



Public Views and Perceptions of Policing in West Mercia 2024/25 Survey Quarter 1 Results Presentation







Section One Introduction & Methodology, Summary & Respondent Breakdown



Introduction & Methodology

- West Mercia Police (WMP) & the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, seek to obtain the views of residents, including their confidence in WMP, to inform the PCC's plan priorities and support decision making around the Safer West Mercia agenda
- WMP & the OPCC commissioned SMSR, a third party research agency, to conduct surveys over the phone and face to face with West Mercia residents and victims of crime
- The questionnaire includes key questions taken from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the 2018 Report on Public Perceptions of Policing in England and Wales (PPPEW)
- Where relevant, comparisons with CSEW AND PPPEW are displayed. Comparisons with CSEW include the average score of forces included in West Mercia Police's most similar group (MSG)**. Where comparisons have been made, results have been consistently analysed in accordance with this external reporting. Comparisons with CSEW are based on the most recent results available (March 2020)
- Over the 12 month period (July 2023 June 2024) SMSR have interviewed a representative sample of over 3000 residents 600 across each of the 5 Local Policing Areas (LPA): Hereford; Shropshire; Telford & Wrekin and North & South Worcestershire
- Results have been weighted to accurately represent the population size of each LPA
- The report tracks changes in perception levels, identifies high performing areas and those with need for improvement

Summary – Overall Views

- Eight in every 10 agree they have confidence in West Mercia Police (81%); the same proportion say they are confident they would receive a good service from the force (81%).
- Over three-fifths (62%) say that West Mercia Police are doing either a good or excellent job.

Visibility

- Less than a fifth of residents (18%) report that they see an officer or PCSO at least once a week and three-fifths (63%) are satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area.
- The majority (80%) feel there has been no change in the level of policing; a tenth (9%) say there has been a decrease and fewer (5%) believe there has been an increase.
- A tenth (10%) have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team in the past 12 months.

Interaction / Access

- Nine-tenths (90%) are confident that they could access WMP in an emergency with two-thirds (68%) confident they could do so in a non-emergency.
- The majority (78%) continue to say they would prefer to contact West Mercia Police by telephone for a non-emergency issue.
- More than half find out about crime and policing issues from the media in general (58%) or from social media (55%), Half (50%) are informed about what WMP is doing in their local area.

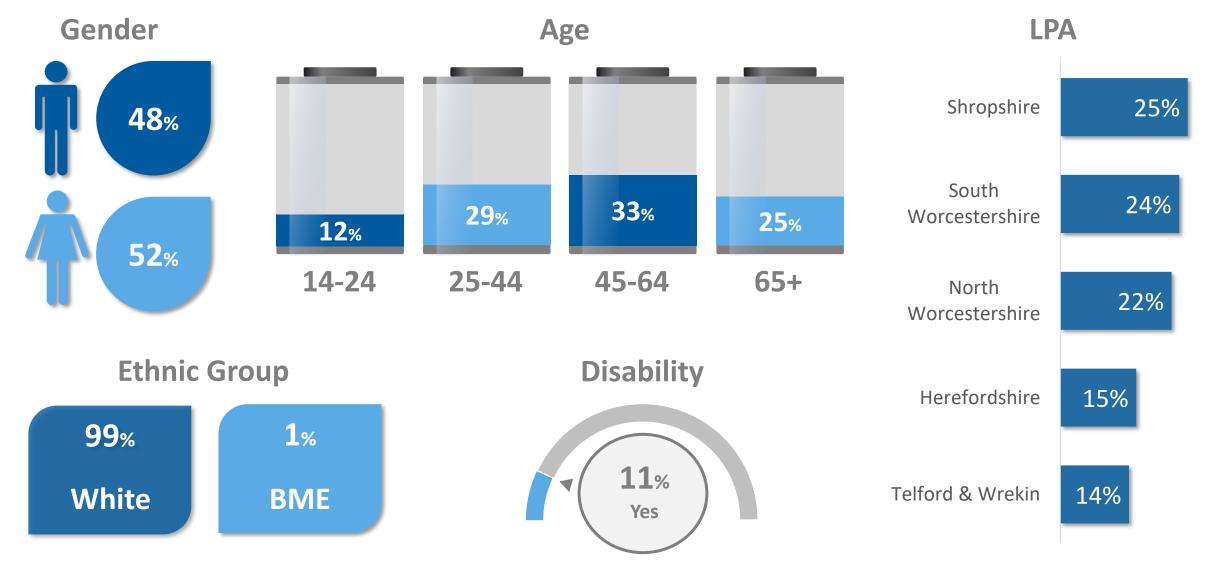
Effectiveness

- Seven-tenths (71%) agree WMP understand the issues in their community; around a quarter (24%) say that they crime and ASB is a problem in their area.
- Three-quarters (75%) say that crime and ASB had remained the same compared to 12 months ago; more than a tenth (13%) report an increase. More than three-quarters (78%) agree that WMP are dealing with crime and ASB.
- Nine-tenths (88%) felt their area was safe over the last three months

Trust / integrity

- The vast majority (94%) continue to say that WMP has their support, and they have trust in the force (89%). More than 8 in every 10 said that WMP act with integrity (84%), and agree they treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are (89%). Around three-quarters agree WMP use their powers appropriately (79%), take people's concerns seriously (78%) and can be relied to be there when you need them (73%).
- Two-thirds (68%) are confident West Mercia Police use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully. A small percentage disagree with this statement (2%).

Respondent Breakdown



Results have been weighted to accurately represent the population size of each LPA



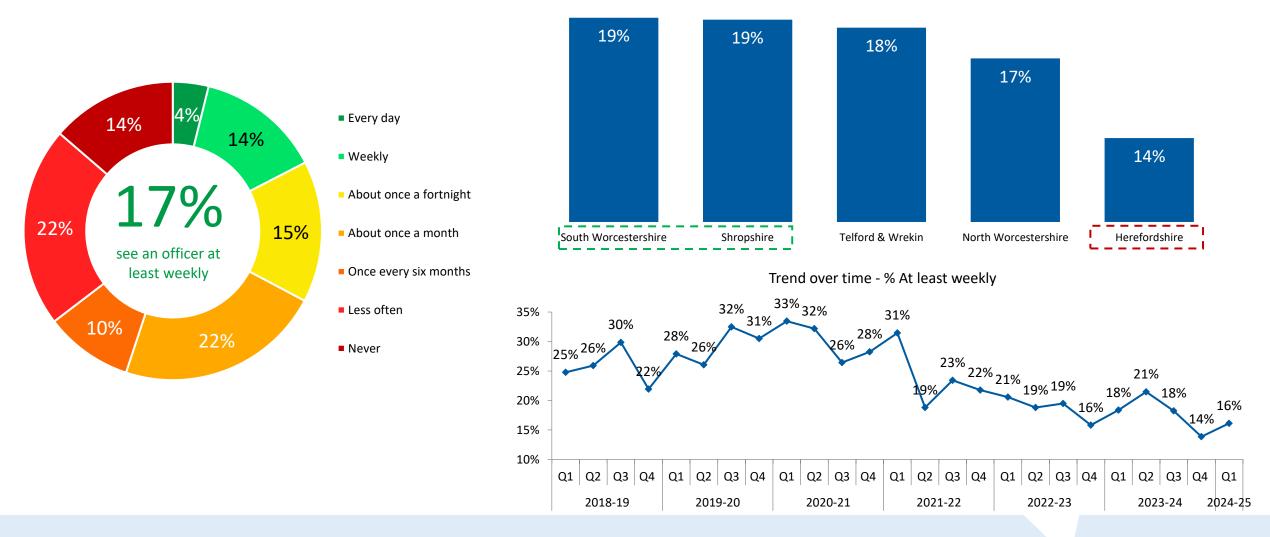


Section Two Visibility / Presence



Less than a fifth see an officer or PCSO at least once a week

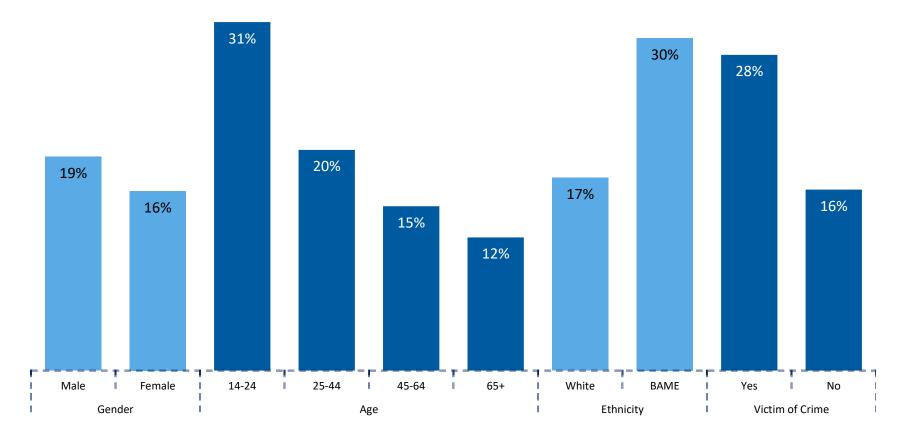
LPA Comparisons - % seeing a police officer or PCSO at least weekly



Q1 Thinking about your local area. How often would you say you see a police officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)?

Less than a fifth see an officer or PCSO at least once a week

Demographic Comparisons - % seeing a police officer or PCSO at least weekly



Key Insights

Those residing in Herefordshire least likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly

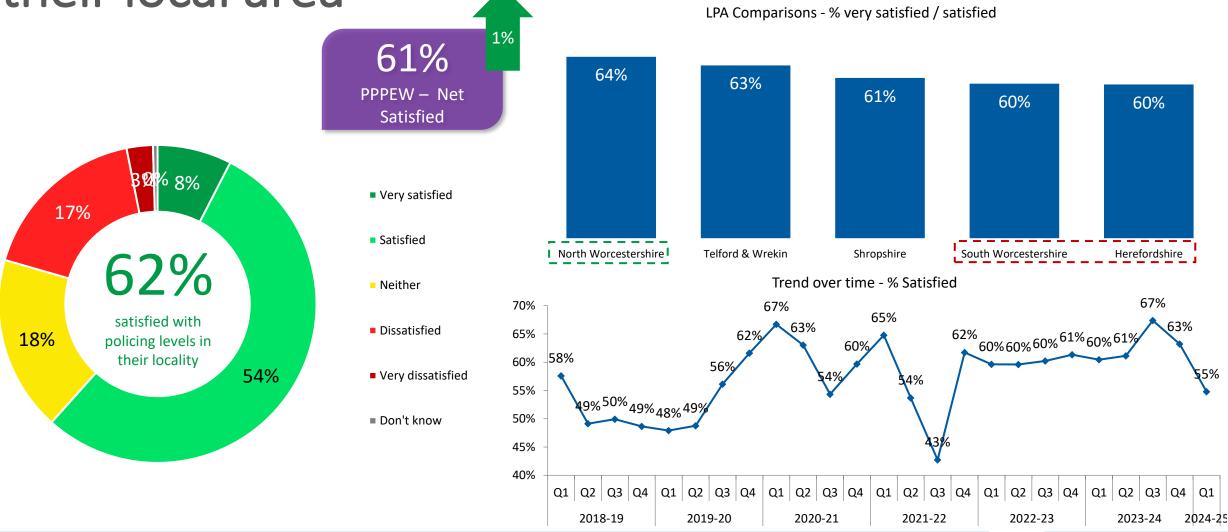
Older residents are less likely to see officers or PCSOs on a weekly basis; a third of young people see officers at least weekly

Victims of crime more likely than nonvictims to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly

Ethnic minorities nearly twice as likely than white residents to see an officer or PCSO at least once a week

Q1 Thinking about your local area. How often would you say you see a police officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)?

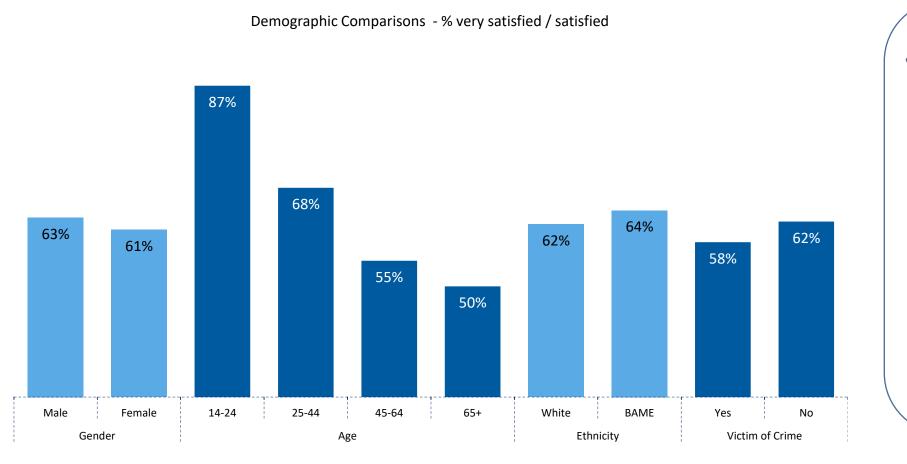
Three-fifths satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area



Q2 How satisfied are you with the level of policing in your local area?

PPPEW Question: How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local police force?

