
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	8 March 2022
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Director of Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/26/22/WR
Contact Officer:	William Rice, Team Leader, Community Safety & Resilience	Contact No:	Ext: 4245
Subject:	Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety Survey – Updated Headline Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with the headline outturns from the Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety Survey and set out the next steps in respect of progressing outcomes from the survey.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In April 2021 The Inverclyde Council tasked Officers with carrying out a consultation to determine if women and girls perceive any safety impediment in using Inverclyde public paths, parks and cycle ways and, if so, how any identified issues may be addressed.
- 2.2 The Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development convened a short-life working group to identify the most appropriate method for consultation. The working group developed a questionnaire to allow women's perceptions, views and experiences to be understood. It was agreed the Women's Forum would be the most appropriate oversight group.
- 2.3 The initial public questionnaire was published in September 2021 with results subject to an initial review by the Community Safety Partnership Data Analyst. Following further consideration, the Women's Forum sought to supplement the survey with the views of girls and young women aged 17 or younger and the survey was re-opened for further submissions between 26th January – 20th February 2022 and promoted through the Secondary Schools.
- 2.4 The range and number of consultation responses and the associated degree of relevance of comments received give confidence that the views reflected have an appropriate degree of validity and are appropriate for consideration in informing and directing responsive decision making.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Committee are asked to -

- Note the updated headline results of the public survey detailed at Section 6.0 and in appendix 2;
- endorse the strategic approach to developing outcomes from the public survey as set out in Section 7.0;
- remit continued oversight of delivery of the survey outcomes to the Women's Forum; and,
- accept a full report upon completion of the analysis of all survey results.

Ruth Binks
Director of Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its meeting of 22nd April 2021 The Inverclyde Council tasked Officers with carrying out a consultation to determine if women and girls perceive any safety impediment in using Inverclyde public paths, parks and cycle ways and, if so, how any identified issues may be addressed.
- 4.2 A questionnaire on Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety Survey was developed and was publicly available throughout September 2021, with promotion undertaken by the Corporate Communications Team and by the Community Safety & Resilience Team to maximise awareness within the public realm and across Services, organisations, schools and community based groups. A copy of the Survey is included at appendix 1 for ease of reference.
- 4.3 The survey comprised of sixteen questions, seven of which had preset choice options, two of which allowed respondents to list their preferences and seven which allowed respondents to contextualise their views and experiences using free text. The survey was structured to establish if there were gender related concerns, to improve our understanding of perceptions and experiences which affect or limit women undertaking activity in public space and assist us in identifying areas of our services, communities and public spaces which could be improved.
- 4.4 The supplementary survey for the 17 and younger age group was taken forward through direct promotion within our Secondary Schools. The results of the supplementary survey have been factored into the previous survey results and an updated headline report produced.

5.0 THE ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The Community Safety Partnership Data Analyst carried out an initial interrogation of the raw survey data to ensure that responses were relevant, that the information was robust and to aid development of an analysis methodology.
- 5.2 There were 1,309 respondents to the survey. Overall the respondents were 72% Female; 26% Male and 2% who preferred not to disclose a gender. However, the age group analysis reveals that responses within the 17 or younger age group has a disproportionate gender split, with 53% Female and 47% Male. If this age grouping is removed, the gender split across the 18-60+ groupings is 94% Female and 6% Male. Further analysis will be required to determine the validity of the high number of Male responses within the 17 or younger age group. Where comments received within this group are relevant to the survey they will be included in the full results. All responses subsequently presented in this report relate to the full 1,309 responses.
- 5.3 The seven preset choice based questions include an age and gender based question and those two questions have been used throughout the analysis to aid our understanding of gender and age based issues. All seven of the preset choice based questions are reported in a table format illustrating the age and gender based positions where relevant. The two questions which allowed respondents to state their preferences in respect of how they undertake activities and whether or not there is a club based approach are set out in a table format.
- 5.4 The seven questions which provided a free text response have provided almost 4,000 individual comments relating to over 900 different topics and these are being analysed on a contextualised and linked basis to allow us to better understand the perceptions, views and experiences of respondents. These responses have been reported in a narrative format to aid understanding and ensure the contextualised capture and translation of perceptions, views and experiences.

6.0 THE HEADLINE RESULTS

- 6.1 The results from the survey are set out at appendix 2. In summary, 72% of respondents identified as female, whilst 26% identified as male and 2% chose not to disclose their gender. The highest number of responses came from a 17 and younger age category with 50% of the

responses, followed by the 40-49 category at 14%.

