

**ARGYLL AND BUTE
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

**CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY ON TAKING PART
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

FINAL REPORT

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Most people in Argyll and Bute feel safe in their own home and in the community; a minority feel unsafe alone after dark, particularly in Helensburgh and Lomond and the SIP areas.
- The most common concerns over crime relate to crimes against property.
- Low-level, but persistent problems of anti-social behaviour such as littering and dog fouling are seen as serious problems.
- Substance use is also seen as a serious problem, particularly in the SIP areas.
- Levels of reporting of these problems is low.
- There is strong support for CCTV.
- Some concerns over home security are apparent, particularly for people living in flats.
- Strong support is evident for traffic calming measures but there is scepticism as to whether these have been implemented successfully.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- People in Argyll and Bute generally rate the various aspects of their health and well-being fairly positively. There are indications of improving health.
- There is a negative view of the availability of sports and recreational facilities.
- Concerns are evident with regard to the time taken to get an appointment with a specialist and ease of getting to hospitals.
- The preferred methods of service delivery for a Housing Information Service would be a combination of telephone and face-to-face service provision; young people would be slightly more likely than others to use the internet.

VOLUNTEERING

- A high proportion of residents are engaged in volunteering.
- Their time commitment to this is significant and has a substantial nominal economic value.
- People are encouraged into volunteering by friends or relatives.
- Improved awareness and better help and advice could help to encourage more volunteering but people's lack of time remains a significant barrier.
- The public is very positive about the quality of services delivered by the voluntary sector.
- There is a strong sense of good neighbourliness within Argyll and Bute.
- Time Banking is perceived to be a good idea and there is a reasonable level of interest in participating.
- The most common aspects of volunteering in which people are interested relate to environmental conservation and caring for others.

EQUALITIES

- There is perceived to be limited prejudice against particular groups in Argyll and Bute, but when this does occur, it is most likely to be on the basis of race/ethnicity or sexuality.
- In most cases, people feel that the level of equal opportunity attempts has been "about right".
- Some people believe that equal opportunity attempts could go further particularly in relation to "people living far away from population centres".
- Only a limited number of people have experienced or witnessed discrimination in Argyll and Bute and this does not vary significantly across geographical or demographic criteria.
- However, there is limited reporting of that discrimination which is experienced or witnessed.

1.0 BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report sets out the findings of the eighth survey of the Argyll and Bute Citizens' Panel which addressed a number of issues under the overall theme of "Taking Part in Your Community".

The Panel has existed for some time as a consultation resource for the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership and a number of postal surveys of Panel members were undertaken up to 2004. At this stage, the Panel had a membership of 1,081. IBP Strategy and Research was appointed in the Autumn of 2004 to "refresh" the Panel and to conduct future surveys.

- 1.2 A refreshment exercise in late 2004 led to 359 new people being recruited to the Panel whilst 132 people were taken off the Panel database, either because they requested that this happen or because their details could not be traced.

In addition, the Argyll and Bute Social Inclusion Partnership had retained its own People's Panel consisting of almost 300 people. Whilst this Panel had not been used since the spring of 2003 it remained a potentially valuable source of consultees. As the work of the Social Inclusion Partnership is being integrated into the Community Planning Partnership, it was agreed that the two Panels would be merged. This led to a continued Panel membership of 1,341.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.3 Following consultation with the Community Planning Partnership during late 2004, it was agreed that the theme for the eighth survey would be "Taking Part in Your Community". This theme recognised that Community Planning is about service deliverers working together with local communities to improve the quality and efficiency of services. The Local Government (Scotland) Act of 2003 places a duty on certain public service agencies to help people play an active part in their community.

- 1.4 The questionnaire focused on the following themes:

- "How safe you feel in your community"
- Your health and well-being"
- "Opportunities for volunteering and other types of participation in the community"

- “Whether you think all groups of people are treated equally”.

The survey questionnaire forms Appendix 1 of the centrally-held, hard copy version of this report.

METHODOLOGY

- 1.5 The survey was conducted by means of a postal survey of Panel members which was issued in early February; a follow-up mailing was issued in mid-February with a closing date of 25th February. A total of 798 responses were received. This represents an overall response rate of 60%. However, this can be broken down further as follows:

- 107 responses (47% from former SIP People’s Panel members)
- 650 responses (58% from the main, refreshed Panel)
- 41 responses where the Panel member could not be identified as they had removed their identify number from the Panel mailing (these respondents explain the difference between the overall response rate of 60% and that for “separate” Panels).

For illustrative purposes, a random sample of 798 provides data which is accurate to $\pm 2.21\%$.

- 1.6 A full set of data tables and listing of responses to open-ended questions has been produced which breaks responses down by the following criteria:

- Age
- Area
- Car ownership
- Disability
- Employment status
- Gender
- SIP Panel or otherwise
- Housing tenure.

Where responses vary significantly in relation to these issues then this is noted within this overview report.

A full set of data tables and the electronic file of the results has been produced which is available from the Chief Executive's Service at Argyll and Bute Council. Further cross-tabulation of data can be requested from IBP should this be required.

- 1.7 The remaining section of the report details the findings under each of the key themes outlined in Section 1.4 above.

2.0 FEELING SAFE IN THE COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION

2.1 The section of the survey on “Feeling safe in your community” addressed four broad headings:

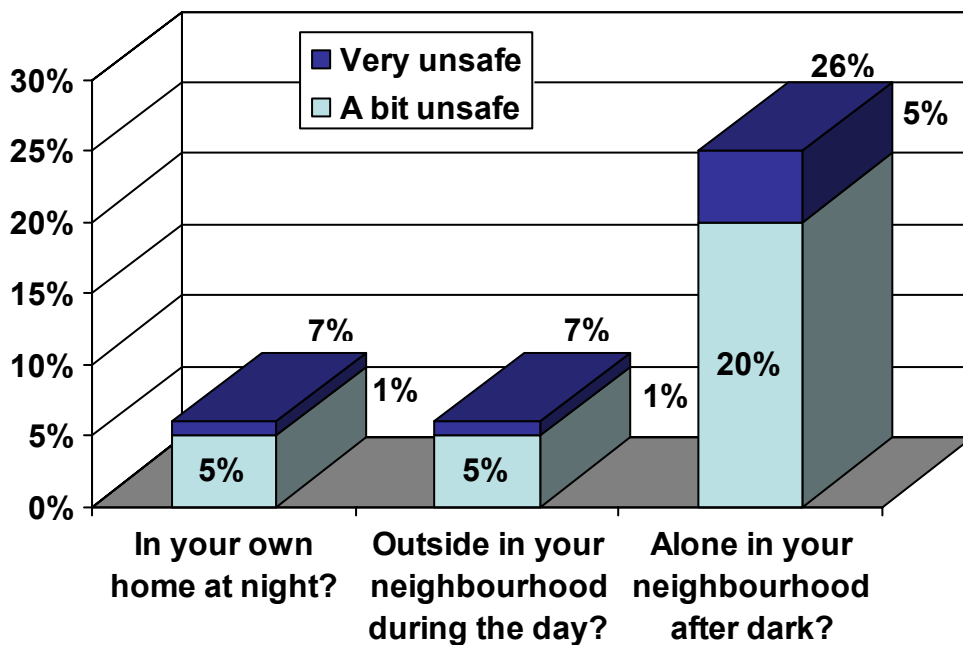
- Perceptions of crime
- Neighbourhood problems
- Attitudes to CCTV
- Road safety issues.

These are discussed in turn below,

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

2.2 Figure 2.1 highlights that comparatively few people feel unsafe in their own home at night or outside in their neighbourhood during the day. More people (though still a minority) feel unsafe in their neighbourhood alone after dark.

Figure 2.1: How safe or unsafe do you feel.....



Base: 798

2.3 Some areas are likely to have a higher proportion of people who feel unsafe in their own neighbourhood after dark. These include:

- Helensburgh and Lomond residents (41% feel unsafe to at least some degree)
- People from the former SIP People’s Panel (again, 41%)
- People who rent their homes from the Council (37%).

2.4 Figures 2.2(a) and (b) demonstrate the levels of concern which people have about a range of crimes. No particular crime stands out although the most common issues relate to damage against properties rather than individuals.

Figure 2.2(a): How worried are you about the following?

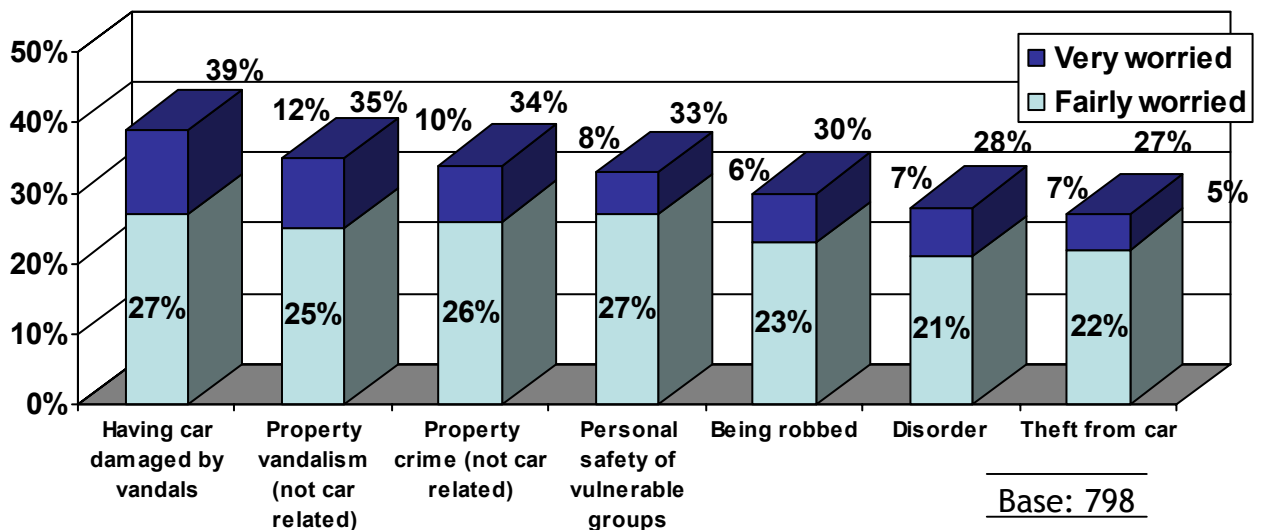
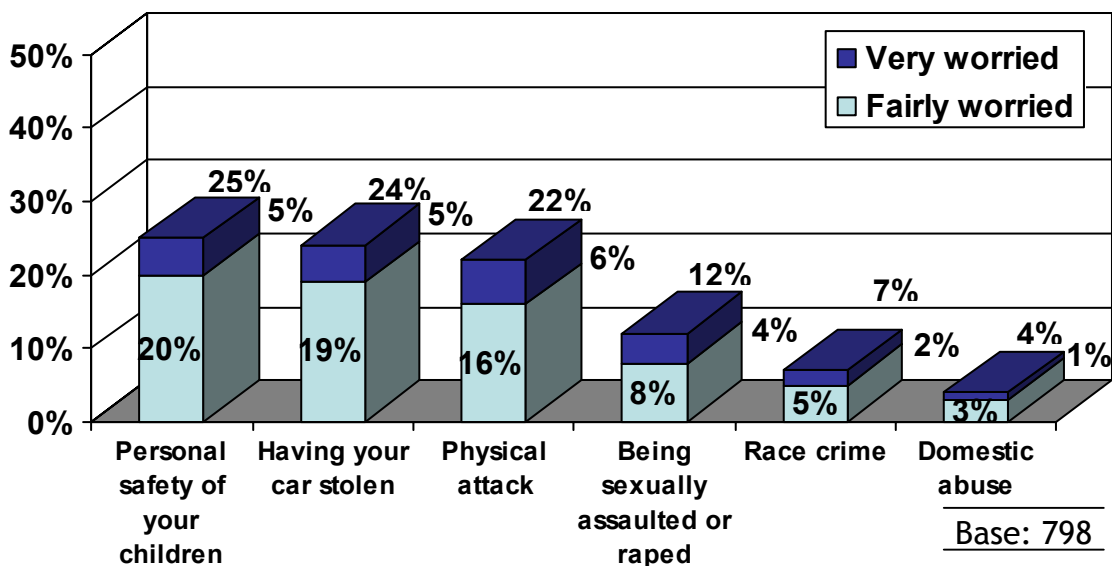


Figure 2.2(b): How worried are you about the following?



