Inner East Local Area Network Shared Community Survey

Full Report produced by the Research Unit May 2013





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

- Whilst the majority of Northern Ireland society has progressed and is
 enjoying the benefits the peace process has brought, a number of 'interface'
 areas, which suffered considerably during 'the Troubles', continue to
 experience extensive social and economic problems along with restricted
 access to facilities and services.
- The focus of this study was the interface area encompassing two peace lines, one situated at Bryson Street (running between the Newtownards Road and Madrid Street) and the other at Cluan Place (located adjacent to the junction of Albertbridge Road, Castlereagh Street and Mountpottinger Road), and the communities that reside in the surrounding areas which make up Inner East Belfast: Ballymacarrett, Lower Castlereagh, Lower Ravenhill/Woodstock and Short Strand.
- The Inner East Belfast Local Area Network (IEBLAN) was invited to take part in the Shared Communities Programme in 2012. At the time of the survey the IEBLAN included five community groups: Ballymac Friendship Centre, Lower Castlereagh Community Group, Short Strand Community Centre, Oasis and Lagan Village Youth & Community Group. Additional groups to join the programme include Pitt Park Women's Group and The Forward Group.
- The Shared Communities Programme is led by the Housing Executive Community Cohesion Unit, the aim of which is to develop shared communities where people choose to live with others regardless of religion, race or nationality in a neighbourhood that is safe and welcoming to all, and threatening to no-one.
- Central to the partnership between the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Shared Community Programme was a survey to gather residents' opinions of the Inner East Belfast area and attitudes towards the shared community concept.

SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGY

- At the time of the survey, Inner East Belfast had approximately 13,000 properties of different tenure. A random sample of 600 properties was taken, stratified equally across four areas: Ballymacarrett, Lower Castlereagh, Lower Ravenhill/Woodstock and Short Strand.
- Each of the 600 properties in the sample received a letter inviting the household to participate in the survey. Included with the letter was a copy of the questionnaire to be completed by the occupier and collected by Housing Executive research staff.
- The questionnaire, developed by the Research Unit in partnership with the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network, was designed for self-completion; however, research staff helped complete questionnaires with those residents who requested assistance during the fieldwork period.
- Staff from the Research Unit carried out the fieldwork during October and November 2012. Up to five attempts were made to collect surveys. In cases where a staff member had been unable to contact a household member by the end of the fieldwork period, the address was recorded as a non-contact.
- On completion of the fieldwork, 44 addresses in the sample were identified as ineligible due to being vacant, non-residential or non-existent, which reduced the valid sample to 556 addresses. A total of 220 completed questionnaires were returned, which yielded a response rate of 40 per cent.

KEY FINDINGS

HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

- Less than one-quarter (22%) of respondents' households had one or more dependent children under the age of 16 (14% 'lone parent'; 6% 'small family'; 2% 'large family'). Almost one-quarter (24%) of respondents lived in 'lone adult' households and one-fifth (20%) lived in 'lone older' households. A further 14 per cent lived in 'two adult' households.
- Almost two-fifths (39%) of all respondents had lived in their present home for 15 years or more at the time of the survey. Less than one-tenth (8%) of respondents had lived in their present home for less than a year.
- Survey findings show almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents lived in the same local area (Inner East Belfast) immediately before their present

- home. Furthermore, only a small proportion (8%) thought they were likely to move away from the Inner East Belfast area in the next two years.
- The majority of respondents rented their home with one-third (33%) renting from the Housing Executive, a smaller proportion (23%) renting from a housing association and 13 per cent renting from a private landlord.
- Almost one-third (31%) of respondents were owner occupiers at the time of the survey. The majority (79%) of respondents lived in a house; a much smaller proportion lived in a flat (18%).
- Three-fifths (60%) of respondents described the religious composition of their household to be Protestant and almost one-third (32%) stated this to be Catholic. A further seven per cent described their households as having no religion.
- Half (50%) of all respondents reported that there was at least one member of their household with a disability that affected their normal day-to-day activities. Of these, the majority (86%; n=93) reported their household had one person with a disability. A further 14 per cent (n=15) had two household members with a disability.
- Almost two-thirds (65%) of Household Reference Persons¹ (HRPs) stated they were British at the time of the survey. A further 16 per cent stated they were Irish and slightly less (14%) Northern Irish; a small proportion of HRPs were Polish (2%). In terms of ethnic origins, the vast majority (98%) of HRPs were white; two per cent were of an ethnic origin other than white.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN INNER EAST BELFAST

- The majority of respondents were satisfied with the services and facilities in the Inner East Belfast Area. However, 'play areas for children' (38%), 'policing of the area' (31%) and 'car parking' (28%) were the services/facilities most likely to be considered unsatisfactory by respondents.
- In terms of services/facilities that could be provided locally, almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents would consider using a 'local shop', almost half (48%) 'sports/exercise classes' and over two-fifths (44%) a 'community

¹ The household reference person (HRP) is the member of the household who owns or pays the rent or mortgage on the property. Where two people have equal claim (e.g. two persons cohabitating who jointly own or rent the property) the household reference person is the person with highest annual income. The definition is for analysis purposes and does not imply any authoritative relationship within the household.