- 6.2 Almost one third (32%) of respondents said that they had experienced issues related to their gender when taking part in an activity in a public place, whilst almost half (49%) of respondents said that they had been put off undertaking an activity in a public place.
- 6.3 The issues of public lighting, policing, sexualised experiences and fears of physical attack were highly represented across the responses covering experiences, negative issues and areas of work for further improvement. The responses from young people specifically highlight fears of kidnapping, stalking and being followed all linked to concerns about the risk of physical assault.
- 6.4 A common thread across the responses from females of all age groups is harassment and unwanted sexualised attention from males. Responses from younger females highlight that harassment and unwanted sexualised attention largely comes from adult males as opposed to peer group males.
- 6.5 In summary, the survey has been successful in soliciting the views and experiences of women in respect of undertaking activity in public places and confirms that work requires to continue to address gender based issues within our society which disproportionately affect women.

7.0 STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 7.1 The responses received, particularly those from the free text responses, have provided a detailed level of information and work continues on the analysis of the 3,930 comments and 914 topics to group them into the following outcome categories –

Inverclyde Council

- Responsive physical service requests
- Planned physical service requests
- Reprioritisation of existing strategies and plans
- Consideration for inclusion in future strategies and plans

External Agencies

- Provision of information
- Engagement to develop an appropriate response

- 7.2 Initial analysis has identified a number of responses which are outwith the control or direct sphere of influence of Inverclyde Council, but which are worthy of discussion with the relevant agencies to raise awareness of issues and encourage an appropriate response. Examples of these include safety concerns at local sporting venues and safety concerns about the use of train stations. The Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sports Service will engage directly with relevant agencies through existing Community Safety Partnership links and established relationships with community and sports facilities.
- 7.3 The responses within the Inverclyde Council grouping are considered to be in the control or direct sphere of influence of Inverclyde Council. Responsive physical service requests would include responses such as vegetation requiring pruning to improve visibility, lighting repairs, clearing of walked routes, etc. Planned physical service requests would be larger physical investments such as the installation of a lighting network. Those outcomes included within the reprioritisation of existing strategies or inclusion in future strategies groupings relate to policy and strategy work which may be required to illicit societal change towards gender based issues, particularly those which directly affect women undertaking activity in a public place.
- 7.4 Service specific reports will be developed from the outcome categories to highlight the reported issues to the relevant Services. These reports will act as the initial point of discussion with Services to allow those Services to consider the issues highlighted; to develop responses at a Service delivery level and to consider the responses at a policy level.
- 7.5 The Participatory Budgeting process offers an opportunity for Services to be shaped utilising the survey results on a 'you told us, we did' basis and the results from the survey will be made available to aid decision making as the Participatory Budgeting process is progressed.

7.6 It is proposed that the Women’s Forum continue to have oversight of the outcomes from the survey and that a full survey outcome report will be presented to the Education & Communities Committee following full analysis of the responses and comments.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance

No financial implications noted at this time.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

8.2 Legal

No Legal implications identified at this time.

8.3 Human Resources

No Human Resources implications identified at this time.

8.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO

9.0 Repopulation

No impact on repopulation.

10.0 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Relevant services and agencies will be engaged following completion of analysis of responses.

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Inverclyde Women's Forum. Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety – Headline Report. 20th October 2021

Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety Survey

Inverclyde is an area with an abundance of green public space, public paths and cycleways, which are used by residents of all ages to undertake a great range of activities, from walking to the shops, active commuting to work and keeping fit, through to training for sports.

Inverclyde Council is fully committed to the continued improvement of community safety issues, particularly those affecting women and girls, and we have an existing strategy which aims to effect behavioural and attitudinal change; prevent issues from occurring; and, reduce the impact of any issues which do occur. Our strategy challenges the idea that issues which affect women's safety and the attitudes which condone and excuse such issues are inevitable and acceptable within our society.

To determine whether or not women and girls perceive any safety impediment in using Inverclyde's public paths, parks and cycle ways and as part of our commitment to improving community safety and public spaces, Inverclyde Council are undertaking a survey on Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety. The survey results will help us to better understand perceptions and concerns, with the overall aim of ensuring women in Inverclyde can undertake activity freely and openly without issue.

We are seeking the views of women and we invite you to spend 10 minutes of your time completing our short survey.

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The closing date for the survey is 30th September 2021

1. & 2: Age & Gender

Age group	Female	Male	Prefer not to say
Under 18			
18-24			
25-34			
35-44			
45-54			
55-64			
65-74			
75+			

3. Have you ever been put off undertaking an activity in public due to safety concerns?

Yes	
No	

4. What activities have you been put off undertaking due to your personal safety concerns? (please list)

5. What personal safety concerns do you have about undertaking activity in public places?

(free text)

6. Have you ever experienced any issues, specifically related to your gender, whilst undertaking activity in public places?