Three-fifths satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area





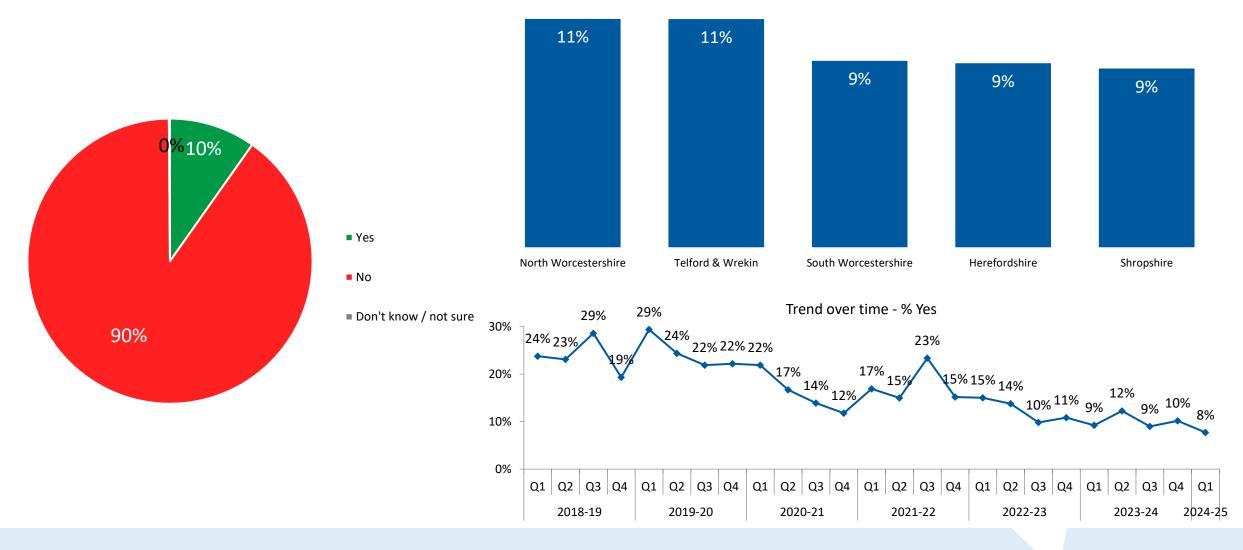
Young people, aged 14-24 most likely to be satisfied with policing levels in their local area. Those aged 45 or over are less likely to be satisfied

Decline in satisfaction of 8% since last quarter

White residents less satisfied than ethnic minorities

Residents in South Worcestershire and Herefordshire least likely to be satisfied; North Worcestershire most likely

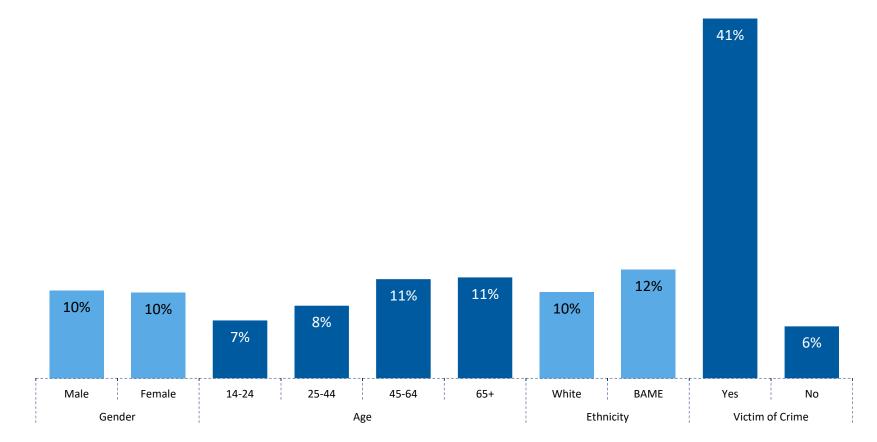
A tenth have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team



Q3 In the past 12 months, have you spoken to one or more of the police officers or PCSO's who form the local policing team in your area?

A tenth have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team





Victims of crime most likely to have engaged with officers from their LPT Those aged 14-24 least likely to have spoken to an officer from their local policing team

Key Insights

Decline of 2% from the previous quarter in those that have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team – now at lowest level since tracking began

Four-fifths felt there had been no change in the level of policing LPA Comparisons - % increase v % decrease Increase Decrease



Q4 Compared to the last 12 months do you feel there has there been a change in the level of policing in this area?

5%

9%

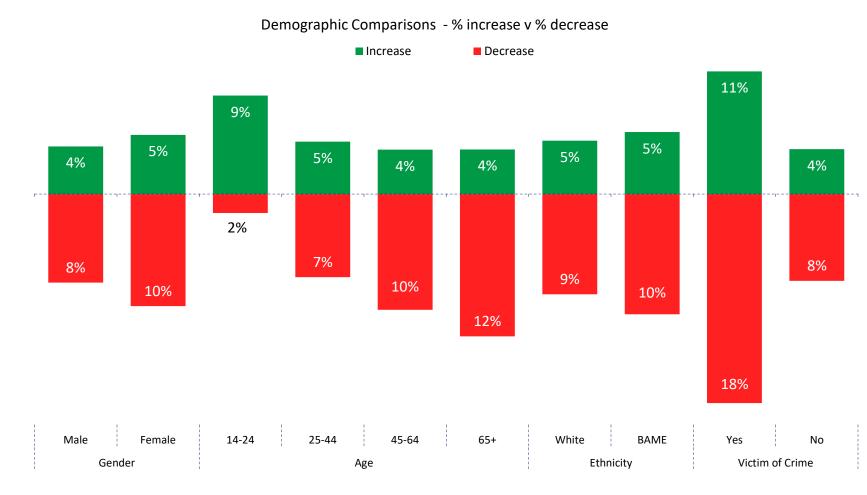
5%

Twice as many

policing than

81%

Four-fifths felt there had been no change in the level of policing



Key Insights

Under 24's and victims of crime were more likely to notice an increase in levels of policing

However, victims of crime are also more likely to believe there has been a decrease in levels of policing

The older the respondent the more likely they were to feel policing levels had decreased

Residents of South Worcestershire most likely to notice a decrease in policing

Q4 Compared to the last 12 months do you feel there has there been a change in the level of policing in this area?

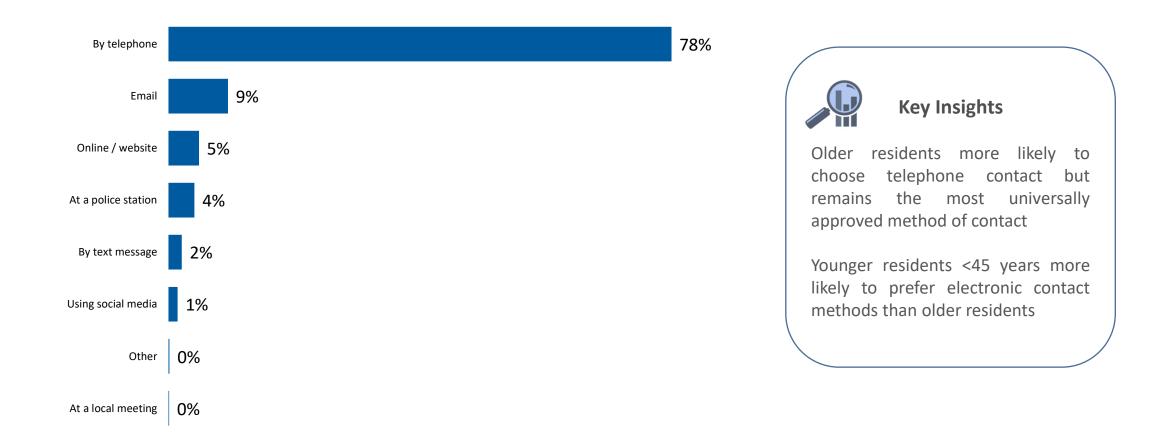




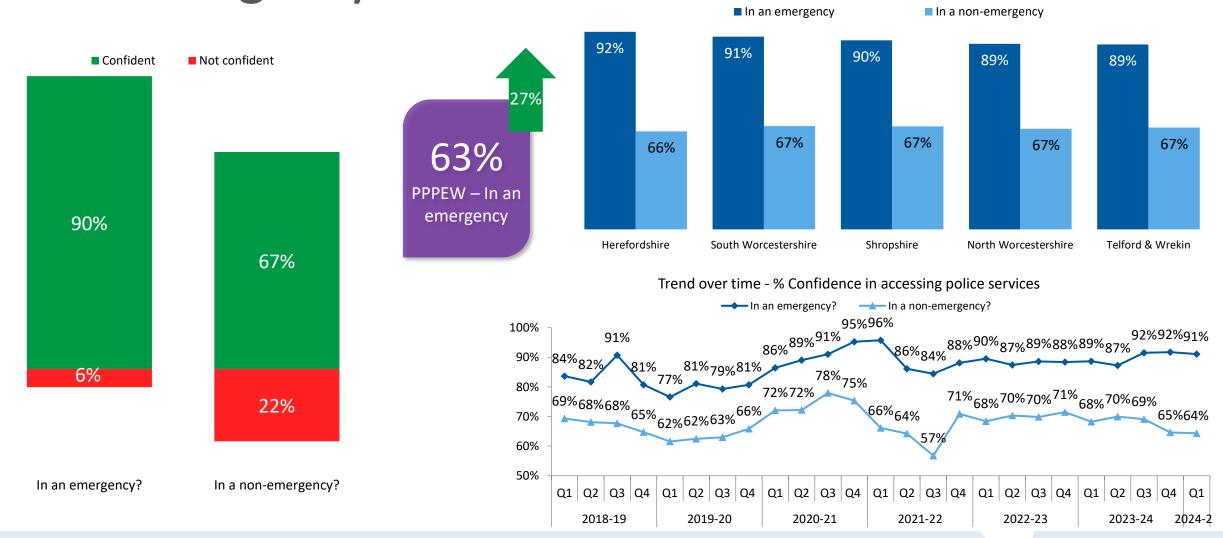
Section Three Interaction / Access



More than three-quarters said they would prefer to contact the police by telephone for a non-emergency



Nine-tenths confident they could access the police in an emergency LPA Comparisons - % confident they could easily speak to or access police services in your local area...

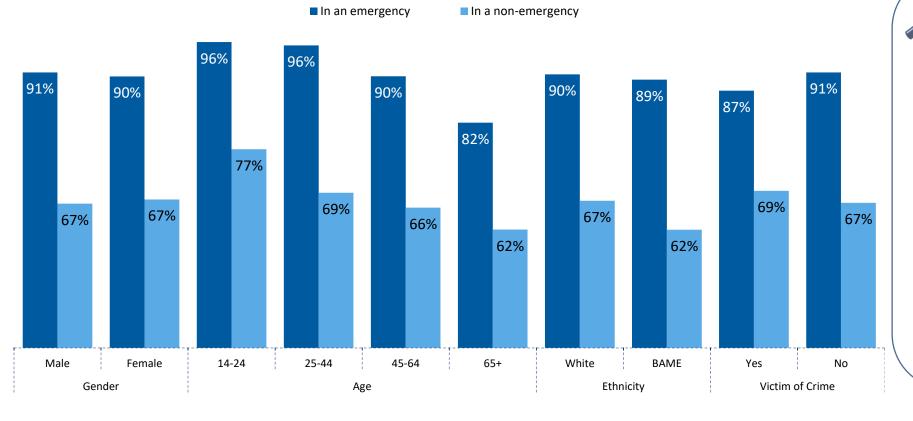


Q6 How confident are you, if at all, that you could easily speak to or access police services in your local area if you (or someone else) needed help in an emergency / non-emergency?

PPPEW Question: How confident are you, if at all, that the police in your local area would be easy to access/speak to if you (or someone else) needed help in an emergency

Nine-tenths confident they could access the police in an emergency

Demographic Comparisons - % confident they could easily speak to or access police services in your local area...



Key Insights

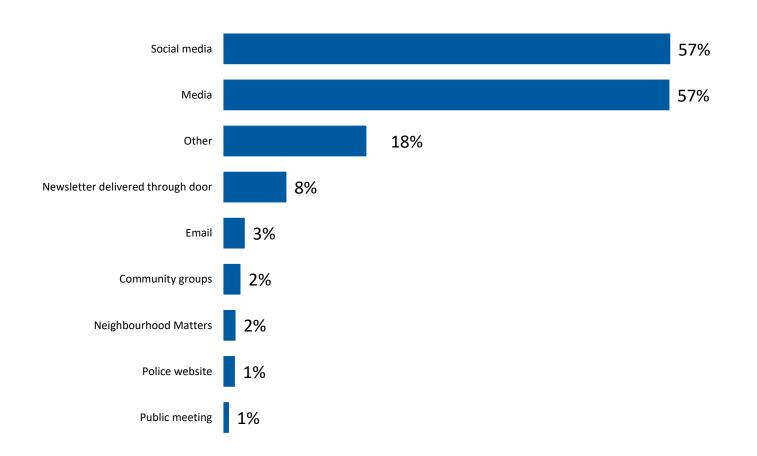
Those under 45 show higher levels of confidence they can access WMP in an emergency

Confidence in contacting WMP both in an emergency and nonemergency generally decreases with age

Residents from an ethnic minority background less confident in a nonemergency compared to white residents

Q6 How confident are you, if at all, that you could easily speak to or access police services in your local area if you (or someone else) needed help in an emergency / non-emergency?

Over half said they found out about crime and policing from either the media or from social media





Over three-fifths of males get information from the media in general compared to around half of females.