2.5 There are again, some slight geographical and demographic variations which are detailed fully in the appendices.

Taking non-car related crimes against property as an example:

- People in the 25-34 age group (41%) and the 35-44 age group (43%) are most likely to say they are worried.
- The same is true of:
 - Cowal residents (42% say they are worried)
 - Helensburgh and Lomond residents (49% worried)
 - People from the SIP Panel (44% worried).

Personal safety of vulnerable groups is another example. Again, people in Helensburgh (43%) and from the former SIP Panel (47%) are most likely to express concerns although this worry is generally held across all sections of the population.

Some issues (such as “being sexually assaulted or raped”) are quite specific to women. In this case, 18% of women actually express a worry.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROBLEMS

2.6 Figures 2.3(a), (b) and (c) illustrate the extent to which a number of issues are seen as neighbourhood problems. Respondents had the option to describe something as “not a problem”, “a minor problem” or “a serious problem”. It is noticeable that the two stand out issues relate to aspects of anti-social behaviour which could be described as “low-level, but persistent”.

Figure 2.3(a): To what extent do you think the following are problems in your neighbourhood?

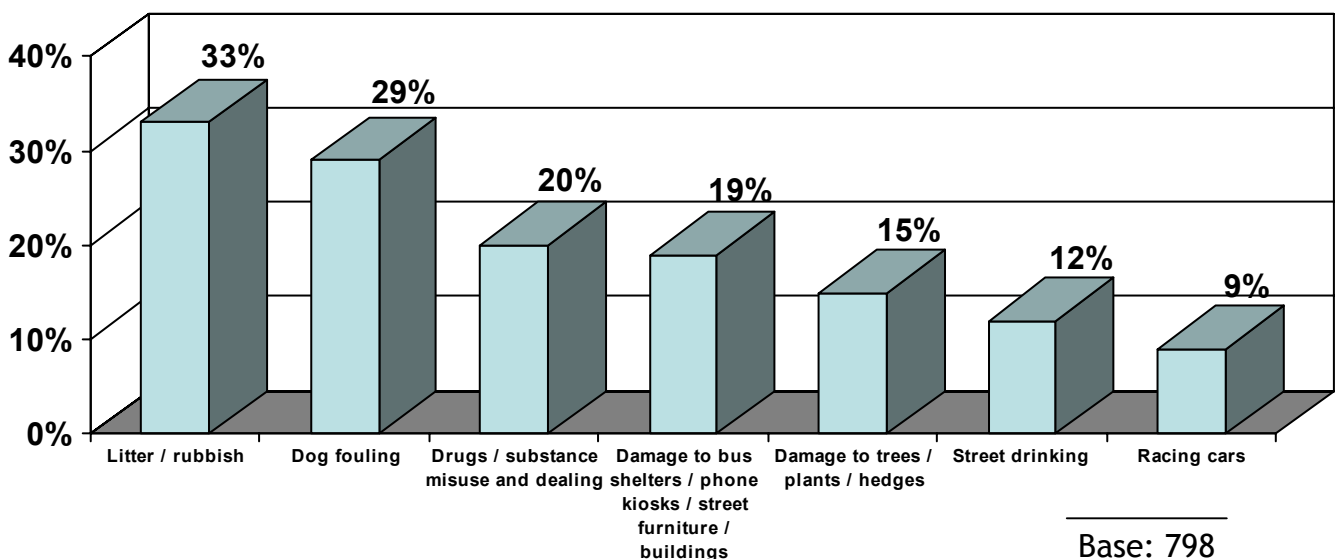


Figure 2.3(b): To what extent do you think the following are problems in your neighbourhood?

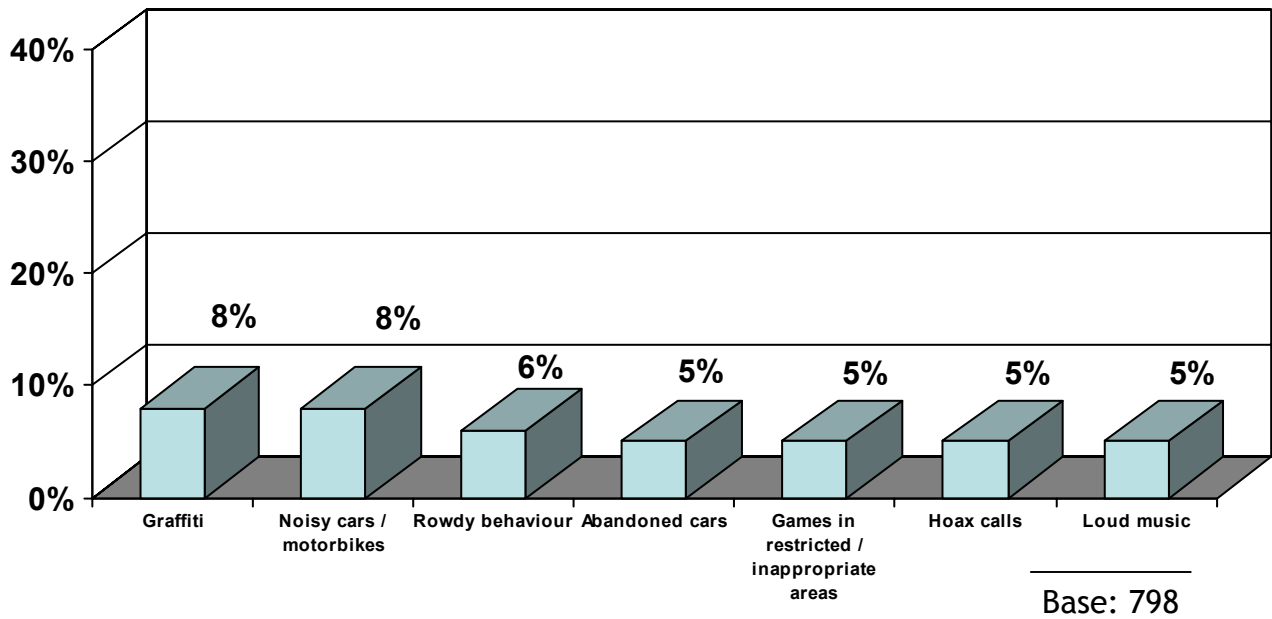
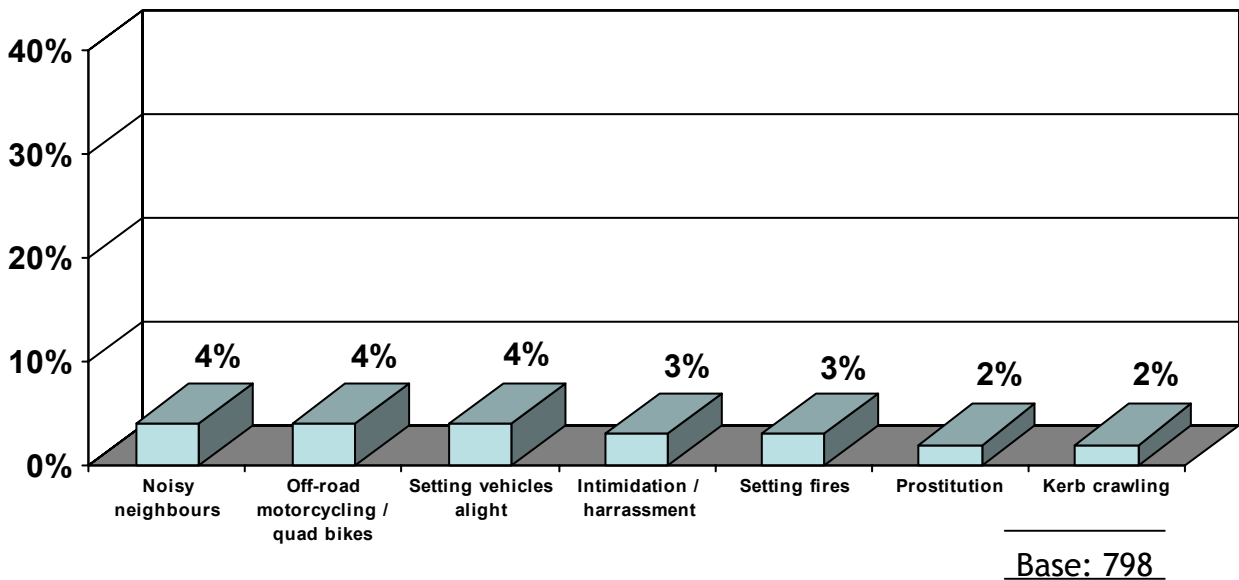


Figure 2.3(c): To what extent do you think the following are problems in your neighbourhood?



2.7 Taking the issue of litter and rubbish as an example, people in Council housing (45%) and former SIP People’s Panel members (49%) are most likely to see this as a serious problem.

Dog fouling is also most likely to be seen as a serious problem amongst Council tenants (47%) and amongst former SIP Panel members (45%), but is widely held to be a problem across Argyll and Bute.

Substance use is the most prevalent of what might be considered to be higher levels of anti-social behaviour. Again, it is far more likely to be seen as a problem amongst people from the former SIP People's Panel (49% of those respondents saw it as a "serious problem" compared to 20% of the sample as a whole).

2.8 Levels of reporting of such activity is low. For example:

- Only 10% say they have ever reported rowdy behaviour
- 9% have reported dog fouling
- 9% have reported litter/rubbish
- 4% have reported drugs/substance misuse and dealing.