Yes	
No	

7. If you have experienced issues specifically related to your gender, we would be grateful if you could provide a summary to help us better understand your experience.

(Free text)

8. Thinking of the different activities which you undertake in a public place, what are they and how do you undertake them? (tick one box)

Type of Activity (please list)	Individually/with a friend or family member/ with an informal group/with an organisation or club

9. Inverclyde has a number of activity based clubs and organisations focussed on physical activities. Are you a member of a club or organisation or have you considered joining a club or organisation?

Club/Organisation	Member/Considering Joining

10. Have you experienced any barriers to joining activity based clubs or organisations in Inverclyde? e.g. costs, times, activities, gender issues, etc.

(free text)

11. What time of day do you normally undertake your activities? (please tick no more than 3 options)

Early morning – 6am-8am	
Morning – 8.00-12.00pm	
Lunchtime – 12pm-2pm	
Afternoon – 2pm-5pm	
Early evening – 5pm-7pm	
Evening – 7pm-10pm	
Night – 10pm-6am	

12. Do you undertake activity all year round or seasonally? (please tick all that apply)

Spring	
Summer	
Autumn	
Winter	

- 13. Are there any public places in Inverclyde where you feel unsafe when undertaking activity? (please list location and note times if relevant)**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Anytime</u>	<u>Particular times of day/night</u>

- 14. Many physical improvements have been made to public places in Inverclyde and we would welcome your views on these improvements. Please rate the undernoted improvements where 1 is very effective and 5 not effective.**

Street Lighting Improvements		Improving paths in communities	
Fixed CCTV Cameras		Clearing overgrown paths	
Mobile CCTV Cameras		Creation of dedicated Cycle Paths	
Community Warden presence		National Cycle Network investment	
Other Council staff presence		Increased Police presence	
Pavement improvements		Presence of Street Pastors	

- 15. We are keen to understand the level of awareness of campaigns and legislation which target gender based safety, please note below any which you are aware of.**

e.g. Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women, Police Scotland campaigns, Radio & TV campaigns, Information displayed in public buildings such as GP surgeries and health centres.

(please list all that you are aware of)

(free text)

16. Are there further improvements you would like to see in Inverclyde to improve public safety when undertaking activity in Inverclyde?

(free text)

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.

If you are affected by any of the issues raised in the survey and wish to contact us confidentially for advice or assistance please provide your details and we will arrange for relevant staff or services to contact you.

Name

Contact Details

Further sources of advice, information or support can be found in the 'Related Links' section on our Services for Women webpage at - <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-safety-and-resilience/violence-against-women-including-domestic-abuse/services-for-women>

[Violence Against Women Including Domestic Abuse - Inverclyde Council](#)

[Violence Against Women Multi Agency Partnership - Inverclyde Council](#)

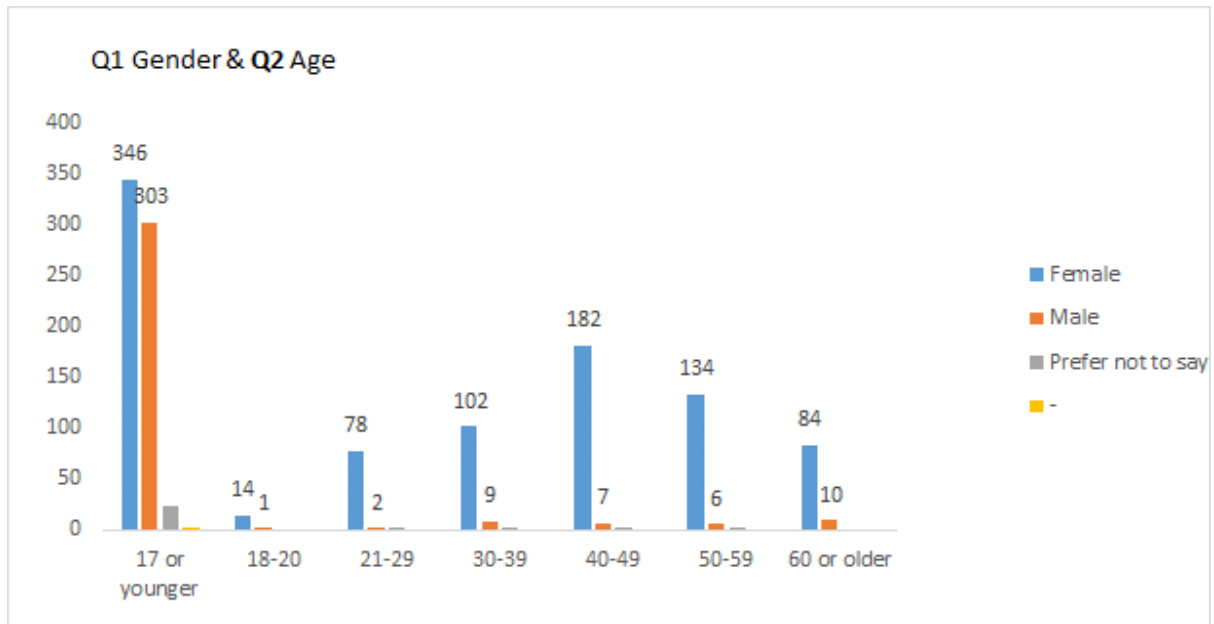
[Domestic Abuse - Inverclyde Council](#)

