

Rushmoor Borough Council Community Safety Survey

In February 2023, Rushmoor Borough Council carried out a survey to ascertain residents views in relation to feelings of safety and crime and anti-social behaviour. In total 605 respondents completed the survey.

Rushmoor Borough Council is part of the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership, and the results of this survey have been used to inform the Partnership Strategic Assessment, an annual document analysing local crime and antisocial behaviour data which helps to set priorities for the next year.

Key findings

- Most respondents (73%) feel safe in their local area during the day, with this being the case across both towns and all wards. Overall, respondents that identified as Farnborough residents felt safer in their local area during the day and after dark, than Aldershot residents. 53% of residents felt unsafe in their local area after dark. Younger people, females and those with health conditions or disabilities which limits their daily activities, had a lower perception of safety generally. This is similar to other national surveys, whereby both men and women feel less safe after dark, with women in particular feeling significantly less safe.
- During the day the largest theme of why respondents felt unsafe was due to drugs, drug addicts and drug dealing. After dark the largest theme of why respondents felt unsafe was because its dark and lack of street lighting.
- The majority of respondents feel safe in our local parks during the day, with this decreasing after dark. Of those respondents who felt unsafe in our local parks, the most common reason given was people dealing and using drugs.
- Respondents who visit the town centres during the day feel safe (77% in Farnborough, 56% in Aldershot) with feelings of safety reducing after dark. During the day the largest theme of the reasons why respondents felt unsafe in the town centres was due to drugs, drug addicts and drug dealing. During the evening the largest theme of the reasons why respondents felt unsafe in the town centres was due to people/groups/gangs hanging around.
- A lower percentage of respondents to the survey felt safe, than respondents in comparison surveys. However, comparison surveys are not directly comparable due to the method and focus of the surveys.
- Over 50% of respondents reported they thought the level of crime and antisocial behaviour was at a high level or very high level in their local area. Aldershot residents felt the level of crime and antisocial behaviour was at a higher level than Farnborough residents. The vast majority of respondents thought the level of crime and antisocial behaviour over the past 12 months had increased.

- Around a third of respondents had been a victim crime or antisocial behaviour in the past 12 months. Those from Aldershot, younger people, females and those with health conditions or disabilities which limits their daily activities were more likely to have been a victim crime or antisocial behaviour in the past 12 months. The majority of those who were a victim of crime or antisocial behaviour in the past 12 months had reported it, they were most likely to have reported these incidents to the police. The main reason why respondents didn't report it was because they felt nothing would be done about it.

Further information

Across Rushmoor, 1,338 incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded during 2022/23. This figure represents no change when compared to the previous year but a 30% (n570) reduction compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic).

8,986 crimes in total were recorded in 2022/23. This figure represents a 7% (n577) increase on the previous year when 8,409 crimes were recorded and an 11% (n913) increase compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic).

Data collected by YouGov relating to public confidence in policing and safety shows an increase from 61.91% in April 2022 to 72.90% in March 2023 in the percentage of residents feeling safe in their community.

Next steps

The Council work with a number of partners to reduce crime and disorder across the Borough – the survey results will be considered, and options explored to improve feelings of safety through potential environmental changes, empowering of residents to report issues and increasing public confidence in all agencies ability to respond to these reports.

The survey will be repeated on an annual basis to compare trends across multiple years.