Moray Citizens' Panel

Community Justice in Moray
Survey Report

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1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1.   The present survey asked about panel members' views on safety and community justice in Moray. This included views on the main crime and safety issues in their area, awareness and views on the community justice approach, views on community justice interventions, and approaches to involving communities in the community justice approach.

1.2.   Analysis has also considered the extent of variation in views expressed across key groups including age, location and gender. This report highlights significant variations in views across these groups, based on 95% confidence interval statistical significance tests.

Survey Response

1.3.   The survey fieldwork took place from late January to late February 2017, with the survey issued to all Moray Citizens' Panel members, and also promoted via social media to other residents. A total of 530 responses were received by fieldwork close (521 of these from panel members), an overall response rate of 58%. This is a very good level of response to a survey of this kind, and is at the upper end of the range of response rates across previous panel surveys. Figure 1 below provides a profile of survey respondents.
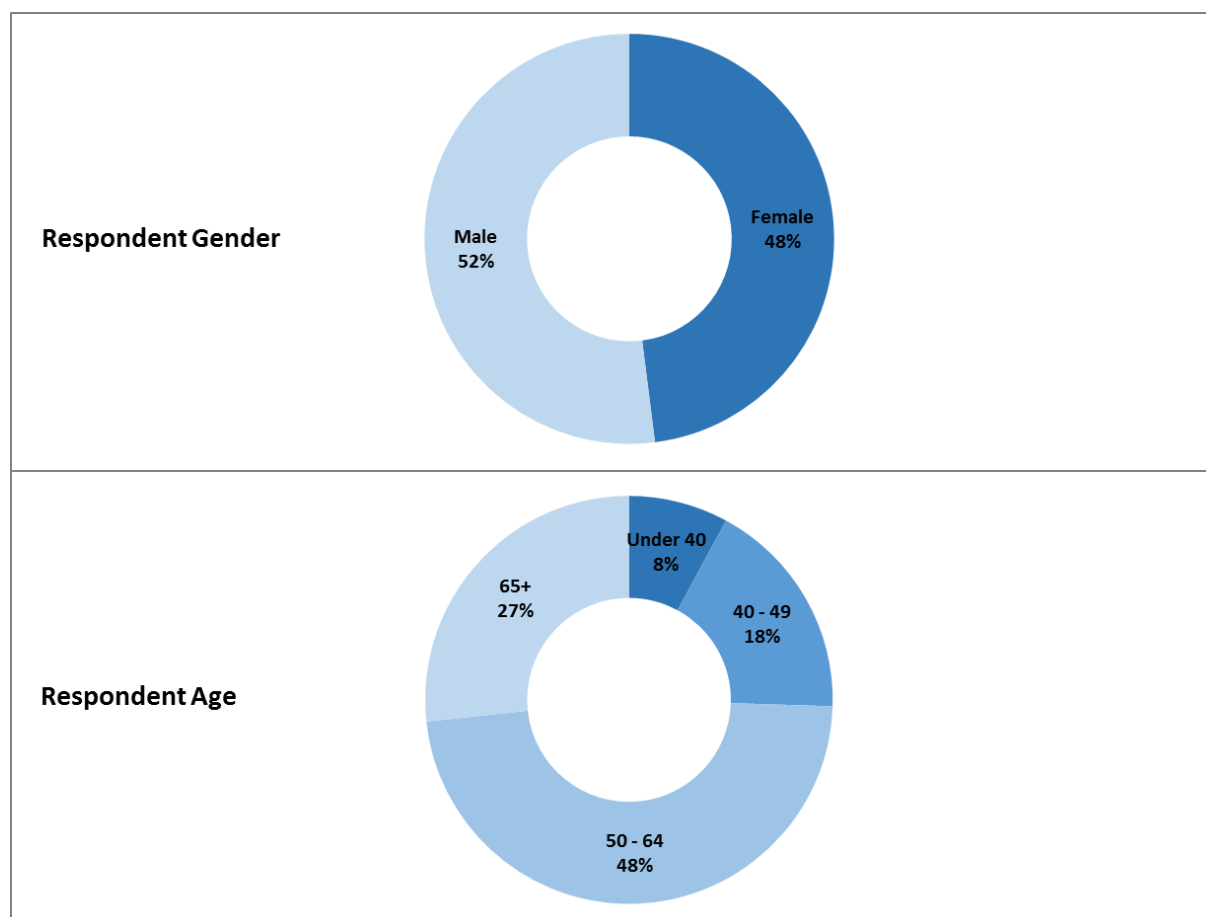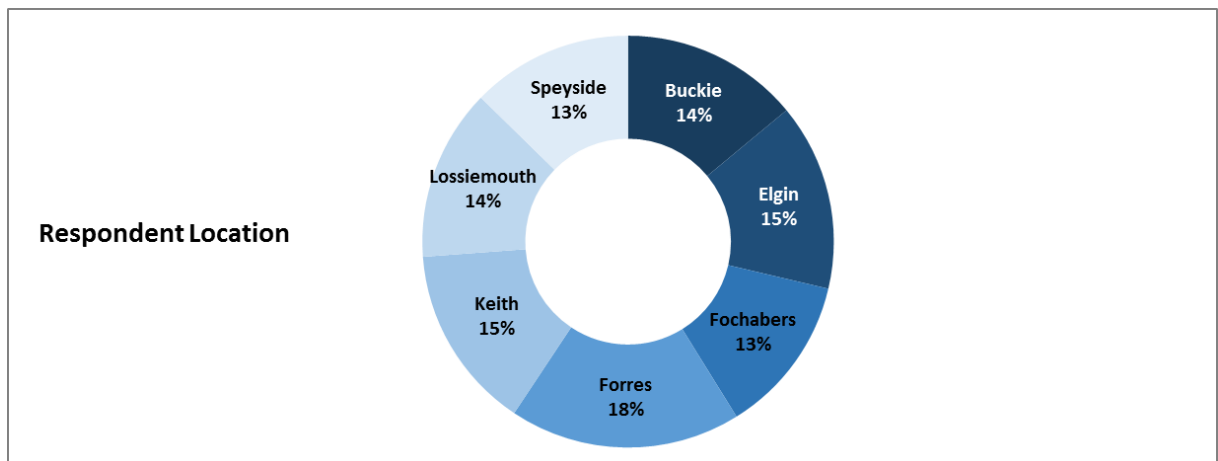
Figure 1: Profile of survey respondents

Figure 1: Profile of survey respondents

Respondent Location

Speyside 13%
Buckie 14%
Elgin 15%
Fochabers 13%
Forres 18%
Keith 15%
Lossiemouth 14%

2. CRIME AND SAFETY IN MORAY

2.1. The first section of the survey considered panel members' views on crime and safety in Moray, including approaches to reduce crime. While the primary focus of the survey was on Community Justice specifically, the findings presented over the following pages provide valuable context to later views on Community Justice and approaches to reduce crime.