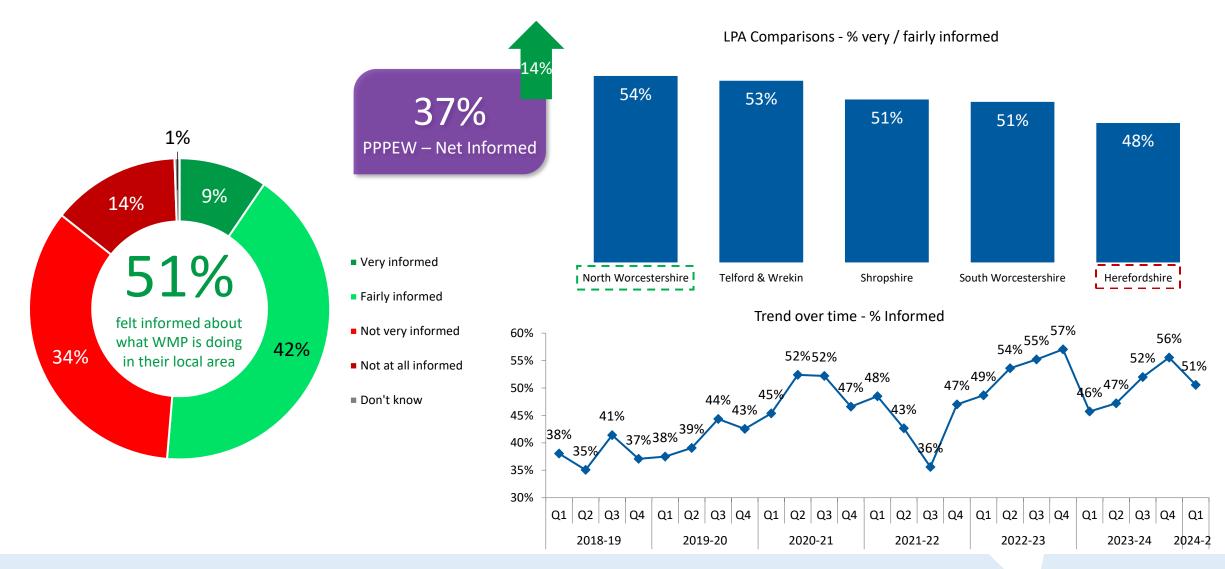
However, females are more likely to access information through social media channels

Almost all residents aged <25 years old say they access information through social media compared to around a quarter of those aged 65+. Social media use decreases with age

Only a fifth of those aged <25 years old access information through the general media

The majority of those who mentioned 'other sources' mentioned word of mouth or that they do not hear anything

Half do not feel informed about what WMP are doing

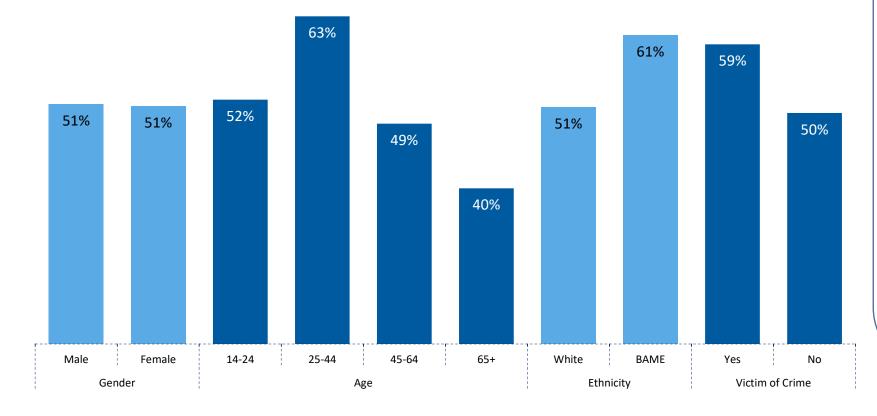


Q8 Overall, how well informed do you feel about what West Mercia Police is doing in your local area?

PPPEW Question: Overall, how well informed do you feel about what the police in your local area are doing?

Half do not feel informed about what WMP are doing

Demographic Comparisons - % very / fairly informed



Key Insights

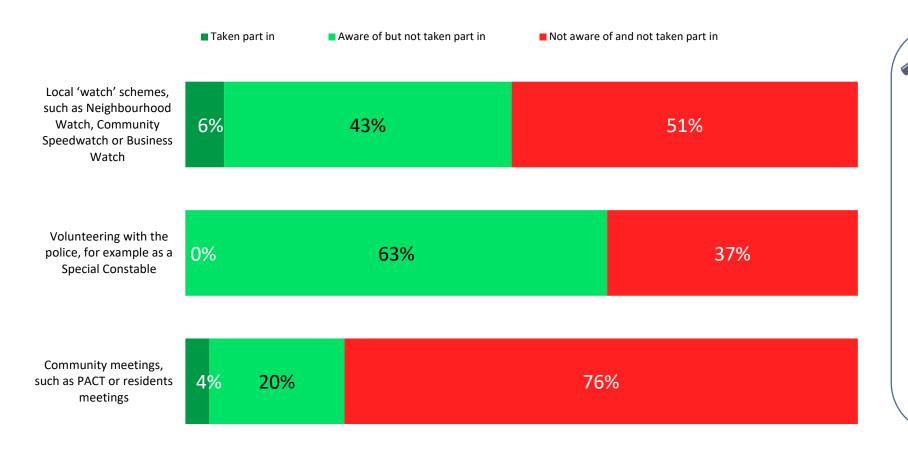
Those aged 65+ least likely to feel informed about what WMP is doing compared to other age groups

Those aged 25-44 most likely to feel informed

Victims of crime and ethnic minority residents more likely to feel informed

Residents from North Worcestershire most informed about what the police are doing in their local area; those from Herefordshire least informed

Low levels of participation amongst residents in watch schemes, volunteering and community meetings





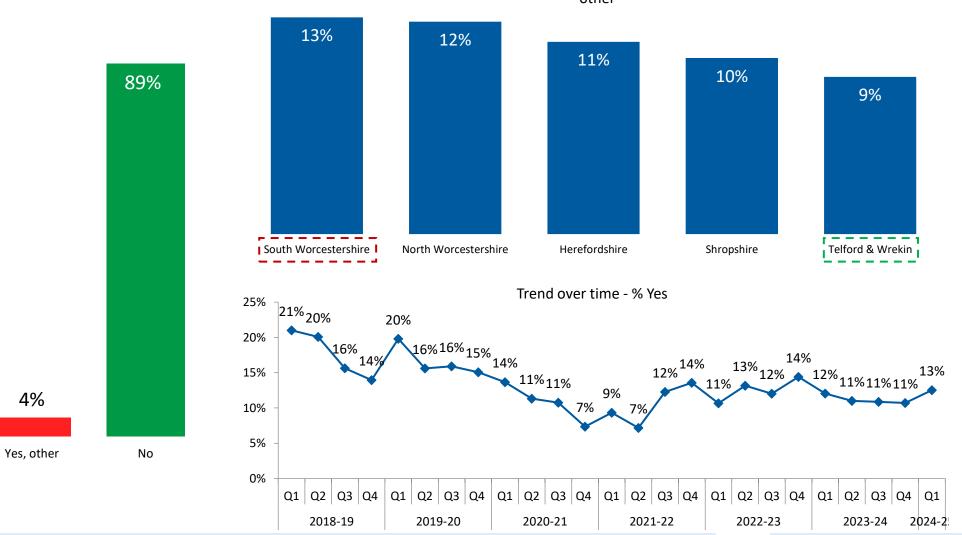
Key Insights

Half were aware of local 'watch' schemes; less than a tenth have taken part

Three-fifths aware of police volunteering opportunities with less than a percent of those interviewed confirming they had taken part

A fifth say they are aware of community meetings and a small percentage have taken part

Around a tenth have been a victim of, or witness to, a crime



LPA Comparisons - % that had been either a victim of a crime, witness to a crime or other

Q10 And can I ask whether you have been a victim of, or witness to, crime in the past 12 months, or you've had to contact West Mercia Police for any other issues?

4%

Yes, I've been a

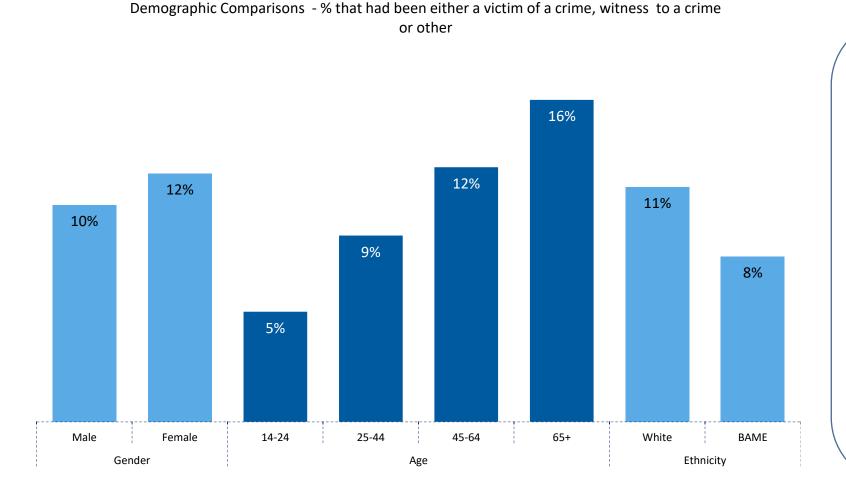
victim

3%

Yes, I've been

witness

Around a tenth have been a victim of, or witness to, a crime





Key Insights

Residents in South Worcestershire more likely to have encountered crime in some form

Those in Telford & Wrekin least likely to have been involved in crime as a victim, witness or other

Those under 25 least likely to say they have witnessed or been a victim of crime – the older the respondent the more likely they were to have encountered crime

The vast majority (91%) of residents who had been a victim of crime said they reported this to the police



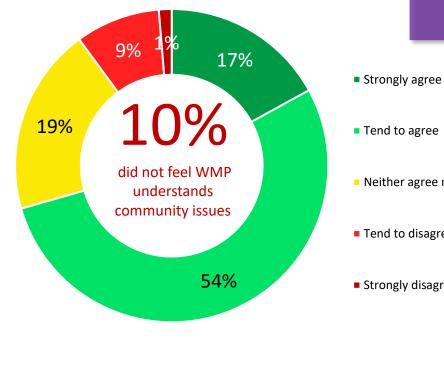


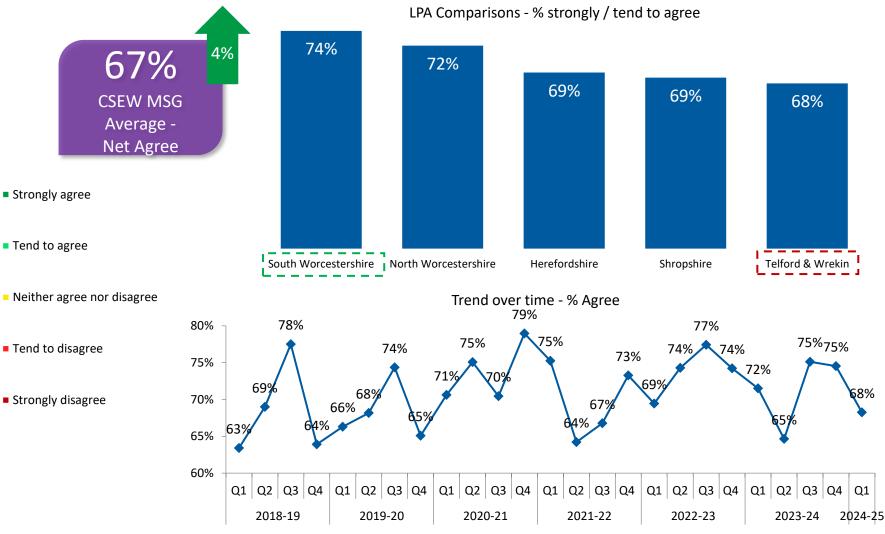


Section Four Effectiveness



Seven-tenths felt WMP understands issues in their community





Q13 How much would you agree or disagree that West Mercia Police understand the issues that affect your community? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

CSEW Question: They (the police in this area) understand the issues that affect this community

Seven-tenths felt WMP understands issues in their comunity

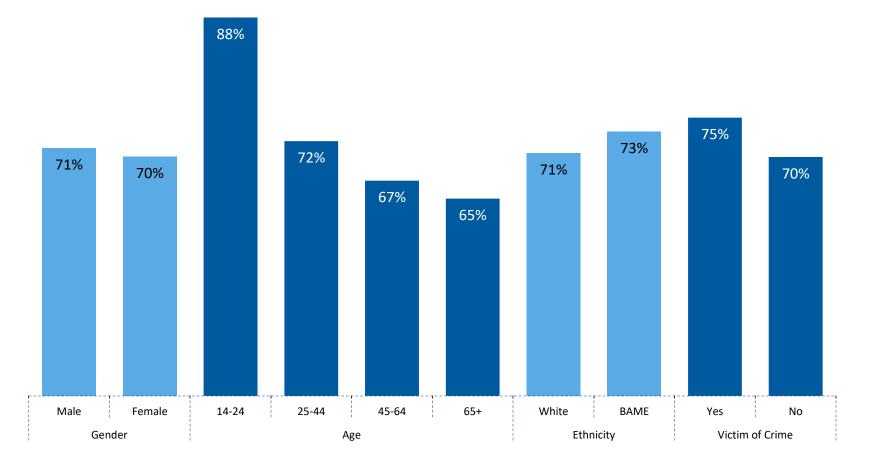


Key Insights

Residents aged 14-24 most likely to agree WMP understand the issues in their area with agreement declining the older the respondent got

