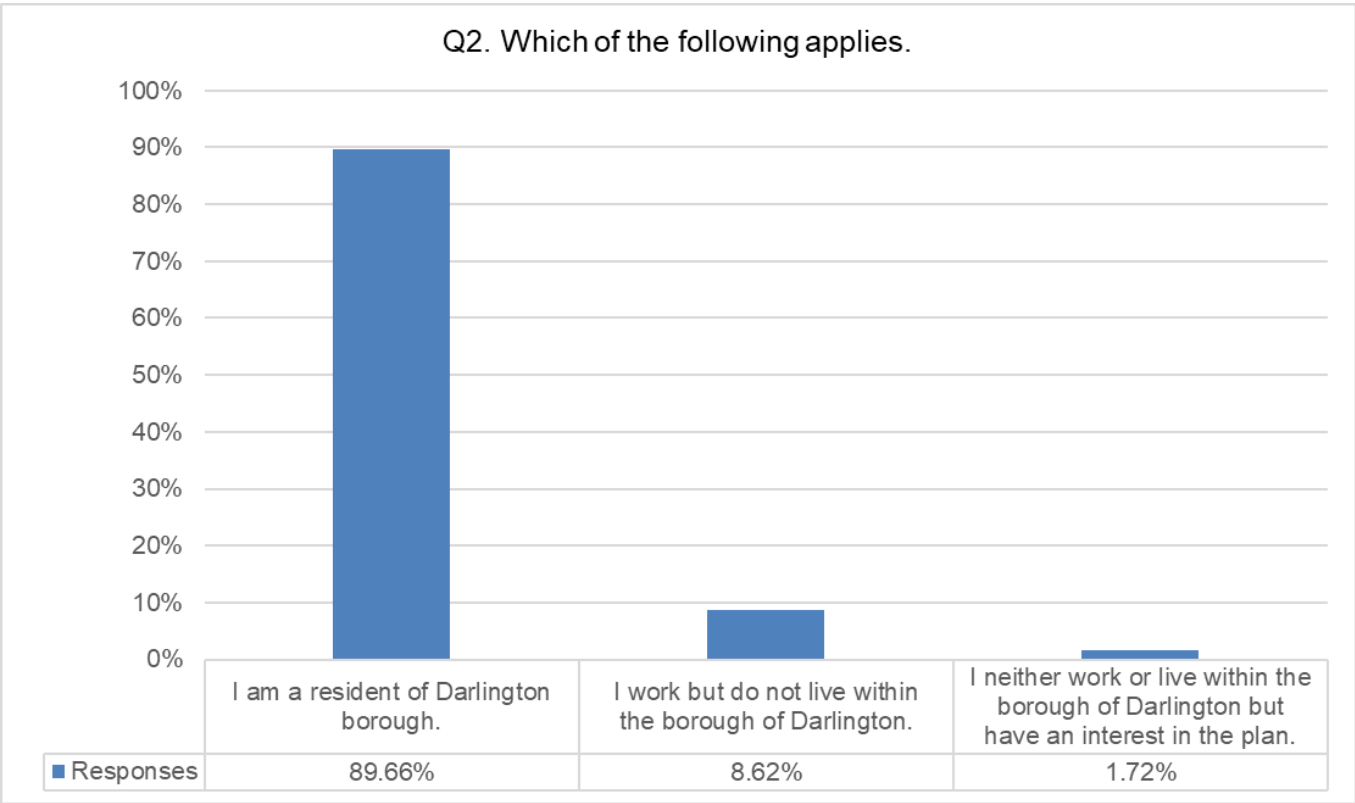
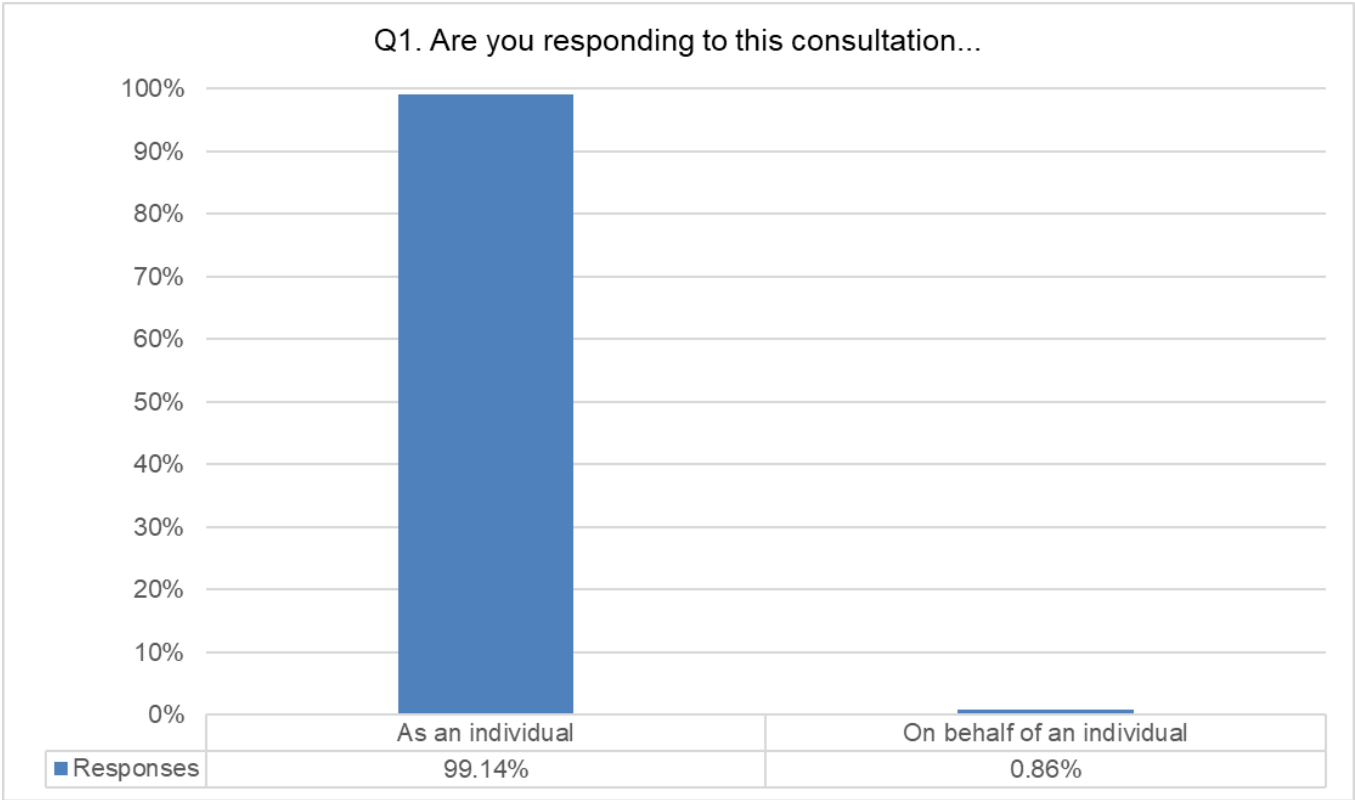
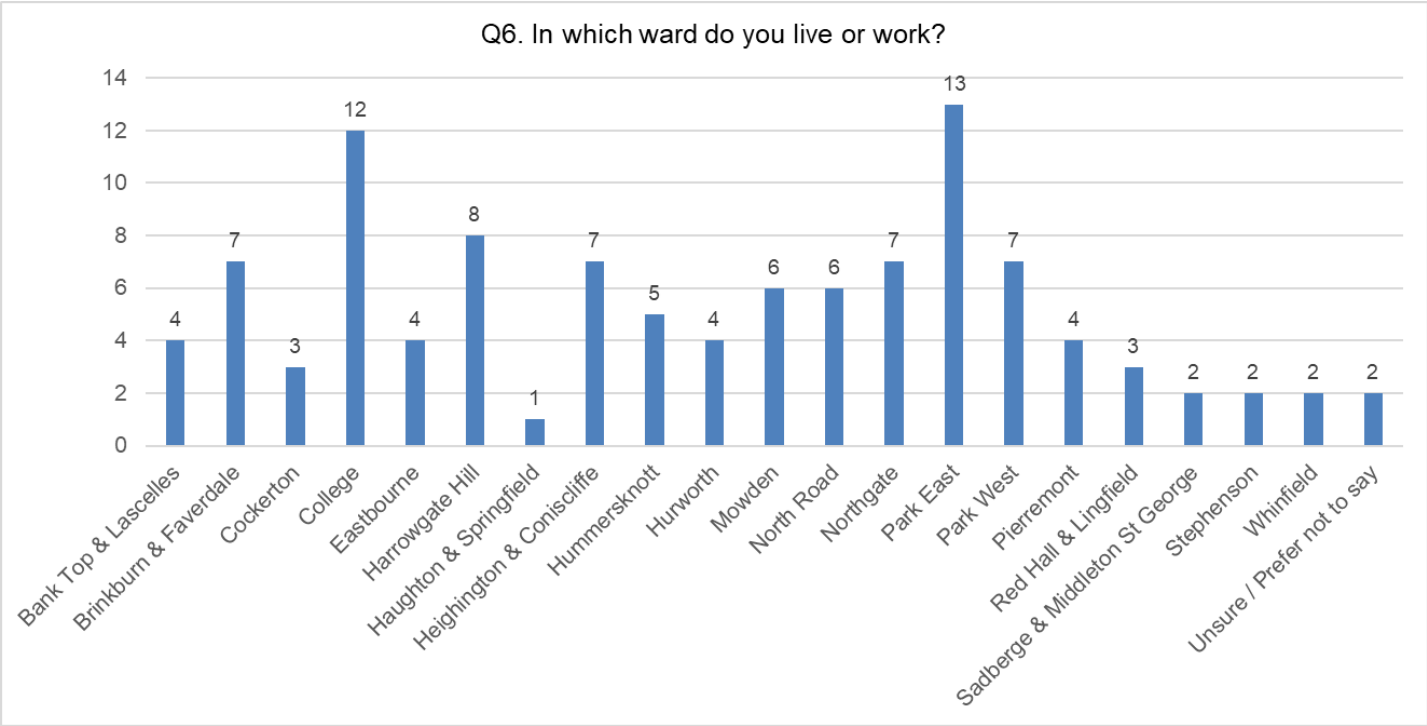
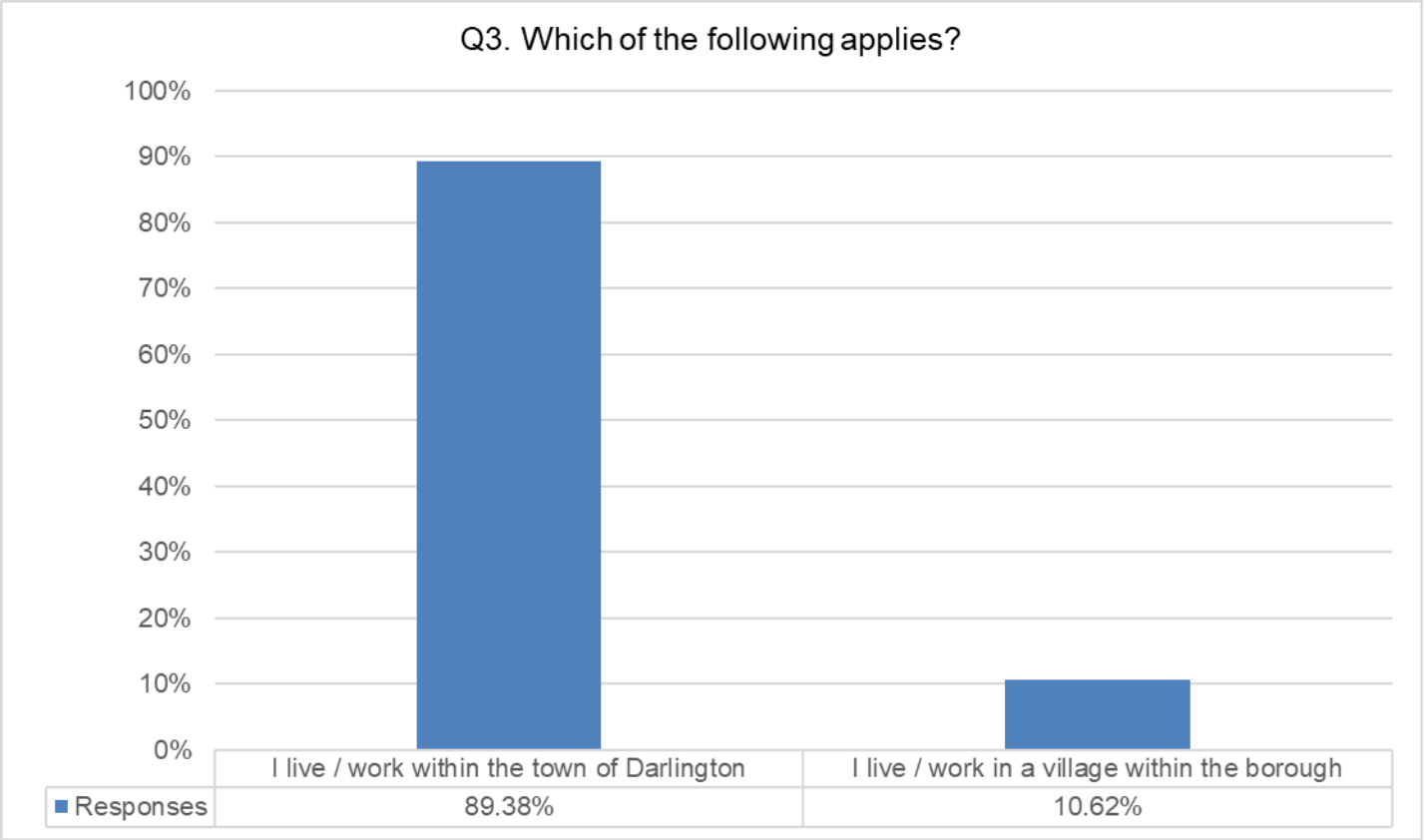