[Services for Children and Young People - Inverclyde Council](#)

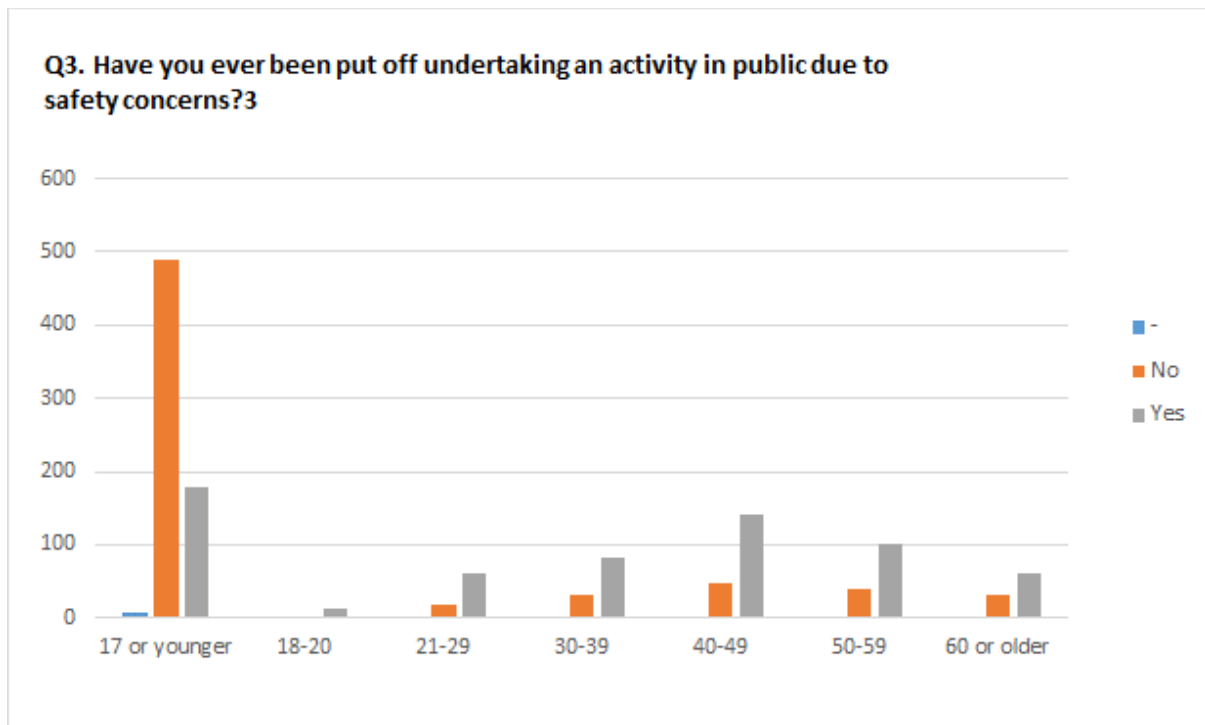
[Adult Support & Protection - Inverclyde Council](#)

End

Questions 1 & 2 – Age & Gender



Total number of responses for Qu. 1 & 2 (1309 for both) illustrated by age grouping and gender



Total number of responses for Qu. 3 (1309) illustrated by age group and by Yes/No/Didn't Answer