- pharmacy/health and safety projects'. Worthy of note is the finding that over one-third (35%) would consider attending 'cross community events'.
- More than one-third (37%) were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with their local community centre/building and 46 per cent had 'no strong feelings'; a further 13 per cent were either 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'.
- Almost three-quarters (73%) of respondents said they would be in favour of local schools within Inner East Belfast sharing facilities such as after school clubs, school grounds or shared school programmes.
- The majority (85%) of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed there was a need for vocational skills training, such as carpentry, bricklaying and business administration, for young people in the area.
- More than three-quarters (79%) of respondents were in favour of developing vocational skills training programmes (such as carpentry, bricklaying and business administration) for young people, on a shared basis, open to residents from different community and religious backgrounds. A small proportion (5%) of respondents was not in favour and a further 16 per cent were undecided.
- A minority of households (13%) included a young person(s) who would benefit from vocational skills training. Of these, the majority (n=25) would have members of their household willing to attend vocational skills training on a shared basis. Almost three-quarters (n=21) of respondents said they would have no difficulties sending their child/children on a vocational skills training programme delivered on a shared basis.
- The majority of respondents (67%) were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with Inner East Belfast as a place to live. A further 19 per cent had 'no strong feelings'; 13 per cent were either 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'.

ATTITUDES TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS

• Respondents had a similar level of concern for community relations within Inner East Belfast and within Northern Ireland as a whole, with approximately two-fifths of respondents either slightly concerned or very concerned about community relations in both vicinities (Inner East Belfast 43%; Northern Ireland as a whole 39%).

- More than two-fifths (45%) of respondents reported that they mixed frequently with people from different community/religious backgrounds and almost one-third (29%) reported they mixed sometimes.
- Almost two-fifths (39%) of respondents reported they would be in favour of their area moving towards a more mixed community. However, more than one-quarter (27%) were not in favour; one-third (33%) were undecided.
- Almost one-third (29%) of respondents said they would consider taking up a place in affordable/social housing developed on a shared basis for people from different community and religious backgrounds; almost two-fifths (39%) said they would not and 28 per cent were undecided.
- More than two-fifths (43%) of respondents reported that they would be interested in taking part in events/projects delivered on a shared space open to people from different community and religious backgrounds and almost one-quarter (23%) reported they might possibly be interested in the future.
- At the time of the survey almost one-third (30%) of respondents felt community spirit in the Inner East Belfast area was 'very good' or 'good' and one-quarter (25%) felt it was 'neither good nor poor'. A further 28 per cent felt community spirit was 'poor' or 'very poor'; 16 per cent were undecided.
- Almost one-third (32%) of respondents thought community relations were better at the time of the survey than they were five years ago and a similar proportion (30%) thought they would be better still in five years time.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Whilst the vast majority (93%) of respondents reported feeling safe walking around the Inner East Belfast area during the day, the proportion of respondents who felt safe walking around at night was one-third less (62%).
- Similarly, whilst the vast majority (95%) of respondents reported feeling safe in their own homes during the day, less (84%) felt safe at night.
- Respondents' experience of crime within the Inner East Belfast area was low. The most common crime experienced by respondents was 'vandalism', with less than one-tenth (8%) noting 'vandalism of car or other motor vehicle' and a similar proportion (7%) noting 'vandalism to a property'.
- More than half (55%) of respondents considered themselves to be living in or near an interface area, but almost one-third (31%) felt they did not live in or near an interface area.

- One-tenth (11%) of respondents thought relationships on the interface were 'getting better'; significantly more (58%) thought they were 'about the same'. A further tenth (11%) felt they were 'getting worse'.
- Two-fifths (41%) of all respondents thought a shared space project on the interface would mean 'people could have access to additional services' and a similar proportion (40%) felt that a shared project 'may attract investment into the area'. Respondents were least likely (26%) to think a shared space project on the interface would 'decrease criminal activity'.
- Finally, the majority (82%) of respondents felt a community newsletter was the best way for households to be kept aware of and interested in community work on the interface.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH

Whilst the majority of Northern Ireland society has progressed and is enjoying the benefits the peace process has brought, a number of 'interface' areas, which suffered considerably during 'the Troubles', continue to experience extensive social and economic problems along with restricted access to facilities and services.