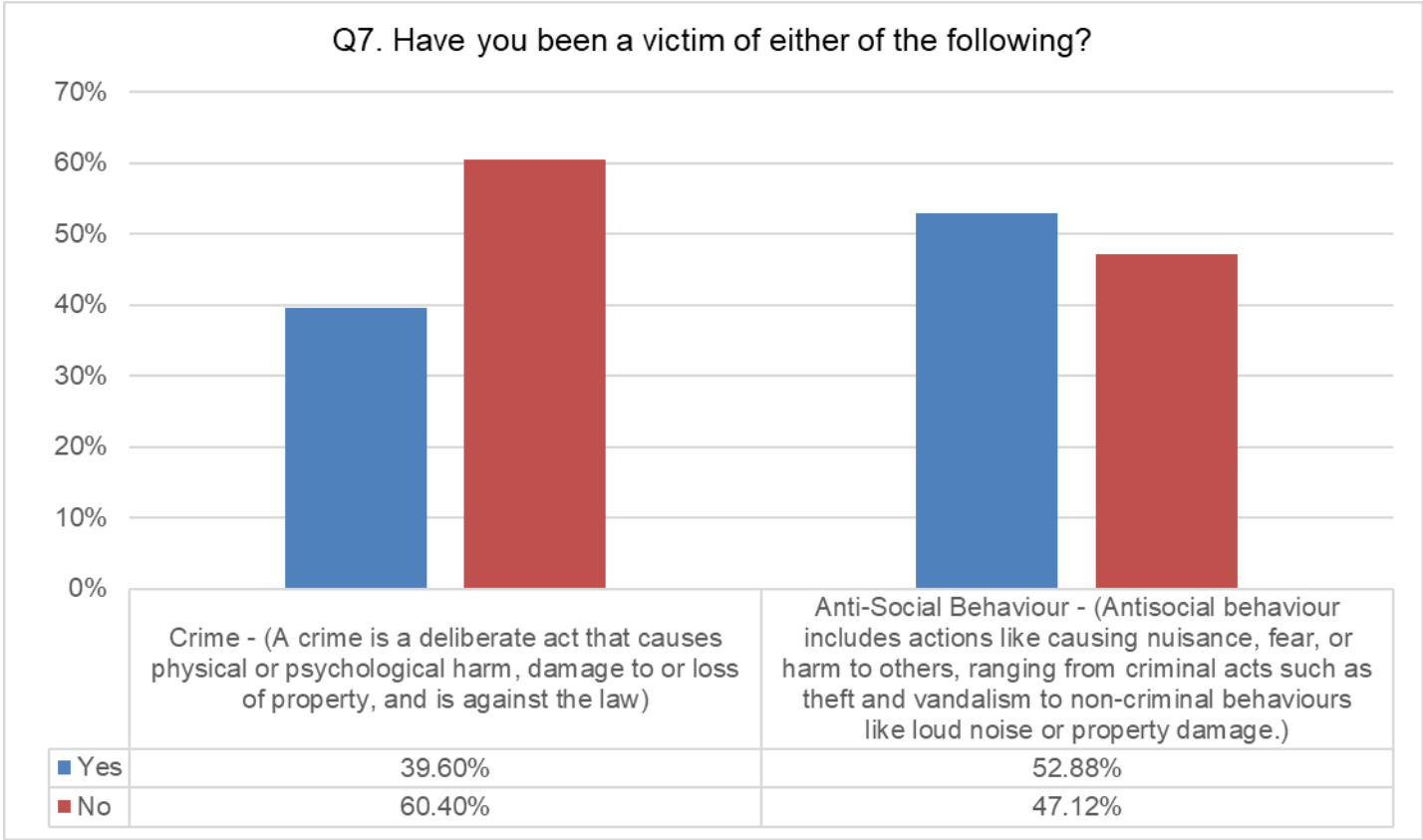
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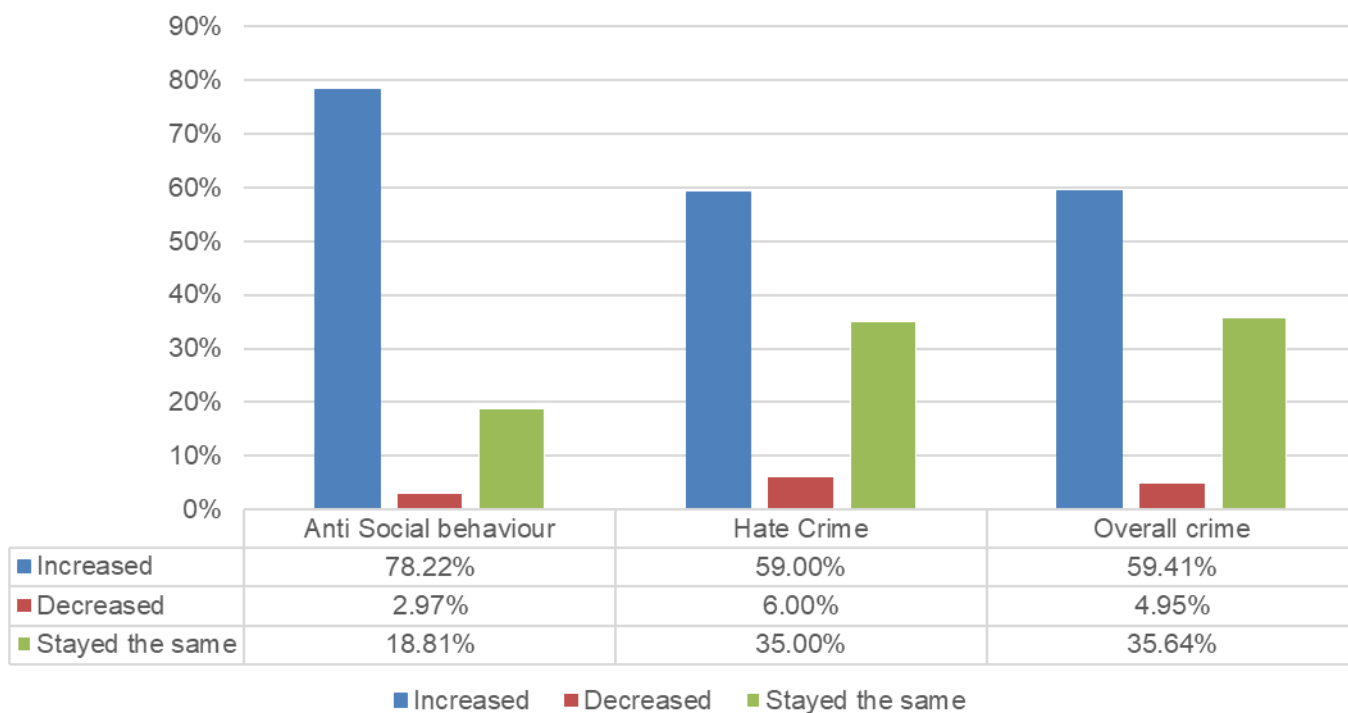
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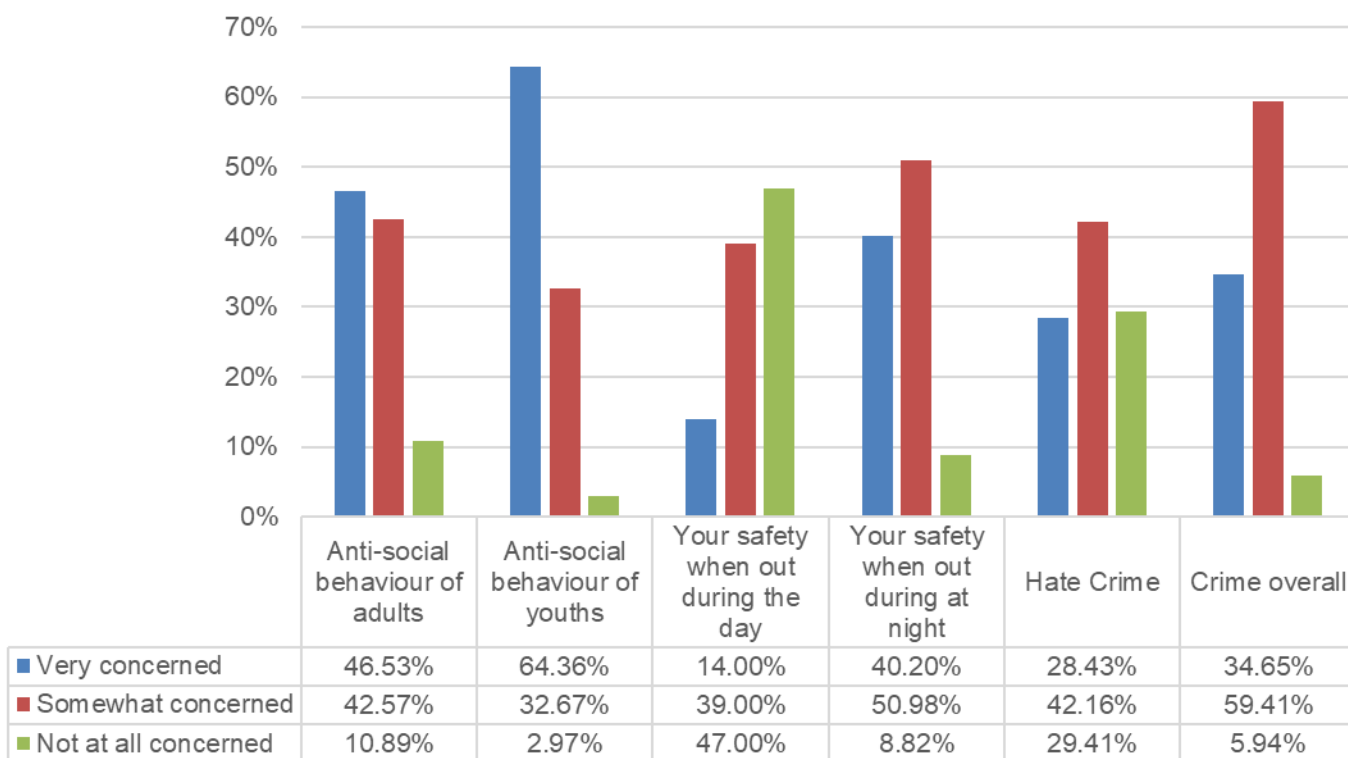
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Q8. Do you believe that the number of incidents of the following has increased, decreased or stayed the same over the last 12 months?