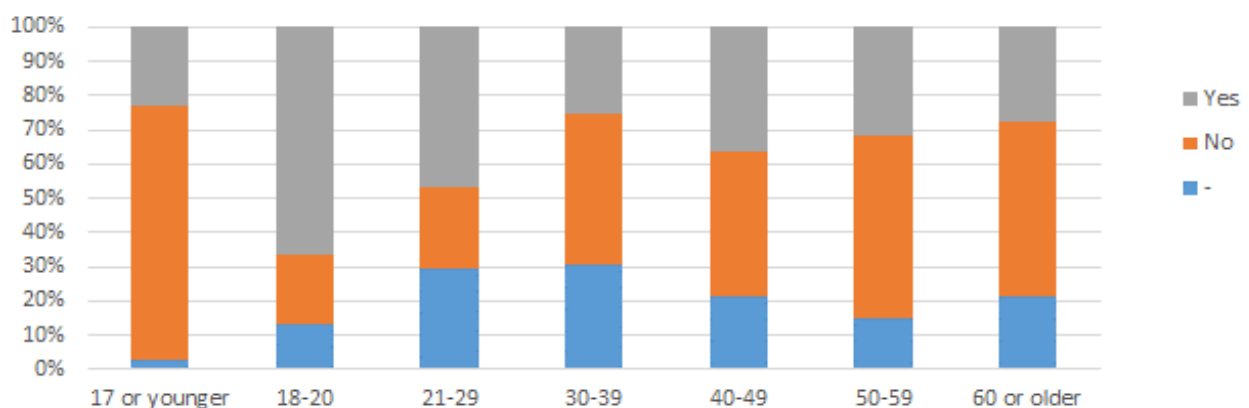
Qu.4 - What activities have you been put off undertaking due to your personal safety concerns? (please list)

One hundred and thirty four different types of response were identified across the 810 responses to this free text question. Further analysis of the 810 responses is required to allow further grouping, to give a detailed outcome of the age groupings and to match individual concerns to additional responses elsewhere in the survey to contextualise the information received.

Qu. 5 - What personal safety concerns do you have about undertaking activity in public places?

One hundred and fourteen different types of response were identified across the 796 responses to this free text question. Further analysis of the 796 responses is required to allow further grouping, to give a detailed outcome of the age groupings and to match individual concerns to additional responses elsewhere in the survey to contextualise the information received.

Q6. Have you ever experienced any issues, specifically related to your gender, whilst undertaking activity in public places?



Total number of responses for Qu. 6 (1309) illustrated by age group and by Yes/No response.

Qu. 7 – If you have experienced issues specifically related to your gender, we would be grateful if you could provide a summary to help us better understand your experience.

Seventy two different types of response were identified across the 503 responses to this free text question. Further analysis of the 503 responses is required to allow further grouping, to give a detailed outcome of the age groupings and to match individual experiences to their comments elsewhere in the survey to contextualise the information received. The experiences of cat calling and inappropriate comments features in over 40% of the different response, but is not always the primary factor. Similarly, harassment and unwanted attention features in over one-third of the different responses and cross features within the experiences of cat calling and inappropriate comments.

Qu. 8 – Thinking of the different activities which you undertake in a public place, what are they and how do you undertake them?

This question sought to better understand how individual activities were undertaken, particularly whether they were undertaken individually, within an informal group or as part of a structured club. Unfortunately the online survey format did not allow for the matching of the activity category to the individual/group/club category.

We have been able to match responses to Qu.8 to those from Qu.3 and understand what type of activity people have been put off undertaking. This revised information is presented below in a table which shows the 8 main categories noted in Qu.8 response and the age group of those who say they have been put off undertaking activity in public due to safety concerns.

Row Labels	Other	Public Parks	Shopping/Shops	Socialising/Eating Out	Travel	Exercise / Leisure	Entertainment	Walking	Grand Total
17 or younger	57	2	111	142	26	628	34	70	1070
18-20	1		3	4		8			16
21-29	4	2	5	11	4	52			78
30-39	12	5	14	5	8	78			122
40-49	16	12	15	14	9	204			270
50-59	25	2	10	13	8	125			183
60 or older	14		11	3	4	77			109
Grand Total	129	23	169	192	59	1172	34	70	1848

Qu. 9 – Inverclyde has a number of activity based clubs and organisations focussed on physical activities. Are you a member of a club or organisation or have you considered joining a club or organisation?