Concern about crime and safety in Moray

2.2. Respondents generally felt that Moray compares favourably to other parts of Scotland in terms of crime and safety (Figure 2). A large majority of respondents suggested that their local area and Moray as a whole are safer than other parts of the country, and fewer than 1 in 20 felt that the area is less safe than others. It is notable that respondents were generally more positive about the safety of their local area than Moray as a whole; 81% of respondents felt that their local area is safer than other parts of Scotland, compared to 71% who feel that Moray as a whole is safer.

2.3. This overall balance of views on crime and safety was similar across the main socio-demographic groups. In particular it is notable that there was no real variation by area; Keith area respondents were somewhat less positive than others, but this difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 2: How crime and safety in Moray compares to other parts of Scotland
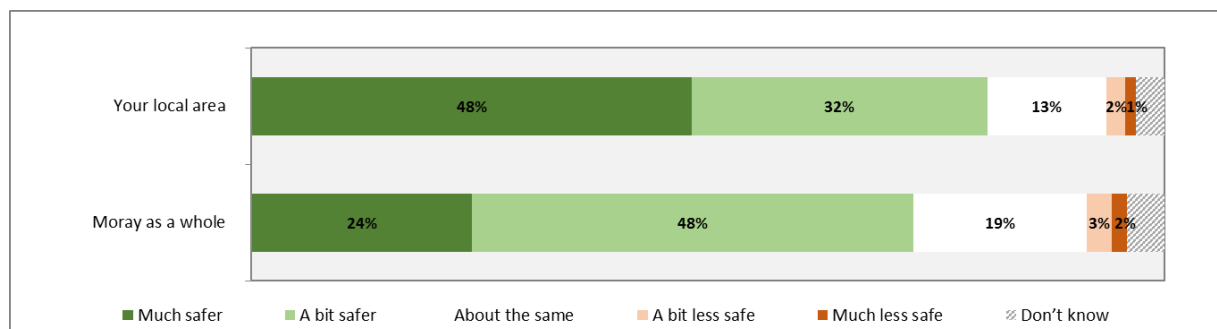
2.4. Panel members were also asked about the extent to which they feel safe in their home and local area after dark (Figure 3 over the page).

2.5. Consistent with views on crime and safety in their local area, respondents generally feel safe in their local area after dark. More than 9 in 10 indicated that they feel safe alone in their home after dark (94% including 58% who feel "very safe"), and around 8 in 10 that they feel safe walking alone in their local area after dark (81%) – although only 30% of respondents feel "very safe" walking along after dark. These results are broadly similar, if slightly less positive than, those from the most recent Scottish Household Survey – this showed 98% feel safe at home and 85% feel safe when walking alone.

2.6.   While the overall balance of views was similar across socio-demographic groups, there was some geographical variation evident. In particular, those in the Elgin, Keith and Buckie areas were less likely than others to feel "very safe" when walking along in their local area after dark. In contrast, Fochabers and Speyside area respondents were more likely than others to feel "very safe".

Figure 3: How safe feel in home and local area
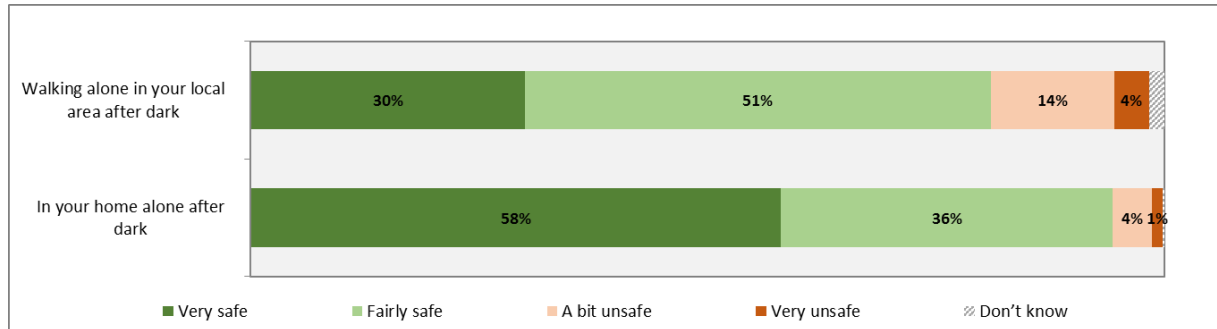
2.7.   The survey also asked panel members to list the three crime and safety issues that most concerned them. Members were asked to write in their own answers here and responses referred to a broad range of issues, some quite specific. However, a number of common issues and concerns emerged and these are summarised at Figure 4 over the page.

2.8.   As Figure 4 indicates, burglary/theft and housebreaking was by some margin the most commonly mentioned crime and safety issue – around 3 in 5 of those providing written comment made reference to this issue. In terms of other crime and safety concerns, the most commonly mentioned related to alcohol and drug misuse (39% mentioning), motoring offences (27%), vandalism and damage to property (25%), and violent crime (22%).

2.9.   A smaller number of respondents also mentioned antisocial behaviour (14%) and cyber crime (13%) – the latter also including reference to identity fraud and financial crime.

Figure 4: Main criome and safety concerns for respondents[1]

	% mentioning
Theft, burglary and housebreaking	59%
Alcohol/drugs-related crime and safety issues	39%
Motoring offences	27%
Vandalism, graffiti, damage to property	25%
Violent crime including assault and mugging	22%
Antisocial behaviour	14%
Cyber crime, identity fraud, financial crime	13%
Weapons	3%
Sexual assault	3%
Crimes against children	2%
Race-related crime	2%

Views on approaches to reduce crime and offending

2.10. The survey next asked for panel members' views on the factors that may contribute to crime in their area, and on approaches that could have a positive impact on crime.