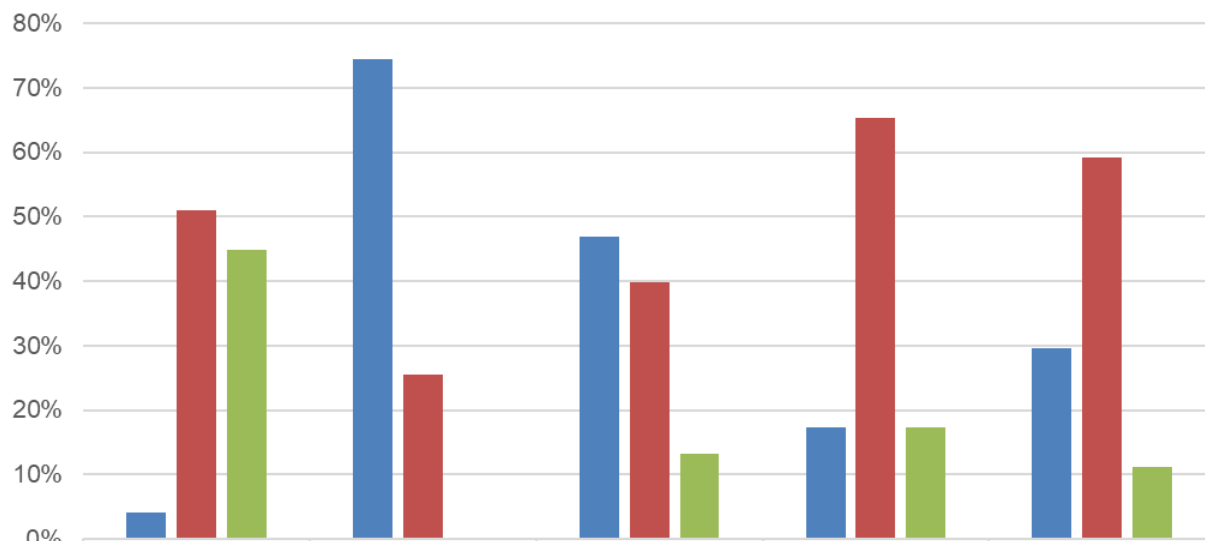
Q9. How concerned are you about the following?