2.9 Table 2.1 below illustrates the prevalence of a range of home security devices amongst respondents.

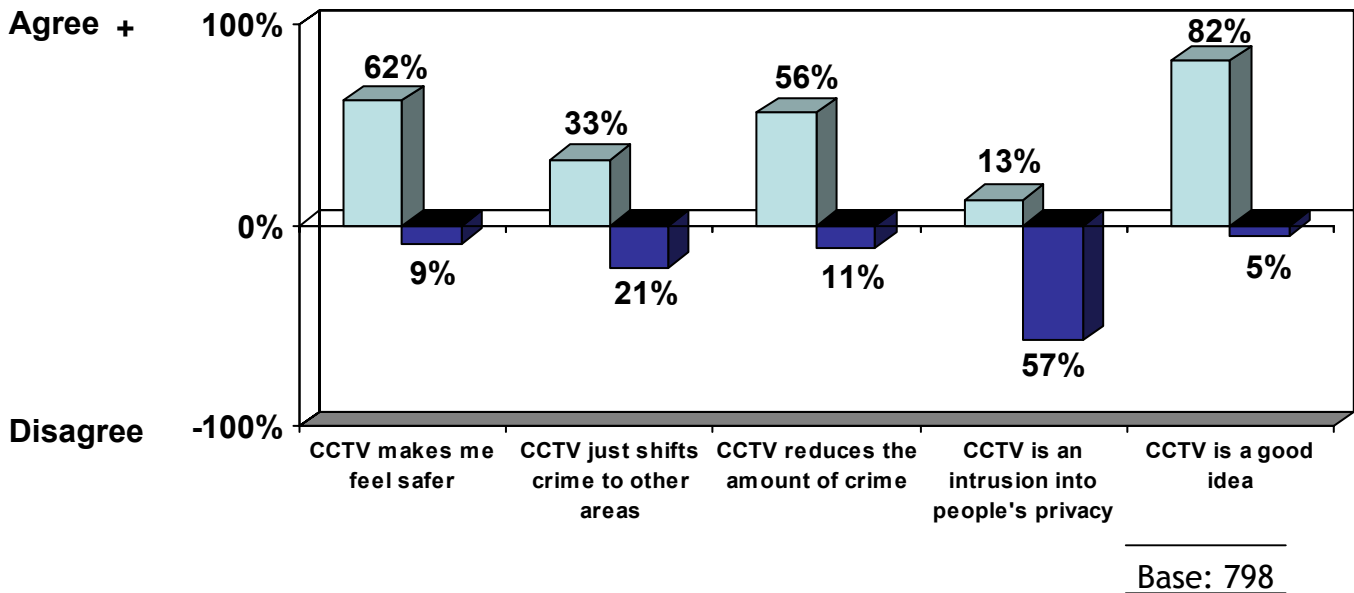
Item	Base of Respondents	% having that feature
Door entry system (if you live in a flat)	256	25%
Main doors with 5-lever lock	798	56%
Window locks	798	76%
Burglar alarm	798	15%
Smoke alarm	798	89%
Lockable cupboard	798	16%

The areas which may give some cause for concern relate to home security (particularly for people in flats).

CCTV

2.10 The survey explored a range of issues relating to CCTV which are summarised in Figure 2.4 below (figures do not add to 100 as people could provide a neutral response).

Figure 2.4: Attitudes to CCTV



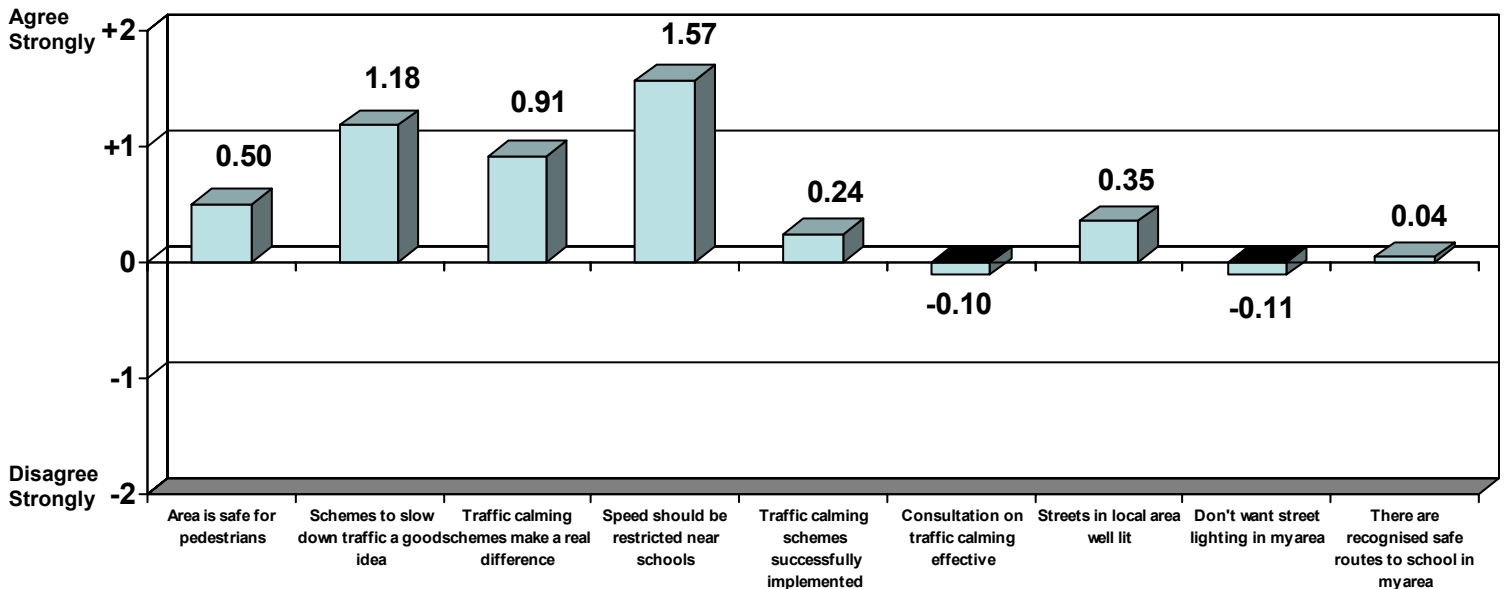
These figures demonstrate:

- Some belief that CCTV has a displacement effect in terms of crime.
- A belief, however, that it still reduces the overall amount of crime.
- A belief that it makes people feel safer.
- Little concern with respect to issues of privacy.
- A strong overall endorsement, in principle, of CCTV.

ROAD SAFETY

2.11 Figure 2.5 sets out the level of agreement with a number of issues relating to road safety within Argyll and Bute. A rating of “slightly agree” is accorded a score of +2, a rating of “agree” a score of +1 and so on, in order to arrive at these mean ratings.

Figure 2.5: Road Safety Issues



Base: 798

2.12 The figures in 2.5 represent a strong endorsement in principle of traffic calming schemes, particularly near schools. There are, however, more mixed views as to whether such schemes have been implemented successfully and a significant minority of people (the figure is actually 23%) do not believe that their area is safe for pedestrians.

2.13 In relation to the statement “I do not want street lighting in my community” the overall disagreement with this statement masks major geographical differences. People in most of the islands and rural settlements were more likely to agree with this statement:

- In Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Gigha 55% agree and 24% disagree
- In Lorn 33% agreed, 18% disagreed
- In Mull, Coll, Tiree and Lismore 30% agreed, 26% disagreed.

In other words, the majority of people in these communities do not want street lighting.

Key Findings

- Most people in Argyll and Bute feel safe in their own home and in the community; a minority feel unsafe alone after dark, particularly in Helensburgh and Lomond and the SIP areas.
- The most common concerns over crime relate to crimes against property.
- Low-level, but persistent problems of anti-social behaviour such as littering and dog fouling are seen as serious problems.
- Substance use is also seen as a serious problem, particularly in the SIP areas.
- Levels of reporting of these problems is low.
- There is strong support for CCTV.
- Some concerns over home security are apparent, particularly for people living in flats.
- Strong support is evident for traffic calming measures but there is scepticism as to whether these have been implemented successfully.

3.0 YOUR HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION

3.1 Four broad issues were discussed under this overall theme:

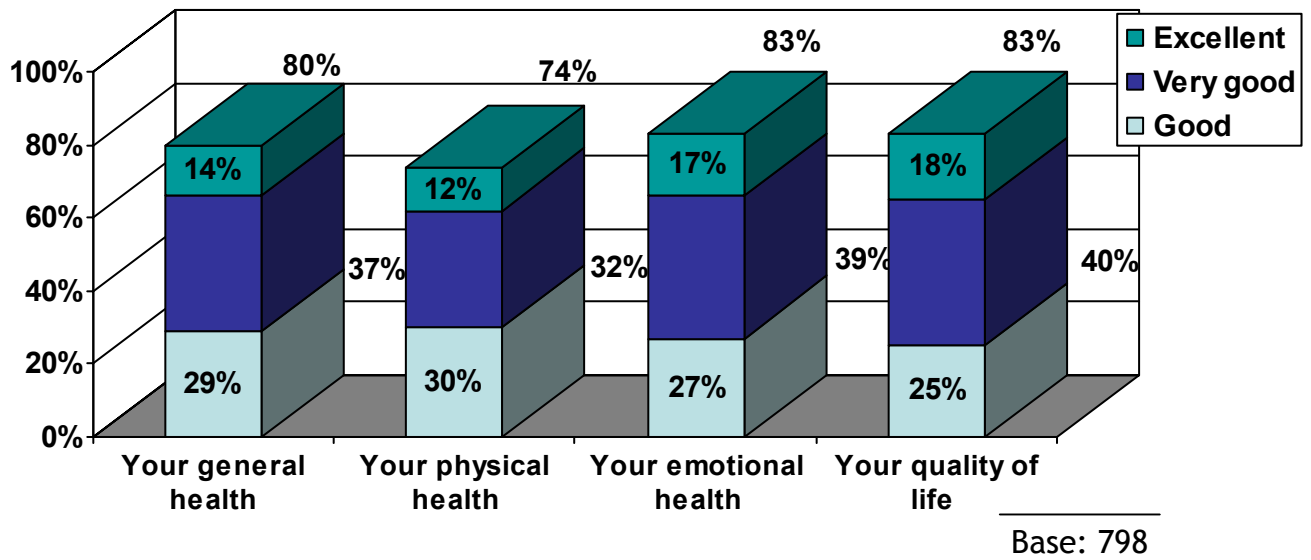
- Perceptions of health and well-being
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Health services
- Housing.

They are discussed in turn below.