2.11. As Figure 5 shows, alcohol and drug misuse are seen as the most significant factors contributing to crime and community safety concerns in Moray. A large majority of respondents mentioned this as a contributing factor (86%), and alcohol/drugs were also most likely to be identified as one of the top 3 contributing factors.

2.12. In terms of other factors that may contribute to crime, respondents were most likely to mention financial difficulties (mentioned by 65%), a lack of good employment opportunities (63%), family breakdown (54%) and poor mental health (48%).

2.13. While alcohol and drug misuse was rates as the main contributing factor across all parts of Moray, there was some geographical variation in the factors seen by respondents as contributing to crime and safety issues across Moray. In particular, those in the Elgin, Keith and Lossiemouth areas were more likely than others to mention family breakdown as a contributing factor (Speyside respondents were less likely than others to mention family breakdown). Similarly, Elgin and Fochabers area respondents were more likely than others to mention poor mental health in connection with crime and safety, while relatively few in the Keith area saw mental health as a contributing factor.

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[1] Based on free text responses

Figure 5: Factors that contribute to crime and community safety in Moray
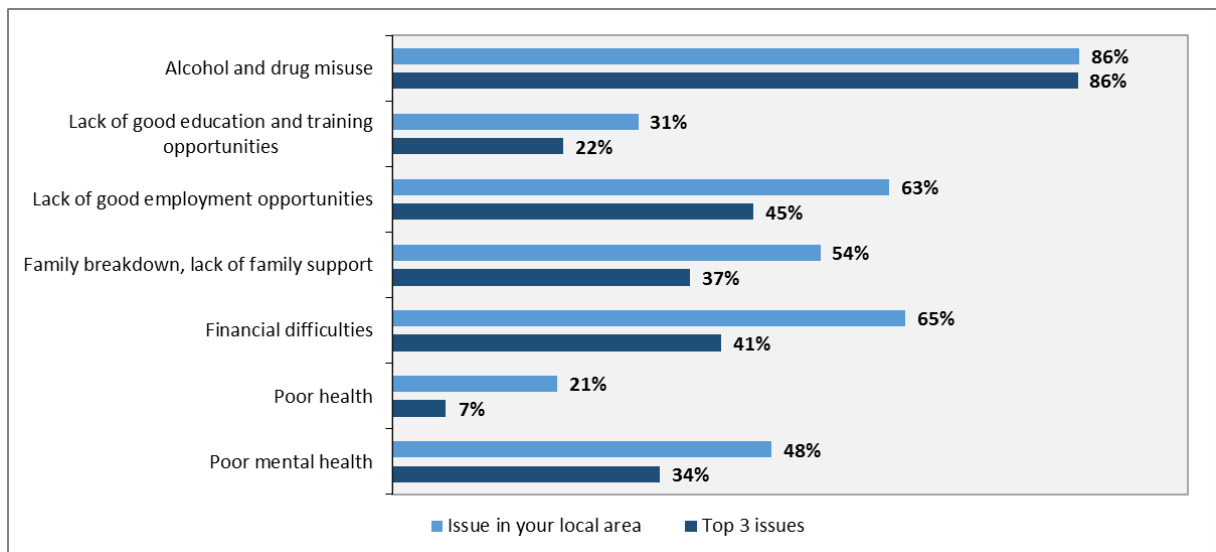
2.14. Respondents saw a potential role for a range of approaches to tackle crime in their local area (Figure 6 over the page). Local facilities to build stronger communities, support to help people find employment and training, security projects and parenting support or advice were the approaches that respondents were most likely to mention (mentioned by 70%, 68%, 56% and 55% respectively). Facilities to build stronger communities and services to help people find employment and training were generally seen as likely to have the biggest impact on crime in respondents' local area. In contrast, relatively few respondents felt that local volunteering opportunities or projects to improve the local environment would have a big impact on crime in their local area,

2.15. There was some geographical variation in views on the likely impact of these approaches:

   ❖ Fochabers area respondents mentioned a broader range of approaches than those across other areas. In particular, Fochabers respondents were more likely than others to mention local facilities to strengthen communities, parenting support and advice, improving the local environment, and local volunteering opportunities. In contrast, these respondents were less likely than others to mention services to help people find employment or training.

   ❖ Forres area respondents saw support to find employment and training as the top choice in terms of addressing crime and safety issues.

   ❖ Elgin respondents were more likely than others to mention projects to improve security.

   ❖ Those in the Elgin and Lossiemouth areas were less likely than others to mention local facilities to build communities.

❖ Forres, Elgin and Buckie area respondents were less likely than others to see improving the local environment as useful in addressing crime and safety issues.

Figure 6: Approaches that could have an impact on crime in local area
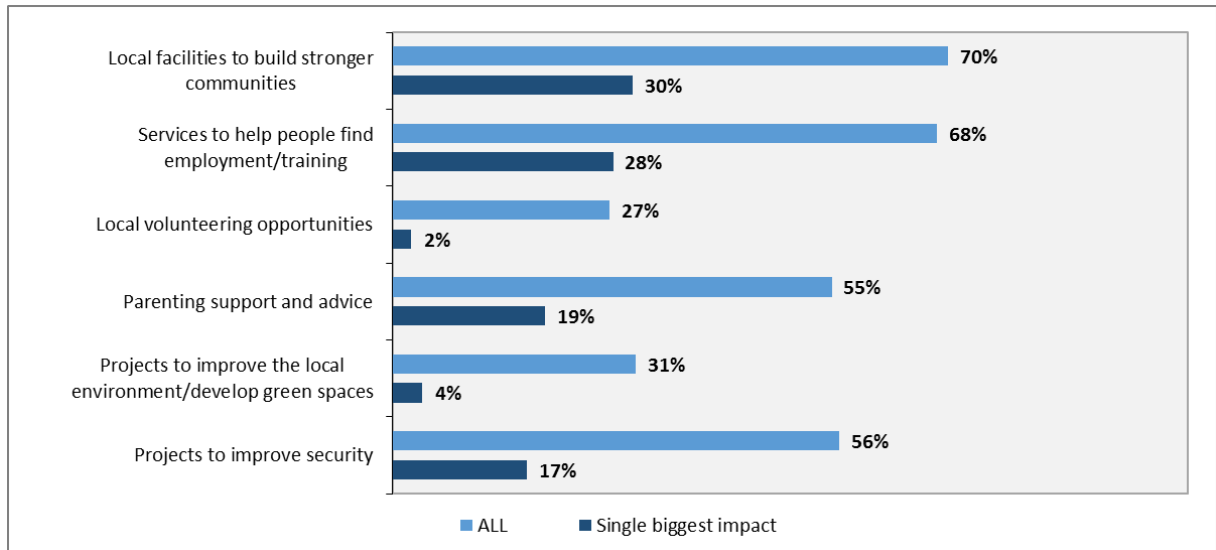
2.16. The survey also gave panel members the opportunity to identify other things that could prevent crime and offending. A substantial number of respondents provided written comment here, including some providing specific examples of the approaches listed at Figure 6. For example, respondents referred to improving security around better street lighting and CCTV, referred to specific areas where better employment opportunities are required, and to improving the quality of their environment.