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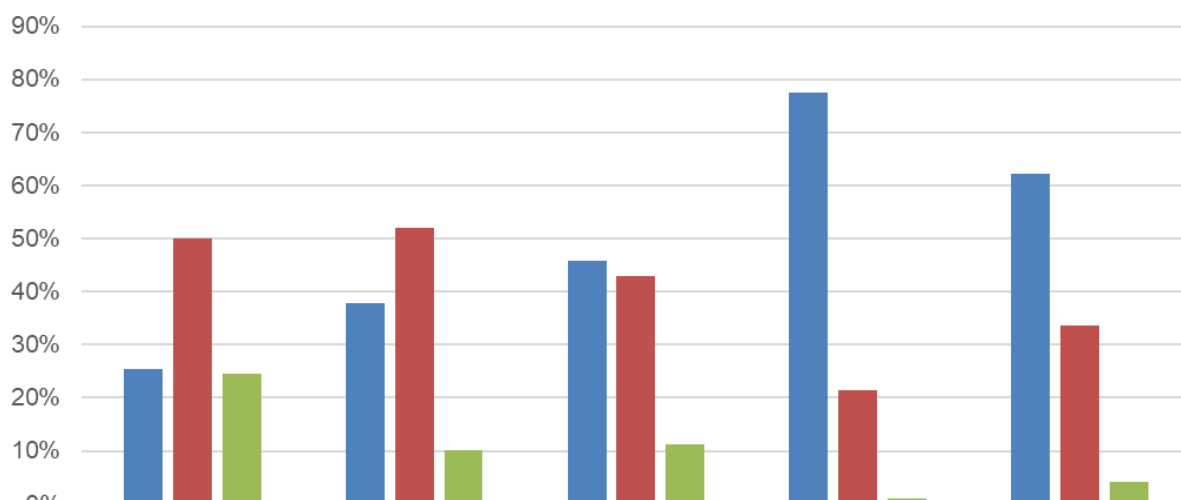
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Q10. How much of a problem do you feel the following incidents are in Darlington?



	Abandoned vehicles	Anti-Social behaviour	Anti-Social parking	Begging	Burglary
Big problem	4.08%	74.49%	46.94%	17.35%	29.59%
Slight problem	51.02%	25.51%	39.80%	65.31%	59.18%
Not a problem	44.90%	0.00%	13.27%	17.35%	11.22%

Q10. How much of a problem do you feel the following incidents are in Darlington?

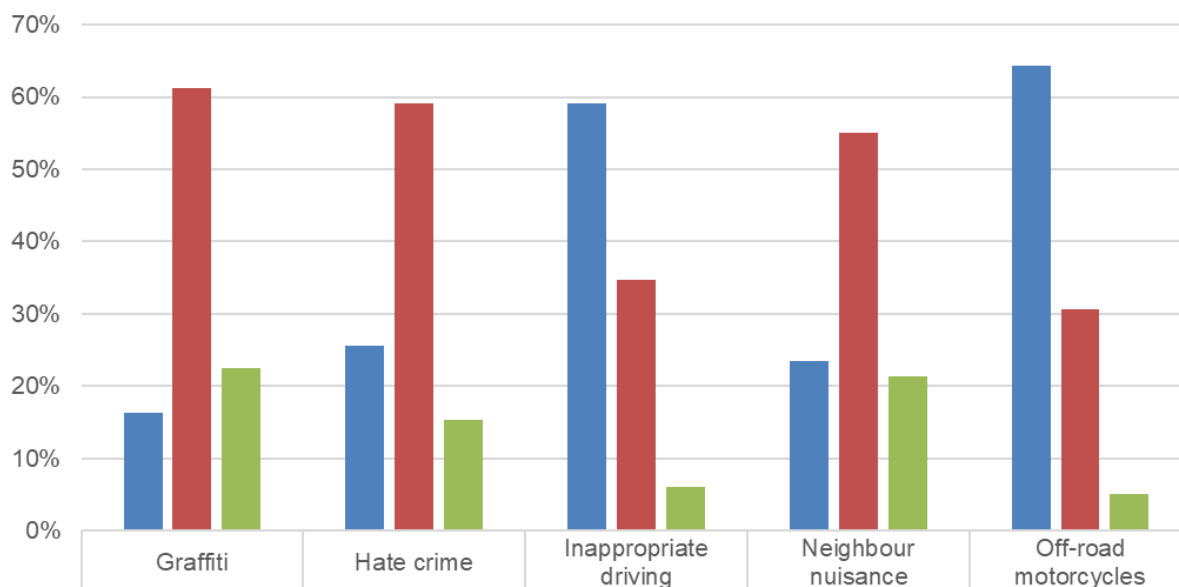


	Child exploitation	Dog fouling	Domestic abuse	Drug dealing & Drug substance misuse	Fly tipping & littering
Big problem	25.51%	37.76%	45.92%	77.55%	62.24%
Slight problem	50.00%	52.04%	42.86%	21.43%	33.67%
Not a problem	24.49%	10.20%	11.22%	1.02%	4.08%

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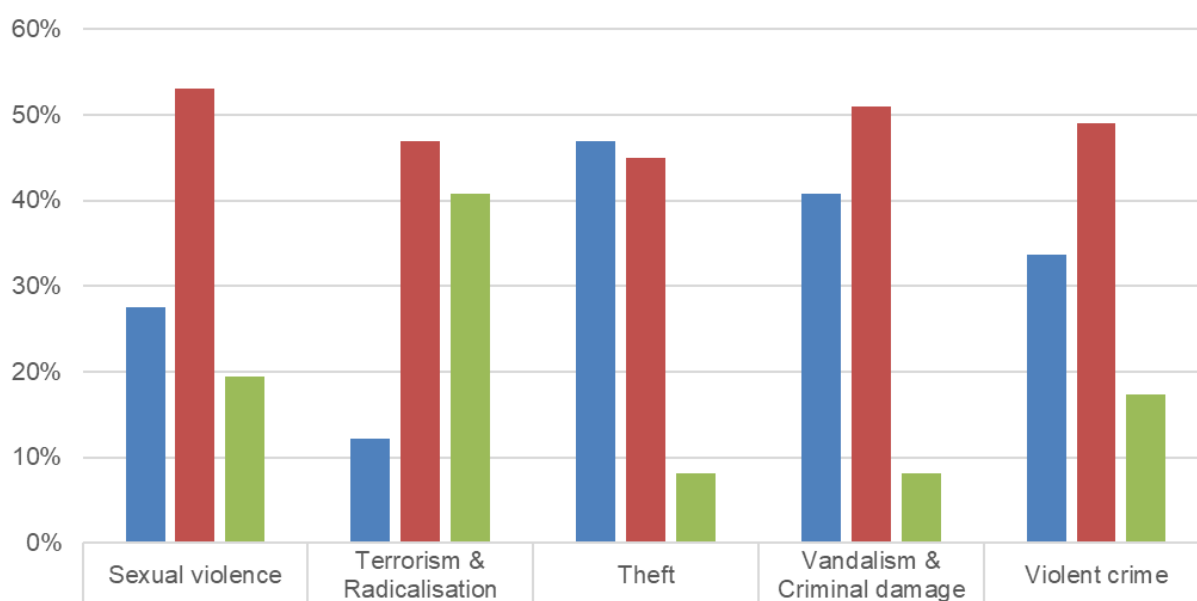
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Q10. How much of a problem do you feel the following incidents are in Darlington?



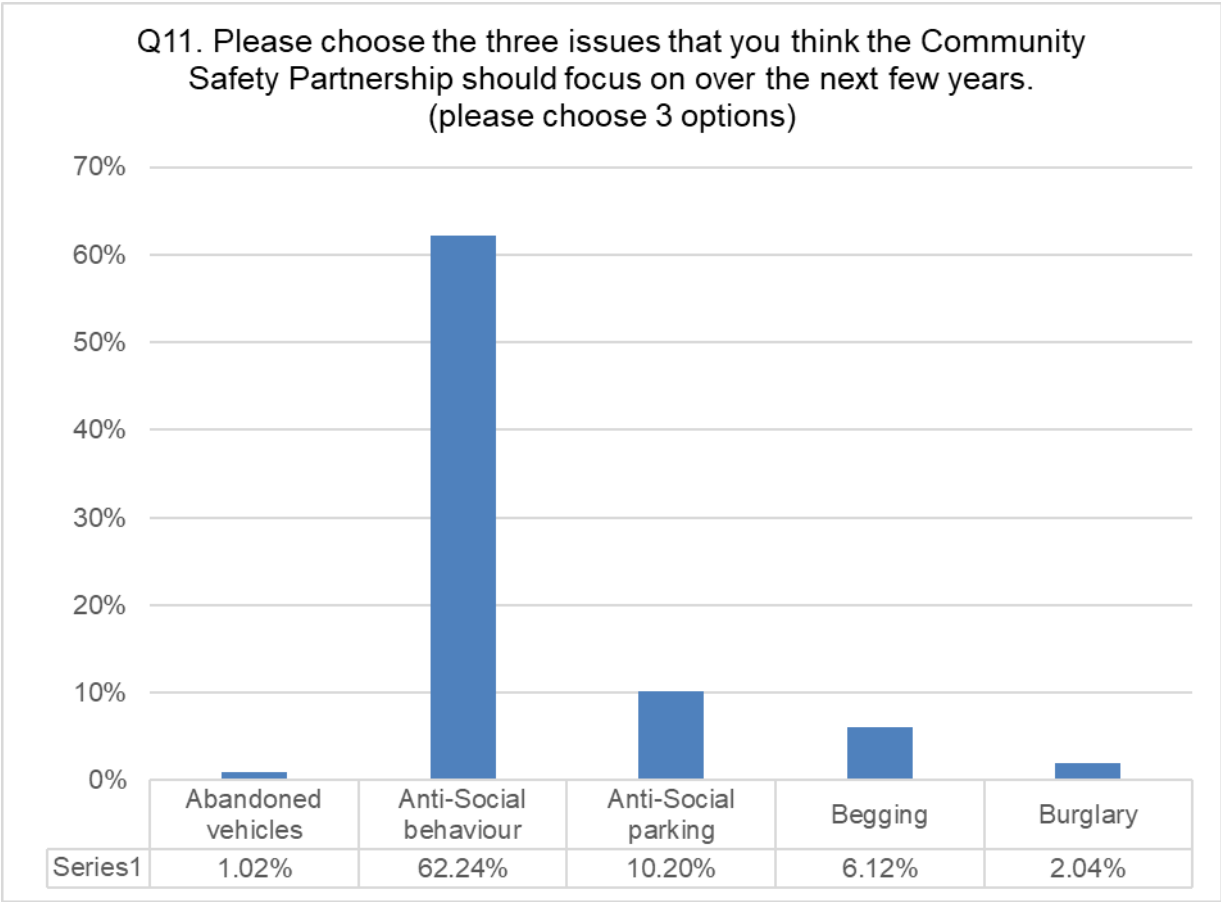
Big problem	16.33%	25.51%	59.18%	23.47%	64.29%
Slight problem	61.22%	59.18%	34.69%	55.10%	30.61%
Not a problem	22.45%	15.31%	6.12%	21.43%	5.10%