PERCEPTIONS OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

3.2 Based in a five point scale from “excellent” to “very poor” most respondents rate aspects of their health and well-being in the top three categories:

Figure 3.1: Perceptions of Health and Well-being



These figures can be compared to a similar question which was asked of Citizens' Panel member in 2003:

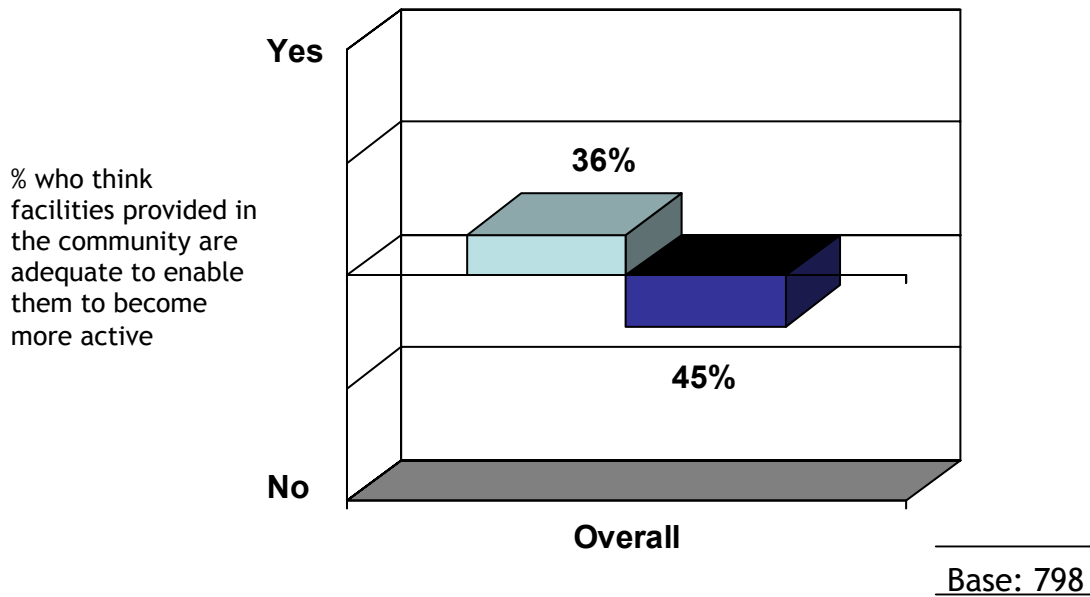
	% rating as excellent, very good or good	
	2003	2005
Your general health	n/a	80%
Your physical health	65%	74%
Your emotional health	76%	83%
Your quality of life	73%	83%

Notable improvements, especially in terms of physical health, are apparent since 2003.

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- 3.3 Figure 3.2 suggests that a generally negative view of the availability of sports/recreational facilities is apparent (neutral responses were also allowed for this question).

Figure 3.2: Sports and Recreational Facilities



People in Helensburgh are particularly negative (56%).

HEALTH SERVICES

3.4 Attitudes to a range of issues relating to the provision of health services with Argyll and Bute are summarised in Figures 3.3(a) and (b) below.

Figure 3.3(a): Satisfaction with Health Services

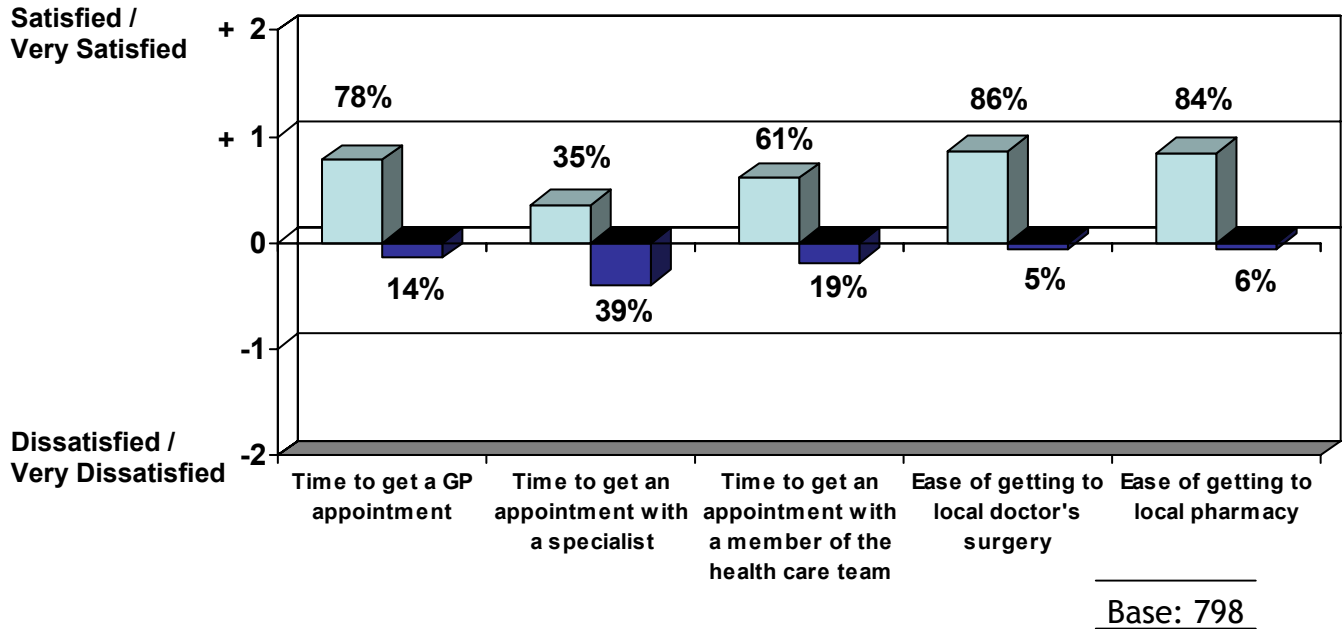
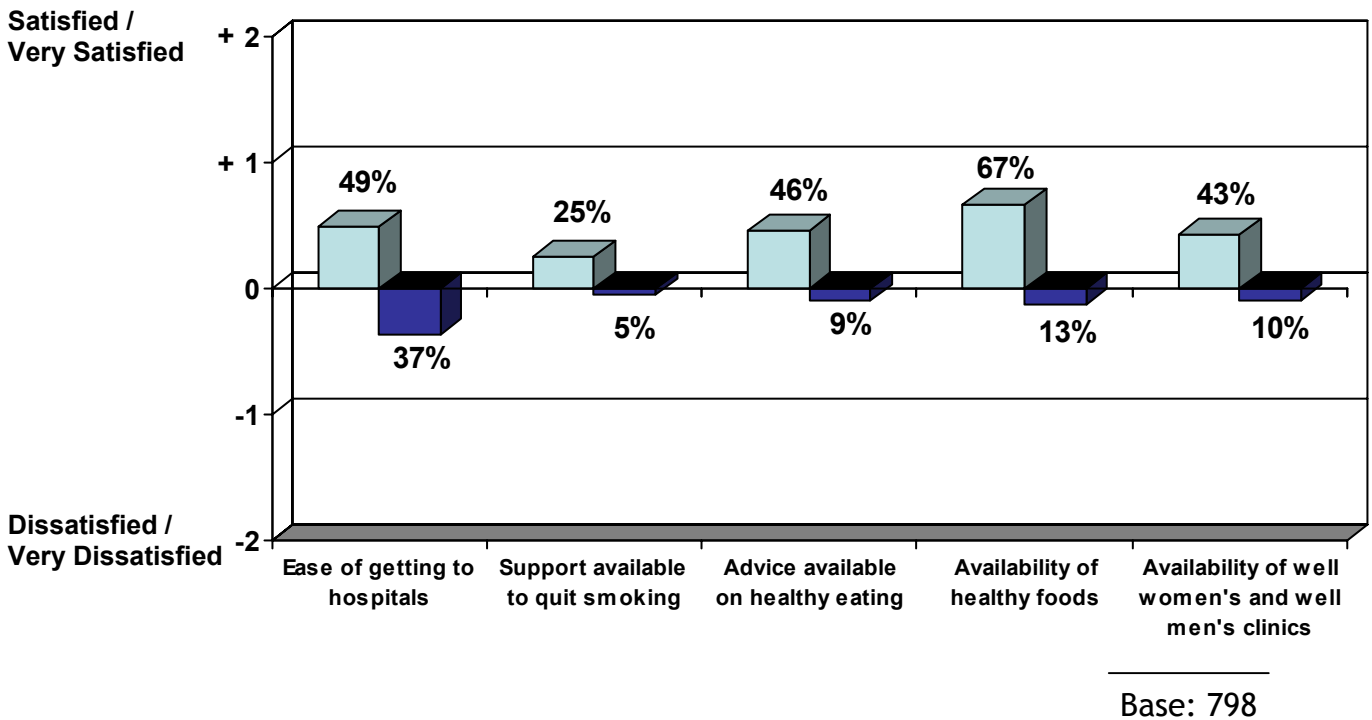


Figure 3.3(b): Satisfaction with Health Services



Generally positive views are evident with regard to:

- The time taken to get a GP appointment.
- Time to get an appointment with a member of the health care team (like a practice nurse or physiotherapist).
- Ease of getting to local doctors' surgeries and pharmacies.
- Availability of healthy foods.

More lukewarm responses are evident with respect to the following (although there is quite a high neutral or "don't know" response in each case):

- Support available to quit smoking
- Advice on healthy eating
- Availability of well women's and well men's clinics.

However, the two areas where significant dissatisfaction is recorded are:

- Time to get an appointment with a specialist.
- Ease of getting to hospitals.

3.5 Some groups are particularly dissatisfied with the time taken to get an appointment with a specialist:

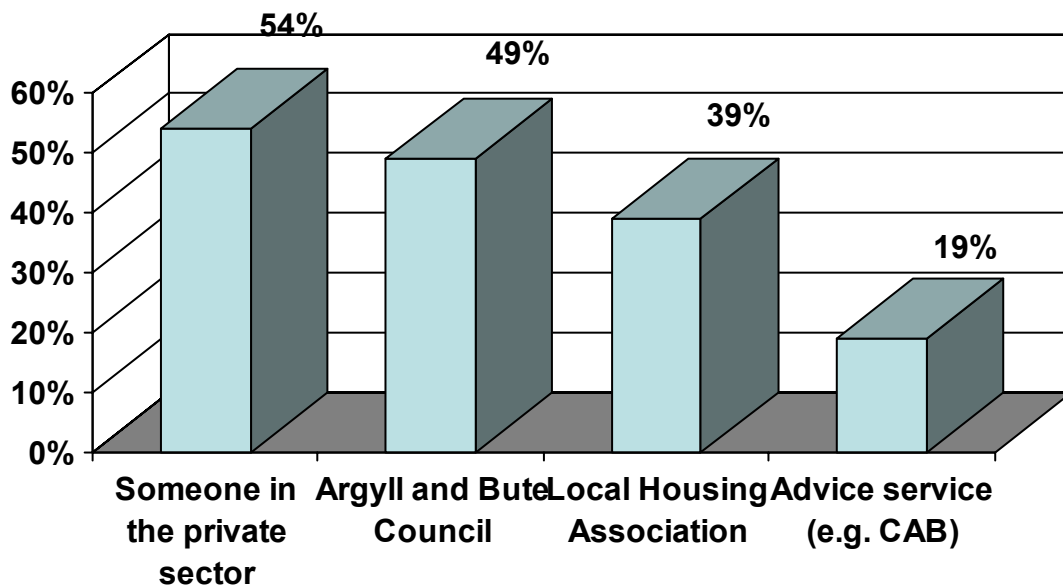
- People in Cowal (47% dissatisfied)
- People from the former SIP People's Panel (45% dissatisfied).

Ease of getting to hospitals was rated particularly poorly in Helensburgh and Lomond (only 16% were satisfied compared to 73% who were dissatisfied). People in the island communities were no more likely to express dissatisfaction than the community as a whole. This may be a function of expectations, based on the lifestyle choices people had made. This is reflected in the ratings for ease of access to hospitals being broadly similar for people with cars and those without.

