative in 2003 to support better outcomes for children in Tallaght West. A consortium of 23 members representing community leaders, residents and professionals working in Tallaght West developed the outcomes-focused 10-year strategy A Place for Children – Tallaght West, which was launched by the Taoiseach in late 2005. Based on this long-term strategy, a detailed implementation plan has been agreed for 2007-2011. The Community Safety Initiative is one of the activities of this five-year programme. It will take a community-led, participatory approach to improving safety in the community and will be informed by the results of this survey. If you have any questions about the Safety Initiative, you should contact Joyce Cahill (details below).

Purpose: The research team has been asked to carry out a survey that will assess the views of people living and working in Tallaght West on the topic of safety in the community. As such, adults living and working in the community are being asked to complete an anonymous self-report survey called 'The CDI Community Safety Initiative Community Survey'. While there is no direct benefit or reward to you, the community will benefit from understanding this issue. If you have any questions about the survey please contact a member of the research team (details below).

What happens if I take part? If you agree to take part we ask that you complete the attached survey, which explores your views on safety in the community. The survey is anonymous and individuals are asked not to write their names anywhere on it. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and once completed you should return the survey to CDI. There are no risks associated with completing this survey.

What will happen to the results of the study? The information will be collected by the research team and only members of the team will have access to the surveys. A report will be compiled for the Network and will be made available to participants and other groups in the community, but no individual participant will be identified. The study's results may be published in academic journals and presented at academic conferences. The information collected will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in CDI and in password protected computer files. The information collected from the survey will be destroyed after a set period of time: after 10 years for hard copies of the survey and 20 years for electronic copies.

Confidentiality: All individual surveys will remain confidential and all individuals are asked not to put their names on the survey. Some quotes from the survey may be used in reporting the research but the identity of the individual in question will not be reported.

Voluntary Participation: It is up to you to decide to take part or not, participation is completely voluntary. You are free to decide whether to take part or not. However, if after submitting the survey you decide not to take part it will not be possible to remove your information, as all surveys are anonymous.

If I decide not to take part? If you decide not to take part please return the survey without completing it.

For further information on the Safety Initiative please contact: Joyce Cahill, Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative Ltd, Tallaght West CDI Ltd, St Mark's House, Cookstown Lane, Fettercairn, Dublin 24. P: 462 8488.

Thank you very much for supporting this initiative. Please keep this information sheet for your records.

CDI: Community Safety Initiative

Community Survey

For the past three years CDI have been working closely with parents, children, and organisations to look at ways in which we could improve the lives of children and families in Tallaght West. Through the parents and children a number of needs have been identified. CDI have come up with a 10yr plan and have been successful in attaining the funding for the first 5yrs to make this plan a reality. One of the biggest issues identified by all of the parents and children is safety and the aim of this survey is to find out about your safety concerns in this area.

Some questions about you

Are you: **Male** **Female**

Your age-group **18-25** **26-35** **36-45** **46- 55** **56-65** **66+**

Do you **LIVE** or **WORK** in Tallaght West? (Circle as many as apply)

If neither, what is your connection to Tallaght West? _____

Which general area of Tallaght West do you **live** in?

Jobstown **Killinarden** **Fettercairn** **Brookfield** Other _____

Which general area of Tallaght West do you **work** in?

Jobstown **Killinarden** **Fettercairn** **Brookfield** Other _____

How long have you lived/worked in Tallaght West? _____

If you live in Tallaght West, do you have children? **YES** **NO** If yes, how many? _____

What people and/or places do you think of when you think about the word 'community'?

What is a safe community?

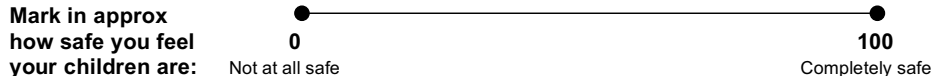
Who do you think should be involved in making your community a safer place to live and work?