Q10. How much of a problem do you feel the following incidents are in Darlington?

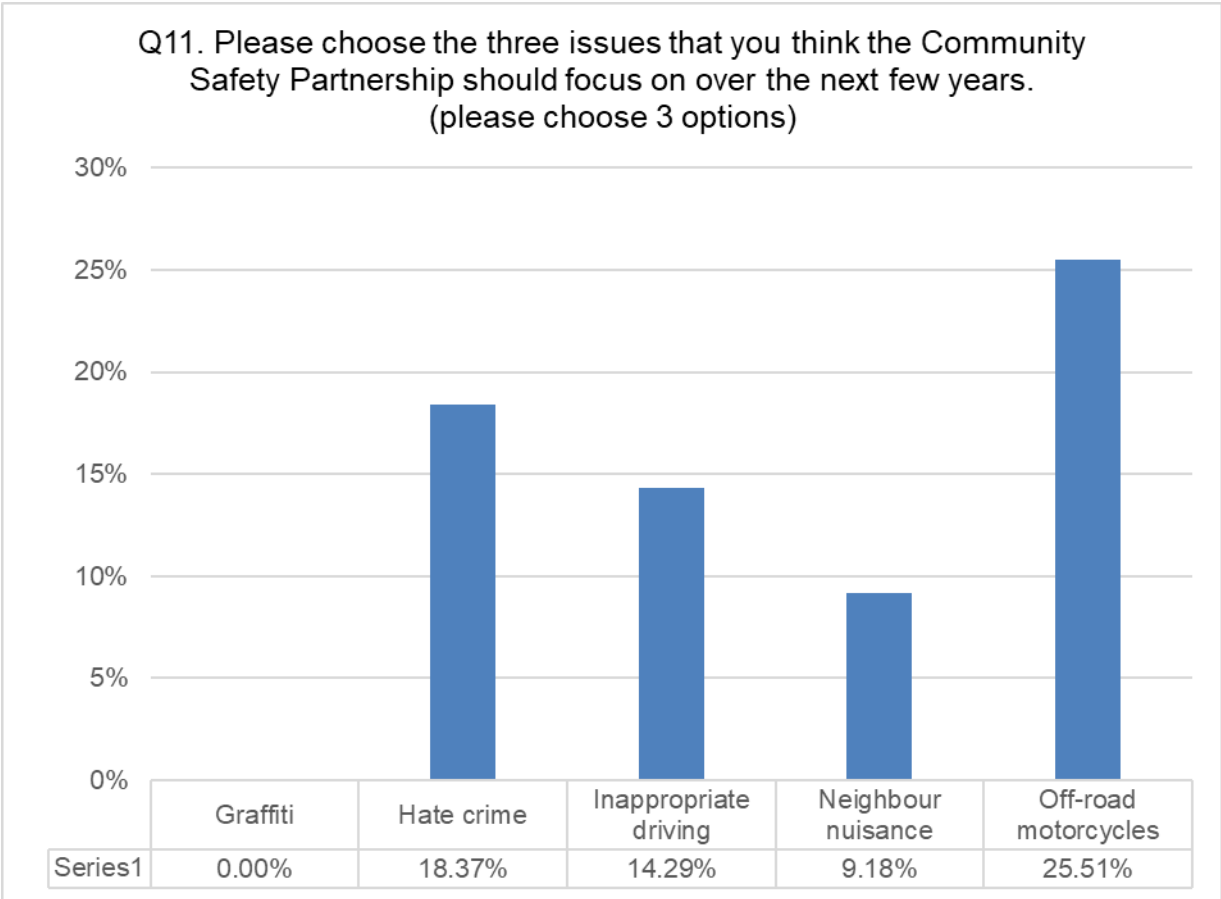
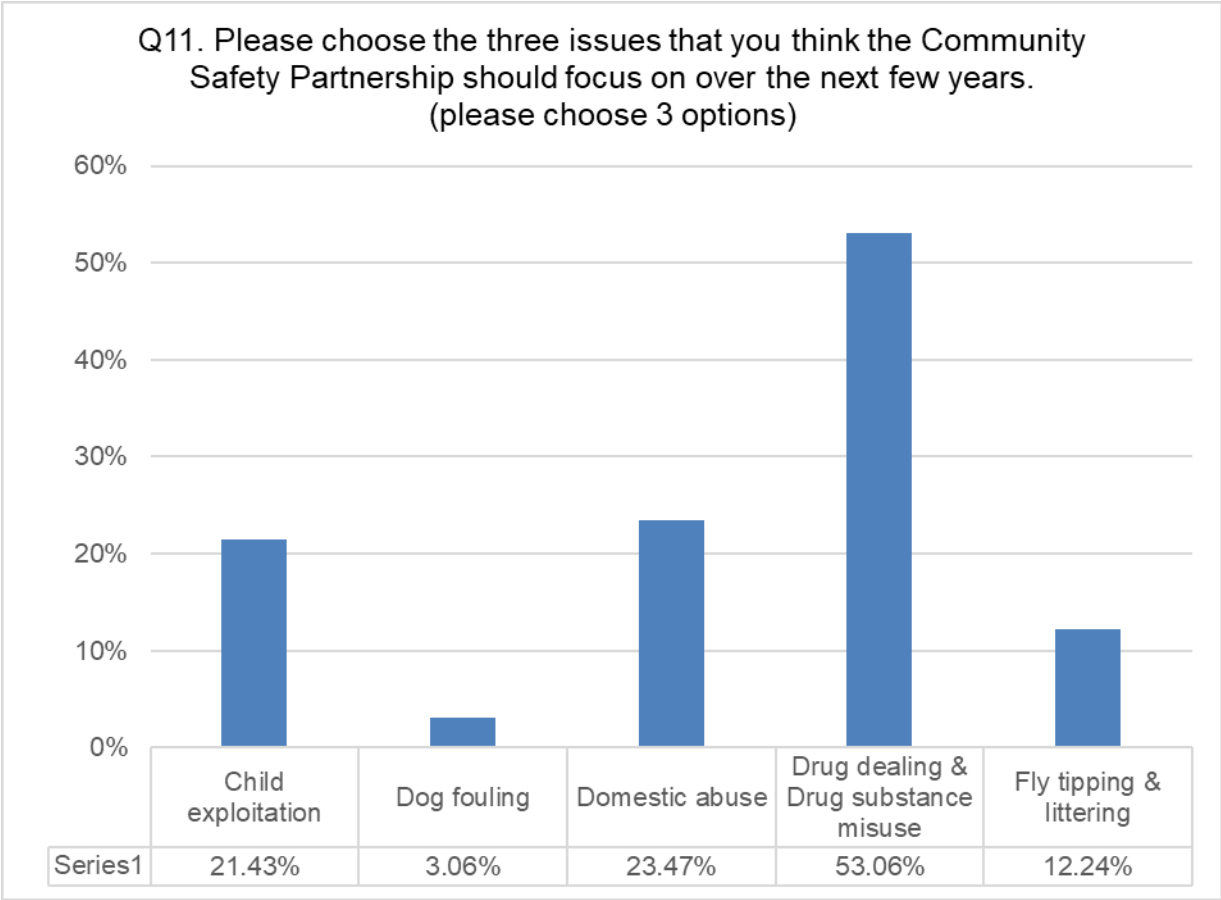


Big problem	27.55%	12.24%	46.94%	40.82%	33.67%
Slight problem	53.06%	46.94%	44.90%	51.02%	48.98%
Not a problem	19.39%	40.82%	8.16%	8.16%	17.35%

