

For publication

REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

Date of meeting	07 February 2023	Agenda item	
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Report title: Appendix One

1. Executive Summary

To provide the Panel with a summary of the Commissioner's Annual consultation with local residents.

2. Consultation

The Commissioner launched his Annual Survey on 1st November 2022.

The OPCC used a mixture of social media and mainstream media to bring the survey to local residents' attention. A total of 603 people completed the survey.

The survey led to 152 (25%) sign-ups for the newsletter and 77 (13%) sign-ups for further information about volunteering for OPCC.

The following questions were asked

1. Which of the following leadership qualities do you believe the next Chief Constable should have? Please select five
 - Accountability
 - Communication
 - Integrity
 - Honesty
 - People skills

- Problem solving
- Vision
- Ethics
- Listening
- Critical thinking
- Realism
- Fairness
- Motivator
- Emotional Intelligence
- Passion
- Open Mindedness
- Partnership working
- Empathy
- Confidence
- Change Management
- Pragmatism
- Resilience
- Compassion
- Authenticity
- Self-motivation
- Humility
- Innovation
- Character
- Networking
- Creativity
- Flexibility
- Optimism
- Likability
- Learning

2. Which of the following areas should the new Chief Constable be most focussed on? Please select five.

- Neighbourhood policing
- Response (attending emergencies)
- Crime investigation
- Antisocial behaviour
- Gangs and county lines
- Crime prevention
- Acquisitive crime (burglary, theft, robbery, shoplifting)
- Drugs
- Violence against women and girls
- Welfare of police officers and staff
- Serious violence
- Rural policing
- Call handling
- Sexual offences
- Road dangers
- Efficiency and value for money
- Working with young people
- Fraud and cyber crime
- Community engagement meetings
- Mental health (responding to calls from the public)
- Management of offenders
- Knife crime

3. Have you been a victim of crime in the last year?

4. If yes, which crime(s) were you a victim of?

5. How safe do you feel where you live? (1 being 'very unsafe' and 10 being 'very safe')

6. Would you like to see more investment to increase policing in your community?

7. Would you like to see Bedfordshire Police receive more funding to continue investment in getting crime down, preventing crime, protecting the vulnerable and supporting victims across our county?

8. Agreeing/disagreeing with PCC priorities

- Investment in community-based and community-led policing for urban and rural areas.
- Recruitment and retention of police officers.
- Tackling the causes of crime and breaking the cycle of re-offending.
- Placing residents and victims at centre of policing priorities.
- Multi-agency and transparent approach to community safety and crime reduction.
- Transparency and open communication.
- National contributions.

9. Which of the following issues do you feel are the most important?

- Anti-social behaviour
- Burglary/robbery
- Business crime, including shoplifting
- Child sexual exploitation
- Domestic abuse, including coercion and control
- Fraud and cyber-crime
- Hate crime
- Human trafficking/modern-day slavery
- Public disorder, including protests/demonstrations
- Rural crime
- Serious violence, including gangs/weapons offences
- Stalking and harassment, including online harassment
- Terrorism and radicalisation
- Vehicle crime
- Drugs offences
- Sexual offences, including rape
- Traffic offences

- Other (please specify):

10. Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner?

11. Please indicate the area where you live?

12. What is your gender?

13. Which category includes your age?

14. What is your ethnicity?

15. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of any physical or mental health conditions, impairment, or disability?

The results are below:

Which of the following leadership qualities do you believe the next Chief Constable should have? Please select five.

The Top five results for this were:

Accountability	374
Communication	332
Integrity	308
Honesty	180
People skills	173



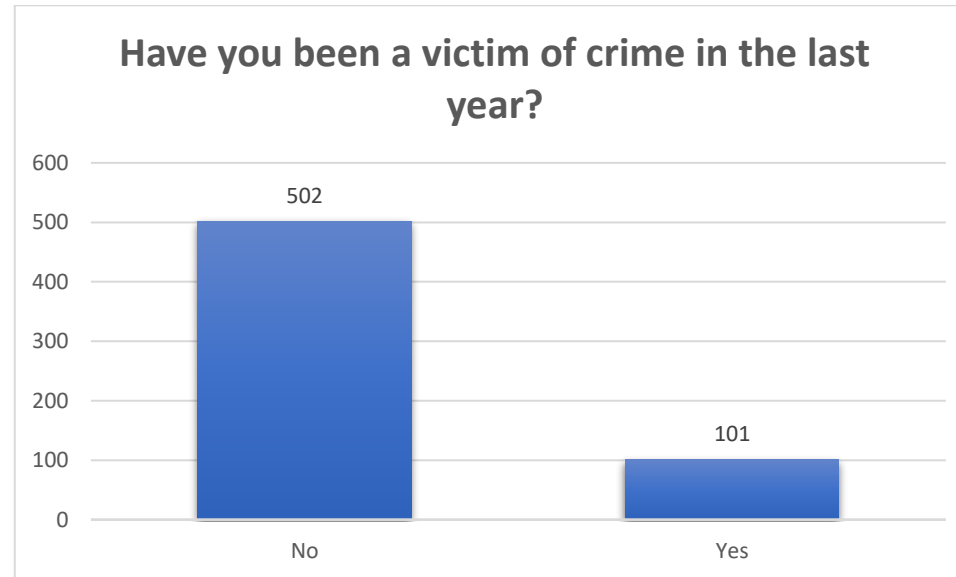
2. Which of the following areas should the new Chief Constable be most focussed on? Please select five.

The Top five results for this were:

Neighbourhood policing	334
Response (attending emergencies)	296
Crime investigation	254
Antisocial behaviour	229
Gangs and county lines	208



3. Have you been a victim of crime in the last year?



4. If yes, which crime(s) were you a victim of?

Top 5 crimes highlighted in the survey showed:

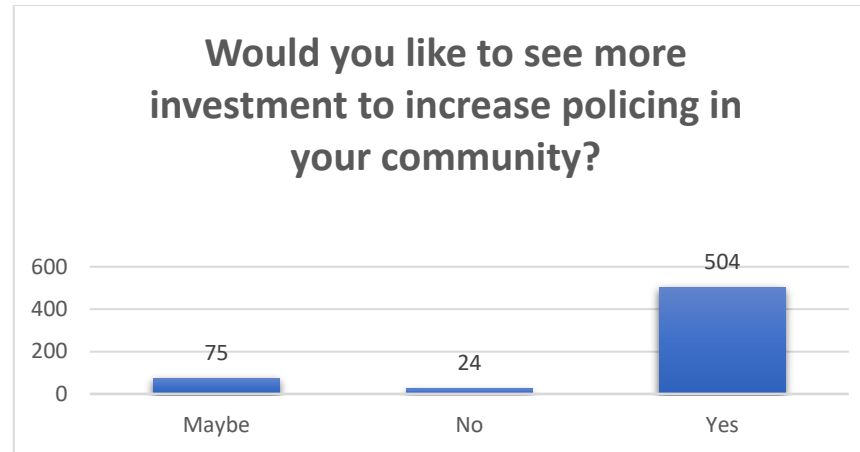
Antisocial behaviour	31
Burglary/robbery	28
Vehicle crime	18

Stalking and harassment, including online harassment	9
Hate crime	7

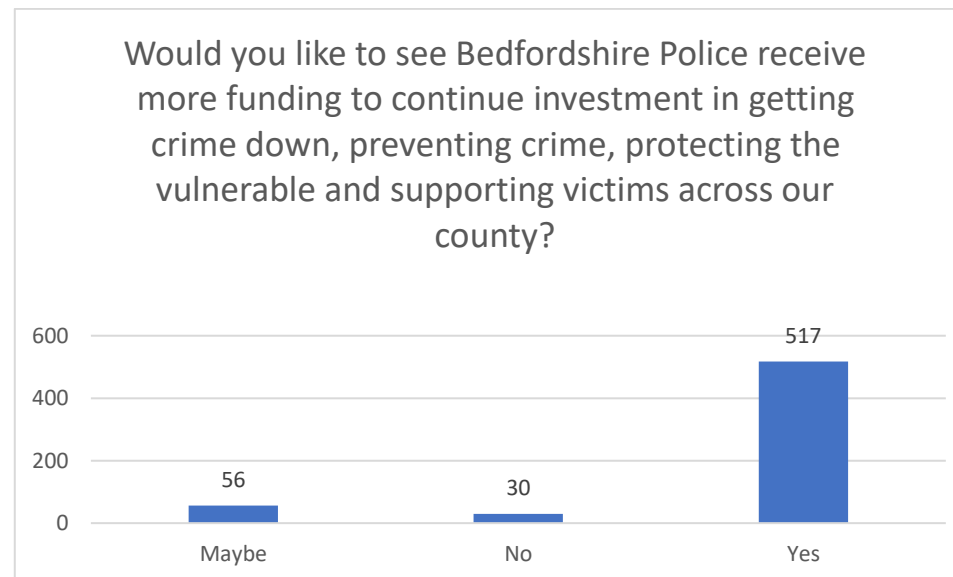
5. How safe do you feel where you live? (1 being 'very unsafe' and 10 being 'very safe')