2.17. In terms of other approaches mentioned by respondents, a greater police presence was by some margin the most common suggestion – around half of respondents included reference to a stronger police presence. This included reference to community policing and more engagement between police and communities. In addition to police presence, a number of respondents suggested greater use of sentencing as a deterrent. This included in terms of harsher custodial sentences, and suggestions for more visible community-based sentences.

2.18. Suggestions for more police presence and stronger sentencing accounted for a large majority of suggestions from respondents. However, education also emerged as a theme. This included a number of respondents suggesting a need for education to develop citizenship and improve awareness of crime and safety issues, education to improve opportunities for those at risk of offending, and re-education for offenders.
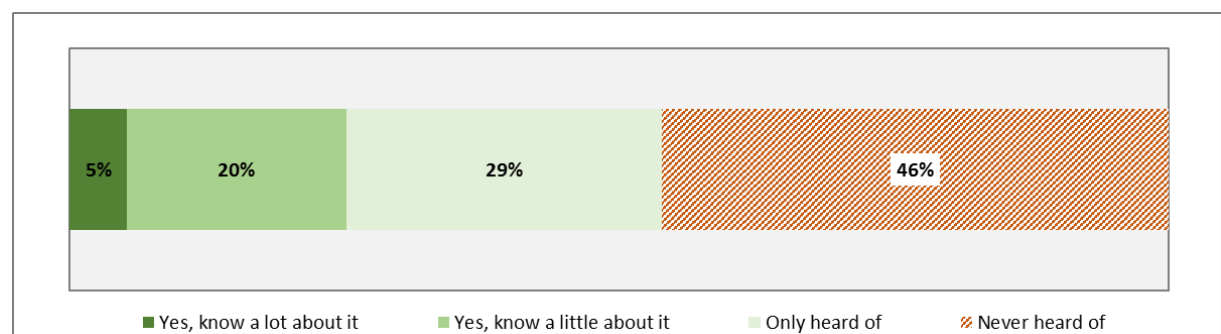
3.   COMMUNITY JUSTICE IN MORAY

3.1.   The survey moved on to ask about panel members' awareness of and views on Community Justice in Moray. "Community Justice" refers to the range of services and organisations that work together to prevent and reduce reoffending. A new approach to Community Justice will begin in April 2017, with local authority partnerships taking lead responsibility, and a stronger role for communities in shaping the approach taken.

3.2.   This section considers panel members' awareness of Community Justice, and their views on the merits (or otherwise) of the Community Justice approach.

Awareness of "Community Justice"

3.3.   A little more than half of respondents had heard of "Community Justice" before receiving the present survey (54%, Figure 7 below). However, a minority of respondents felt that they knew anything about Community Justice (25% felt that they knew at least "a little" about it). Survey responses indicate that awareness of Community Justice is broadly similar across key socio-demographic groups.

Figure 7: Whether heard of "Community Justice"

| 5% | 20% | 29% | 46% |

■ Yes, know a lot about it   ■ Yes, know a little about it   □ Only heard of   ▨ Never heard of

Working with groups affected by crime and offending

3.4.   Community Justice services currently work with a range of groups affected by and with a perspective on crime and offending. These include people affected by offending, people with convictions and their families, local communities and representative groups, and local businesses and employers. The survey also asked panel members about other groups which they would like to see included in Community Justice engagement. Some respondents felt that they did not have the knowledge to provide comment here, but others referred to a range of groups. This included some overlap with the groups with which Community Justice services currently engage:

❖ Organisations with an education focus were the most common suggestion. This included reference to schools, but also third sector organisations with a particular focus on education and literacy.

❖ Charities were also a common suggestion for respondents, including particular reference to religious groups.

❖ Respondents also referred to organisations providing counselling and other therapies which can assist those affected by and/or at risk of offending. This included specific reference to services with an alcohol and drugs focus.

❖ Community representative groups are one of the groups with which Community Justice services currently work, but respondents suggested a range of specific representative and neighbourhood groups.

❖ A small number of respondents referred to engaging with specific population groups such as young people, and older people and those with health needs.

Views on the Community Justice approach

3.5.   The survey asked respondents for their views on a range of statements related to the Community Justice approach, including some of the challenges that Community Justice may have to address. As Figure 8 below indicates, respondents expressed a mix of views:

❖ A large majority of respondents feel that Community Justice interventions should focus on reducing re-offending (91% agreed), and that services should focus their work on supporting those at risk of offending to make positive changes (83% agreed).

❖ In terms of supporting specific groups, there was a clear view that victims of crime need better access to services (85% agreed with this). Views were somewhat less clear on the extent to which families of people who have committed offences and others need better access to services (58% agreed).

❖ A large majority of respondents agree that Community Justice partners should work together more in the planning and delivery of services (85% agreed). The response was somewhat less positive in relation to local communities contributing to the design and delivery of Community Justice services – although the majority agreed that communities can make a contributing (74%).

3.6.   This overall balance of views was similar across the key socio-demographic groups.

Figure 8: Views on Community Justice

|	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know / Not used
Services should focus on supporting those at risk of offending to make positive changes	35%	48%	8%	6%	1%	
Victims of crime need better access to services	51%	34%	10%	1%		
Families of people who have committed offences and others affected by offending need better access to services	19%	39%	29%	6%	3%	
Community Justice interventions should focus on reducing reoffending	51%	41%		6%	1%	
Community Justice partners should work together more to plan and deliver services	39%	47%	11%			
Local communities have a lot to contribute to the design and delivery of Community Justice services	29%	44%	19%	2%		

4.   COMMUNITY JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS

4.1.   The survey next asked specifically for panel members' views on Community Justice interventions. Community Justice uses a broad range of interventions as alternatives to custodial sentences and imprisonment. These are community-based, non-custodial interventions, and are intended to allow people who have committed offences to make amends for their crime, rehabilitate them and reduce the risk of their reoffending.

