



for tackling poverty in Glasgow

Report of Findings:

Flash Survey 2 | May 2014 FINAL

Introduction

This report presents the findings of the second survey about poverty designed by a group of third sector and housing organisations. 15 went on to invite or support people using their service to complete the survey during February 2014. With thanks, those organisations were:

- Action for Children
- Aspire
- Cope Scotland
- Crossreach (Daisy Chain Project)
- Geeza Break
- Glasgow Council on Alcohol: East CASS
- Glasgow Homelessness Network
- Glasgow Housing Association
- Glasgow East Women's Aid
- Loretto Care
- Scottish Refugee Council
- Shelter Scotland
- Southside Housing Association
- Thenue Housing Association
- The Spark (Scottish Marriage Care)

502 surveys were returned. The use of a 'unique identifier' ensured that the responses represented the views of different people.

What is the Survey for?

Glasgow has a vision that poverty is made a thing of the past. A group of people who either work or live with poverty have come together to try to make that happen. While the *Poverty Leadership Panel* is leading the action on poverty, it is for *everyone* who lives, works, learns or uses services in Glasgow. 'All in..!' is the participation strand of this work.

Involving People living with Poverty

The Poverty Leadership Panel wants people living with poverty to be at the heart of tackling it. This is being done in 3 stages:

- Experts & Advisors** *(from Feb 2013)*
Participation on the Leadership Panel, and on its satellite working groups, provides a 'real time' advisory role.
- Targeted People** *(from Sept 2013)*
Third sector and housing organisations collaborating to bring forward the views of people using their services. The method is a common 'flash' survey undertaken twice a year.
- Targeted Places** *(from April 2014)*
Creating a structure for local people to take the lead. Community workshops will be facilitated in key communities, creating an open space for local people to determine priorities and actions.

The Findings

For this survey we were interested in some housing matters; the decisions we make when choosing what to spend our money on and our attitudes to poverty and discrimination.

Table 1: who participated in the survey?

Gender	people	%
Female	312	62
Male	156	31
Not answered	34	7
Total	502	100

1. We asked people:

Tell us about your current accommodation:

Table 2:

	people	%	rating
I rent my home from a Housing Association	299	60	1
I'm currently in temporary/ supported accommodation	51	10	2
Own my own home (with mortgage)	41	8	3
Rent from a private landlord	31	6	4
Own my own home (no mortgage)	23	5	5
Live at home with my parents	17	3	6
Staying with other family or friends	7	1	7
I am homeless/have nowhere to live	4	1	8
I partly own my home (shared ownership scheme)	2	0.5	9
No answer	27	5	-

2. And we also asked:

Are there children under 16 living with you?

Table 3:

	people	%	rating
No	302	60	1
Yes	166	33	2
No answer	34	7	-

3. Satisfaction with housing:

We asked whether you are satisfied with your current housing:

Table 4:

	people	%	rating
Yes	282	56	1
No	140	28	2
Not sure	35	7	3
No answer	45	9	-

4. Reasons for not being satisfied:

28% of people were not satisfied due to either the house or the local area where they lived.

- Problems with the **house I live in**

Table 5:

	people	rating
It needs repairs	63	1
It needs decoration	62	2
It's too small	57	3
I want my own place	49	4
It's too expensive	39	5
I need furniture or furnishings	26	6
It needs adapted to meet my needs	22	7
It's too big	22	7=
I have problems with my landlord	14	9
Relationships have broken down	13	10
I am homeless/ have nowhere to stay	7	11
Other	20	-

Some other reasons for not being satisfied with the house I live in:

"Electric heating is cold and expensive."

"Damp for 17 years."

"Stairs made me sick."

"Don't want to lose my neighbours, but they are the only reason to stay here."

"Damp and cold. Very difficult to heat and expensive."

"On steep hill, semi-rural, have a walker. Not near facilities, can only afford taxis twice a week. Depressed, lonely and isolated."

- Problems with *the local area*

Table 6:

	people	rating
Doesn't feel safe outside	50	1
The housing or buildings need improved	49	2
Not enough children's areas	45	3
Too far away from family or friends	45	3=
I have problems with my neighbours	38	5
Not enough shops	33	6
Not enough green space	24	7
I'm experiencing abuse or threats	20	8
There are not enough houses	17	9
There are too many houses	12	10
Too far from children's school	10	11
Other	26	-

Some other reasons for not being satisfied with the local area:

"Area looks rundown."

"No garden area."

"Properties are not safe at all."

"Too much rubbish lying about, bins overflowing."

"To make it better get rid of drug dealers and users and trouble makers..."

"Doesn't feel safe late at night."

"Street very dirty and full of dog waste – horrible!"

"Challenging behaviour from non-dependent child."

"We are overcrowded!"

"Too far away from college and work."

5. We wanted to know whether people had difficulty with their housing costs:

At the moment, are your housing costs paid by housing benefit (including your rent or mortgage or council tax)?

Table 7:

	people	%	rating
Housing Benefit covers all my housing costs	174	35	1
I pay <i>all</i> my own housing costs	120	24	2
I pay some costs	96	19	3
Not sure	32	6	-
No answer	45	9	-

Do you ever have difficulty paying your housing costs (if you pay some or all of them)?

Table 8:

	people	%	rating
No	79	37	1
Sometimes	62	29	2
Yes	58	27	3
No answer	45	21	-

Housing & the local area:

- Where people were not satisfied with their housing, this was mostly to do with repairs and decoration
- Where people were not satisfied with the local area, this was mostly around feelings of safety, condition of buildings and lack of play areas for children
- At least 43% of people taking part in the survey are responsible for paying some or all of their housing costs. 56% experienced difficulty meeting their housing costs some or all of the time.

6. Hard Decisions:

When you don't have enough money to pay for everything you need, what things **are you most likely to do without?**

Table 9:	people	rating
Leisure or entertainment	295	1
Clothing	254	2
Getting together with friends or family	230	3
Travel or Transport	156	4
Food	148	5
Other things that I enjoy (e.g. cigarettes or alcohol)	141	6
Fuel Bills (heating and lighting my home)	121	7
Money I owe companies (e.g. loans or store cards)	98	8
Money I owe people (e.g. friends or family)	90	9
Children's activities (e.g. school trips or hobbies)	65	10
Pet Costs	32	11
Childcare Costs	13	12
Other	11	-

When deciding how to make best use of the money they have available, people:

- Protect spending in relation to children (i.e. childcare, children's activities);
- Are more likely to protect spending in relation to clothing, food and fuel if they do have dependent children; *and*
- Largely avoid spending money on leisure activities and seeing friends

7. Attitudes...

We asked which of the following statements is closest to your views on why some people are living in poverty:

Table 10:	people	%	rating
Because of injustice in society	202	40	1
It's an inevitable part of modern life	110	22	2
Because they have been unlucky	74	15	3
Because of laziness or lack of willpower	44	9	4
Something else	37	7	-
No answer	45	9	-

People gave some other reasons for why some people are living in poverty:

"Combination of all 4 statements [above]."

"Greedy society – people who have don't share it with others who don't."

"Punitive government policies."

"Education, opportunities and appropriate examples set by those around them."

"A mixture of circumstances in life - can happen to anyone."

"Because there are not so many jobs."

"Family Breakdown."

"Not enough jobs."

"The poor are kept down by middle and upper classes."

"Lost heart in trying to improve their life."

"Because we have created an unequal society."