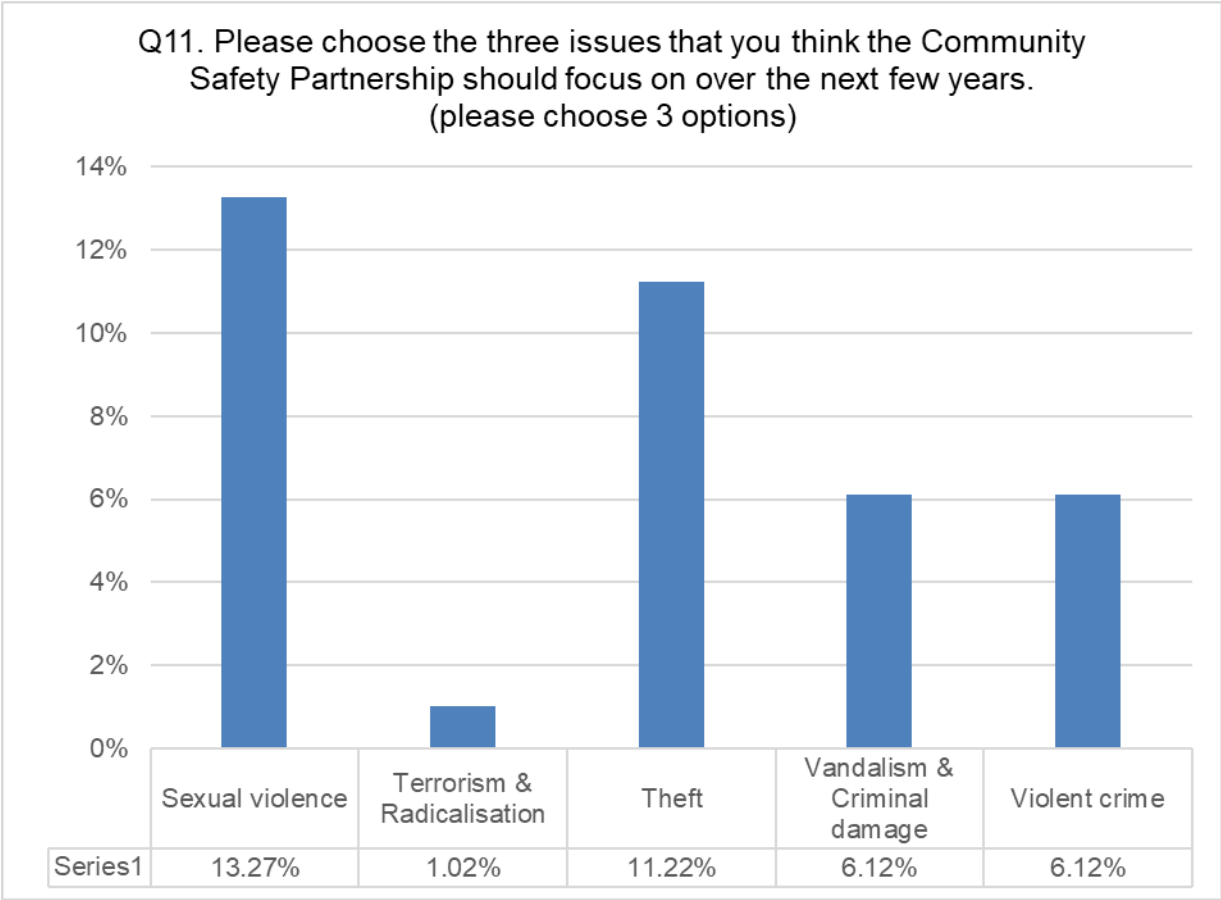
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Q12. To help us understand your choice to Q10 please add any comments as to why you made that choice.

Summary of written responses

Abandoned vehicles

Mentioned as a recurring localised problem (e.g., Cleveland Terrace), primarily framed as a persistent nuisance that residents “regularly” encounter rather than as a borough-wide issue.

Anti-Social behaviour

By far one of the most frequently discussed themes. Respondents describe rising youth-related ASB in the town centre and neighbourhoods (noise, rowdiness, intimidation), often linked to drug use and to groups on e-/off-road bikes. People report avoiding parks/play areas and feeling less safe, and many perceive limited visible enforcement or consequences. A few comments connect ASB with broader social tensions and a decline in civility.

Anti-Social parking

Common concerns include pavement/grass-verge parking (blocking wheelchair/pushchair access), driveways obstructed near schools, and hazardous parking around busy junctions—repeatedly citing Yarm Road and nearby shops/takeaways. There’s frustration about disregard for restrictions and the risk this creates for pedestrians forced into the carriageway.

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Begging

Visible in the town centre and outside supermarkets, with some reports of aggressive behaviour. Several comments suggest an apparent increase and note that not all individuals who beg are necessarily homeless; overall, respondents say it affects how safe and welcoming the centre feels.

Burglary

A small number of comments, but they highlight repeat victimisation (e.g., being burgled multiple times) and the lasting anxiety it creates.

Child exploitation

Strong concern about county lines and sexual exploitation (including financially motivated forms). Respondents stress the severe, long-term trauma on victims, call for earlier prevention/Early Help, and emphasise that harm is often hidden yet life-changing for children and families.

Dog fouling

Limited but pointed feedback that enforcement feels inconsistent (e.g., “not policed” alongside smokeless zones). The emphasis is on hygiene, neighbourhood pride, and the need for routine action.

Domestic abuse

Repeatedly described as under-reported and insufficiently addressed across agencies. Comments say women and children are particularly affected; repeat offending persists despite safeguarding tools (e.g., MARAC/Clare’s Law). Suggestions include keeping survivors safely in their homes, better multi-agency understanding of coercive control, perpetrator programmes, and improved police/judicial responses.

Drug dealing & drug substance misuse

Another major theme. Respondents report open street dealing, a pervasive smell of cannabis, and activity in both the town centre and residential areas. They link drugs to theft, begging, violence and ASB; several mention delivery via e-bikes/quad bikes (“ORB”), with a belief that reports rarely lead to action. Many say the problem drives fear, damages local pride/economy, and erodes community standards.

Fly-tipping & littering

Frequently observed in alleys, parks, lanes and countryside edges (e.g., Burtree Lane; paths between Carmel Road North and Edinburgh Drive). Residents note daily litter-picking efforts, want tougher penalties and faster clear-ups, and connect cleaner streets to reduced fear of crime and better community morale.

Graffiti

No substantive comments were recorded for this category in the dataset.

Hate crime

Comments reference heightened tensions and intimidation, including the use/misuse of Union and St George’s flags and a perceived rise of far-right activity. People describe an atmosphere that makes some residents (including minorities and others) feel less safe, citing social media as an amplifier and calling for community cohesion and firmer enforcement.

Inappropriate driving

Residents report speeding, red-light running, aggressive/erratic driving, suspected driving under the influence, and road rage. Specific hotspots include Victoria Road and Yarm Road, with requests for measures like

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speed-awareness signs. Several accounts describe intimidating behaviour from drivers of powerful vehicles and fear of serious collisions.

Neighbour nuisance

Accounts focus on loud/abusive behaviour, persistent disorder and nearby “drug houses” that attract associated problems. There’s frustration about response—some feel patterns aren’t recorded or acted upon—leaving neighbours feeling trapped and unsafe in their own streets.

Off-road motorcycles

E-bikes/quad bikes feature heavily: riding at speed on roads, pavements and in parks; often unlit, unregistered and with faces covered. People fear a serious injury is inevitable and link this behaviour to drug delivery and wider ASB. A few propose designated/supervised areas for riding to reduce offending and improve safety.

Sexual violence

Comments stress the severe, long-term trauma to victims and under-reporting due to low confidence in outcomes. Some cite areas that feel unsafe for women; others link sexual violence with substance misuse and call for earlier prevention, better survivor support and stronger justice outcomes.

Terrorism & radicalisation

A small number of remarks caution against rising political tensions and “mob violence,” urging proactive community safeguarding and education to prevent escalation.

Theft

Perceived as rising—especially shoplifting—with stolen goods openly offered in public places. Respondents want stronger protection for businesses and consequences for offenders, and frequently link acquisitive crime to substance misuse.