4.2.   This section considers panel members' views on the value of specific types of community-based interventions, their views on Community Payback specifically, and their wider views on the role of Community Justice interventions.

Views on community-based interventions

4.3.   Survey responses indicate widespread support for all of the community-based interventions listed at Figure 9 below. Indeed around 9 in 10 respondents expressed some level of support for each of the types of intervention (87% to 95%).

4.4.   Views were most positive in relation to unpaid work requirements, with more than two thirds of respondents "strongly" supportive of this type of intervention. Respondents were least positive about use of fines and compensation orders – this was the only intervention where a minority of respondents expressed strong support (42%), and around 1 in 10 were opposed to use of fines and compensation orders (11%).

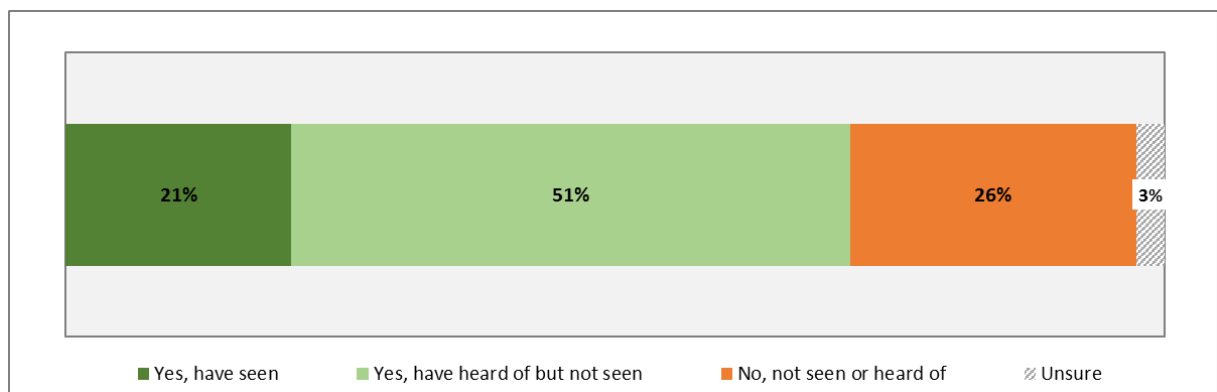4.5.   There was no significant variation in this profile of views across key socio-demographic groups.

Figure 9: Views on specific community-based interventions
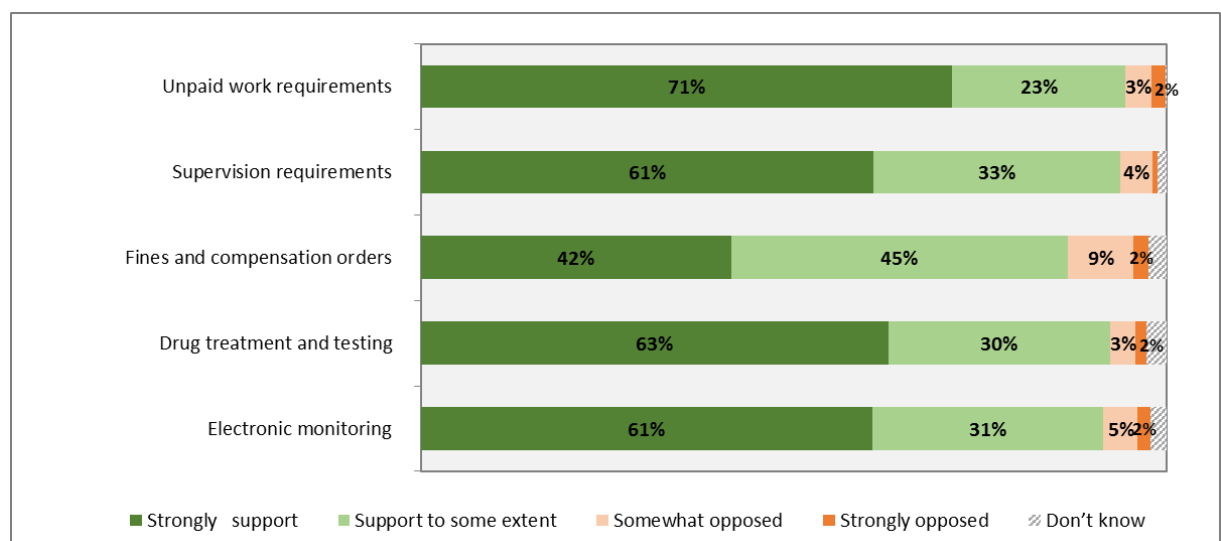
Community Payback

4.6.   The survey asked a series of questions specifically around use of Community Payback, as a widely used Community Justice intervention, and one which has typically had a relatively high profile.

4.7.   The majority of respondents had heard of Community Payback schemes in Moray; 71% indicated this, including 21% who had seen Community Payback schemes in operation in the area. These findings were consistent across all parts of Moray.

Figure 10: Awareness of Community Payback schemes in Moray

21%	51%	26%	3%

■ Yes, have seen   ■ Yes, have heard of but not seen   ■ No, not seen or heard of   ▨ Unsure

4.8.   Panel members were also asked about the specific types of unpaid work delivered through Community Payback they thought would have a positive impact in their local area (Figure 11 over the page):

- ❖ Litter picking and beach cleaning received the most widespread support, with around 9 in 10 indicating that this would be useful to their local area (89%). This was particularly the case for those in the Speyside, Fochabers and Lossiemouth areas.

- ❖ Clearing wasteland and gardening were also mentioned by a substantial proportion of respondents (73% and 51% respectively), with gardening a particular concern for those in the Lossiemouth area.

- ❖ Respondents were somewhat less likely to mention woodwork and painting/decorating, although there remained a substantial number of respondents who felt that these approaches would be useful to their local area. This was particularly the case for those in the Keith area.

- ❖ Relatively few respondents felt that working in charity shops or furniture removal would be useful for their local area.

4.9.   Respondents also mentioned a range of other tasks which they would like to see delivered through Community Payback, in addition to those listed at Figure 11:

- ❖ Clearing graffiti;

❖ Refurbishing or restoring community facilities and buildings;

❖ "Handyman" tasks, particularly for older people and those with health needs;

❖ Farm-based work;

❖ Filling gaps in public services which have been reduced due to budget pressures – some respondents also suggested a potential role in improving roads; and

❖ Some suggested that tasks could be tailored to the skills of those undertaking Community Payback.