Scale (1 being 'very unsafe' and 10 being 'very safe')	Number of responses
1	12
2	10
3	43
4	39
5	61
6	81
7	112
8	151 (25%)
9	64
10	30

6. Would you like to see more investment to increase policing in your community?



7. Would you like to see Bedfordshire Police receive more funding to continue investment in getting crime down, preventing crime, protecting the vulnerable and supporting victims across our county?



8. Agreeing/disagreeing with PCC priorities:

Priority One - Investment in community-based and community-led policing for urban and rural areas.

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 458 (76%)

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 40 (7%) - *Highest scoring strongly disagree*

Neither agree nor disagree – 105 (17%)

Priority Two - Recruitment and retention of police officers.

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 518 (86%) - *Highest scoring of agree*

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 25 (4%)

Neither agree nor disagree – 60 (10%)

Priority Three - Tackling the causes of crime and breaking the cycle of re-offending.

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 483 (80%)

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 41 (7%)

Neither agree nor disagree – 79 (13%)

Priority Four - Placing residents and victims at centre of policing priorities.

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 513 (85%) - *Highest scoring strongly agree*

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 25 (4%)

Neither agree nor disagree – 65 (11%)

Priority Five - Multi-agency and transparent approach to community safety and crime reduction.

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 440 (73%)

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 39 (6%)

Neither agree nor disagree – 124 (21%)

Priority Six - Transparency and open communication

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 490 (81%)

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 26 (4%)

Neither agree nor disagree – 87 (15%)

Priority Seven - National contributions.

Strongly Agrees/Agree – 303 (50%)

Strongly Disagree/Disagree – 46 (8%)

Neither agree nor disagree – 254 (42%) - *Highest scoring of neither agree nor disagree*