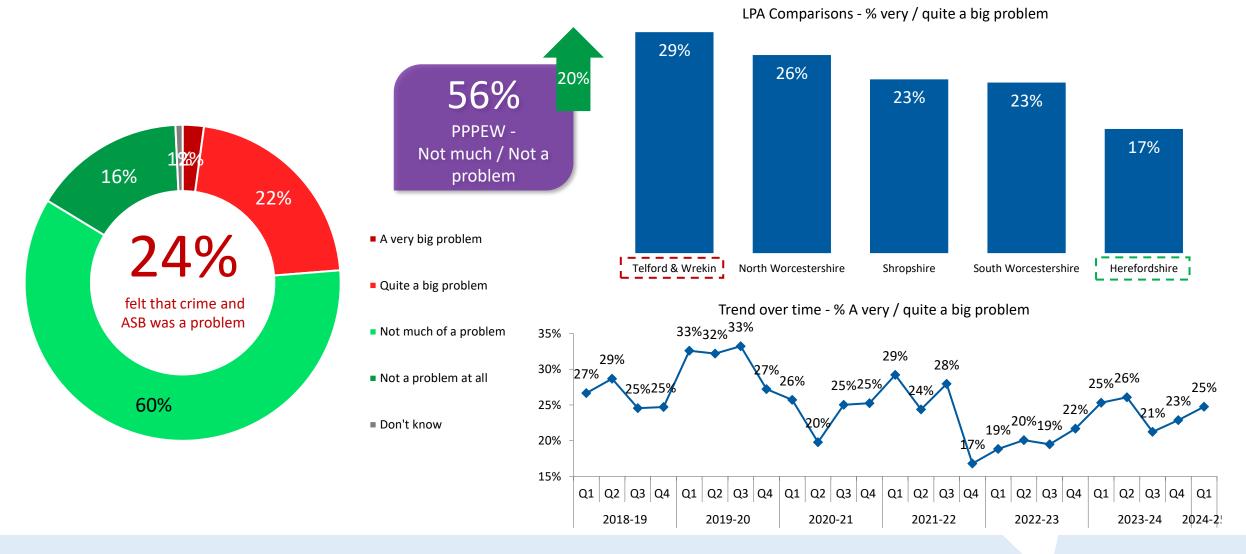
Residents in South Worcestershire most likely to agree the police understand the issues in their area; those in Telford & Wrekin least likely

Victims of crime more likely to agree WMP understand issues



Q13 How much would you agree or disagree that West Mercia Police understand the issues that affect your community? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

Three-quarters do not feel crime and ASB is a problem in their local area

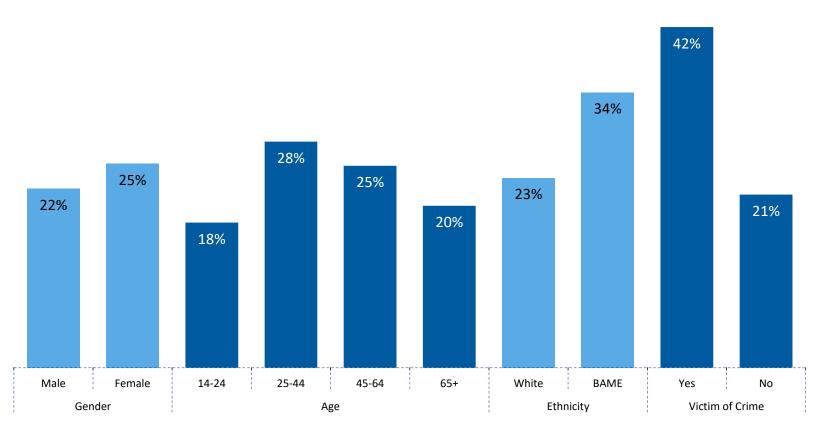


Q14 How much of a problem, if at all, do you think crime and anti-social behaviour are in your local area?

PPPEW Question: How much of a problem, if at all, do you think crime and anti-social behaviour are in your local area?

Three-quarters do not feel crime and ASB is a problem in their local area

Demographic Comparisons - % very / quite a big problem





Key Insights

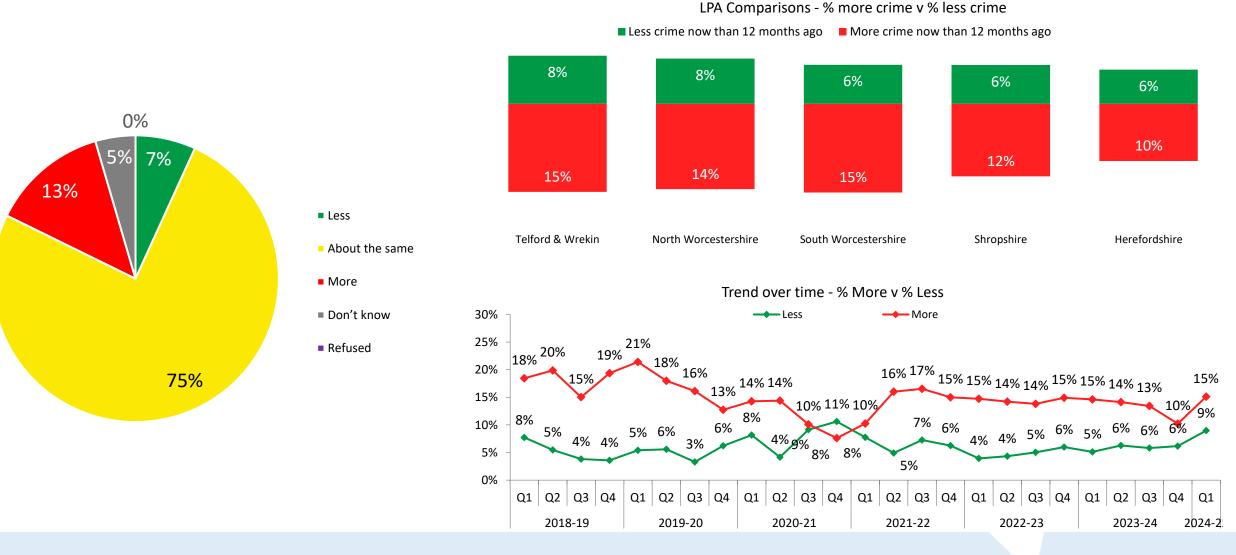
More than two-fifths of victims feel that crime and ASB is a problem in their area

Ethnic minorities continue to be more likely than White respondents to say crime and ASB is a problem

Younger people, aged 14-24 and residents over 65+ are least likely to feel that crime and ASB is a problem

More than a quarter of residents in Telford and Wrekin believe crime and ASB are a problem; less than a fifth of those in Herefordshire believe this is the case

Three-quarters felt crime and ASB levels had remained the same – more than a tenth felt there was more

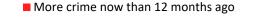


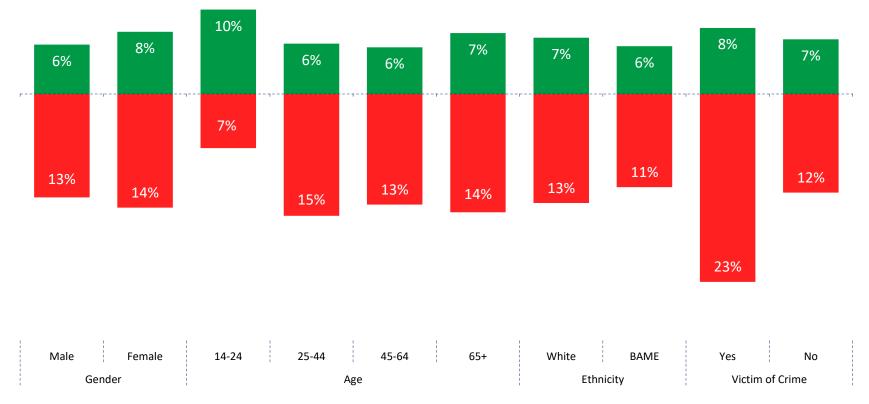
Q15 Compared to 12 months ago, would you say there is now more crime and ASB in the area you live in, less crime and ASB or about the same?

Three-quarters felt crime and ASB levels had remained the same – more than a tenth felt there was more

Demographic Comparisons - % more crime v % less crime

Less crime now than 12 months ago



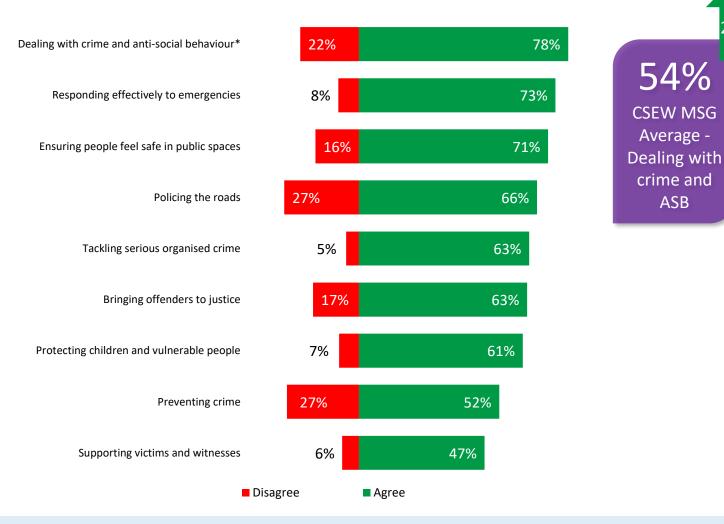




Almost a quarter of those who have been a victim of crime say that crime and ASB levels have risen in the last 12 months

Young people, aged 14-24 are less likely to say there is more crime compared to a year ago compared to other age groups. This group is also more likely to say there is less crime

Over three-quarters agreed WMP are dealing with crime and ASB



Key Insights

More than three-quarters continue to agree WMP are dealing with crime and ASB

Slightly fewer agree the force respond effectively to emergencies and ensure people feel safe in public spaces

Two thirds feel that WMP are policing the roads, however, more than a quarter disagree with this statement

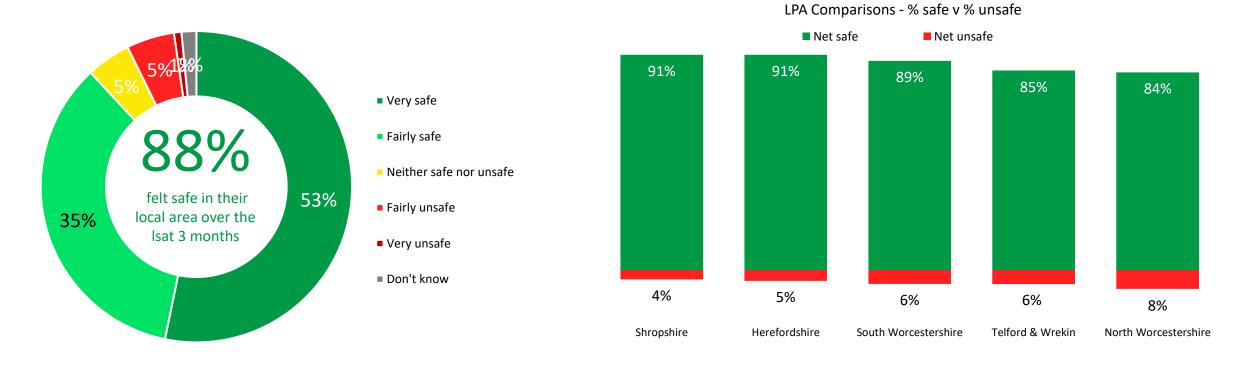
Fewer people agree that WMP are protecting vulnerable people or tackling organised crime, however, low levels of disagreement towards these aspects indicate a lack of knowledge towards these aspects

Around half felt WMP are preventing crime with a quarter that disagreed

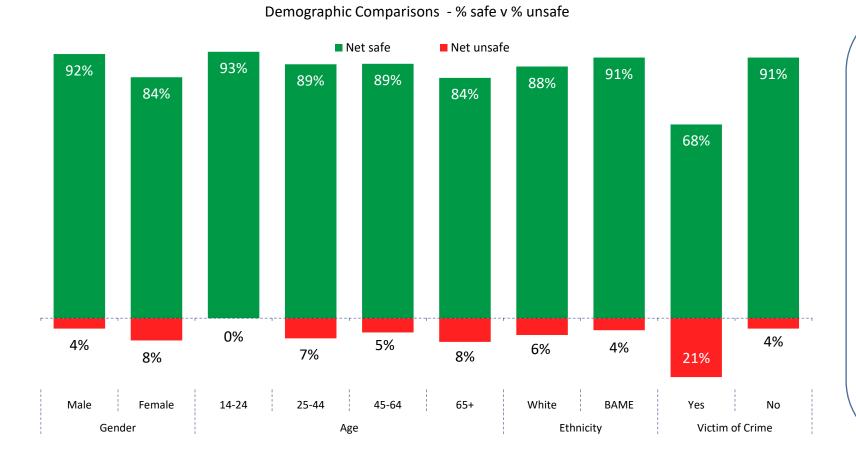
Q16 To what extent do you agree or disagree that West Mercia Police are: *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW CSEW: Do you agree or disagree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area?

