



## 2. Summary of main findings

### Experience of the police

Overall, 33% of Herefordshire residents said that the police were doing a good or excellent job in their local district. A further 35% believed that the police were doing a fair job, whilst 14% believed that the police were performing poorly.

The proportion who answered good or excellent was significantly lower statistically than it had been in 2006 (33% v 34%). This opinion was also reflected in the answers given by young people to a similar question (25%).

The wards where residents were the most positive about the job done by the police included Golden Valley North (55%), Pontrilas (53%) and Belmont (48%). In comparison, respondents in Upper Hollington (10%), Ross-on-Wye West (14%), Valletts and Pembridge (both 15%) were the least positive.

Since 2006, the proportion who had seen a uniformed Police Officer or Community Support Officer on average at least once a month had changed little, and therefore still represented just under half of the sample (45%).

Just under half (48%) considered the frequency with which they saw Police Officers or CSOs to be acceptable, which was also similar to 2006. Children and young people were more likely to be happy with this than adults (62%). By ward, the most positive residents were Central, Golden Valley North, Kington Town, Leominster Town and Bromyard (all over 65%). Kerne Bridge, Sutton Walls and Pembridge (under 30%) were the least positive areas.

### Fear of crime

Around half of respondents (53%) remembered at least one specific episode in the previous 12 months when they had worried about becoming a victim of crime, which was consistent with the force as a whole and the 2006 results. The most common concerns were:

- Vandalism/criminal damage (29%)
- Burglary dwelling (27%)
- Drunken disorder (23%)
- Theft from vehicle (20%)

Children and young people were more likely than adults to worry about crimes that were relevant to them (71%). Fear of crime was also more prevalent in the southern wards of Hereford, Mortimer, Bircher and Ross-on-Wye West (all over 60%) than in Burghill, Holmer & Lyde, Golden Valley North, Upton, Bringsty and Golden Cross (all under 40%).

The vast majority of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood or district during the day (98% & 96% respectively), with the former representing a significant improvement since 2006. Most residents also felt safe after dark (78% and 68% respectively). Residents of St Martins & Hinton (49% safe), Ross-on-Wye West (59%), Central (66%) and Ledbury (68%) felt more fearful in the neighbourhood after dark when compared to wards such as Bringsty, Castle, Golden Valley South and Upton where everyone felt safe.

### Experience of crime

The experience of crime amongst survey respondents did not differ significantly from the 2006 results (12%), most common of which was vandalism or criminal damage (6% of the sample). However, there had been an increase in the proportion who had suffered harassment in a public place (3% v 2.1%). Children and young people were more likely than adults to have experienced a crime or problem (58%), which may have included bullying, threats or theft.

### Community Priorities

Neighbourhood issues that emerged as priorities when residents were asked for the top three that needed to be addressed first were:

- Speeding traffic (26%)
- Drug dealing (24%)
- Drug use (18%)

Speeding traffic was a particularly high priority in wards such as Hollington, Hope End, Pembridge, Kington Town and Golden Valley North & South (all 40%+). Drug dealing was a greater priority in Kington Town (54%), Upton (51%), Mortimer (50%) and Leominster North (45%), and the pattern was similar for drug use.

### Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Over half of the sample believed that ASB was very or fairly serious in the county, whilst over a quarter (29%) said that the same was true about their local neighbourhood. The latter was also significantly higher than in 2006 (was 26%). ASB was a more serious problem in Ross-on-Wye, St Martins & Hinton, Belmont and Leominster South (all 40%+)

### Illegal drugs misuse

Over two thirds of the sample thought that illegal drug misuse was a serious issue in the county (70%), and this was again higher than the equivalent result for the local neighbourhood (39%), and also remained consistent with 2006. The most common reason given for seeing it as a problem was local media coverage (55%).