Vandalism & criminal damage

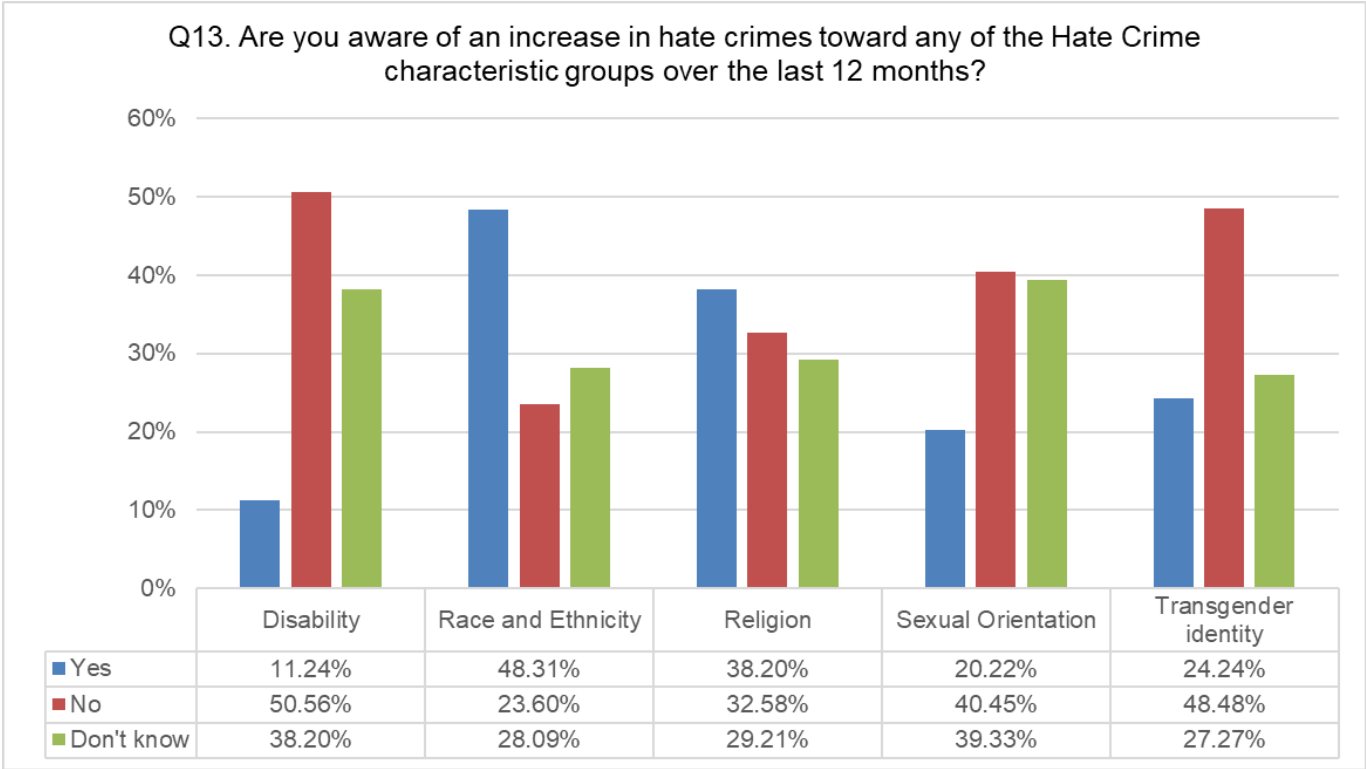
Described as “mindless” damage, including attacks on play areas and car damage. Many frame it as a quality-of-life issue that raises fear and fuels further ASB unless addressed quickly and consistently.

Violent crime

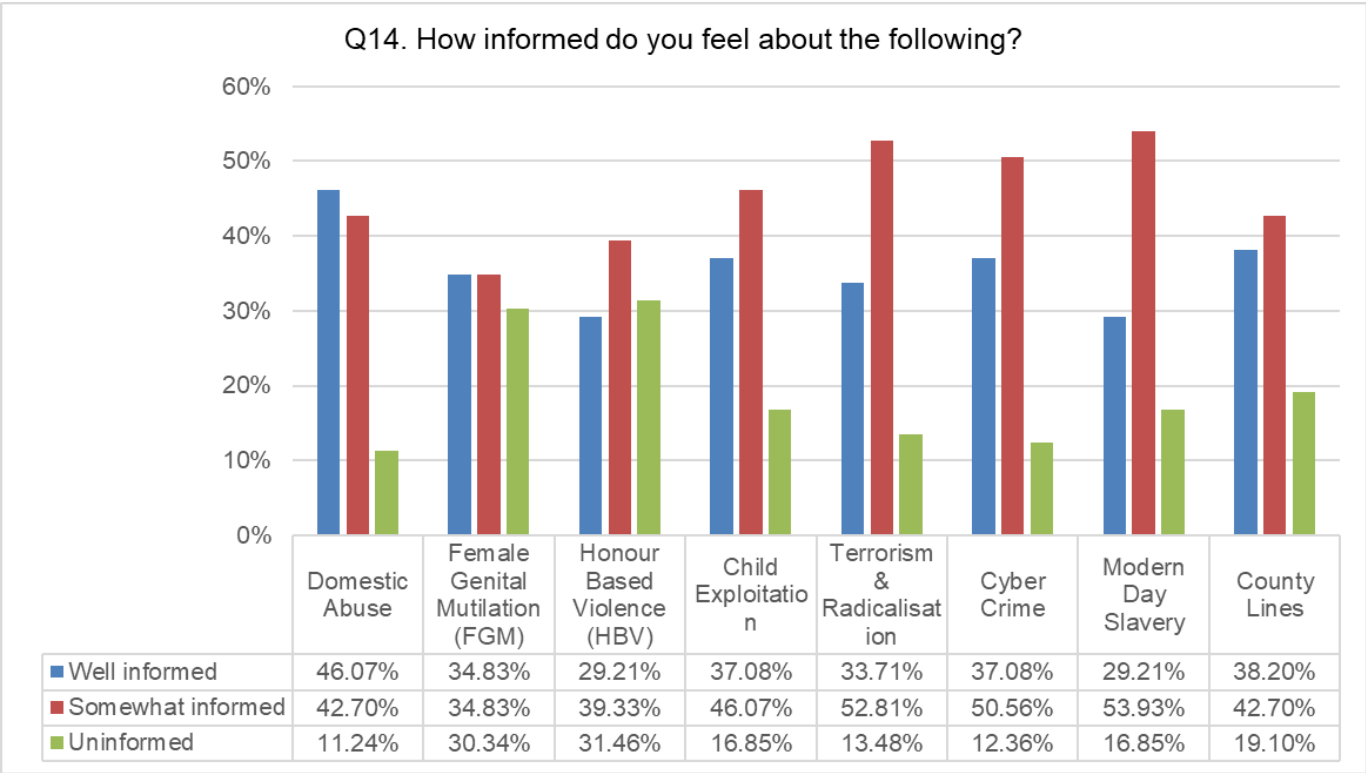
A minority of but serious comments point to threats from intoxicated individuals and groups, deteriorating civility/tolerance, and people avoiding nights out due to fear. Several view violent crime as intertwined with drugs and ASB and want more visible, confident enforcement.

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The results reported on this page are from 28th October 2025 onwards (the survey ran between 13th October and 25th November 2025). An error was made on the phraseology of this question when the survey was first launched and therefore only the data for the updated question is included.