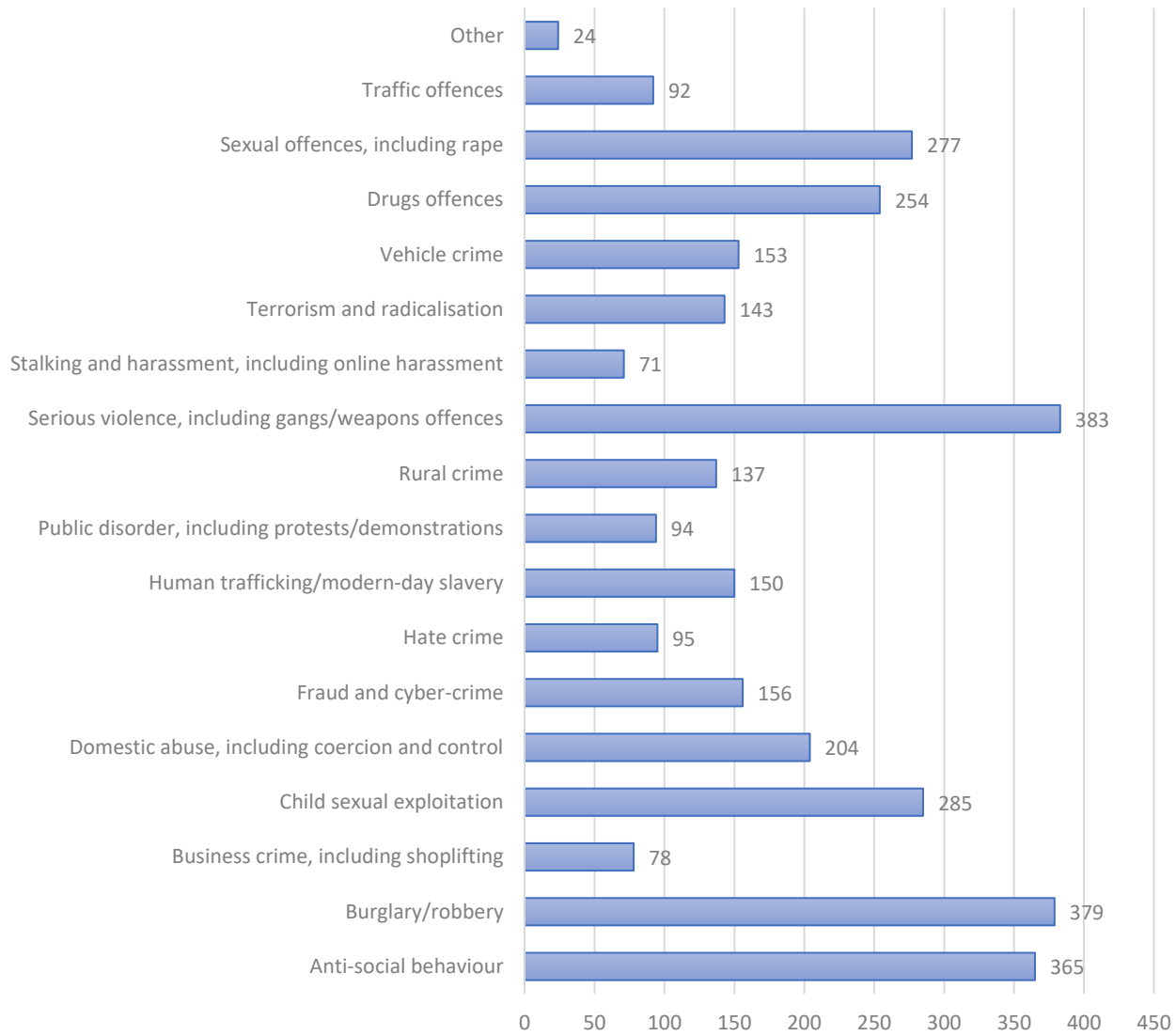
9. Which of the following issues do you feel are the most important?

Top Five were:

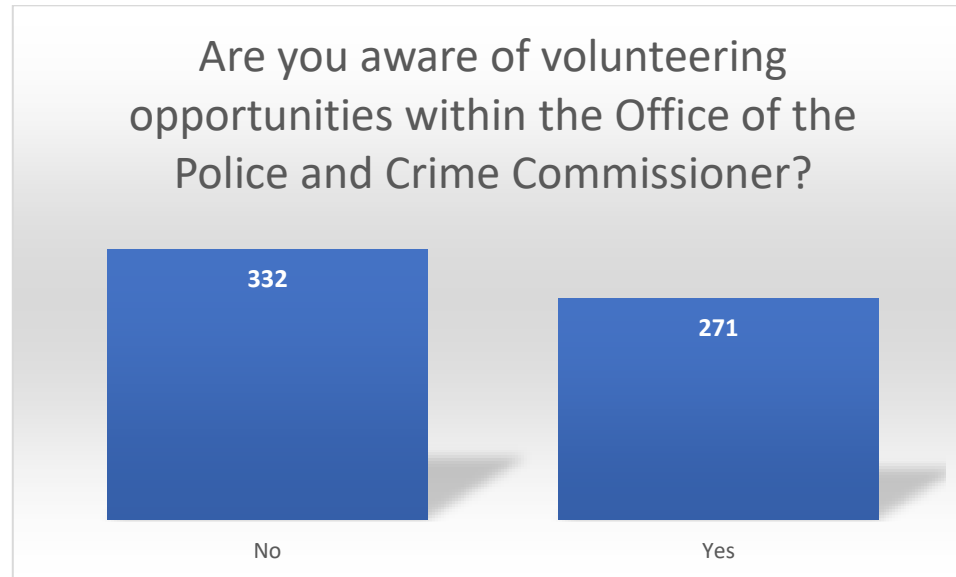
1. Serious Violence - 383
2. Burglary and Robbery - 379