What are the most important things needed to make your community safer?

In general, how safe do you feel in your community? Please rate how safe you/your children are **from your perspective now** by marking line somewhere between 'Completely safe' and 'Not at all safe'.



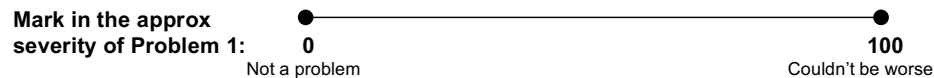
How safe do you think your children are in your community?



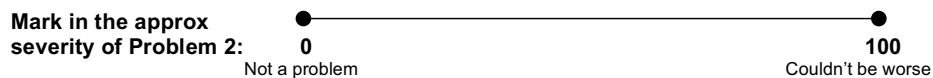
Which 2 problems specific to safety in your community would you most like to change?

Please describe each problem briefly in your own words and then rate how much it is a problem **from your perspective now** by marking line somewhere between 'not a problem' and 'couldn't be worse'. If you can't think of two problems, put down as many as you can.

Problem 1:



Problem 2:



Which 2 things you would like to see happen as a result of the community safety initiative?

Please describe each one briefly in your own words and then rate how close you think the community is to making this happen **now** by marking line somewhere between 'very far away from this goal' and 'have reached this goal'. If you can't think of two goals, put down as many as you can.

Goal 1:



Goal 2:



For each of the following statements please say whether this is True or Untrue of the area of Tallaght West you live in. If you only work in Tallaght West you do not need to answer these questions. Please move to the last question on this page.

	Completely True	Mostly True	Mostly Untrue	Completely Untrue
1. I think my area is a good place for me to live	4	3	2	1
2. People living in my area <u>do not</u> share the same values	4	3	2	1
3. My neighbours and I want the same things from my area	4	3	2	1
4. I can recognize most of the people who live in my area	4	3	2	1
5. I feel at home in my area	4	3	2	1
6. Very few of my neighbours know me	4	3	2	1
7. I care about what my neighbours think of my actions	4	3	2	1
8. I have almost no influence over what this area is like	4	3	2	1
9. If there is a problem in this area people who live here can get it sorted	4	3	2	1
10. It is very important to me to live in this particular area	4	3	2	1
11. People in this area generally do not get along with each other	4	3	2	1
12. I expect to live in this area a long time	4	3	2	1

- In general, would you say that people in your area look after each other and help out when they can, or do they pretty much do their own thing?

Do their own thing

A little of both

Look out for others

- How important is it for you to feel a sense of community with other people in your area?

Not important

Somewhat important

Very important

- Would you say you feel a sense of community with other people in your area?

Very little sense of community

Somewhere in between

Very strong sense of community

- Do you have any thoughts on CDI's Community Safety Initiative?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Once you are finished please return it to Joyce Cahill in CDI.

Appendix 3



CDI: Community Safety Initiative

Community Survey for Young People



For the past three years CDI have been working closely with parents, children, and organisations to look at ways in which we could improve the lives of children and families in Tallaght West. One of the biggest issues identified by all of the parents and children is safety and the aim of this survey is to find out about your safety concerns in this area. Please take your time to answer each question, and call one of the researchers if you have a question.

PLEASE NOTE: by filling in and returning the survey you are agreeing to take part.

Some questions about you

1 Are you: **Male** **Female**

2 What age are you?

3 Do you **LIVE** or **GO TO SCHOOL** in Tallaght West? (Circle both if correct)

4 Which general area of Tallaght West do you live in?



Jobstown **Killinarden** **Fettercairn** **Brookfield** Other

5 Which general area of Tallaght West do you go to school in?



Jobstown **Killinarden** **Fettercairn** **Brookfield** Other

6 How long have you lived or gone to school in Tallaght West?



7 What people and/or places do you think of when you think about the word 'community'?


8 What is a safe community?

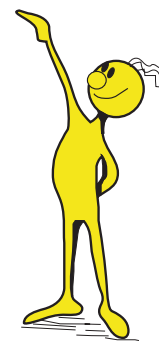
 

9 Who do you think should be involved in making your community a safer place?

10 What are the most important things needed to make your community safer?



11 In general, how safe do you feel in your area? Please mark on the line between 'Completely safe' and 'Not at all safe' to show us how safe you generally feel.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all safe										
Completely safe										