HOUSING

3.6 Housing was recognised as an important element of people’s health and well-being. The sources of information which people would use with respect to their housing choices are illustrated below:

Figure 3.4: Were you wanting more information about housing choices, where would you go?

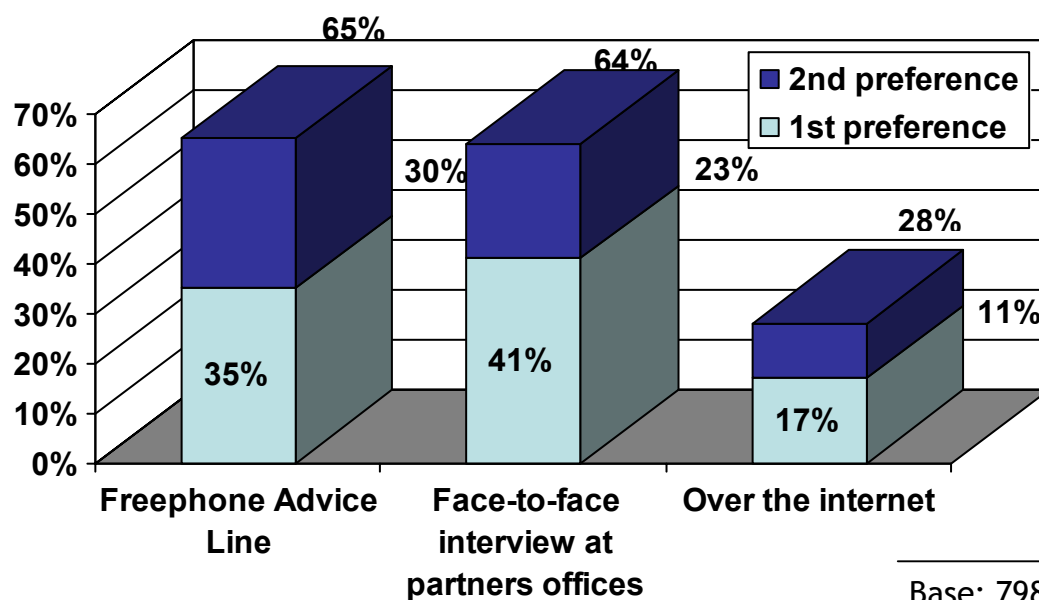


Base: 798

Unsurprisingly, people who rent currently from the Council are most likely to see the Council as their source of information (64%).

3.7 Respondents were also asked to comment on their preferences for accessing a Housing Information Service. As illustrated below, there is a strong demand for both telephone and face-to-face contact, but more limited demand for online delivery of such a service.

Figure 3.5: What would be your preferred method of accessing a Housing Information service?



However, younger age groups were slightly more likely to express a preference for using the internet. For example, 34% of 25-34 years olds placed it in their top two priorities and 23% rate the internet as their first preference for service delivery.

Key Findings

- People in Argyll and Bute generally rate the various aspects of their health and well-being fairly positively. There are indications of improving health.
- There is a negative view of the availability of sports and recreational facilities.
- Concerns are evident with regard to the time taken to get an appointment with a specialist and ease of getting to hospitals.
- The preferred methods of service delivery for a Housing Information Service would be a combination of telephone and face-to-face service provision; young people would be slightly more likely than others to use the internet.

4.0 VOLUNTEERING

INTRODUCTION

4.1 The survey sought to gather information about the extent and nature of volunteering in local communities and what could be done to encourage volunteering. The subject was addressed under four broad headings:

- Volunteering behaviour
- Attitudes to volunteering
- Time banking
- Interest in volunteering activities.

VOLUNTEERING BEHAVIOUR

4.2 A high proportion of the sample (56%) said that they had given up time in the last twelve months to help clubs, charities, campaigns or organisations, in an unpaid capacity. Volunteering was spread across the age groups, geographic areas and other demographic criteria but was less evident amongst members of the former SIP People's Panel (38% had volunteered).

A full listing of the examples given by respondents is set out on the appendices, but typical examples included:

"McMillan cancer relief committee member - raise money. Christian aid - fund raising, sponsored walk for cancer. Tsunami appeal"

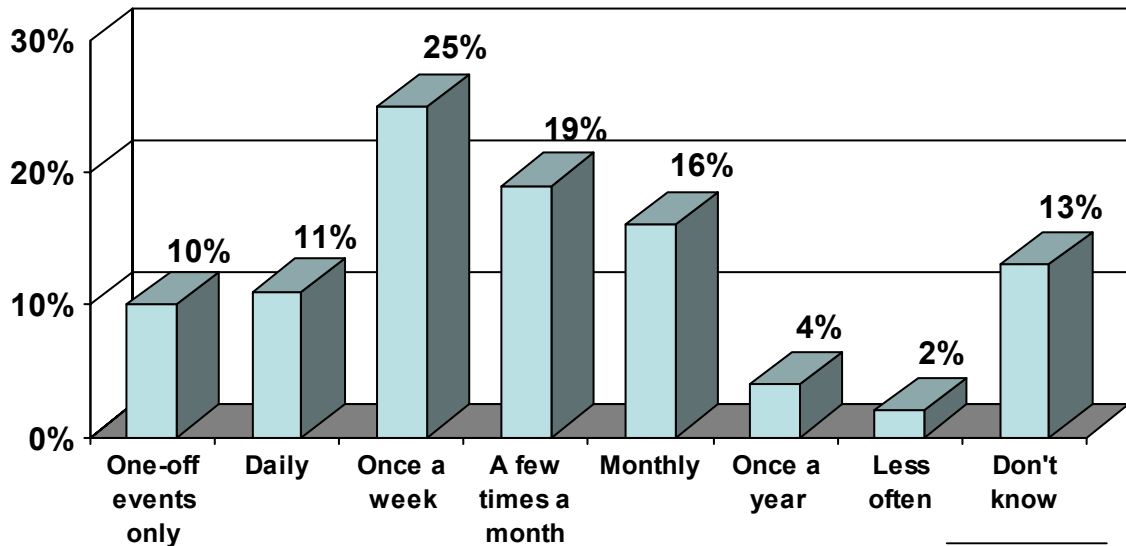
"Coaching shinty - organise, coach one hour sessions to primary school age children at my local primary school where my own children are at school"

"Youth work - Sunday school, youth club, beavers, community council member, school board, church board, kirk session, social committee, community first responders"

"Scouts group Treasurer, swimming instructor, church/Christian aid committee member, neighbourhood watch co-ordinator".

4.3 Figure 4.1 summarises the frequency with which people undertake this voluntary work. Clearly, for those who do undertake such work there are varying levels of time commitment, but these can sometimes be very significant (36% claim to undertake such work at least weekly).

Figure 4.1: Frequency of voluntary work

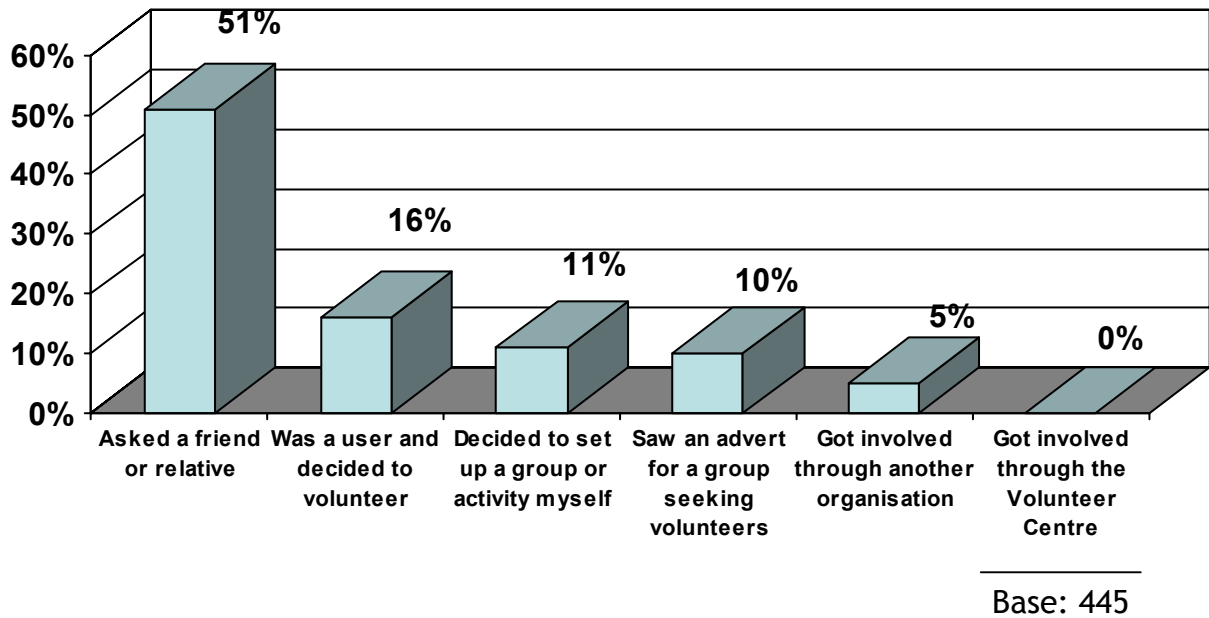


Base: 445

4.4 332 respondents quoted a number of hours which they had given up as a volunteer in the past month. The average figure was 18 hours equating to a total of 216 hours per year per volunteer. The aggregate economic value of such "labour" assuming a nominal value of the national minimum wage of £4.50 is very significant at £972 per volunteer. The average value, taking account of the 44% who do not do any such work would be £428. Extrapolating this to the overall adult population of Argyll and Bute (91,390) one can estimate an aggregate nominal economic value of this volunteering effort at over £39m.

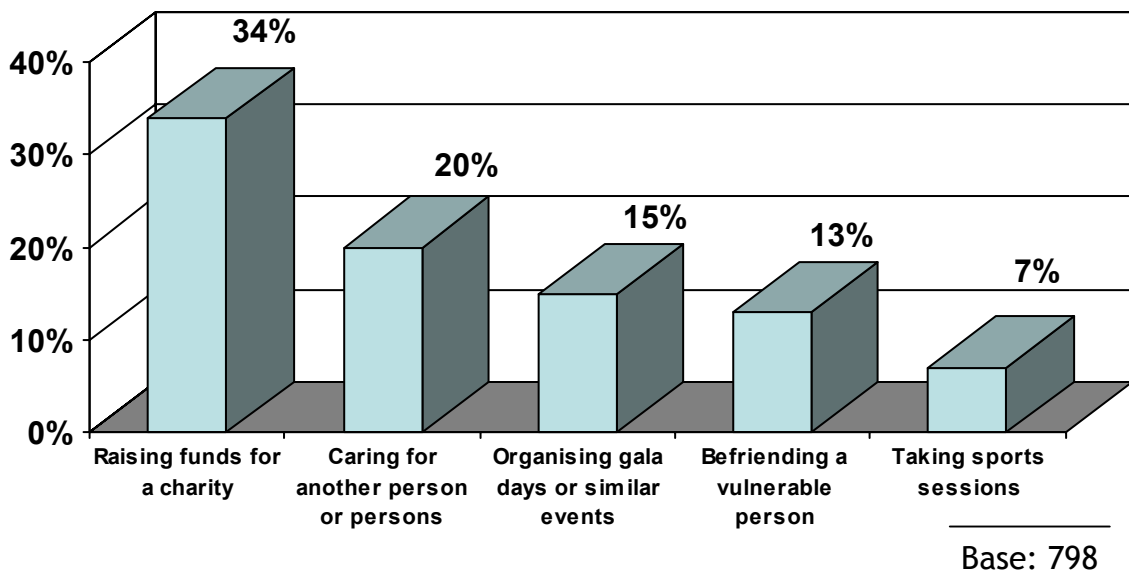
4.5 By far and away the most common method by which people are attracted to volunteering is by invitation from a friend or relative.