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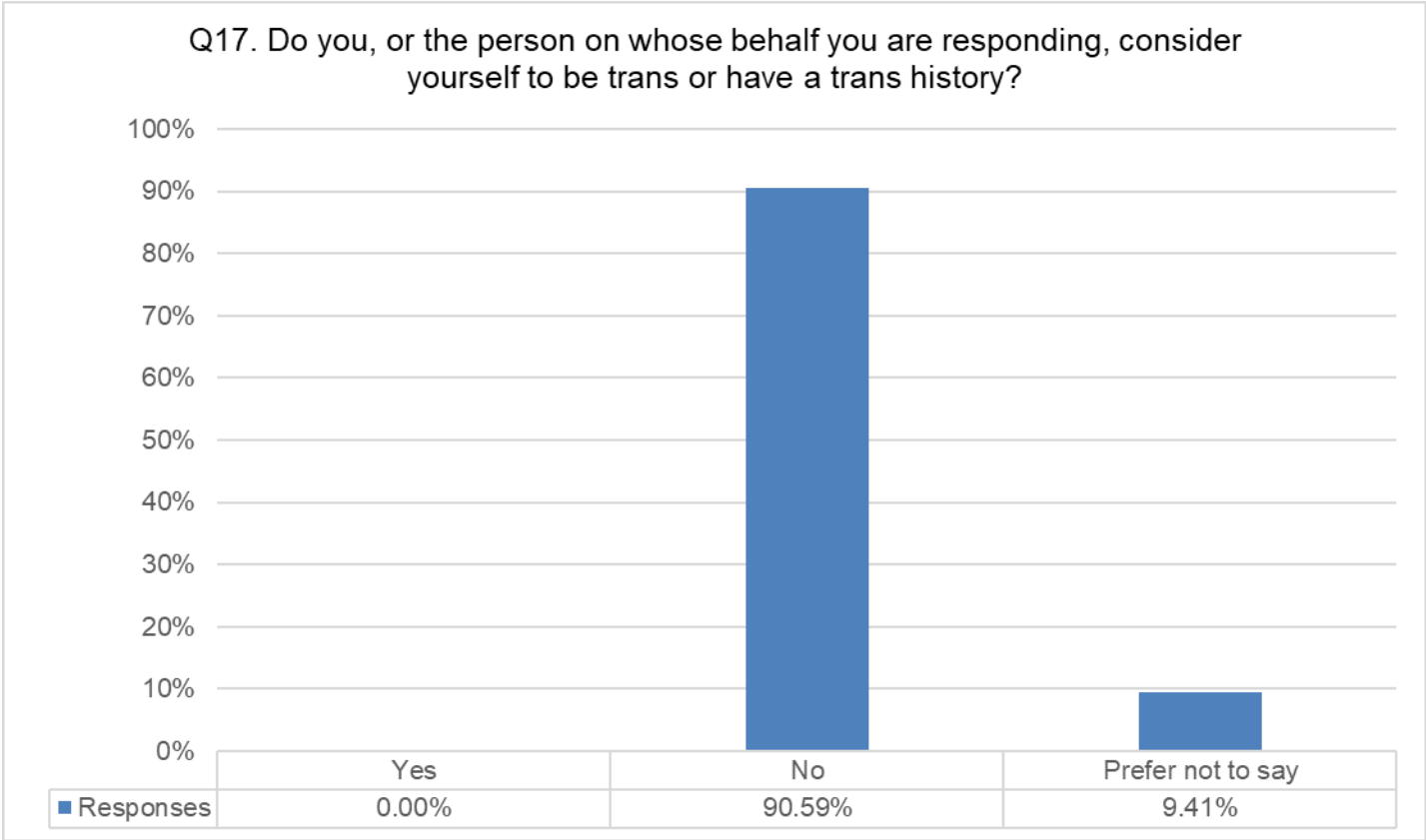
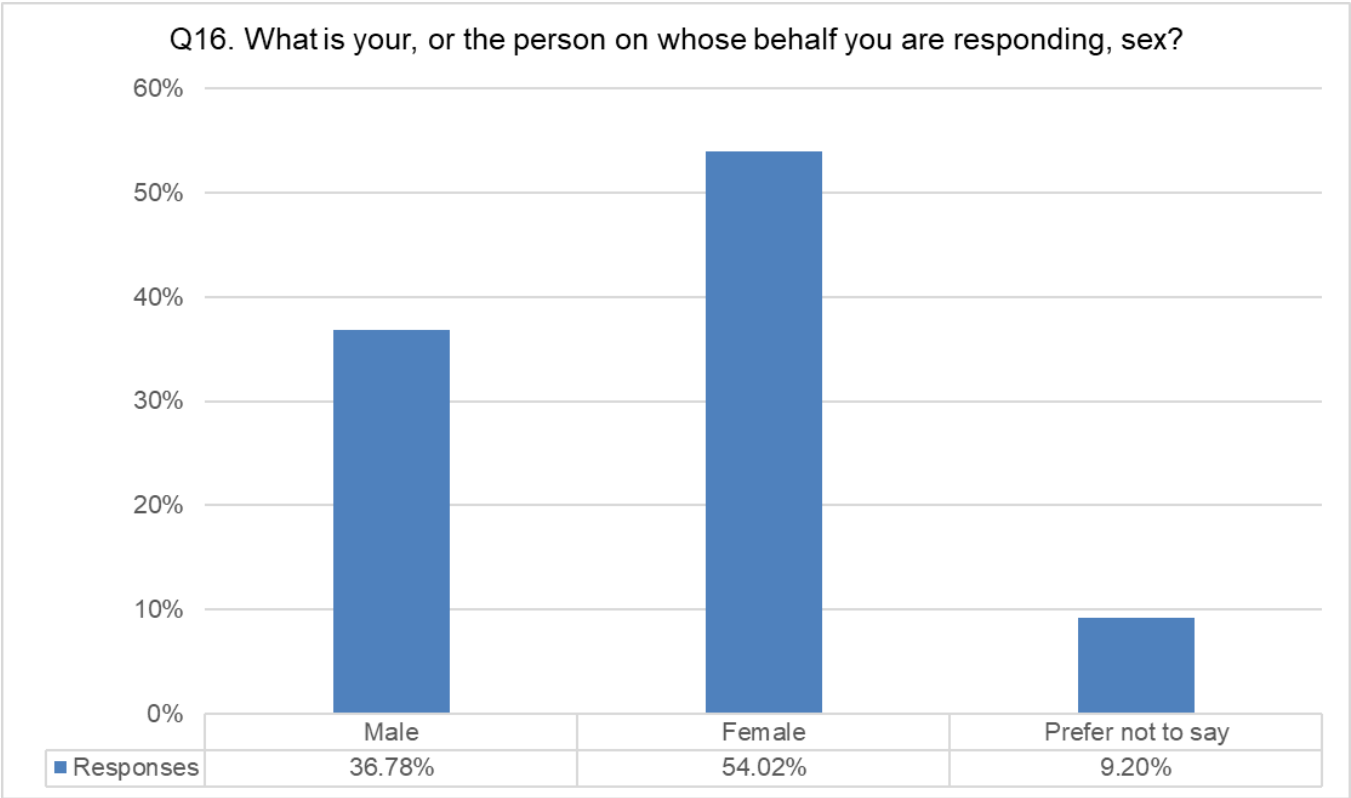
Q15. Please add any comments you have with regards to community safety.

Summary of written responses

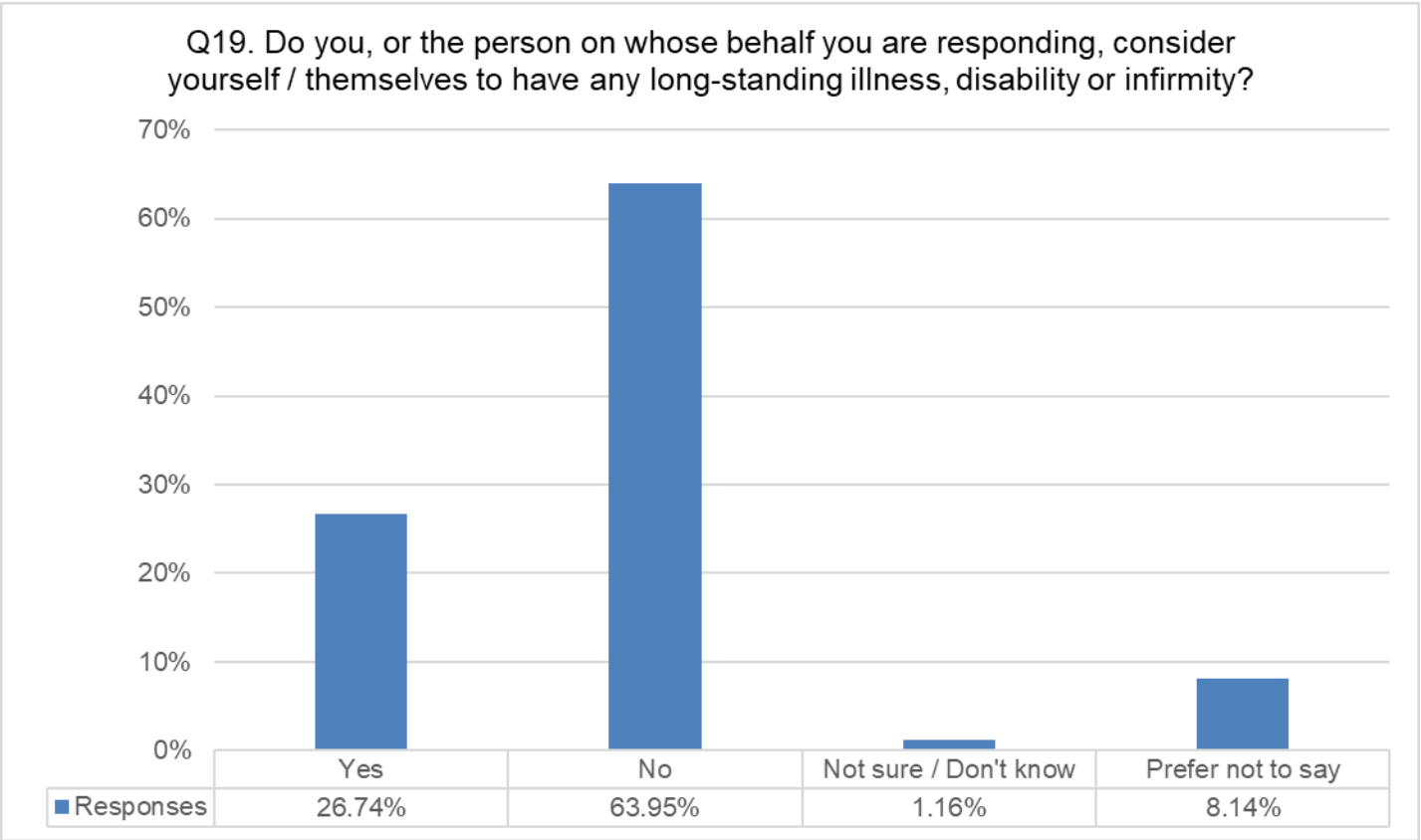
Across the responses, many residents expressed growing concern about antisocial behaviour, visible drug dealing, motorbikes and e-scooters being used dangerously, pavement parking, and a general decline in feelings of safety. A repeated theme was frustration with limited police visibility, under-resourcing, and slow responses to reports of crime or disorder. Several people described intimidation in specific areas—including Northgate, the Dene, and town parks—and reported that unmanaged HMOs, poor landlord practice, and high-turnover rentals were contributing to disorder. Others noted that community pride has fallen, littering has increased, and the town feels less cohesive and less caring than in previous years.

Another strong theme centred on community cohesion and the need for collective action, better education, early intervention, and more support for young people before they become involved in criminal activity. Suggestions included neighbourhood watch schemes, stronger role-modelling, and the importance of engaging the public and demonstrating how their input is used. While many comments were critical and highlighted fear or frustration, a smaller but notable group expressed appreciation for the efforts of local authorities and police, emphasising that negative perceptions can be shaped by media rather than lived experience. Overall, the responses show a community that wants greater enforcement, better communication, and more visible action on the issues that most affect daily life.

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