Figure 11: Community Payback unpaid work that could be useful in local area
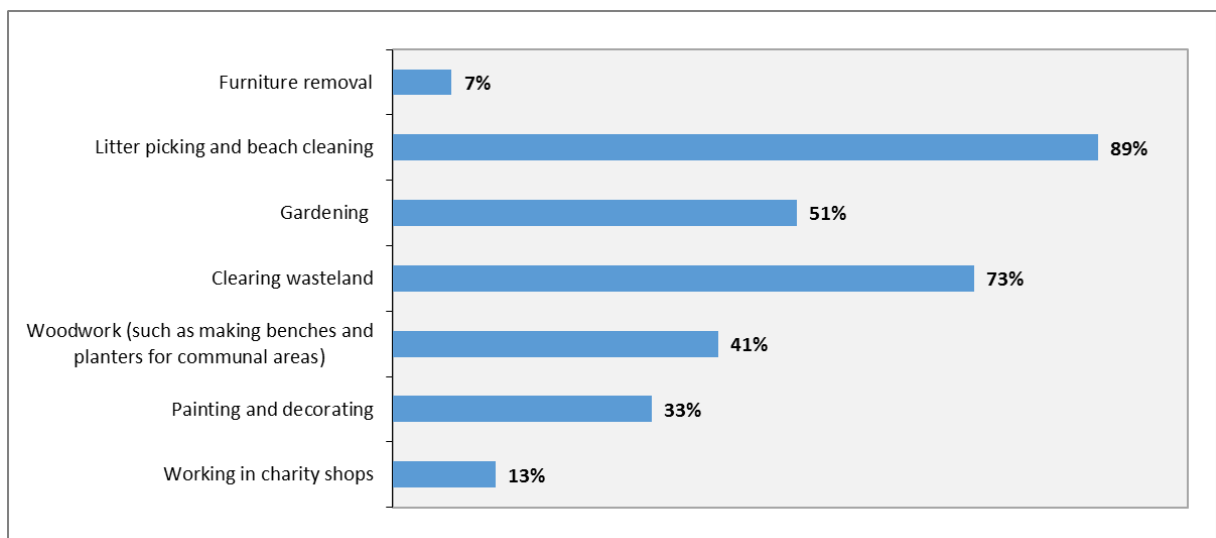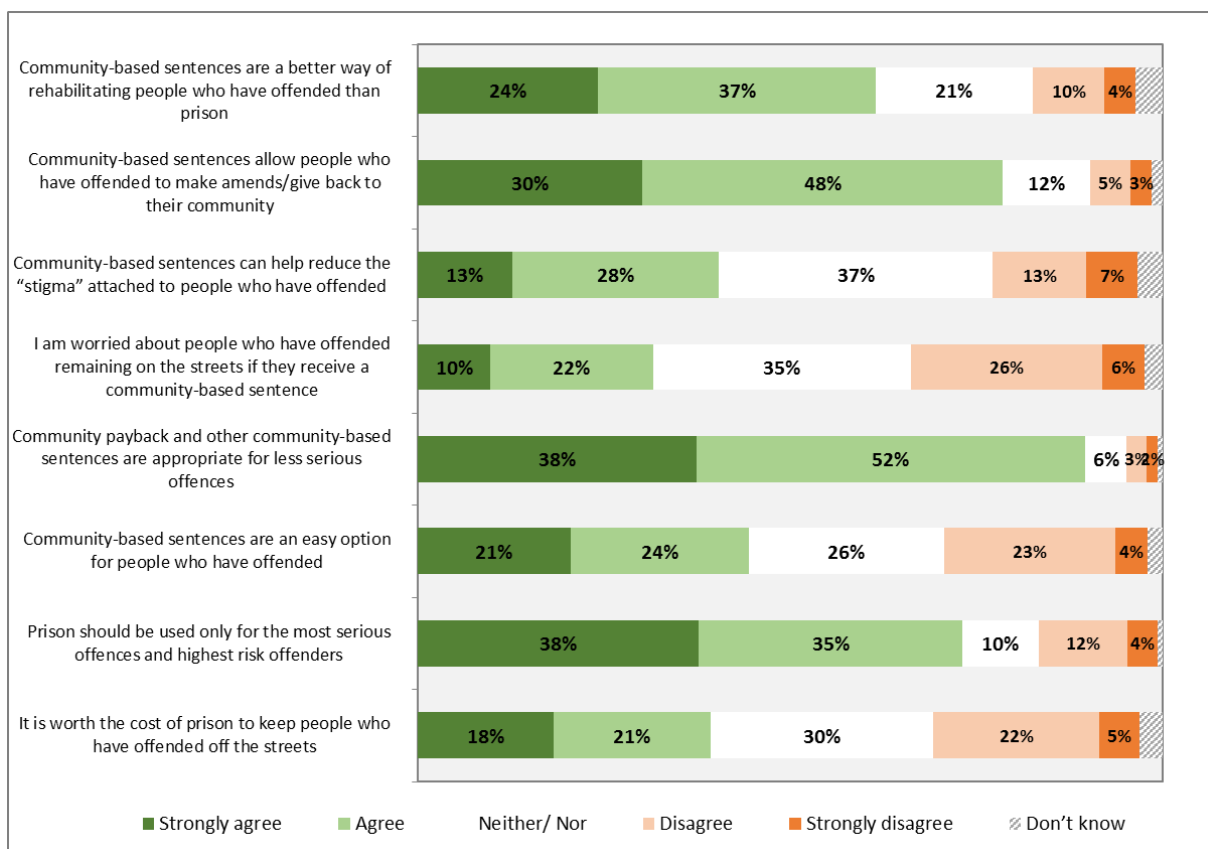

Views on the role of community-based interventions

4.10. Finally in relation to Community Justice interventions, the survey asked panel members for their views on a range of statements related to the role of the community-based interventions. As Figure 12 over the page indicates, respondents expressed a mix of views:

❖ Respondents showed widespread agreement that community-based sentences are appropriate for less serious offences (90% agreed), and that these sentences allow people who have offended to make amends and give back to their communities (79% agreed).