24%

Nine out of every ten felt their area was safe over the last 3 months



Nine out of every ten felt their area was safe over the last 3 months



Key Insights

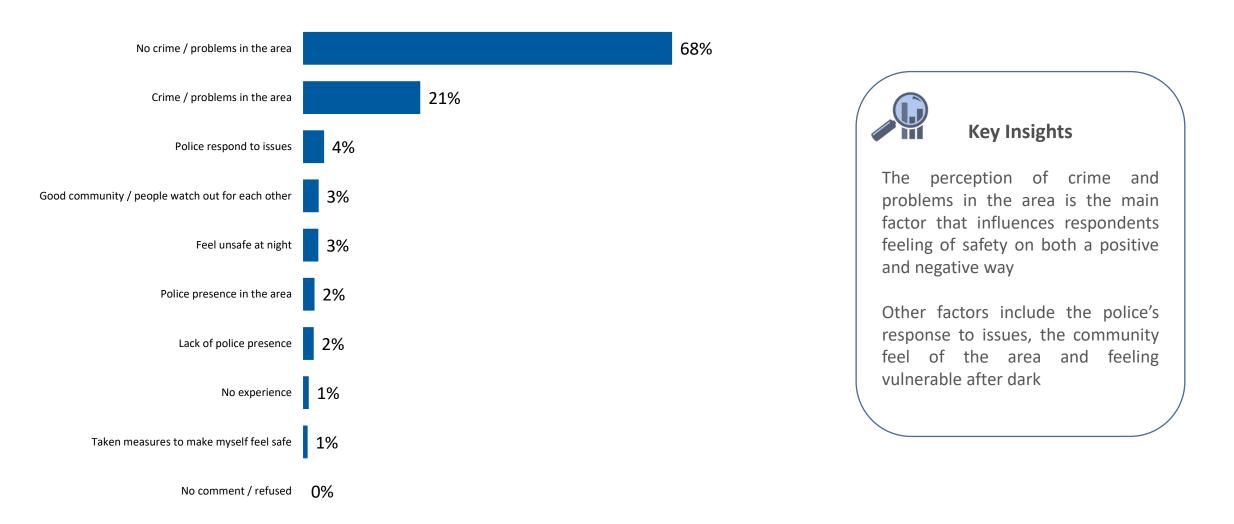
Those in North Worcestershire and Telford & Wrekin less likely to feel their area was safe over the last 3 months

Victims of crime least likely to feel their area was safe, with a fifth saying they felt it was unsafe

Females less likely than males to feel their area was safe over the last 3 months

Younger residents (14-24) most likely to feel their area was safe, with those aged 65+ less likely to feel it was safe

Factors influencing feelings of safety



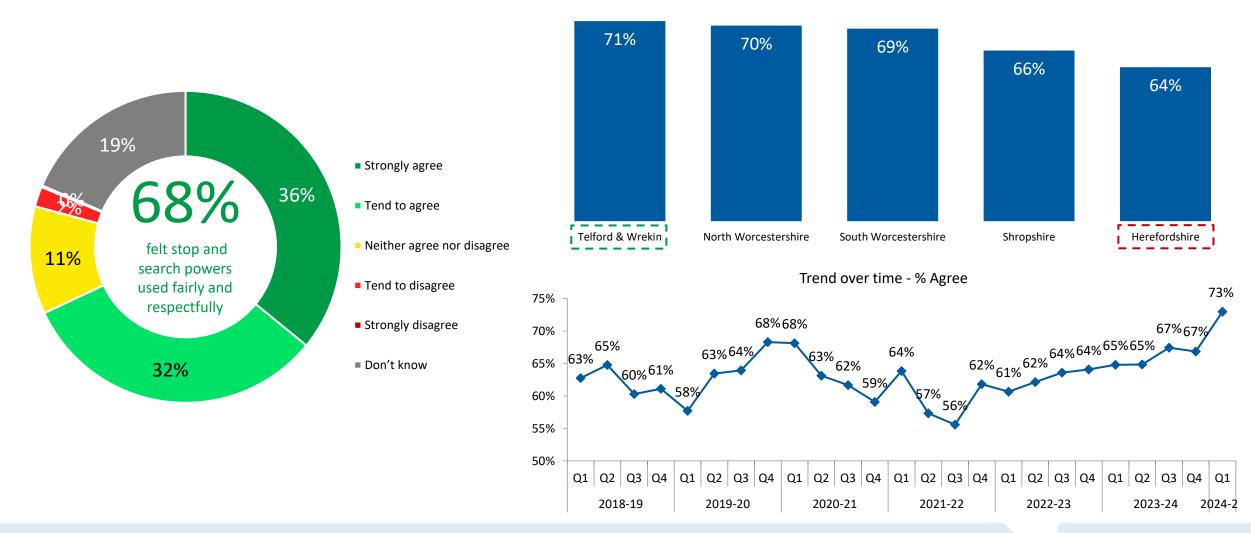




Section Five Trust / Integrity

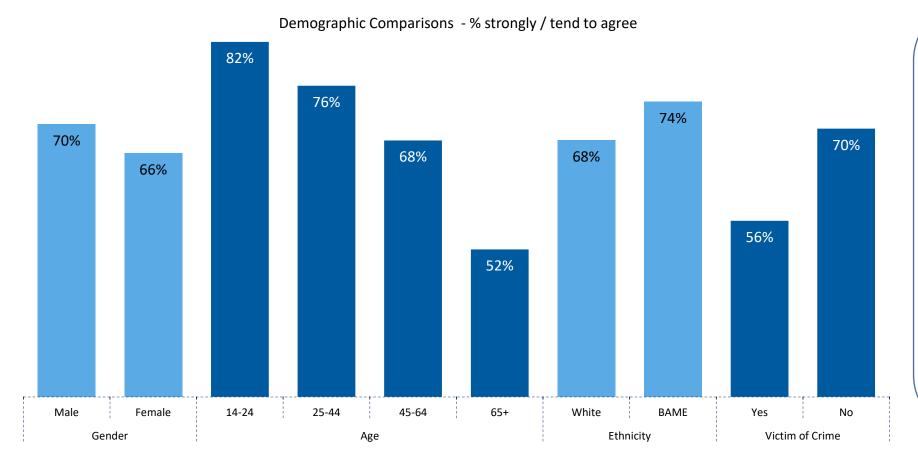


Two-thirds confident WMP use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully



Q17 Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am confident that West Mercia Police use their stop and search powers fairly and respectfully?

Two-thirds confident WMP use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully



Key Insights

Increase of 6% from previous quarter in those that felt stop and search was used fairly and respectfully – now at highest level since tracking began

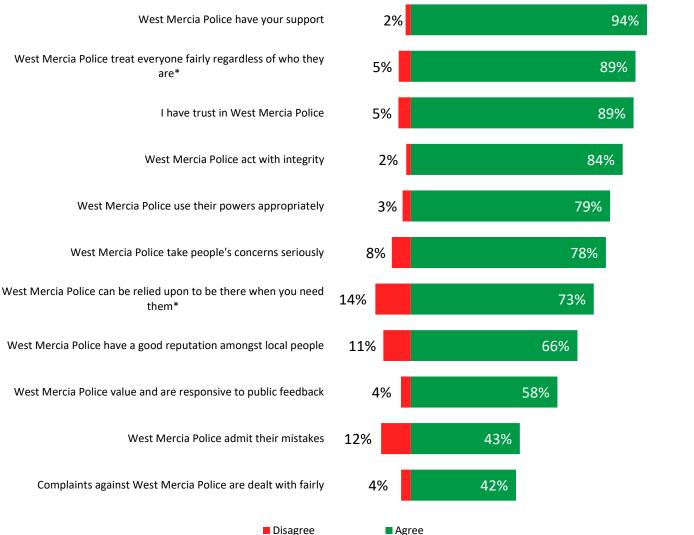
Confidence in stop search process generally decreases with age

8 in 10 people aged 14-24 are confident stop search powers are used fairly and respectfully

Victims of crime are less likely to say they are confident in the procedure compared to non-victims

Q17 Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am confident that West Mercia Police use their stop and search powers fairly and respectfully?

9 in every 10 say that WMP have their support and that they have trust in WMP



Q18 Thinking about West Mercia Police, to what extent do you agree or disagree that...? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW CSEW Questions: They (the police in this area) can be relied on to be there when you need them / The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

20%

15%

69%

CSEW MSG

Average -

Treat

everyone

fairly

57%

CSEW MSG

Average – Can be relied

on when

needed

Key Insights

More than 9 out of every 10 residents agree the force have their support

The vast majority continue to say they have trust in WMP, feel WMP treat people fairly, regardless of who they are and feel WMP act with integrity

Over three-quarters also believe that WMP use powers appropriately and take people's concerns seriously

More than a tenth disagree that WMP can be relied on to be there when needed, admit their mistakes and have a good reputation, locally. However, two thirds agree with the latter

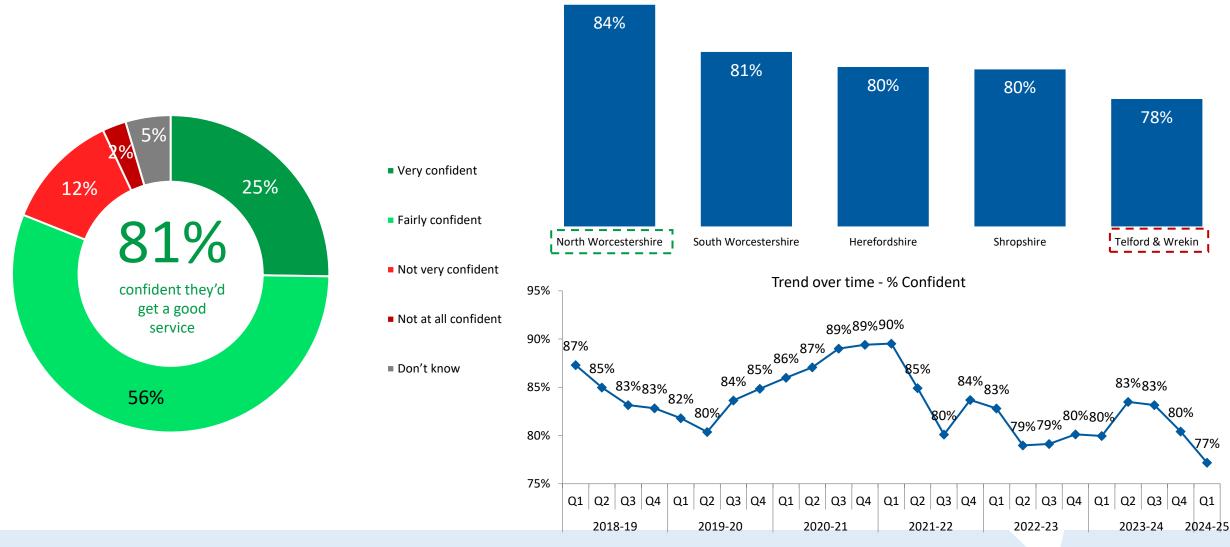




Section Six Confidence in West Mercia Police



Four-fifths confident they would receive a good service from WMP LPA Comparisons - % very / fairly confident



Q19 If you were to report a crime or incident in the future, how confident are you that you would receive a good service from West Mercia Police?

Four-fifths confident they would receive a good service from WMP



Key Insights

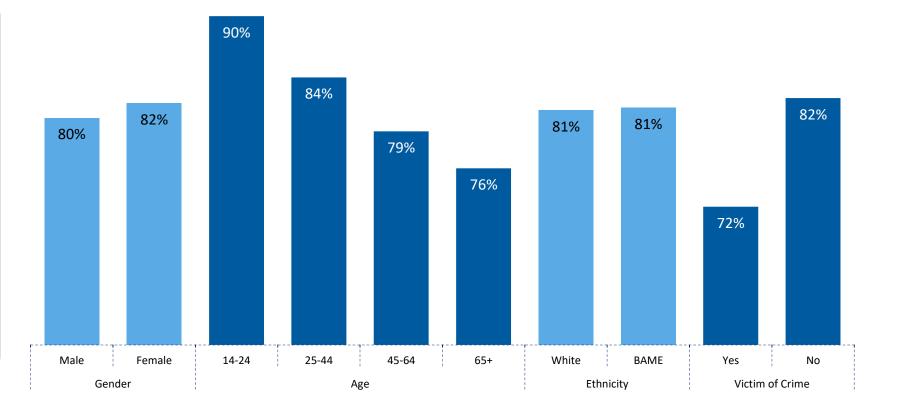
Nine in every 10 aged 14-24 are confident they would receive a good service from WMP. Confidence generally decreases with age

Residents in North Worcestershire most confident they would receive a good service; those in Telford & Wrekin least confident

Victims of crime significantly less confident compared to non-victims

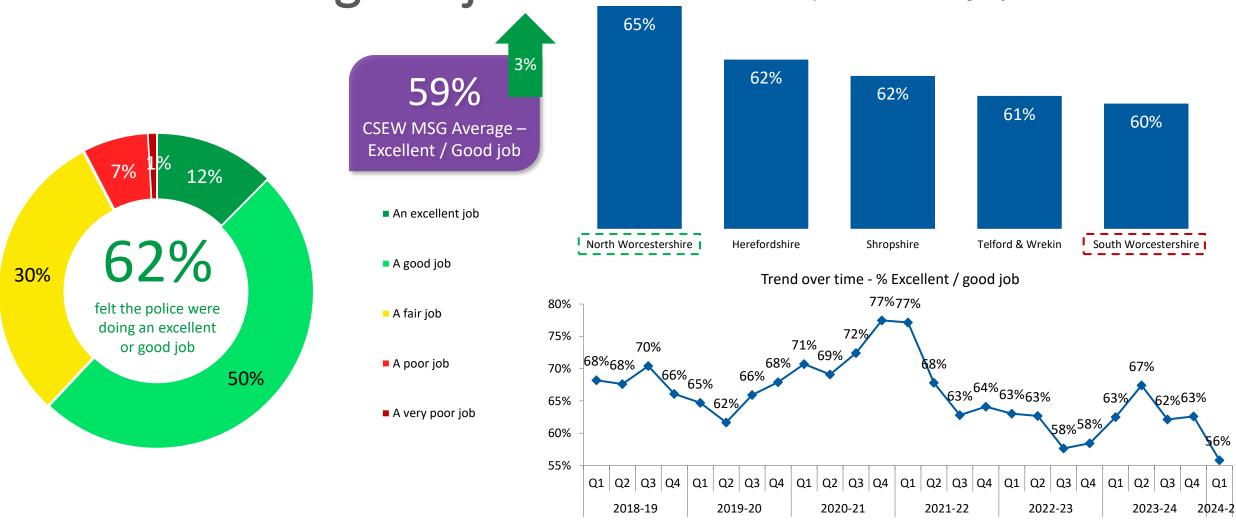
Decline of 3% from previous quarter – now at lowest level since tracking began

Demographic Comparisons - % very / fairly confident



Q19 If you were to report a crime or incident in the future, how confident are you that you would receive a good service from West Mercia Police?

