



SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Call it Out Survey

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the findings of Surrey Police's "Call it Out" survey and how the resulting data is being used to inform local activity.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

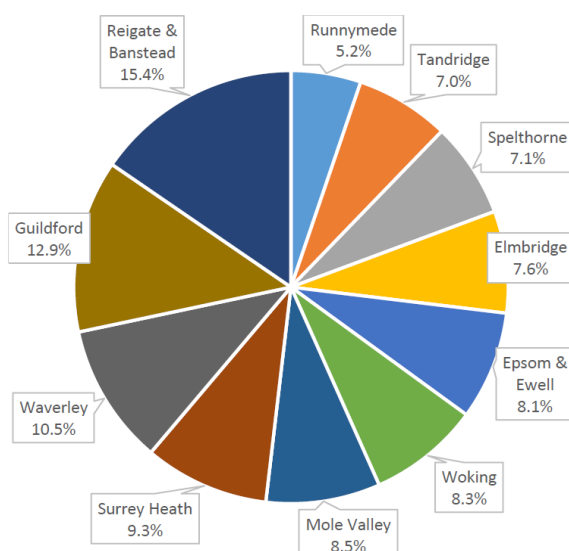
- 2.1 Following the murder of Sarah Everard in London, women across the UK began to openly share, often on social media, their experiences of feeling unsafe, harassed or intimidated.
- 2.2 Surrey Police subsequently ran an online survey between 12 April and 10 May 2021, to gather feedback from women in Surrey about their sense of safety and personal experiences. A total of 5,427 people responded to the survey.

3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

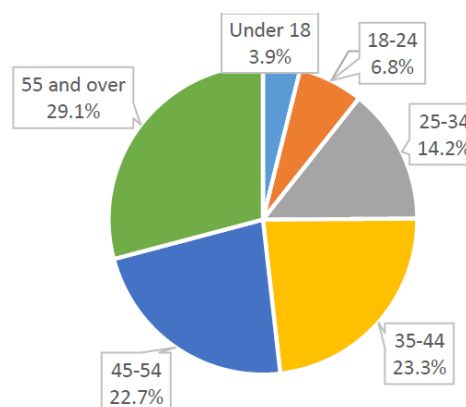
3.1 Demographics

- 3.2 The survey was targeted at those who identify as female, with 98.2% of the responses from females. 44 responses (0.9%) were from males, and 30 responses (0.6%) preferred not to say. A further 17 (0.3%) respondents preferred to self-identify. Given the intention of the survey, only responses from those who identified as female have been included in the following data.

Response by Borough / District



Responses by age

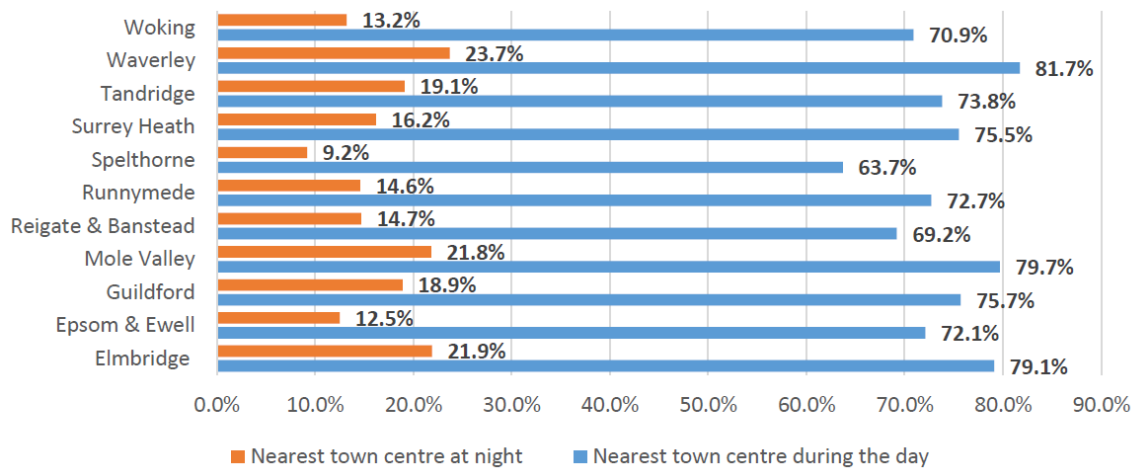


3.3 The majority (95.2%) of survey respondents were White, with smaller proportions saying they had Mixed ethnicity (1.8%), were Asian/Asian British (1.5%), Other (1.1%), Black or Black British (0.2%) and Chinese (0.2%).