❖ The majority of respondents also agreed that prison should only be used for the most serious offences and highest risk offenders (73%), and that community-based sentences are better than prison for rehabilitating people who have offended (62%).

❖ Views were less clear on the extent to which community-based sentences can help to reduce the "stigma" for people who have offended (40% agreed and 19% disagreed).

❖ Respondents were also divided on whether community-based sentences are "an easy option" for people who have offended – 45% of respondents feel that these sentences are an easy option, while 27% disagreed.

❖ Around a third of respondents indicated that they are worried about people who have offended remaining on the streets if they receive a community-based sentence (32%), although a similar proportion indicated that this was not a worry for them. A substantial proportion of respondents also felt that prison is worth the additional cost to keep people who have offended off the streets (39%), although again some disagreed with this (28%).

Figure 12: Views on the role of Community Payback and other community-based interventions

|	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither/ Nor	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Community-based sentences are a better way of rehabilitating people who have offended than prison	24%	37%	21%	10%	4%	
Community-based sentences allow people who have offended to make amends/give back to their community	30%	48%	12%	5%	3%	
Community-based sentences can help reduce the "stigma" attached to people who have offended	13%	28%	37%	13%	7%	
I am worried about people who have offended remaining on the streets if they receive a community-based sentence	10%	22%	35%	26%	6%	
Community payback and other community-based sentences are appropriate for less serious offences	38%	52%	6%	3%	2%	
Community-based sentences are an easy option for people who have offended	21%	24%	26%	23%	4%	
Prison should be used only for the most serious offences and highest risk offenders	38%	35%	10%	12%	4%	
It is worth the cost of prison to keep people who have offended off the streets	18%	21%	30%	22%	5%	

5.   INVOLVING COMMUNITIES IN COMMUNITY JUSTICE

5.1.   The final section of the survey sought panel members' views on approaches to involve communities in Community Justice. As noted in section 3 of this report, the new approach to Community Justice includes a stronger role for local communities in shaping how Community Justice is delivered. This will include communities giving their views on how Community Justice should work, providing feedback on how they are performing, and being involved in services.

Awareness of opportunities to contribute to Community Justice

5.2.   Few respondents were aware of opportunities to get involved in how Community Justice works in Moray – only 9% had seen opportunities to give their views, and 6% had seen volunteering opportunities. This included reference to Children's Panels, meetings with Community Police Officers, and volunteering for community organisations (although few referred to groups with a specific crime or Community Justice focus). This finding was consistent across geographic areas.

**Figure 13: Awareness of opportunities to get involved in Community Justice**
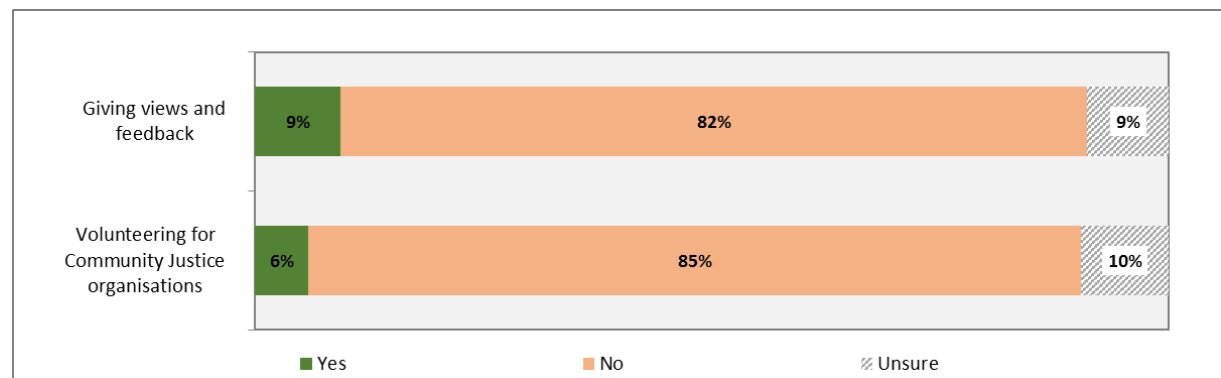
Involving communities in Community Justice

5.3.   The survey asked panel members for their views on a range of statements relating to the contribution that communities may be able to make to Community Justice in Moray. As Figure 14 below indicates, respondents expressed a mix of views:

❖   Respondents generally felt that communities have a lot to contribute to decisions on how Community Justice is delivered in Moray – more than three quarters agreed with this and only 4% disagreed.

❖   The majority of respondents also agreed that there aren't enough opportunities for residents to give their views on how Community Justice is delivered (around two thirds agreed, and this was a

particular concern for those in the Buckie and Lossiemouth areas). However, it is notable that nearly a third of respondents gave a neutral response or indicated "don't know" – this seems consistent with the low awareness of opportunities to give views noted at Figure 13.

❖ There was a clear view that local residents need to have a better understanding of Community Justice and how it operates (93% agreed). However, respondents were somewhat less positive about the extent to which people would get involved – as little more than half of respondents agreed that more people would volunteer for local services if they were aware of opportunities (56%).

**Figure 14: Views on the role of communities in Community Justice**
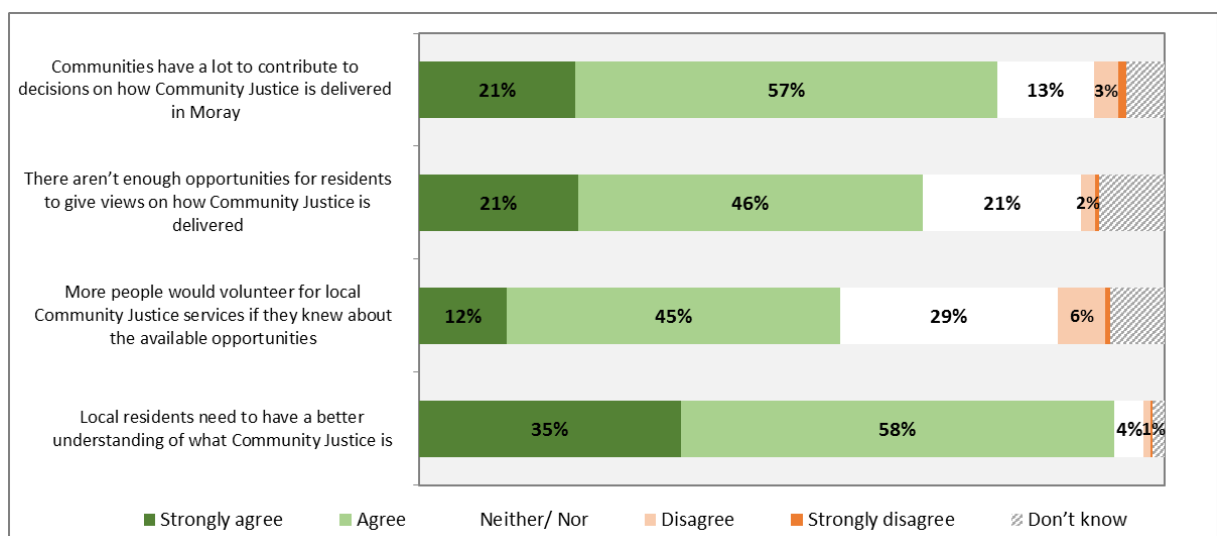
5.4.   In relation to residents getting involved in how Community Justice is delivered, the survey asked for panel members' views on the best approaches to this (Figure 15). Regular consultations and meetings with local community groups was the most common choice here, with 71% of respondents supporting this option. Public meetings and options for residents to share their ideas directly were also each supported by a little more than 2 in 5 respondents (42% and 45% respectively).