Figure 4.2: How did you first get involved in this volunteering activity?



4.6 There is also evidence of a reasonable level of informal volunteering taking place within Argyll and Bute:

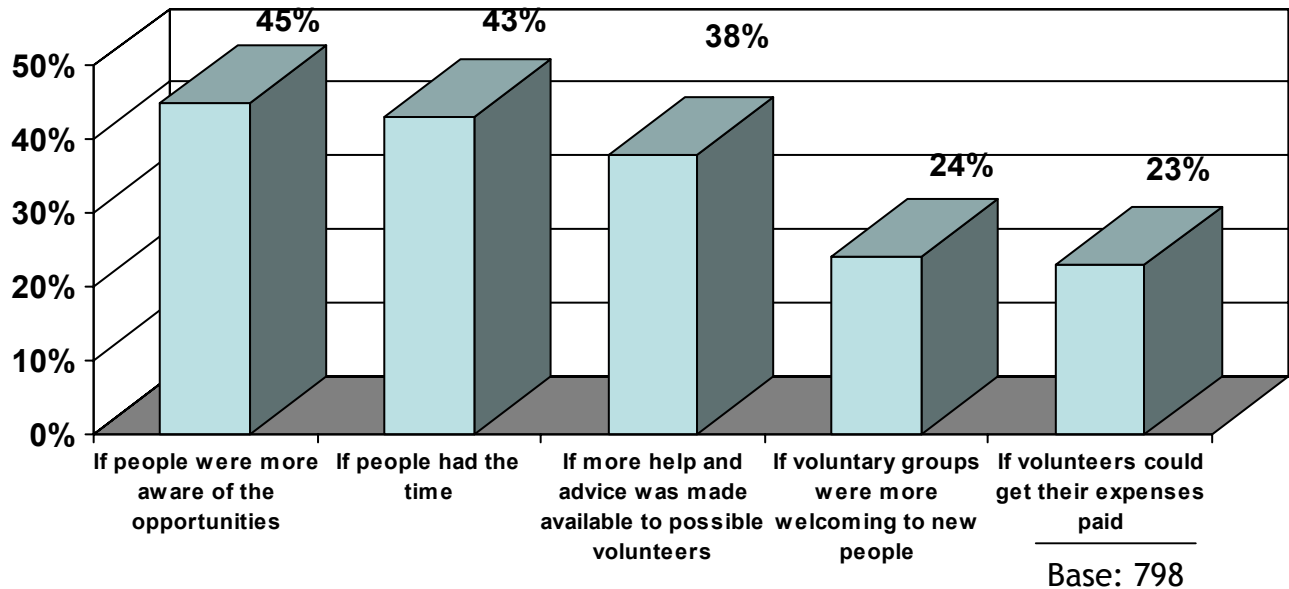
Figure 4.3: Informal Volunteering



Again, volunteers are to be found across all demographic criteria.

4.7 There is no single thing which would encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. Improved awareness and better help and advice could make a contribution, although people's lack of time does remain a significant barrier.

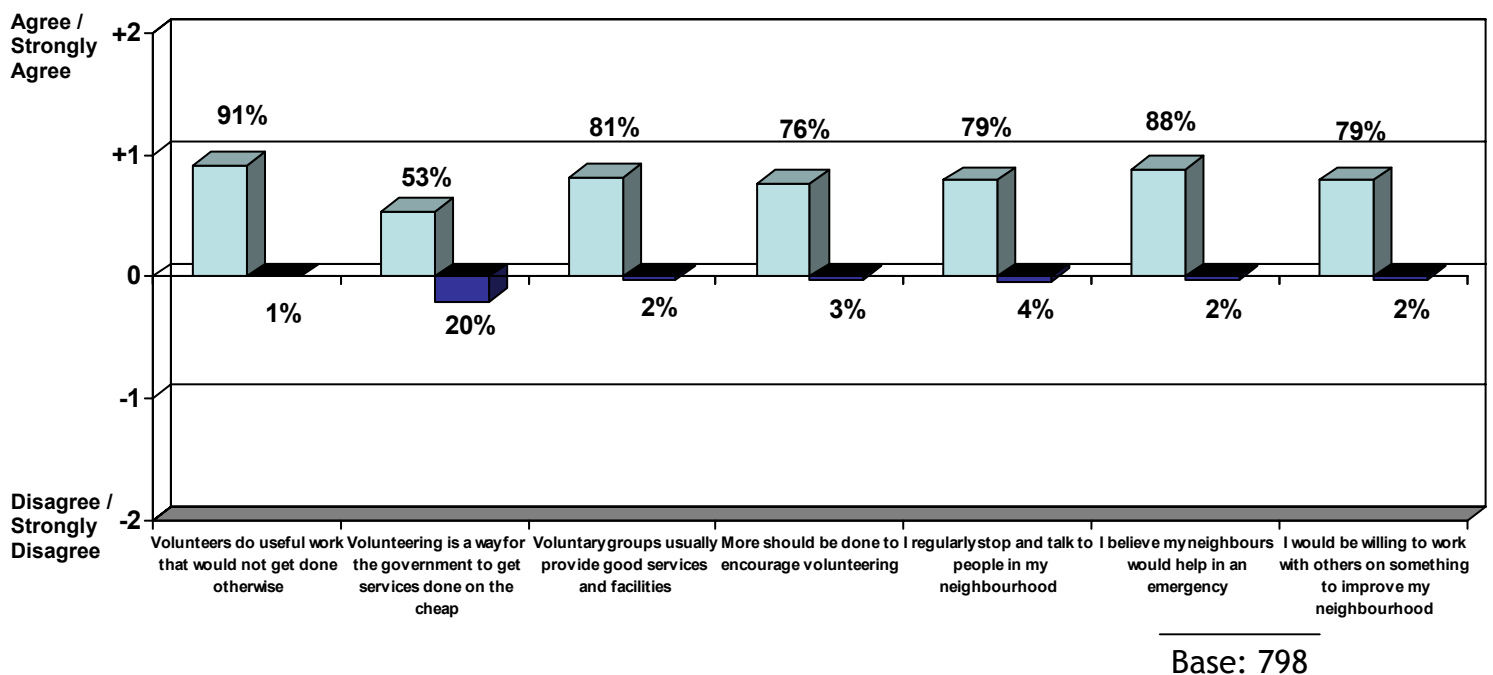
Figure 4.4: Which of the following do you think would encourage more people to get involved in volunteering?



ATTITUDES TO VOLUNTEERING

4.8 Responses to a range of attitudinal statements on volunteering are illustrated below:

Figure 4.5: Attitudes to Volunteering



The following broad conclusions can be drawn from this:

- Volunteering is seen as “additional”; it get thing done that would not get done otherwise.
- People believe that the voluntary sector generally provides good services.
- There is a perception that volunteering helps the government to “get things done on the cheap”.
- Despite this, people believe that more should be done to encourage volunteering.

4.9 Figure 4.5 also provides evidence of strong neighbourly values being evident within Argyll and Bute:

- People regularly stop and talk to their neighbours.
- People feel their neighbours would help in an emergency.
- People would be willing to work with others to improve their neighbourhood.

This sense of neighbourliness is fairly spread across all of the geographical communities, including the SIP areas.

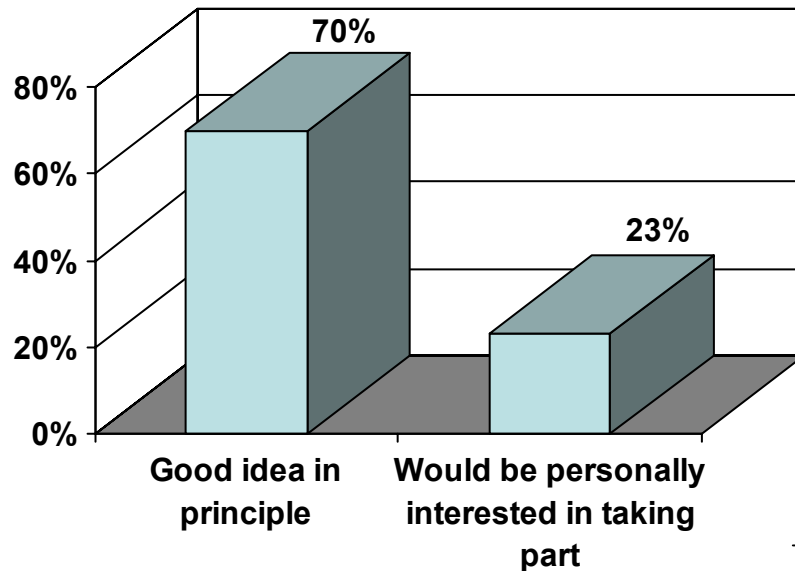
TIME BANKING

4.10 “Time banking” was described thus to respondents:

“Time banking is a way to encourage self help and enable local people to assist each other in remote communities where access to services is difficult. People register to provide certain services on a voluntary basis and can “bank” this time and use the services of another volunteer. For example, someone might offer to cook meals for a neighbour and, in return, get some work done around the home by another volunteer”.

In general, time banking is perceived to be a good idea in principle and, whilst only a minority say they would be willing to take part, at 23% this is still a significant proportion.

Figure 4.6: Time Banking



Base: 798

These groups who would be most willing to take part include:

- People aged 25-34 (28%) and those aged 35-44 (31%)
- People in Islay, Jura, Colonsay (31%)
- People in Lorn (28%)
- People who are unemployed (33%) or who are employed part-time (32%)
- People from the former SIP People's Panel (28%).

4.11 The range of services which people would like to see provided as part of time banking are detailed in the appendices but typical examples included:

"Childcare"

"Housework"

"Cooking, housework, gardening, shopping and decorating"

"Shopping, transport"

"Baby sitting, gardening"

“Care of elderly”

“DIY”.

4.12 From the other angle, the typical services which people said they would be willing to provide included:

“DIY assistance, painting, gardening, paperwork, letter writing, errands”

“Childcare, home help, cooking”

“General help, driving, gardening, cleaning up most things”

“Befriending, tutoring, basic literary skills”

“Sitting with old and infirm people to give carers a rest”

“Ironing service, making meals”.