3. Anti-Social Behaviour - 365
4. Child Sexual Exploitation - 285
5. Sexual Offences, including Rape - 277

Which of the following issues do you feel are the most important? Choose a maximum of six

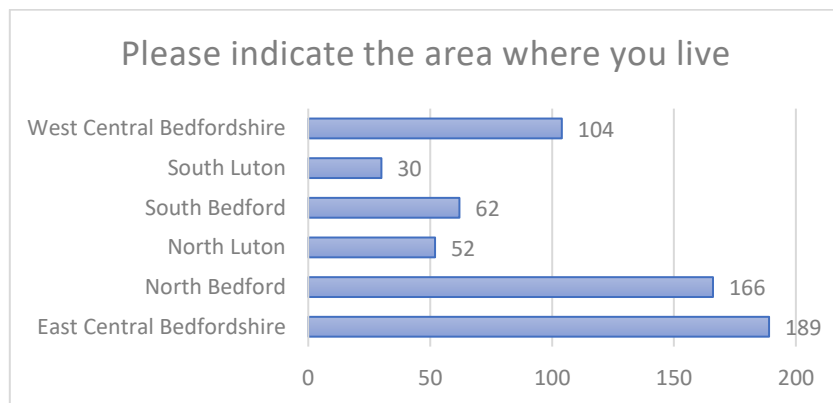


10. Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner?



Individuals that requested additional information were sent information on volunteering opportunities within the OPCC.

11. Please indicate the area where you live?

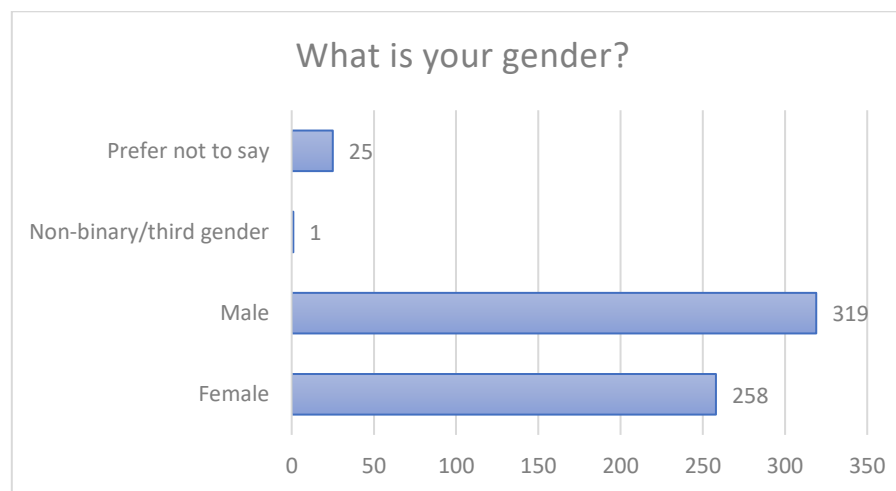


Central Bedfordshire – 293 (48%)

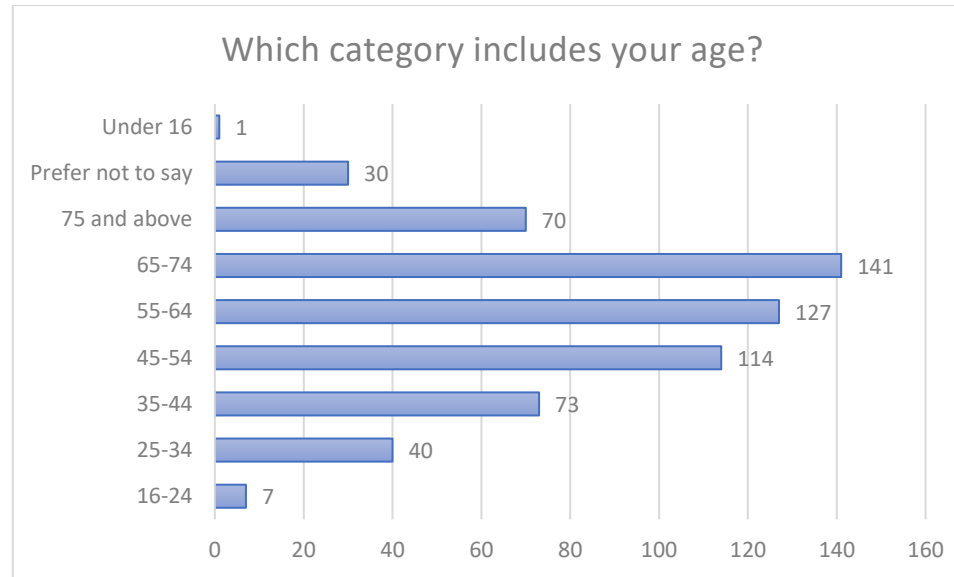
Bedford Borough – 228 (38%)