The focus of this study was the interface area encompassing two peace lines, one situated at Bryson Street (running between the Newtownards Road and Madrid Street) and the other at Cluan Place (located adjacent to the junction of Albertbridge Road, Castlereagh Street and Mountpottinger Road) and the communities that reside in the surrounding areas which make up Inner East Belfast: Ballymacarrett, Lower Castlereagh, Lower Ravenhill/Woodstock and Short Strand.

1.2 THE ROLE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is the regional strategic housing authority for Northern Ireland. The commitment to the values of good relations is embedded within the organisation which plays an active role on issues relating to the reimaging of local areas, including monitoring progress on flags and emblems, bonfires, parades and interfaces. As part of this commitment the Housing Executive has established a Community Cohesion Unit, which is charged with translating the organisation's community relations objectives into actions. Its approach is centred on five themes:

- Flags, emblems and sectional symbols;
- Segregation/integration;
- Race relations;
- Interface areas; and
- Communities in transition.

1.3 SHARED COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The Community Cohesion Unit's Shared Communities Programme has been developed following the pilot Shared Neighbourhood Programme, which supported the development of 30 shared neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland. The aim of the programme is to develop shared communities where people choose to live with others regardless of religion, nationality or race, in a neighbourhood that is safe and welcoming to all, and threatening to no one. It is a three year community-led programme run in both rural and urban areas and estates in partnership with community groups, the Housing Executive and other statutory bodies. Outcomes include the development and implementation of a Good Relations Plan for each area. One of the community organisations selected for the programme was the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network (IEBLAN).

1.4 INNER EAST BELFAST LOCAL AREA NETWORK

With a view to building stronger relationships across the interface, the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network, having already made contributions to community partnership building in the area, was invited to take part in the Shared Communities Programme in 2012. At the time of the survey the IEBLAN was made up of five community groups: Ballymac Friendship Centre, Lower Castlereagh Community Group, Short Strand Community Centre, Oasis and Lagan Village Youth & Community Group.

1.5 SURVEY AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the survey was to gather residents' opinions of the Inner East Belfast area and attitudes towards the shared community concept. The objectives of the survey were to:

- Gather residents' opinion on potential shared space projects for residents from different community backgrounds within Inner East Belfast;
- Establish a baseline profile of local residents' attitudes towards the shared community concept; and
- Identify potential areas of work needed to deliver a shared community through the development of a good relations and community development plan.



2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 INNER EAST BELFAST

The geographical scope for the survey was based on the Department for Social Development's East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) ² which covers Short Strand, Lower Newtownards Road, Albertbridge Road, Albertbridge/ Beersbridge Road, The Mount, Woodstock Road and Lower Ravenhill; all of which are contained within the four Inner East wards of Ballymacarrett, The Mount, Woodstock and Island.

Overall multiple deprivation figures released in 2010 by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency show the four Inner East wards ranked within the top 20 per cent, 1 being most and 582 being the least deprived. Further analysis of the Education, Skills and Training domain measure show they ranked within the top 30 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland, (Ballymacarrett 6; The Mount 7; Woodstock 13 and Island 27³).

Together with social and economic disadvantage, due to the decline in traditional manufacturing industries and population movements out of Belfast, resulting in the decay of inner city areas⁴, the area also encompasses two peace lines. As a result of these conditions, communities living in Inner East Belfast experience the effects of urban decline as well as the sporadic unrest and restricted access to services which typically shape the lives lived along an interface.

2.2 INNER EAST BELFAST LOCAL AREA NETWORK

The Local Area Network Programme is aimed at developing positive relations at a local level, regardless of religion or ethnic background, as well as securing shared city space. The programme is facilitated by the Housing Executive and is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the PEACE III Programme. Belfast City Council's Good Relations Partnership administers the funding available to Belfast. The programme

² For more information see Department for Social Development Northern Ireland (2003) *People and Places: Neighbourhood Renewal in Belfast Implementation Plan* available at http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/nr belfast imp plan final.pdf

³ Figures taken from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service website http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx

⁴ Department for Social Development Northern Ireland (2003) *People and Places: Neighbourhood Renewal in Belfast Implementation Plan*

supports Local Area Networks (LANs) across a number of neighbourhoods with network partners working individually and together on a range of initiatives around themes of culture, environment, health and public relations.

The network partners which makeup the Inner East Belfast LAN have been active within the communities of Inner East Belfast for a number of years, making contributions to partnership-building in the area through many cross-community initiatives and events. At the time this survey was conducted the IEBLAN consisted of six community groups: Lower Castlereagh Community Group, Short Strand Community Centre, Oasis and Lagan Village Youth & Community Group, Pitt Park Women's Group and The Forward group.

To further develop the progress made in community partnership building by the network partners, the Community Cohesion Unit invited the IEBLAN to take part in the Shared Community Programme in 2012.