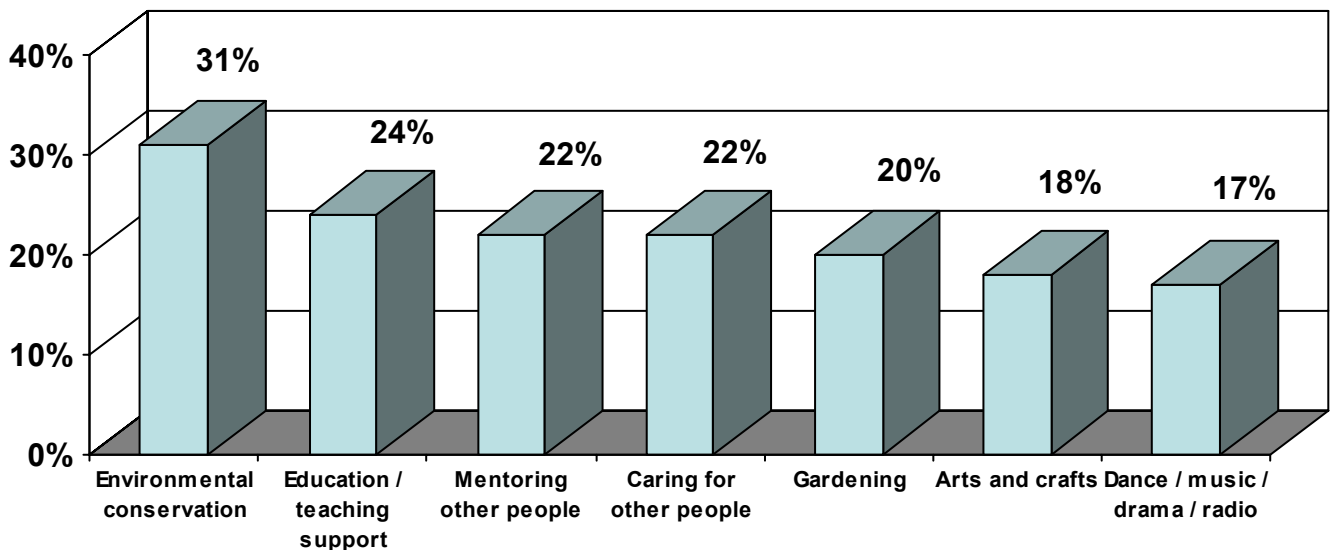
There appears to be a generally good fit between the potential supply and demand of services in relation to time banking.

These responses are, once again, detailed in Appendix 2.

INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES

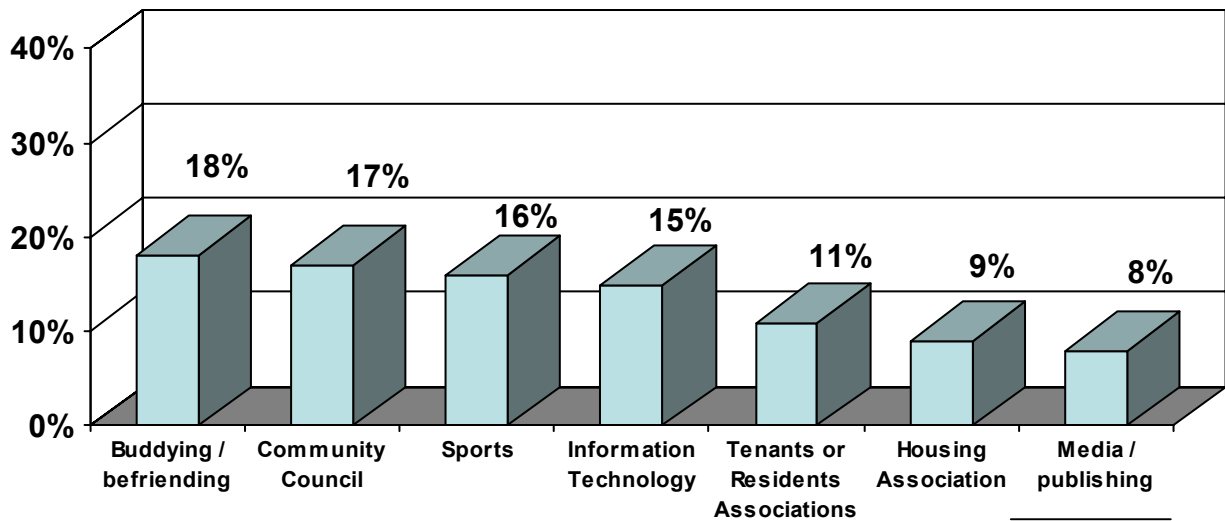
4.13 Levels of interest in a range of volunteering activities are summarised in Figure 4.7(a) and (b) below. The figures illustrate a broad range of potential interests, although the most common themes relate to environmental conservation and caring for others.

Figure 4.7(a): Interest in Volunteering Activities



Base: 798

Figure 4.7(b): Interest in Volunteering Activities



Base: 798

Key Findings

- A high proportion of residents are engaged in volunteering.
- Their time commitment to this is significant and has a substantial nominal economic value.
- People are encouraged into volunteering by friends or relatives.
- Improved awareness and better help and advice could help to encourage more volunteering but people's lack of time remains a significant barrier.
- The public is very positive about the quality of services delivered by the voluntary sector.
- There is a strong sense of good neighbourliness within Argyll and Bute.
- Time Banking is perceived to be a good idea and there is a reasonable level of interest in participating.
- The most common aspects of volunteering in which people are interested relate to environmental conservation and caring for others.

5.0 EQUALITIES

INTRODUCTION

5.1 The final element of the survey addressed attitudes to a range of “equalities” issues, taking its lead from the Community Planning Partnership’s desire to ensure that all people in Argyll and Bute are treated equally and have equal opportunities to take part in community life. This part of the survey had three elements:

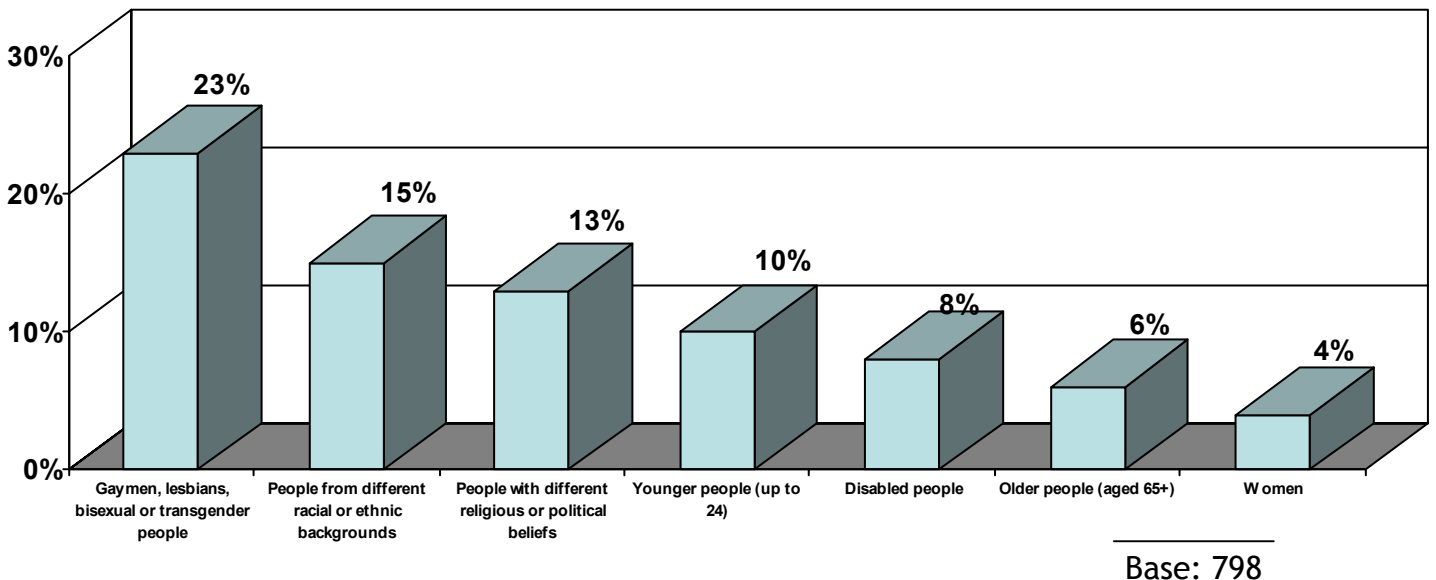
- Perceived prejudice
- Perception of equal opportunity attempts
- Experiences of discrimination.

These are discussed in turn below.

PERCEIVED PREJUDICE

5.2 Respondents were asked about the extent of prejudice which they believed to be faced by a range of groups within Argyll and Bute. The options were: “no prejudice at all”, “a little prejudice” and “quite a lot of prejudice”. Figure 5.1 illustrates the proportion who believe that particular groups face “quite a lot of prejudice”.

Figure 5.1: Perceived Prejudice



Typically, fairly similar views are held within different areas and across a range of demographic criteria. Women are no more likely than men to perceive that there is prejudice against women and people with a disability were no more likely to perceive there to be discrimination against people with disabilities.

PERCEPTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ATTEMPTS

5.3 Respondents were then asked whether they felt that attempts to give “equal opportunities” to a number of groups had been “about right”, whether these had “gone too far” or had “not gone far enough”. “People living far away from population centres” were added into this analysis as it was perceived that rurality and peripherality could limit the opportunities available to some people.

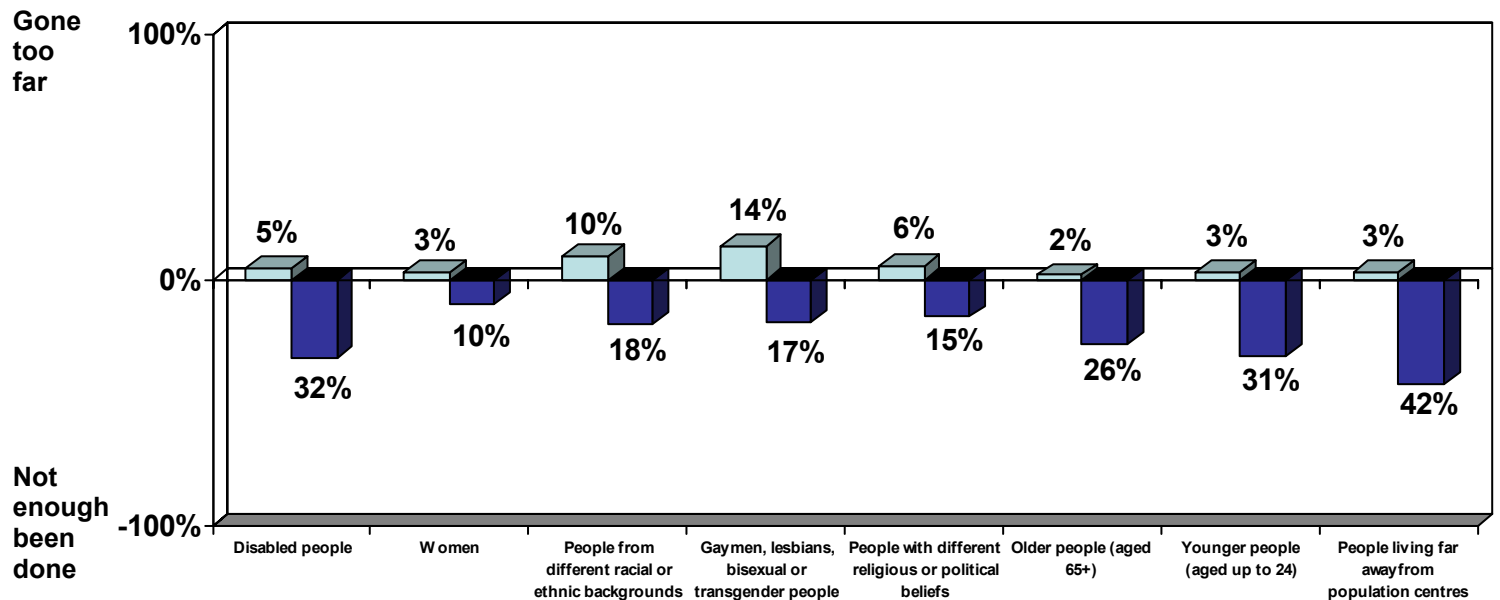
The proportions of people who considered such attempts to be “about right” were as follows:

Group	% who believe equal opportunity attempts to have been “about right”
Disabled people	52%
Women	72%
People from different racial or ethnic backgrounds	57%
Gay men, lesbians, bisexual or transgender people	52%
People with different religions or political beliefs	64%
Older people (aged 65+)	59%
Younger people (aged up to 24)	50%
People living far away from population centres	37%

In most cases, people consider the attempts made to have been “about right”.