Luton Borough – 82 (14%)

12. What is your gender?

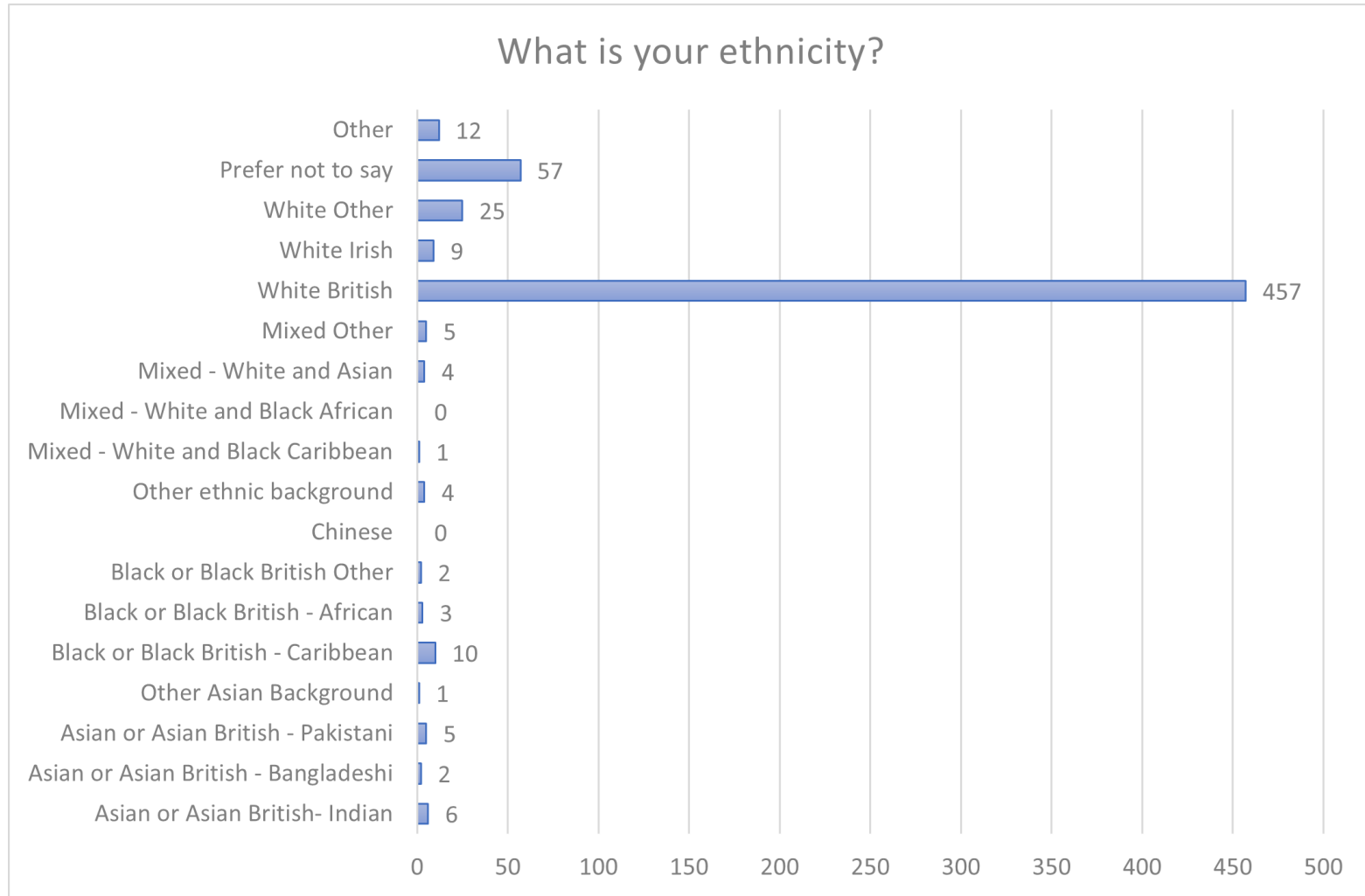


13. Which category includes your age?

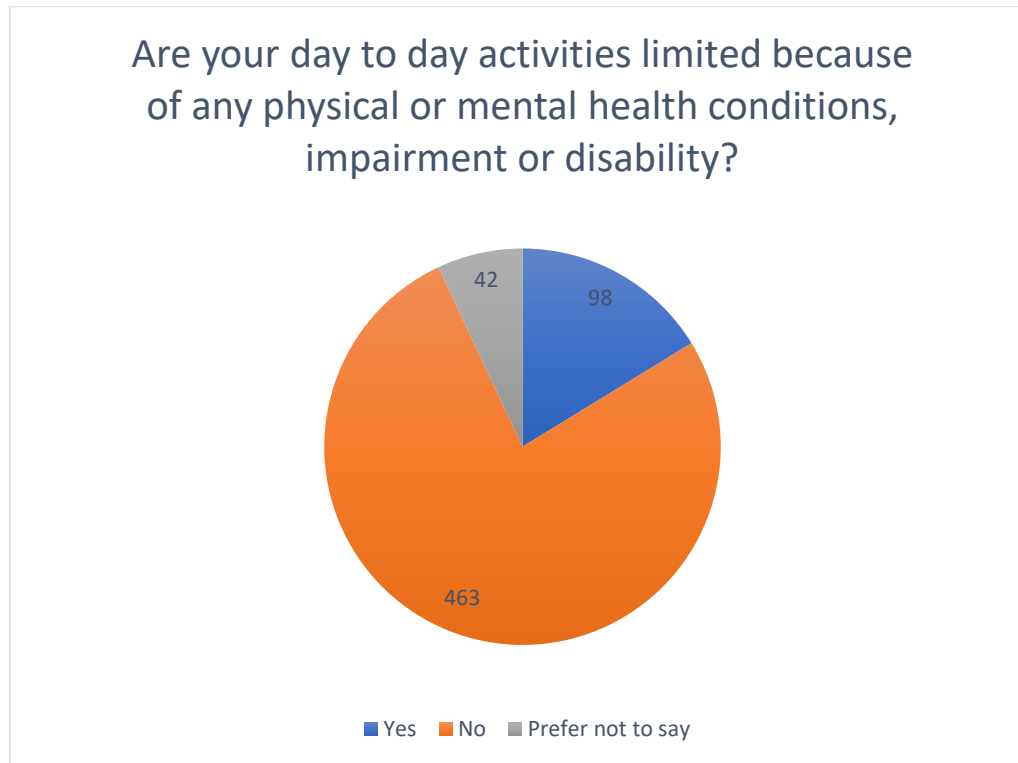


The OPCC are conscious that respondents under the age of 34 only represent 8%, the OPCC will be using the Youth Conference as an opportunity to target people in this age bracket along with other youth events attended by the OPCC.

14. What is your ethnicity?



15. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of any physical or mental health conditions, impairment, or disability?



A selection of comments were added to the survey, please see a random selection below. All comments have been passed to Bedfordshire Police for review.

- *Great to see this Survey - many thanks*
- *Good luck*
- *Invest in your staff to maintain them in their role, morality and retention is low.*