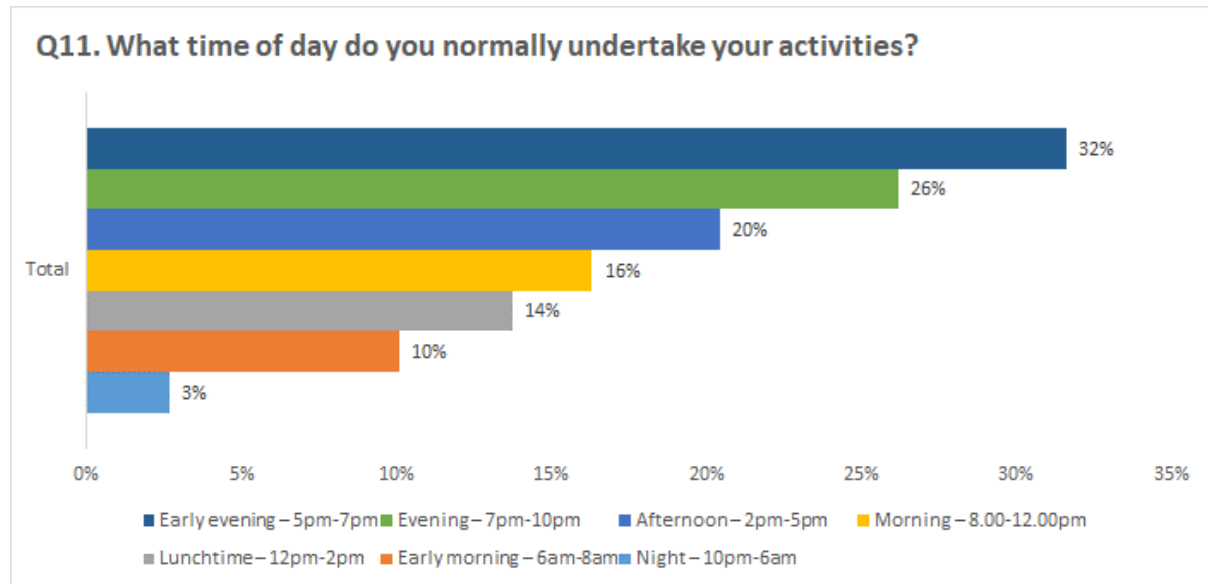
Sixty one different clubs and organisations were identified across the 505 responses received. However, respondents have identified that they are often members or are considering membership of more than one club, with 433 positive responses. The table below illustrates the club/organisation and the age groupings of those who have indicated that they are members or are considering membership.

Row Labels	17 or younger	18-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 or older	Grand Total
Bowling Club					1		1	2
Dance school		1			1			2
Golf club	7			1			2	10
Greenock Glenpark Harriers	6		1	3	5			15
Inverclyde Bothy				1	1		2	4
Inverclyde Leisure	7		2	1	11	4	3	28
Inverclyde Masters Swimming Club				2	2			4
JD Gym	9		3	1	4	1		18
Local Gym	27		3	4	8	4	1	47
Other	34		4	13	7	9	8	75
Park Run			1	2	2	2		7
Ramblers				2				2
Royal Gourock Yacht Club				1	2	2	1	6
Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club					1		2	3
Tai Chi						1	1	2
Tennis club					2			2
Wellington Allotment gardens							2	2
Yoga					1		2	3
Zumba			1		1	1		3
Netball	11	1			1			13
Inverclyde Archers	1					1		2
Guides	5					1		6
Inverclyde Athletics Club	4		1					5
Tennis	5			1				6
Martial Arts	16				1			17
Swimming Club	3							3
Dancing	20							20
IL Ice Skating	9							9
Boys Brigade	3							3
Greenock sea cadets	6							6
Gymnastics	1							1
Football	23							23
Drama	11							11
Explorers	8							8
Scouts	10							10
Tech Club	3							3
Inverclyde boxing club	2							2
Ardgown Thistle	1							1
Marvel movie club	2							2
Port Glasgow Boys Club	1							1
Inverclyde Leisure	2							2
Morton	1							1
Houston fc	1							1
Bishopton fc	1							1
BeNumber1Coaching	1							1
MORTON	4							4
Dofe	2							2
Badminton	2							2
Choir	1							1
Aerial hoop	1							1
Basketball	1							1
Swimming	5							5
Running	3							3
Boxing	4							4
Greenock Wanderers Rugby	6							6
Robotics Club	2							2
Greenock Cricket Club	2							2
Inverclyde ASC	2							2
Sailing	2							2
Singing	1							1
Inverclyde Parkrun	2							2
Grand Total	281	2	16	32	51	26	25	433