12 Which 2 problems that make you feel unsafe would you most like to change?
Please describe each problem in your own words and then mark the line below your description somewhere between 'not a problem' and 'couldn't be worse' to show how bad you think the problem is in your area at the moment. If you can't think of two problems, one is fine.



Problem 1:

[Light blue box for description]										
----------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not a problem										
Couldn't be worse										



Problem 2:

[Light blue box for description]										
----------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not a problem										
Couldn't be worse										

13 Which 2 things you would like to see happen as a result of the safety initiative?
Please describe each one briefly in your own words and then mark the line below your description somewhere between 'very far away from this goal' and 'have reached this goal' to show how far away from this goal things are at the moment. If you can't think of two goals, one is fine.



Goal 1:

[Light blue box for description]										
----------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Have reached this goal										
Very far away										



Goal 2:

[Light blue box for description]										
----------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Have reached this goal										
Very far away										



For each of the following sentences please say whether you think this is True or False of the area you live in.

	Completely True	Mostly True	Mostly False	Completely False	Don't know
1 I think my area is a good place for me to live					
2 People living in my area do not share the same values					
3 My neighbours and I want the same things from my area					
4 I can recognize most of the people who live in my area					
5 I feel at home in my area					
6 Very few of my neighbours know me					
7 I care about what my neighbours think of my actions					
8 I have almost no influence over what this area is like					
9 If there is a problem in this area people who live here can get it sorted					
10 It is very important to me to live in this particular area					
11 People in this area generally do not get along with each other					
12 I expect to live in this area a long time					

In general, would you say that people in your area look after each other and help out when they can, or do they pretty much do their own thing?

Do their own thing

A little of both

Look out for others

How important is it for you to feel a sense of community with other people in your area?

Not important

Somewhat important

Very important

Would you say you feel a sense of community with other people in your area?

Very little sense of community

Somewhere in between

Very strong sense of community

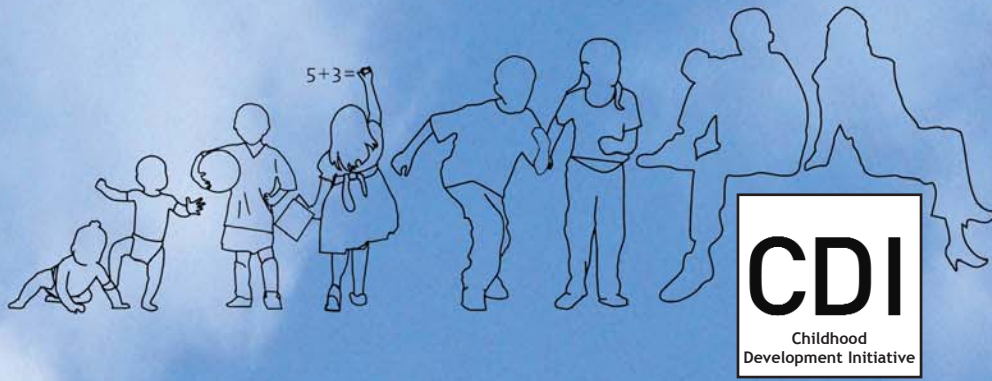




Do you have any ideas about CDI's Community Safety Initiative?

A large light blue rectangular area for writing, with a pencil icon in the top left corner. The pencil is white with a blue eraser and a blue band. The area is intended for the respondent to write their ideas.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Once you are finished please return it to the member of the survey team in the classroom



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