3.4 Feelings of Safety

How safe do you feel in the following situations?	Safe	Unsafe
In your own home during the day	94.1%	2.1%
Out and about in your neighbourhood during the day	81.5%	5.1%
Out and about in the nearest town centre during the day	74.0%	8.0%
In your own home at night	77.7%	8.2%
Out and about in your neighbourhood at night	26.2%	45.6%
Out and about in the nearest town centre at night	17.0%	55.7%

Feelings of safety by Borough / District



3.5 Qualitative Feedback

3.6 Respondents who had previously felt unsafe were asked to explain why. 3,239 comments were received for this question, with the key themes outlined below.

Question: If you ever feel unsafe, please explain why?	
Themes	Comments

Lighting	One of the main themes when respondents were asked to explain why they sometimes feel unsafe, was lighting, or lack of it in local areas. A lot of these comments mentioned the lack of street lighting in their local area, and how this made it feel unsafe when out and about after dark.
Walking Alone	General concerns about being “out and about” were common, with a large proportion of these responses mentioning being nervous when out at night time or walking alone. Many of these comments spoke of the perceived threat of being on their own outside rather than anything that has actually made them feel that way. However, some of the comments spoke of specific concerns such as being mugged or a physical attack, and how they were worried there would be nothing they could do to stop such an incident.
Young people or groups of people in public places & drugs	One key theme was around groups of young people in public spaces, and the concern this can cause. Respondents spoke of how this can be intimidating at times and can at times result in anti-social behaviour. The effects of drugs and alcohol, especially in town centres was also mentioned as a reason for feeling unsafe.
Lack of Police Visibility	Lack of police visibility was a key theme in written responses, with a large proportion of the comments mentioning not seeing police officers, which in turn impacts on feelings of safety. A small number of comments linked their feelings of safety to the closure of police stations, saying they haven’t felt safe since their local police stations have closed.
Town centres including public transport	Town centres, and in particular public transport hubs, was another main theme with a large proportion of the comments mentioning this as a reason for feeling unsafe. Some of the comments spoke of feeling unsafe in town centres due to the large numbers of people around, often in groups. Car parks in town centres were also mentioned by a few of the respondents, saying how they feel nervous going to their cars. When mentioning public transport, respondents mostly spoke of train stations, with the occasional mention of taxis and bus stops.

3.7 Respondents were then asked what they felt could be done to create a safer community for women. 3,915 comments were received for this question, with the key themes outlined below:

Question: What do you feel could be done to create a safer community for women?	
Themes	Comments
Education	One of the most frequently mentioned comments related to education of both men and boys, to

	<p>make them aware of what is acceptable behaviour in relation to women. Some women spoke of the importance of making men aware of behaviours such as how to behave if they see a woman walking alone – such as crossing the road if they are walking towards them and putting any hoods down.</p> <p>A number of the comments spoke of respect, and the importance of teaching young people how to respect each other and educating women on what constitutes unacceptable behaviour.</p>
More Police	More police and greater visibility was given as a solution for creating a safer community for women. Some of the comments specifically mentioned the need for more female police officers, whilst many of the comments mentioned the need for more officers at night and in town centres.
Lighting	Linked to this was the high proportion of respondents who spoke of lighting. Many of the comments spoke of the need for streetlights to be put back on at night and to also have more streetlights and better lighting.
Dealing with groups of young people	Quite a few of the respondents spoke of dealing with the groups of young people that congregate in towns/villages. It was felt that greater police visibility would help address.
CCTV	CCTV was mentioned by a large proportion of respondents as being a good way to make a safer community. Other suggestions included curfews, safe spaces, self-defence classes, Street Angels and Street Watch. Call points and panic buttons were also mentioned by some of the respondents.
Appropriate punishment	There were general thoughts from some of the respondents that punishment for VAWG offences didn't always fit the crime. Comments mentioned the need for more prosecutions for domestic abuse cases, and tougher punishments for those who commit crimes against women.