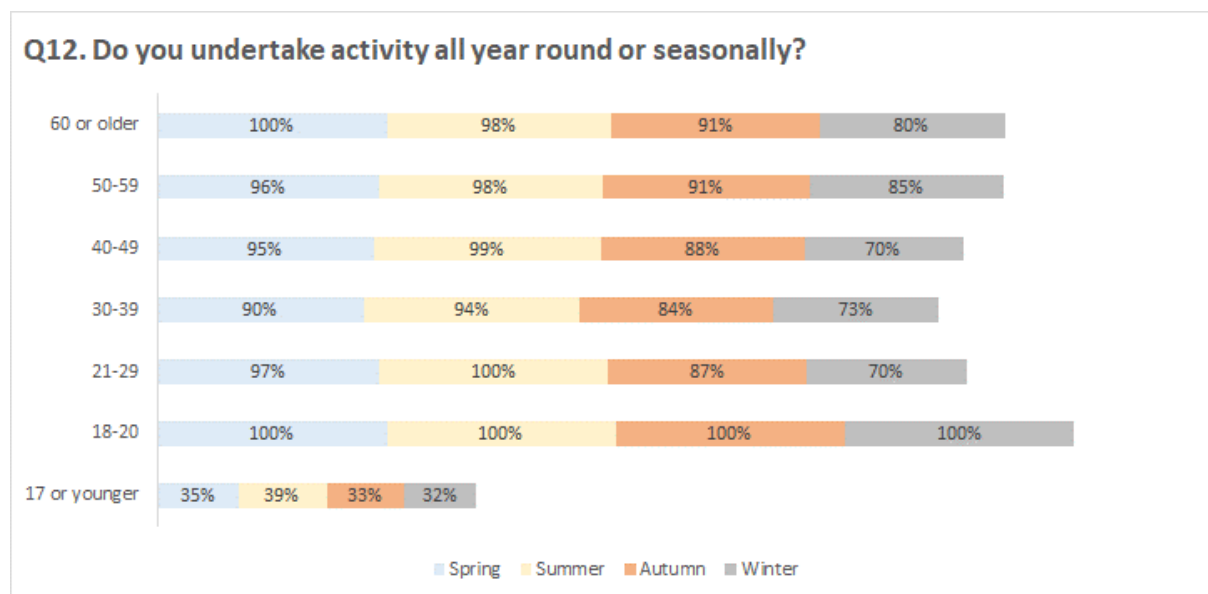
Qu. 10 – Have you experienced any barriers to joining activity based clubs or organisations in Inverclyde? e.g. costs, times, activities, gender issues, etc.

Fifty different types of response were identified across the 237 responses to this free text question. Further analysis of the 237 responses is required to allow further grouping, to give a detailed outcome of the age groupings and to match individual experiences to their comments elsewhere in the survey to contextualise the information received. There is likely to be information relevant to different

organisations and consideration will be given to conveying a generalised position to such organisations. Time, in respect of a person’s available time figured largely as a barrier as did ‘Times’ in respect of the timings of club activities. Cost was also a factor, but there are some concerning comments such as a male behaviours creating an off-putting experience and religion being an issue in particular types of social club.



Most common times of day when activities are undertaken ranked by most common times. Respondents were asked to choose no more than 3 options, %s are based on 901 options chosen



Activity levels by Season. Respondents were asked to choose applicable seasons, %s are based on 1,309 options chosen.

Qu. 13 – Are there any public places in Inverclyde where you feel unsafe when undertaking activity? (please list location and note times if relevant)

A number of different public locations were identified from the 758 responses received. Further analysis of the 758 responses is required to allow identification of specific locations and to understand both the responsibility for that location and the potential response to address the issue identified. The locations identified are across Inverclyde and the issues relate to people, perceptions and physical issues all relative to a gender based view of undertaking physical activity in a public place.

Qu. 14 - Many physical improvements have been made to public places in Inverclyde and we would welcome your views on these improvements. Please rate the undernoted improvements where 1 is very effective and 5 not effective.

Q14. Many physical improvements have been made to public places in Inverclyde and we would welcome your views on these improvements. Please rate the undernoted improvements where 1 is very effective and 5 not effective.	Rating					Response Total
	Very Effective				Not Effective	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Street Lighting Improvements	18%	18%	31%	18%	15%	870
Fixed CCTV Cameras	17%	20%	32%	14%	17%	850
Mobile CCTV Cameras	16%	19%	31%	16%	18%	831
Community Warden presence	17%	16%	25%	19%	22%	852
Other Council staff presence	16%	15%	26%	18%	25%	826
Pavement improvements	17%	19%	26%	17%	22%	847
Improving paths in communities	16%	20%	28%	16%	19%	836
Clearing overgrown paths	21%	17%	24%	17%	22%	854
Q14.9. Creation of dedicated Cycle Paths	19%	17%	25%	14%	25%	842
Q14.10. National Cycle Network investment	17%	17%	28%	15%	23%	808
Q14.11. Increased Police presence	20%	17%	26%	17%	20%	844
Q14.12. Presence of Street Pastors	19%	13%	25%	14%	29%	816

The views of respondents on the effectiveness of physical improvements to date, relative to a gender based view of undertaking physical activity in a public place, shown as a % of the total responses for that physical improvement. The highlighted figures illustrate the highest % of responses.