Figure 15: Best approaches to involving residents in Community Justice
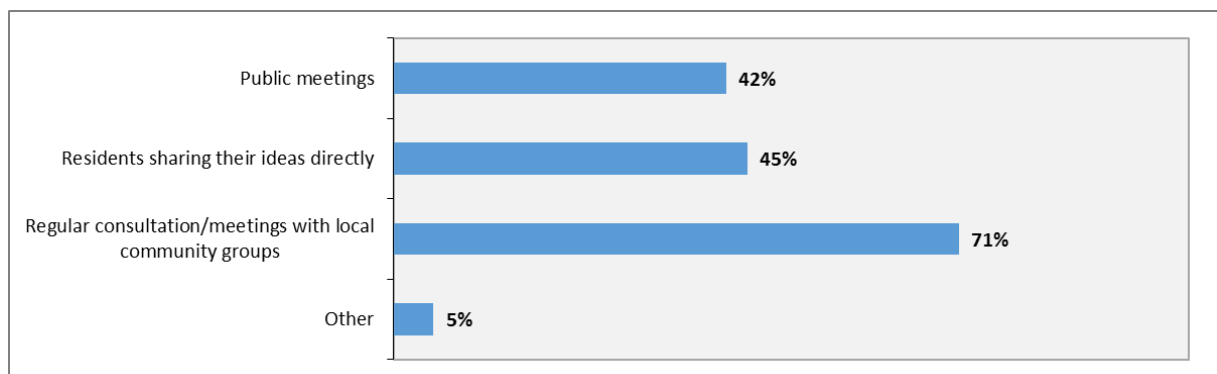
5.5.   Finally, the survey asked for panel members' views on communities helping to choose the tasks delivered via community-based sentences (Figure 16). Survey responses suggest widespread support for this option; more than 9 in 10 respondents felt that giving communities a say on the tasks delivered would be a good idea (93%).

5.6.   The minority of respondents who did not think that communities helping to choose Community Payback tasks were asked to explain their response in more detail. Comment here referred to a range of factors and concerns. These included concerns that communities lack the knowledge to make such decisions, and that residents may be unaware of how offenders may react to interventions – in this context, some respondents suggested that communities could provide input if this was "vetted" by Community Justice services. Respondents also raised concerns about the extent to which communities' attitudes towards offenders may compromise their input, and specifically the extent to which suggestions could be made without judgement. Finally, some were sceptical around the extent to which communities will feel motivated to engage in the process of providing this feedback.

Figure 16: Views on communities helping to choose tasks for community-based sentences

59%	33%	3%	

■ Very good idea   ■ Fairly good idea   ■ Not a good idea   ▨ Unsure
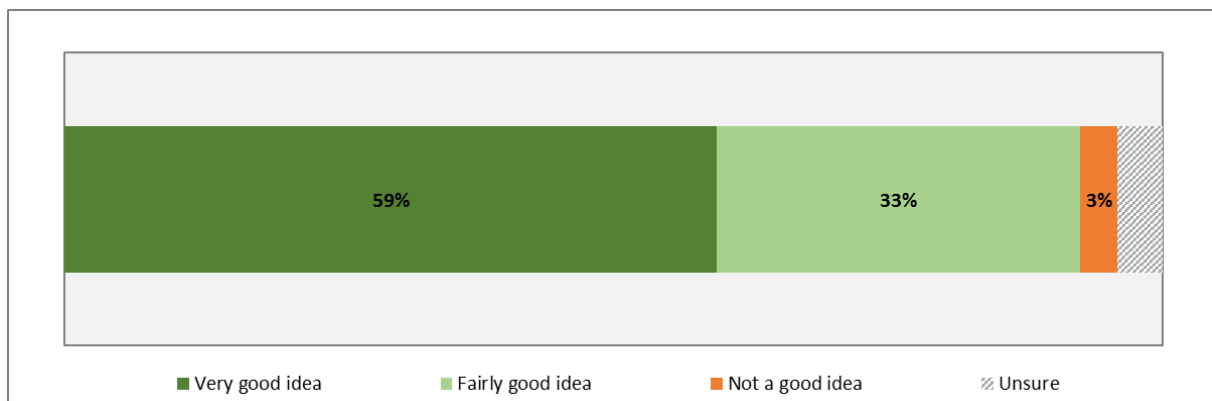
5.7.   The final question invited panel members to suggest specific tasks that they would like to see delivered via community-based sentences. Respondents made reference to a broad range of tasks, some of which would not be eligible for community-based sentences (which cannot deliver tasks which would otherwise be provided through paid employment). A number of themes emerged through these suggestions:

❖ A large proportion of respondents' suggestions were focused on improving the local environment. This included reference to work to deal with littering and fly tipping, graffiti removal, and maintaining and improving open spaces and beaches. This included for example reference to maintaining community gardens.

❖ Respondents suggested tasks around supporting community groups and third sector organisations – including for example food banks.

❖ Household and handyperson tasks were also suggested by a number of respondents – some making specific reference to tasks to support older people and those with health-needs.

❖ Maintaining and refurbishing community facilities was also a common suggestion. This included village halls and other community buildings, parks, disused railway lines, etc.

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