3.8 Reporting

Experiences in Surrey, and whether it was reported	Experienced	Reported
Incidents such as cat calling, wolf whistling, up skirting, inappropriate behaviour etc	67%	7.3%

Sexual harassment, sexual assault or rape in Surrey	27.3%	18.4%

- 3.9 The main reason for not reporting was the fear that the police wouldn't do anything. For women that reporting cat calling, wolf whistling, up skirting and inappropriate behaviour there were a lot of questions around what could actually be reported, and what the police would do if they reported such incidents.
- 3.10 Other women said they felt their experience wasn't serious enough to actually report the incident to the police, and although they felt uncomfortable or scared they just didn't feel it was right to report it.
- 3.11 For those respondents who chose not to report sexual harassment, there were similar comments that the police would not do anything with the report, and that these incidents were not worth reporting. Linked to the concern that the police wouldn't do anything, was the concern that the complainant wouldn't be taken seriously.
- 3.12 A large proportion of those who responded to the survey spoke of just wanting to forget what had happened. This was linked to people being scared or embarrassed, and in some cases the crime was so traumatic that the person chose not to report it. Comments mentioned being worried about facing court, and the criminal justice system more generally, and the fear that this would be for nothing if the offender was not prosecuted.

4.0 Actions Undertaken

- 4.1 The Commissioner is committed to tackling all forms of violence against women and girls and the OPCC has been working closely with Surrey Police, partner agencies and local charities to shine a spotlight on the inappropriate behaviours of some men, to hold perpetrators firmly to account for their actions and to ensure the best possible support is in place for victims of these horrific crimes.
- 4.2 Learning from the Call it Out Survey has informed much of the following work:
- Surrey Police became one of the first forces in the UK to launch a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, helping to harmonise and develop a consistent approach across multiple areas including domestic abuse, sexual offences, peer-on-peer abuse in schools and Harmful Traditional Practices. The strategy was formally recognised by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as good practice, with Surrey Police working closely with partners to disrupt and proactively target those using abusive and violent behaviours.
 - The Force has also invested heavily in its dedicated Rape Investigation Team, doubling the number of Detectives. Work is also underway to address serial domestic abuse perpetrators, including the creation of problem profiles to better target activity.
 - Responding to feedback received from the survey, the OPCC successfully bid for £175,000 from the Government's Safer Streets Fund to tackle issues along the Basingstoke Canal in Woking. This has included the removal of

vegetation to improve visibility, cleaning of graffiti and the installation of new CCTV cameras which now cover the towpath. Part of the funding was also put towards encouraging positive behaviour change, with Surrey Police working with Woking Football Club to promote 'Do the Right Thing' - a campaign which challenges bystanders to call out misogynistic and harmful behaviour. This work was recognised nationally, with Surrey Police winning the annual Tilley Award, which celebrates innovative problem solving.

- Data from the Survey has also been used to inform and develop bids to government for additional funding. The OPCC made a successful bid to the Ministry of Justice for additional funding of over £800,000 to support victims of domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault. This funding has allowed Surrey to significantly increase the number of local Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, whilst ensuring the continuity of wider community-based services such as counselling, helplines and dedicated work with children impacted by domestic abuse.
- The Deputy PCC now co-chairs the Surrey Female Strategy Group which held its inaugural meeting in December 2021. Surrey is amongst the first areas to bring partners together in this manner to improve outcomes for female offenders and to make communities safer by tackling the underlying causes of offending behaviour, including experiences of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

4.3 More detailed updates can be found in the Commissioner's most recent Annual Report.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Police and Crime Panel is requested to note the update.

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