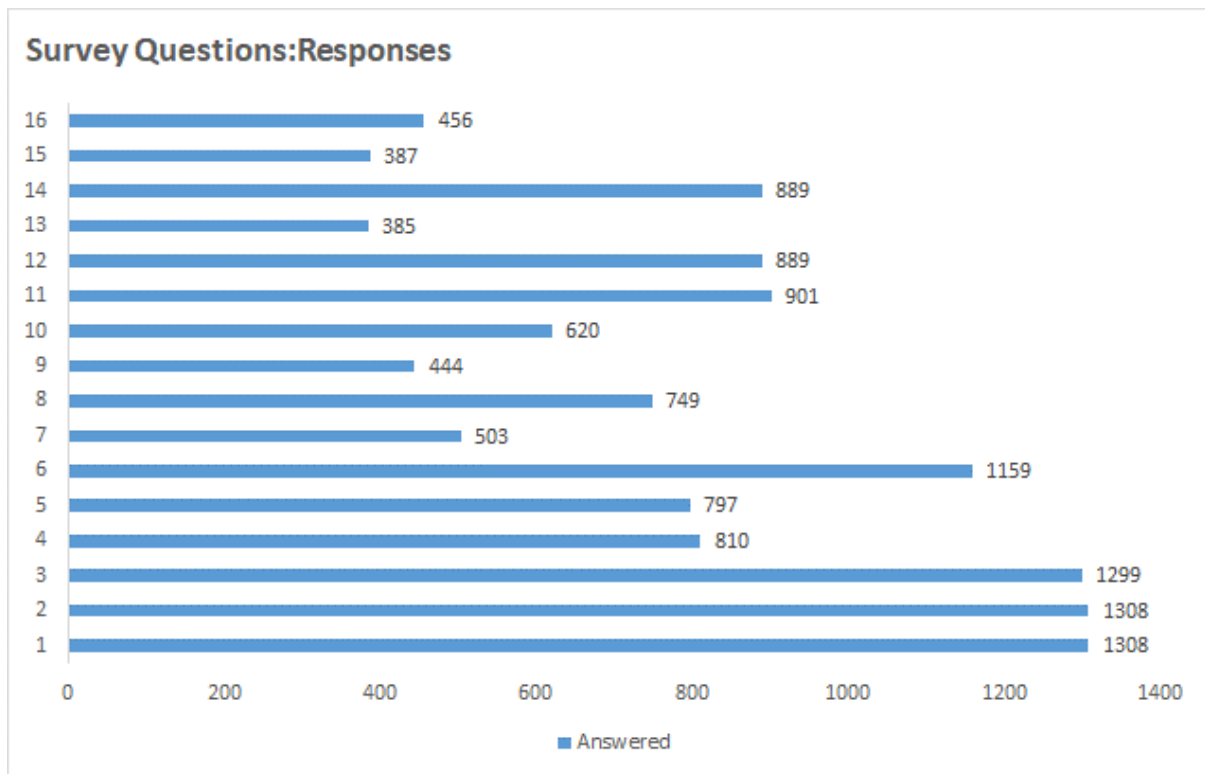
Qu. 15 – We are keen to understand the level of awareness of campaigns and legislation which target gender based safety, please note below any which you are aware of. e.g. Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women, Police Scotland campaigns, Radio & TV campaigns, Information displayed in public buildings such as GP surgeries and health centres. (please list all that you are aware of)

Forty two references to gender based safety campaigns and legislation were noted across the 380 responses, with a total of 246 comments made. Overall there appears to be a general awareness of campaigns with 169 responses making generic references to police or domestic abuse campaigns. Fifty two responses highlighted an awareness of campaigns via radio, TV or other public promotion whilst 46 specifically noted GP/Health Centre promotion. Twenty three responses made specific reference to campaigns such as 16 Days and White Ribbon etc.

Qu. 16 – Are there further improvements you would like to see in Inverclyde to improve public safety when undertaking activity in Inverclyde?

Ninety Four types of improvement were identified from the 446 responses received. Further analysis of the 446 responses is required to allow identification of specific improvements and to understand both the responsibility for those improvements and the potential for delivery.

Overall response rate by question



Whilst the free text questions have undoubtedly provided detailed, contextualised responses which can be used to help inform and develop Services they were also the questions which had the lowest response rate and this is something which should be considered in any future surveys to ensure that response rates are maximised.