- *More and more police on the streets to prevent crime*
- *When we try to report a crime the waiting time for a call to answered is ridiculous*
- *More efforts must be done to tackle youth crime, drugs, gang violence and use of weapons.*
- *Police officers are often disheartened because offenders are giving a light sentence or ticking off, they should be given harsher sentence to know they have made a difference and also if there is victim, they know the offender/s have been punished appropriately.*
- *High crime areas should pay a much higher contribution to policing and STOP the occasional / casual policing of the largest town in CENTRAL BEDS- Leighton Buzzard.*
- *Get the Home office, local magistrates, regional commanders and Chief constables to get Tough with criminals and make an impression That you are demonstrating you will Enforce.*
- *More community policing please*
- *Police to be seen more on streets & roads*
- *The Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner do A Very Good Job*
- *I would like to see more police patrols on the streets.*
- *To be honest of all the survey categories they all need attention, not just 5 or 6. The ones I chose were those that I personally felt were that needed most attention from where I live.*
- *You do a fantastic job against so many oppositions Thank you*
- *Rural areas need more police officers on the beat as this is proven to reduce crime.*
- *Thank you for your hard work. I hope to see more of police officers outside as it used to be, so our area will feel safe again.*
- *Good luck! You have a hard job to do with too much bureaucracy/red tape tying your hands.*
- *The majority of the more dangerous crimes like gangs and drugs etc will be most important to everyone. If you didn't focus on those we would probably be overrun. I get that.*
- *I voted for you to become PCC and have been very impressed with what I have seen so far. Congratulations on being so pro-active. You seem to be making a real effort with tackling various aspects of crime and your appearances on the local BBC Look East news get that message across. BBC are proposing cutting this programme from next month so your messages may not be as widely seen in future.*
- *I know the police are doing all they can with their limited resources and back you all the way in petitioning the Home Office for extra funding - I am very grateful to everyone in the force who are trying to keep this country safe*
- *Like your focus and enthusiasm to make things better*
- *Mental health calls shouldn't be on the list, it suggests to people that it is our job - it is not. Pressure must be put on the NHS and Government to invest significantly so that MH services meet demand because at the moment Police are used as a fall back for every failing service (social services, ambulance, social housing associations, education, probation) and about 40% of our calls are MH, when there should be*

a dedicated 999 MH NHS Team. Police are not the best people to handle MH, hours of police time are wasted and for those who really need MH intervention the last thing they need is an exhausted police officer who is stressed about all the work they need to do but won't get done whilst they sit for their whole shift in A&E with a sectioned person, they need a medical professional. Then our officers can get back on the street and be visible deterring and preventing crimes with proactive work.

- "Firstly, I think the policing budget has failed to increase with the increase in Bedfordshire's population and increasing demands for service on many levels.*
- The new CC has a huge job on their hands in meeting needs of the public AND maintaining morale and support from those within the organisation.*
- I have a great deal of respect for all, and support the cause and hopefully solutions to local problems*
- Happy how Bedfordshire Police are operating. Never had any issues if I had concerns regarding drug activity. Go on live chat which in all fairness has been good. You going to have some negativity towards the police. But I have never experienced or seen anything where I would be concerned. Have upmost respect for police as do my children. Thank you for keeping us safe 🙏🙏*
- Bedford has improved under the current PCC and the outgoing Chief. Please ensure this continue under the new chief. you are making Bedfordshire better and looking at the root causes of issues, More PCC clubs could help.*
- Thank you for this exercise. It is welcome transparency.*
- It was practically impossible to limit the selection of responses from the choices provided. The role of Police Officers is a difficult one at all levels and I admire the work that they do. It is vitally important that the PCC looks after the staff that deliver our services as, without them, he/she and us are scuppered.*
- Cost of living crisis will encourage more crime.*
- It's a tough job! You'll never please everyone with your priorities, but just be open and honest about the challenges you face and help people understand why you've chosen those priorities.*
- I like the sharing of Local priorities that I've seen previously.*
- We pay so much council tax already and town is in shambles. Where is all that money going?*
- Thank you for even reaching out to find out what we think. Keep the good work up.*
- Ensure a high profile regarding the work you are doing and encourage more visibility of Police on the streets.*
- Very important to support youth clubs and groups to keep young people busy and active and connected to the community and give them a positive experience of the police when they are growing up. Keep them away from gang life. Good luck and thank you*
- I appreciate resources are tight, I would like to see more visible presence of policing both in towns and villages*
- I think the service needs all the funds, and help it can get from the government, and community, and local MP to provide officers, staff, and technology to do your job.*

Throughout the comments individuals were voicing specific incidents of crime and all of these comments have been passed to Bedfordshire Police for review.

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Appendices	