Over three-fifths felt the police were doing either an excellent or a good job _____ LPA Comparisons - % excellent / good job



Q20 In general, how good a job do you think West Mercia Police are doing in your local area? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW CSEW Question: Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this area are doing?

Over three-fifths felt the police were doing either an excellent or a good job

Demographic Comparisons - % excellent / good job 82% 63% 62% 62% 62% 60% 59% 59% 56% 56% 14-24 25-44 45-64 Male Female 65+ White BAME Yes No Gender Ethnicity Victim of Crime Age

Key Insights

Youngest age group significantly more likely to feel the police are doing a good/excellent job compared to other age groups

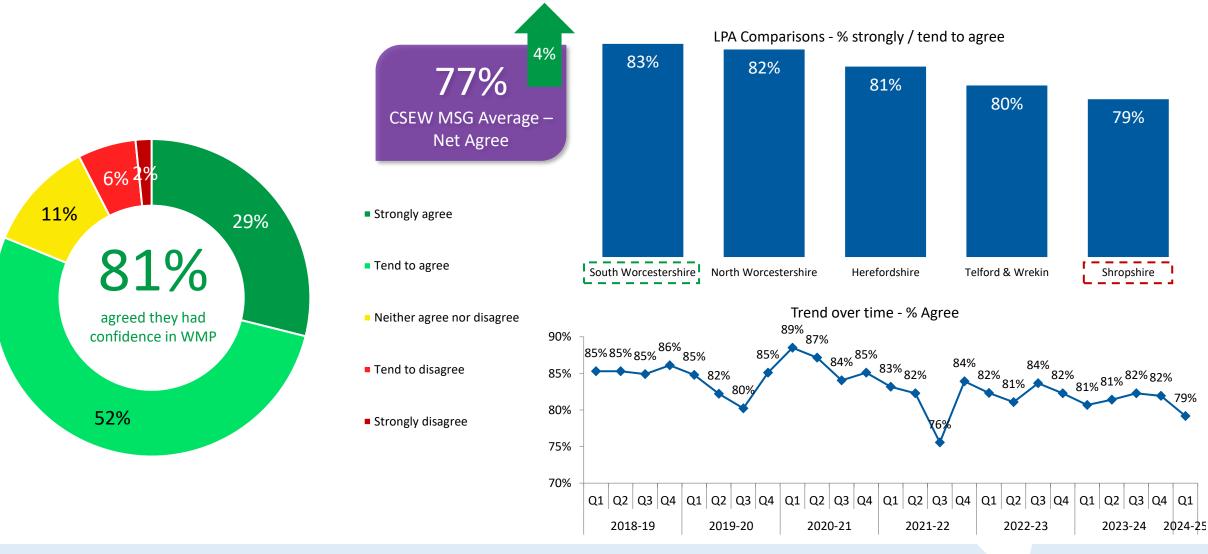
Residents in South Worcestershire less likely to say WMP were doing an excellent or good job; those in North Worcestershire more likely

Ethnic minority groups less inclined to believe WMP are doing a good job

7% decline from previous quarter – now at lowest level since tracking began

Q20 In general, how good a job do you think West Mercia Police are doing in your local area? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

8 out of 10 say they have confidence in WMP



Q21 Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?

*Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

CSEW Question: Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area

8 out of 10 say they have confidence in WMP

89% 82% 82% 81% 81% 80% 80% 79% 75% 75% 14-24 25-44 45-64 65+ White Male Female BAME Yes No Gender Age Ethnicity Victim of Crime

Demographic Comparisons - % strongly/ tend to agree

Key Insights

Young people more likely to have confidence in WMP compared to other age groups

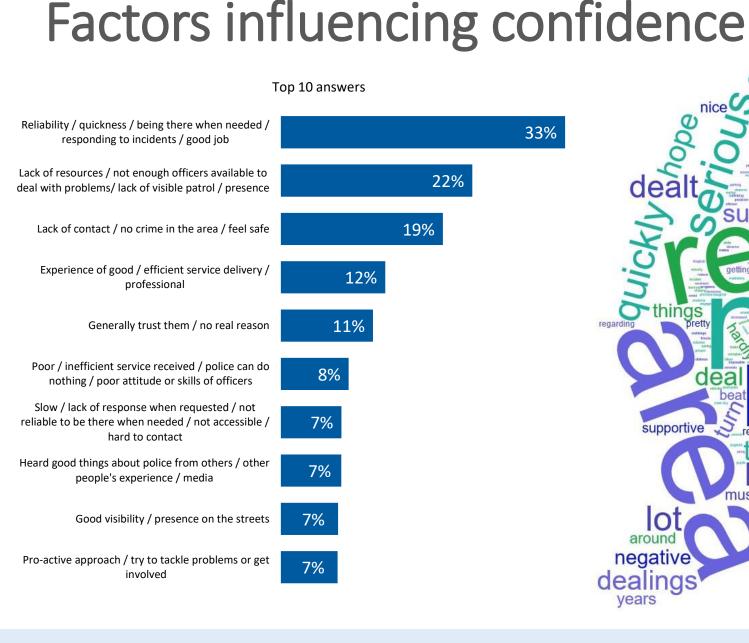
Residents from an ethnic minority background less likely to say they are confident than those from a White background

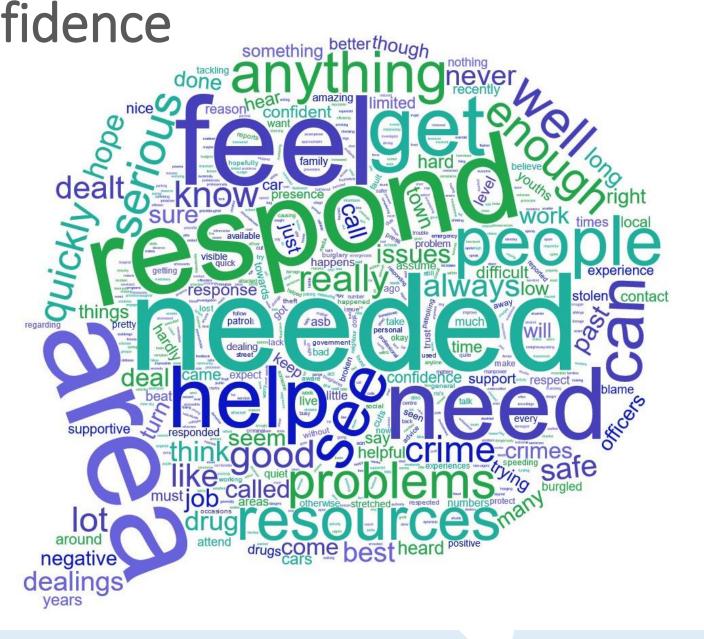
Victims of crime also less likely to agree they have confidence in WMP compared to non-victims

Residents in South Worcestershire most confident; those in Shropshire least confident

Q21 Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?

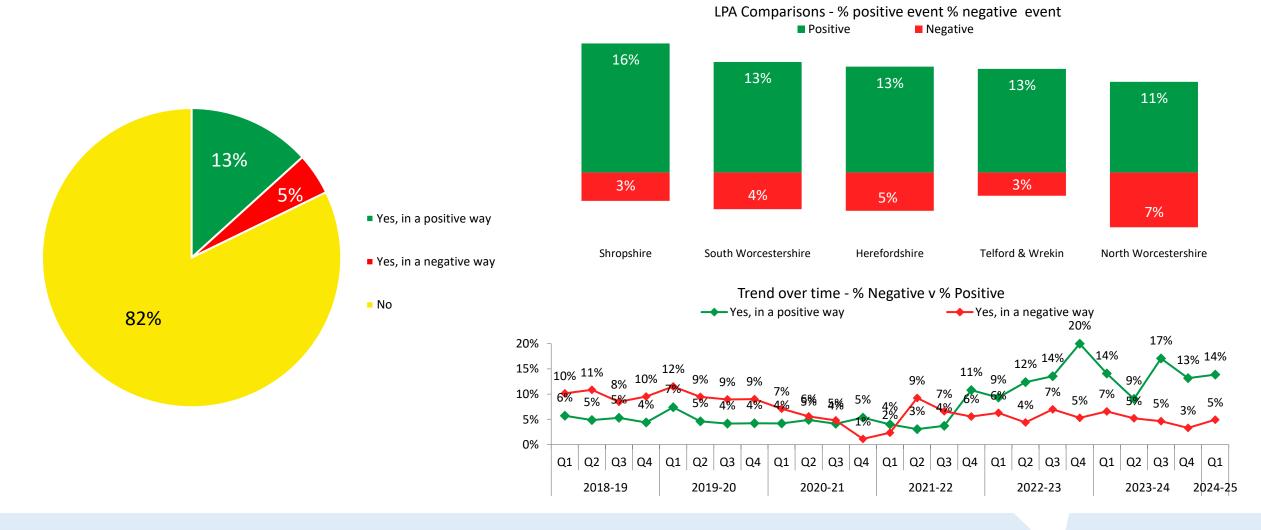
*Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW



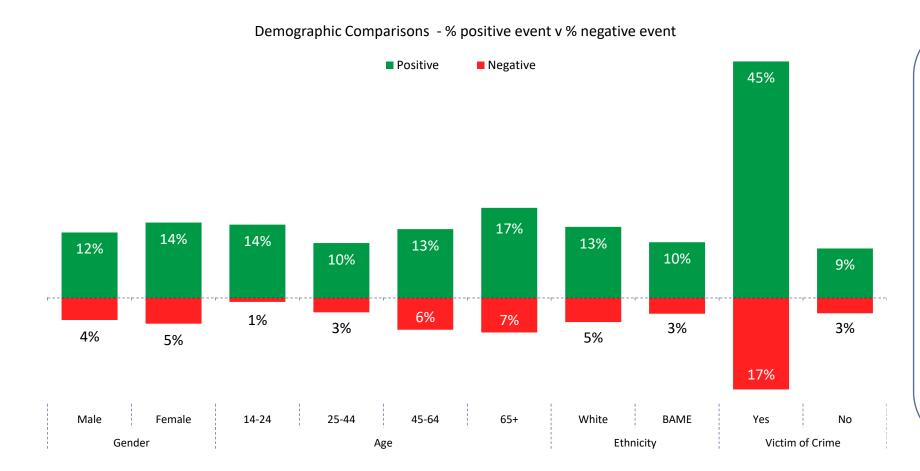


Q22 Why do you say that?