5.4 Figure 5.2 below illustrates the views of those people who felt that such attempts had either gone too far or that not enough had been done.

Figure 5.2: Perception of Equal Opportunity Attempts



Base: 798

Only in two cases do even a significant minority feel that efforts have gone too far (the two cases relate to race/ethnicity and sexuality). Even in these instances, more people believe that not enough has been done to promote equal opportunities for these groups than believe the efforts have gone too far.

Again, these views are fairly generally held and distinctions across geographical areas and other criteria are fairly modest.

5.5 In some cases, a fairly significant proportion of respondents do not feel that equal opportunity efforts have gone far enough. This is in relation to:

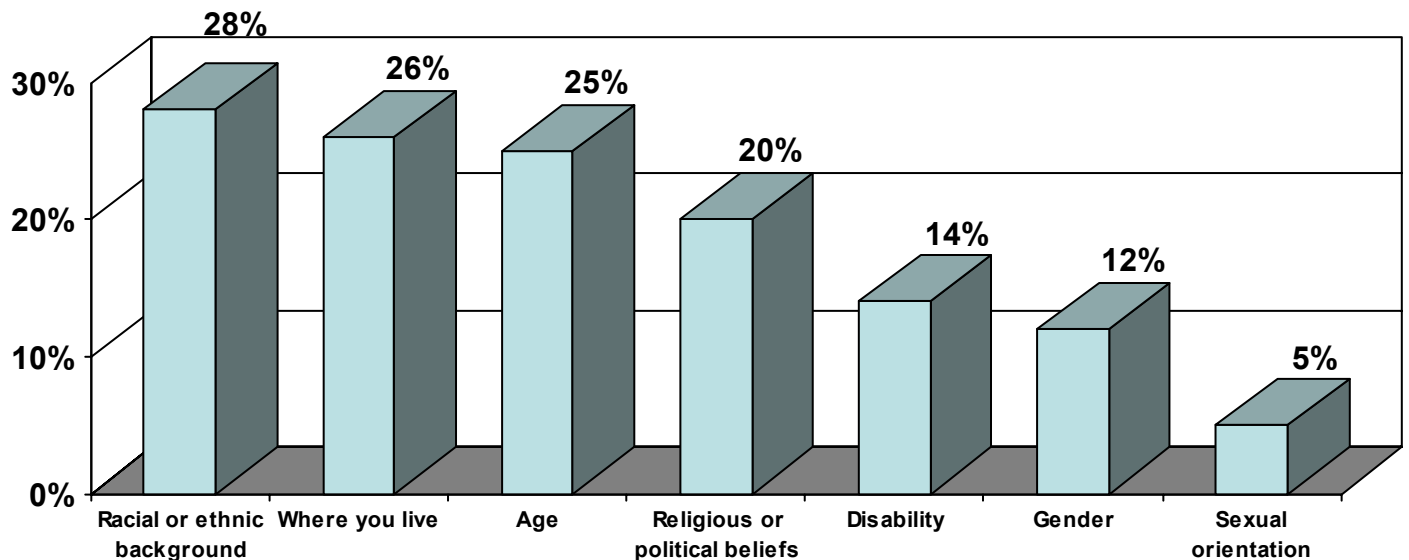
- People living far away from population centres
- Disabled people
- Younger people (aged up to 24)
- Older people (aged 65+).

Interestingly, people across all geographical areas are quite likely to perceive that not enough has been done for people living far away from population centres; this view is not limited, for example, to people from the islands or other rural communities.

EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION

- 5.6 17% of the sample (133 people) said that they personally had experienced discrimination. The grounds cited for this discrimination were as follows:

Figure 5.3: Experiences of Discrimination



Base: 133

Clearly, quite a range of instances are evident. There are few statistically significant variations in terms of people having experienced discrimination. People with disabilities are slightly more likely to have experienced discrimination, but the level reported is 19% compared to 17% overall. Men and women are equally likely to say they have faced discrimination. People from Cowal are slightly more likely to say they have experienced discrimination (27%).

- 5.7 The examples of discrimination experienced are listed in Appendix 2, but typical examples included the following:

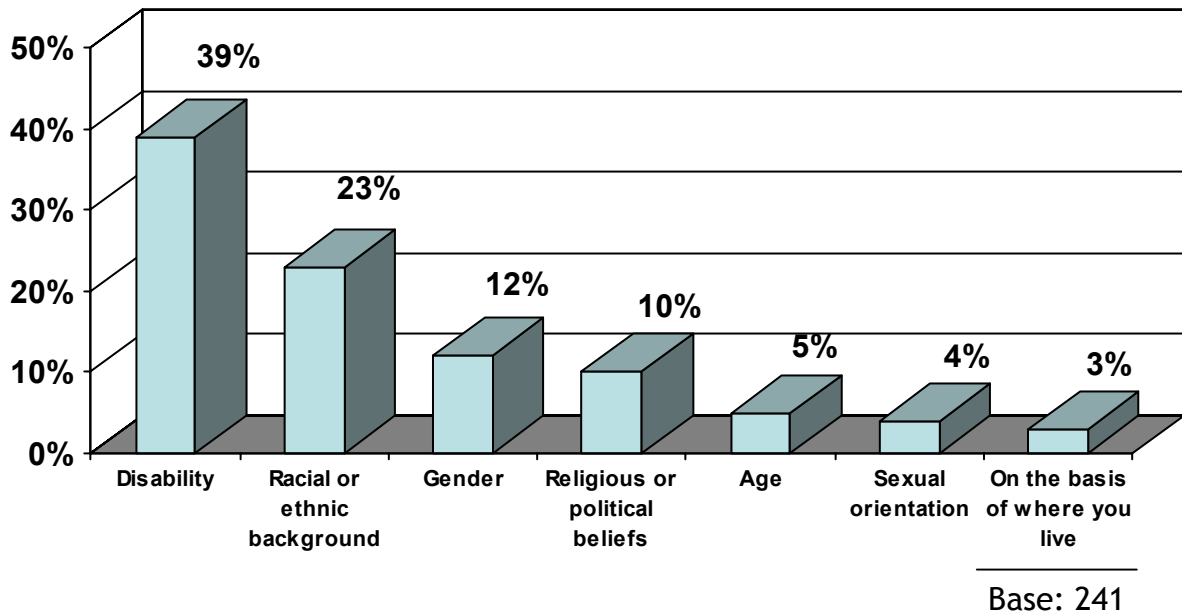
“Abuse/comments on English origins, job discrimination on age”

“There still exists a male culture, this is not something which exists only in Argyll and Bute which in many ways has less discrimination than some other areas. Nevertheless, this culture inhibits many women”

“Elements of anti-English (I am English, but it has very rarely been directed at me personally). There is still an element of anti-catholic by older people, not serious, just uncomfortable”.

5.8 A slightly higher proportion (30%, 241 people) said that they had witnessed discrimination. As noted in Figure 5.4 below, this was most commonly on the basis of disability or racial/ethnic background:

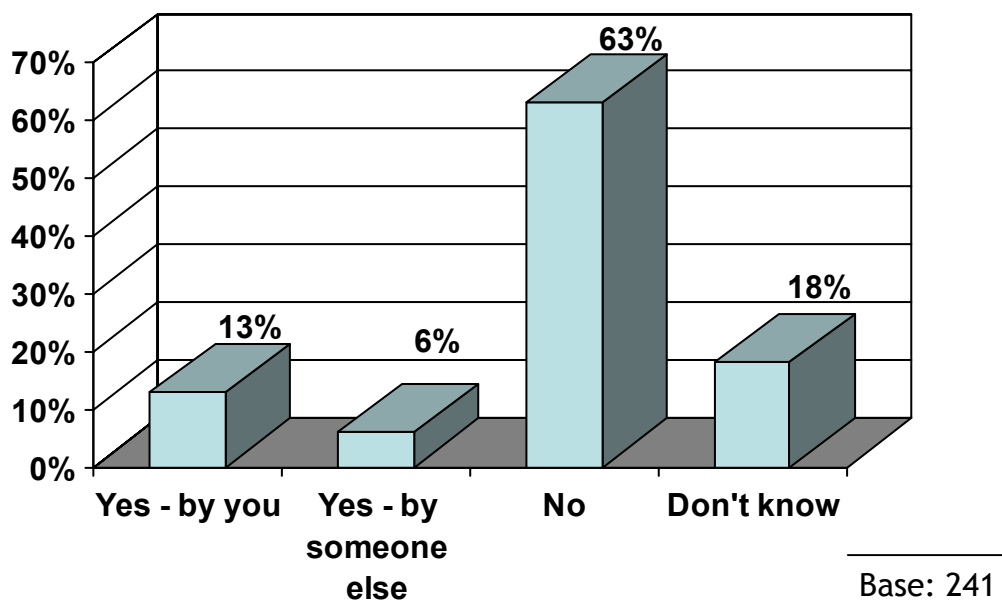
Figure 5.4: Witnessing Discrimination



Again, the geographical and demographic distinctions in terms of people having witnessed discrimination were fairly modest.

5.9 As illustrated in Figure 5.5 below, most instances of discrimination were not reported:

Figure 5.5: If you have witnessed or experienced discrimination, was the incident reported?



5.10 When incidences were reported, then this was most commonly to the Police, the Council and employers.

Key Findings

- There is perceived to be limited prejudice against particular groups in Argyll and Bute, but when this does occur, it is most likely to be on the basis of race/ethnicity or sexuality.
- In most cases, people feel that the level of equal opportunity attempts has been “about right”.
- Some people believe that equal opportunity attempts could go further particularly in relation to “people living far away from population centres”.
- Only a limited number of people have experienced or witnessed discrimination in Argyll and Bute and this does not vary significantly across geographical or demographic criteria.
- However, there is limited reporting of that discrimination which is experienced or witnessed.