Less than a tenth have experienced an event that negatively affected their confidence in the police



Victims more likely to be affected in both a positive and negative way



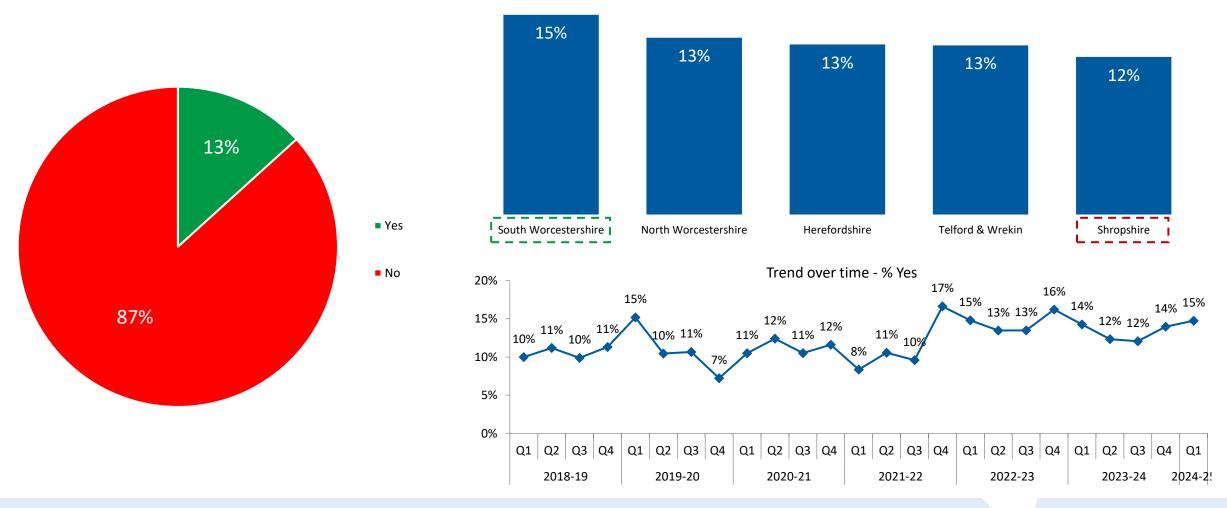
Key Insights

Victims of crime were significantly more likely to say they experienced a positive event compared to all other cohorts. Almost a fifth of victims reported a negative event had affected their confidence

Residents in Shropshire most likely to be affected by a positive event

Residents of North Worcestershire most likely to be affected by a negative event

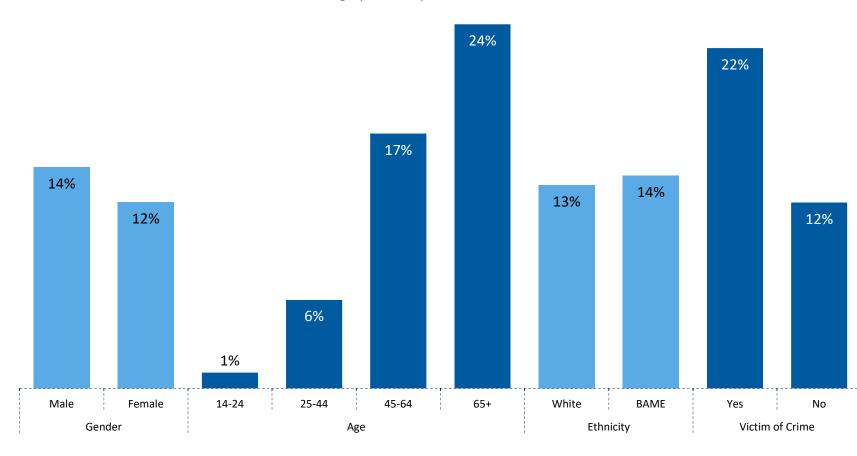
More than a tenth of respondents said they are aware of the Police and Crime Commissioner



LPA Comparisons - % aware of PCC

More than a tenth of respondents said they are aware of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Demographic Comparisons - % aware of PCC



Key Insights Awareness of the PCC increases with age – almost a quarter of those aged 65+ know who the PCC is Victims of crime also show increased awareness of the PCC

Perceptions surveys typically record awareness of 8-15% based on previous research conducted by SMSR.

Q25 Do you know who the current elected Police and Crime Commissioner is for your area?

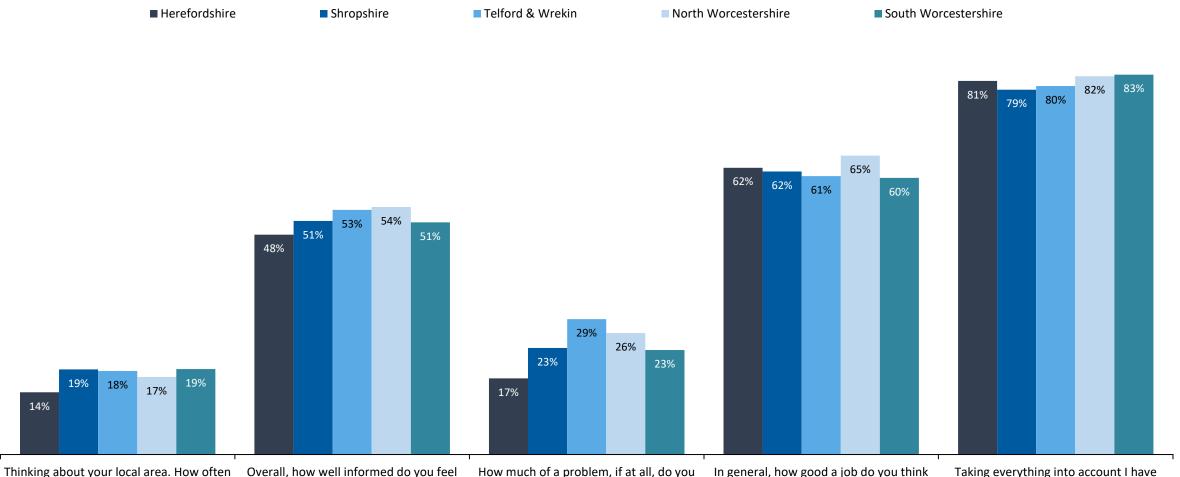




Section Seven LPA & Victim Comparisons



LPA Key Question Overview

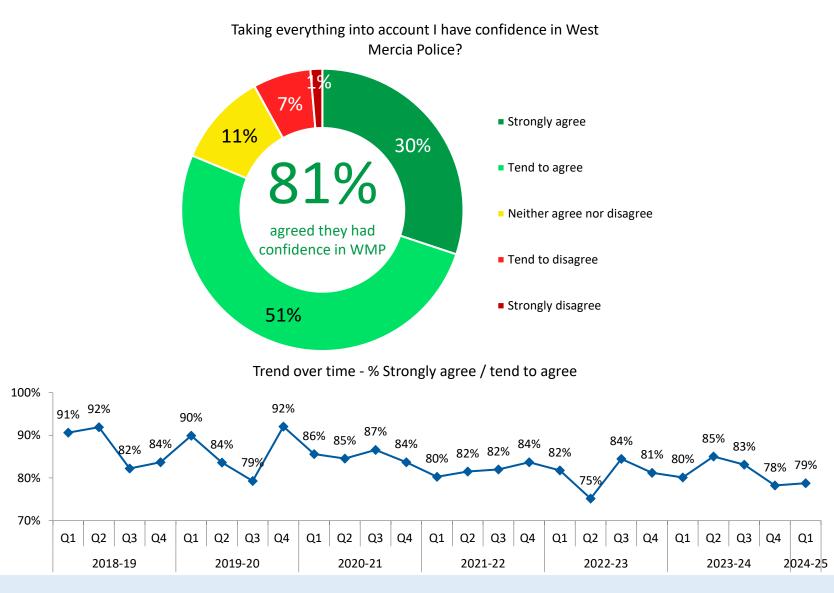


Thinking about your local area. How often would you say you see a police officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)? (At least weekly) Overall, how well informed do you f about what West Mercia Police is doi your local area? (Net informed)

Overall, how well informed do you feelHow much of a problem, if at all, do youabout what West Mercia Police is doing inthink crime and anti-social behaviour areyour local area? (Net informed)in your local area? (Not much / no problem)

In general, how good a job do you think West Mercia Police are doing in your local area? (An excellent / good job)* Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police? (Net agree)*

LPA Key Findings - Herefordshire



Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

<u>Least</u> likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (14%)

<u>Least</u> satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (60% - joint with South Worcestershire)

<u>Most</u> confident they could access the police in an emergency (92%)

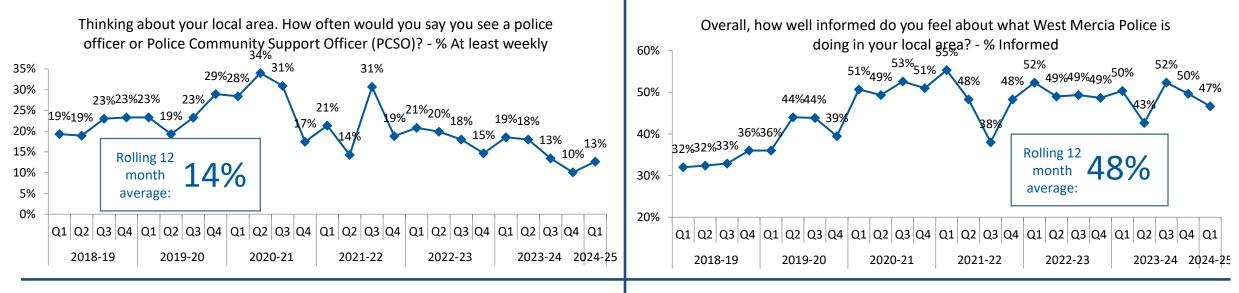
<u>Most</u> likely to feel their area was safe over the last 3 months (91% - joint with Shropshire)

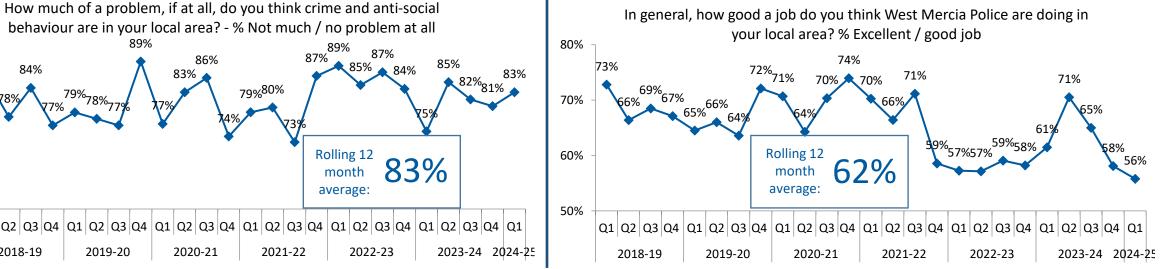
<u>Least</u> informed about what WMP are doing in their local area (48%)

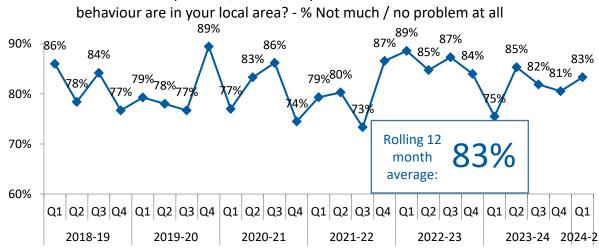
Least likely have said crime and ASB is a problem in their area (17%)

Least confident that WMP use stop and search powers fairly and respectfully (64%)

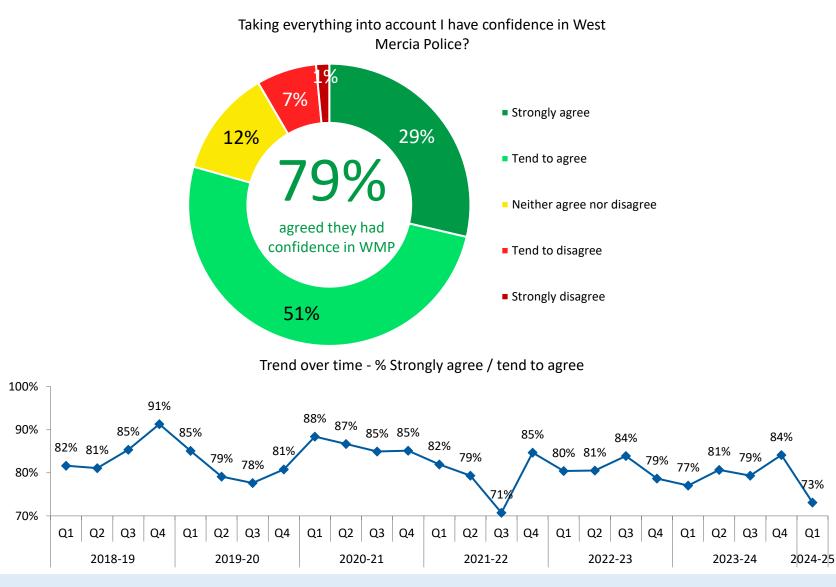
LPA Key Findings - Herefordshire







LPA Key Findings - Shropshire





Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

<u>Most</u> likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (19% - joint with South Worcestershire)

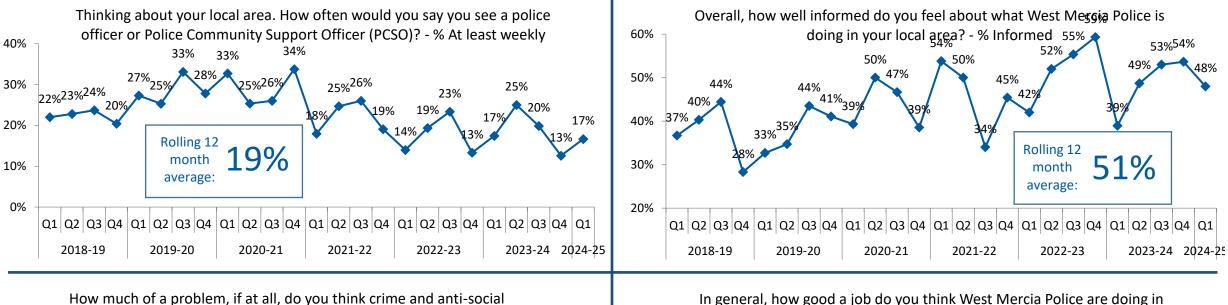
<u>Most</u> likely to feel their area was safe over the last 3 months (91% - joint with Herefordshire)

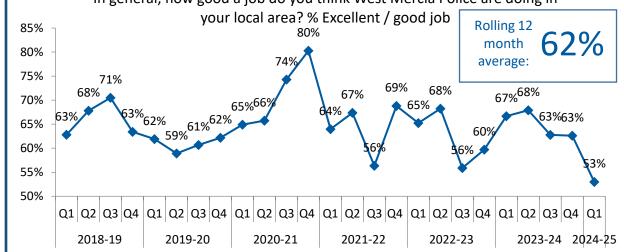
Least likely to have confidence in WMP (79%)

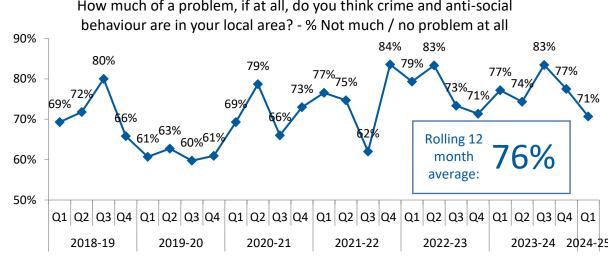
<u>Most</u> likely to have experienced an event that affected their confidence in the police in a positive way (16%)

Lowest awareness of the PCC (12%)

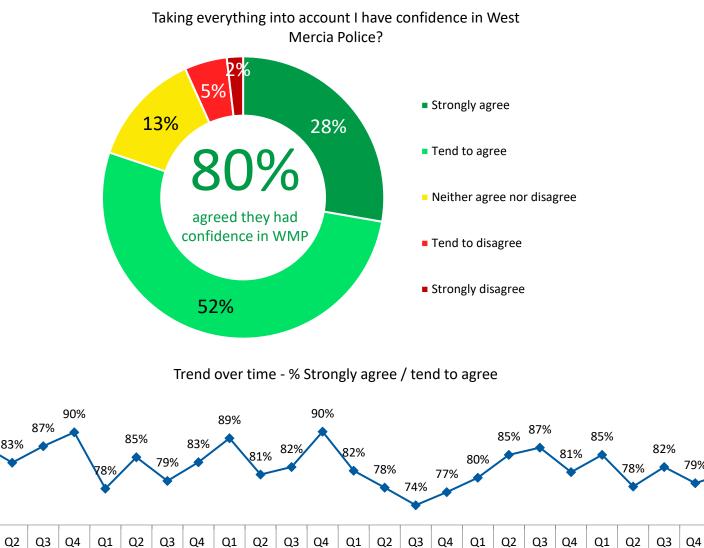
LPA Key Findings - Shropshire







LPA Key Findings - Telford & Wrekin



2021-22

2022-23



Least confident they could access the police in an emergency (89% - joint with North Worcestershire)

Least likely to be a victim of or witness to a crime (9%)

Least likely to feel WMP understand issues in their community (68%)

Most likely to think that crime and ASB was a problem in their local area (29%)

Most confident that WMP use stop and search powers fairly and respectfully (71%)

81%

Q1

2024-25

Q4

2023-24

Least confident they would receive a good service from WMP (78%)

2020-21

100% 95%

90%

85%

80%

75% 70% 87%

Q1

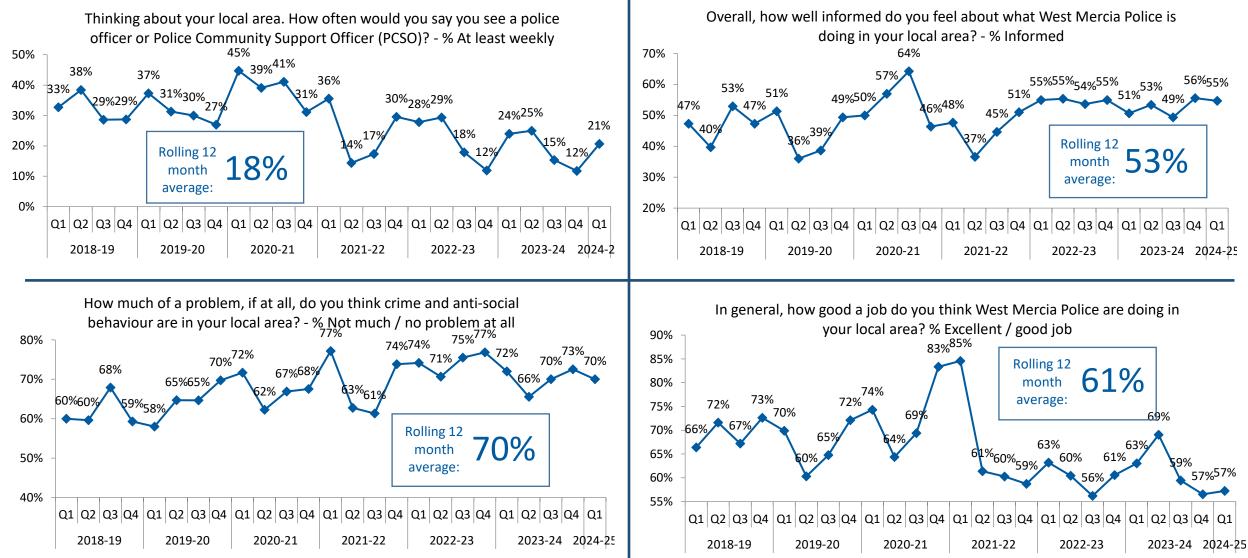
2018-19

Q4

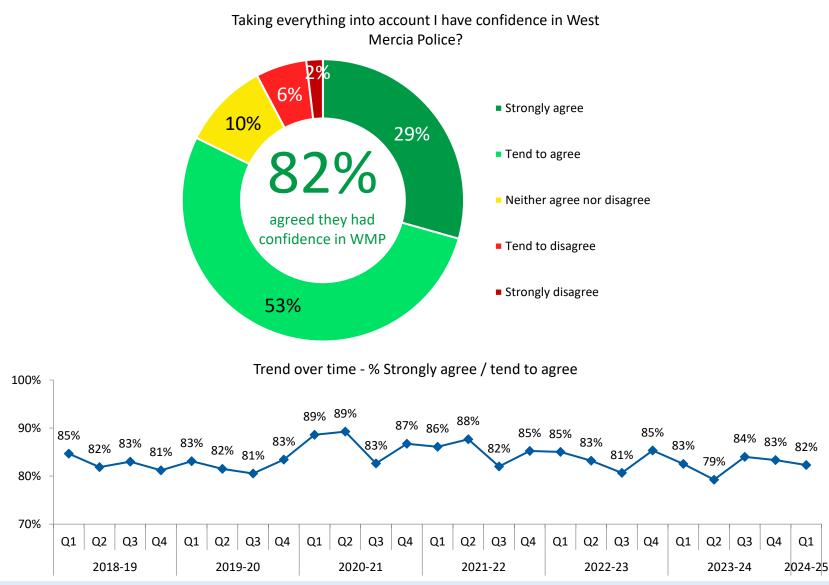
Q1 |

2019-20

LPA Key Findings - Telford & Wrekin



LPA Key Findings - North Worcestershire





Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

<u>Most</u> satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (64%)

<u>Least</u> confident they could access the police in an emergency (89% - joint with Telford & Wrekin)

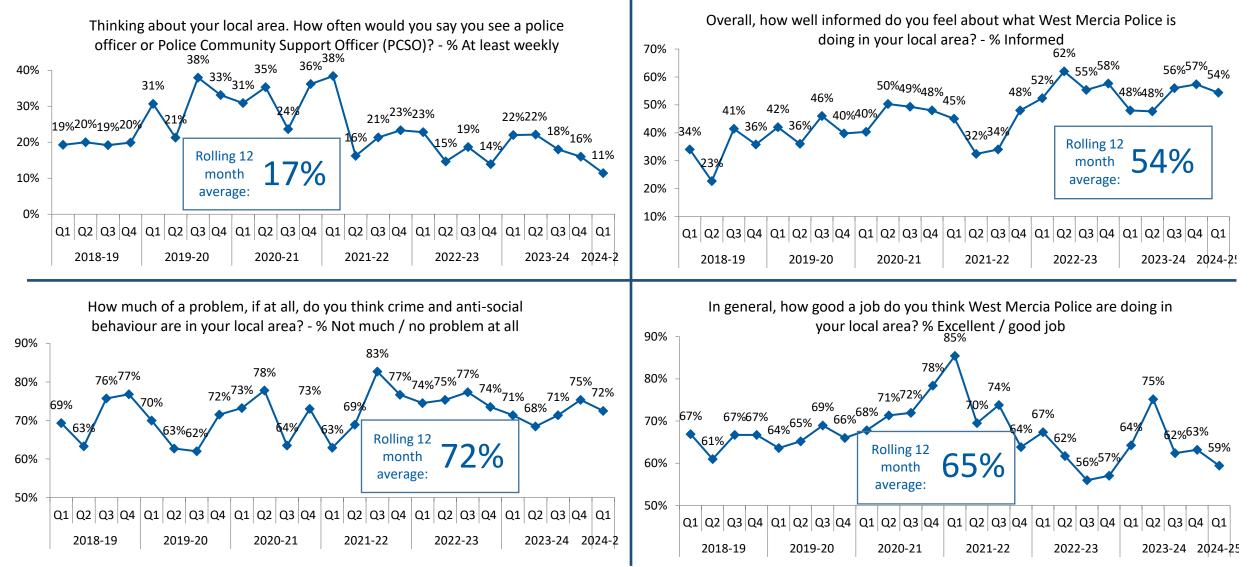
<u>Most</u> informed about what WMP are doing in their local area (54%)

Least likely to feel their area was safe over the last 3 months (84%)

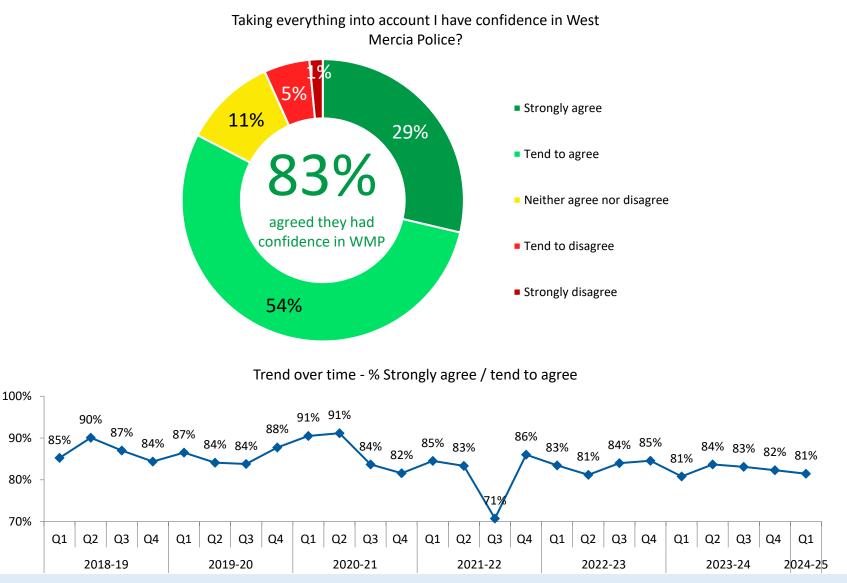
<u>Most</u> confident in receiving good service from WMP (84%)

<u>Most</u> likely to feel the police were doing either an excellent or good job (65%)

LPA Key Findings - North Worcestershire



LPA Key Findings - South Worcestershire





Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

<u>Least</u> satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (60% - joint with Herefordshire)

<u>Most likely</u> to be a victim of or witness to crime (13%)

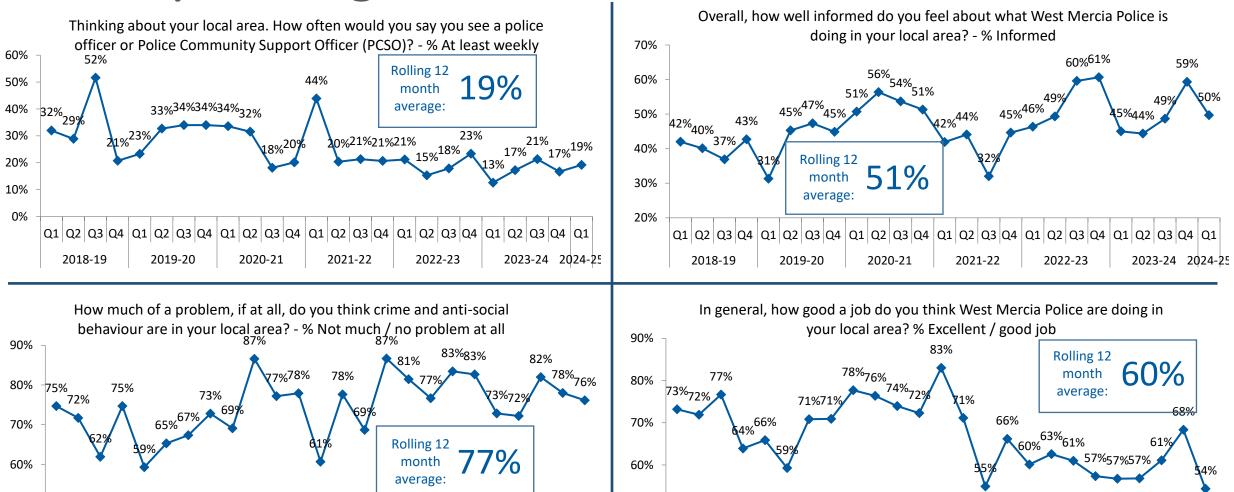
<u>Most likely</u> to say WMP understands local issues (74%)

<u>Least</u> likely to feel WMP are doing either an excellent or a good job (60%)

Most likely to have confidence in WMP (83%)

Highest awareness of the PCC (15%)

LPA Key Findings - South Worcestershire



50%

2023-24 2024-25

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4

2019-20

2018-19

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4

2021-22

2022-23

2020-21

2020-21

2019-20

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1

2021-22

2022-23

50%

2018-19

2024-25

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1

2023-24

Victim of Crime Comparisons