Conducted by the Housing Executive's Research Unit, the survey, and resultant findings produced in this report, is the outcome of the partnership between the Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Unit and the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network.



3.0 THE RESEARCH PROJECT

3.1 THE QUESTIONNAIRE

To fulfil the objectives of the research, a household survey was undertaken using a self-complete questionnaire. Since the research was to be community-led, the Housing Executive's Research Unit and Community Cohesion Unit collaborated with representatives from the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network to design a questionnaire appropriate to their needs. A copy of the questionnaire is included in Appendix 2.

3.2 SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGY

Using the Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area boundary, the Housing Executive's GIS unit created a sample frame of approximately 13,000 properties across all tenures.

To ensure an equal number of properties were sampled within each community represented by the groups included in the IEBLAN, the area was divided into four: Ballymacarrett, Lower Castlereagh, Lower Ravenhill/Woodstock and Short Strand. A random sample of 600 properties was taken, stratified equally between the four areas.

Each of the 600 properties in the sample received a letter inviting the household to participate in the survey. Included with the letter was a copy of the questionnaire to be completed by the occupier and collected by Housing Executive research staff.

The questionnaire, developed by the Research Unit in partnership with the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network, was designed for self-completion; however, research staff helped complete questionnaires with those residents who requested assistance during the fieldwork period.

Staff from the Research Unit carried out the fieldwork during October and November 2012. Up to five attempts were made to collect surveys. It is Research Unit policy that visits are made at varying times of the day. However, in practice, field staff call at every opportunity when passing an address. If at the end of the fieldwork period staff have been unable to contact a household member, the address is recorded as a non-contact.

3.3 RESPONSE RATE

On completion of the fieldwork, 44 addresses in the sample were identified as ineligible due to being vacant, non-residential or non-existent, which reduced the valid sample to 556 addresses. A total of 220 completed questionnaires were returned which yielded a response rate of 40 per cent.

Table 3.1: Breakdown of response

	Number	%
Original target sample	600	
Vacant/non residential/not found	44	
Revised target sample	566	100
Non-contacts	265	47
Refusals	71	13
Completed questionnaires	220	40

3.4 REPORTING

Due to rounding, the columns/rows in some tables do not add to 100 per cent. Also, for data protection purposes, and particularly where questions are considered sensitive, if the number of respondents is less than five the actual figures have been omitted and are shown as <5.

In some cases the base is less than 220, which may be due to some respondents not giving sufficient information when answering that question. This is recorded as non response. Please note that in some cases the non-responses are not discussed in the report text. However, a full breakdown of figures is available in the appendix tables (Appendix 1).



4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

The 220 households surveyed were categorised into eight types according to the ages of household members. Nearly one-quarter (22%) of households surveyed had one or more dependent children under the age of 16 (14% 'lone parent'; 6% 'small family'; 2% 'large family'). More than two-fifths (44%) of respondents lived in a household consisting of one adult (24%, lone adult; 20% 'lone older') and a further 14 per cent lived in 'two adult' households; 12 per cent lived in 'two older' households (Appendix Table 1).

LENGTH OF TIME IN INNER EAST BELFAST AREA

The survey findings showed that almost two-fifths (39%) of all respondents had lived in their present home for 15 years or more and more than a fifth (20%) of respondents had lived in their present home for more than a year but less than five years at the time of the survey (Appendix Table 2).

Almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents had lived in the same local area (Inner East Belfast) and almost one-fifth (18%) had lived outside the local area but within Belfast immediately before their present home. When asked less than a tenth (8%) of all respondents said they were likely to move away from the Inner East Belfast area within the next two years (Appendix Tables 3 and 4).

DWELLING TENURE AND TYPE

At the time of the survey, one-third (33%) of all respondents rented from the Housing Executive; a similar proportion (31%) were owner occupiers. Smaller proportions of respondents rented either from a housing association (23%) or a private landlord (13%). The majority of respondents (79%) reported living in a house at the time of the survey; a much smaller proportion (18%) reported living in a flat (Appendix Tables 5 and 6).

RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS

Three-fifths (60%) of respondents described the religious composition of their household as Protestant and nearly one-third (32%) as Catholic; a further seven per cent reported their household to be of no religion (Appendix Table 7).

LONG TERM DISABILITY

Half (50%) of respondents reported that either they or someone in their household had a disability that affected their normal day-to-day activities. Of these the majority (86%) reported their household had only one person with a disability; the remainder (14%) had two household members with a disability (Appendix Tables 8 and 9).

NATIONALITY AND ETHNIC ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLD REFERENCE PERSON

Almost two-thirds (65%) of Household Reference Persons (HRPs) stated they were British. Much smaller proportions stated they were Irish (16%) or Northern Irish (14%); a very small proportion (2%) stated they were Polish. In terms of ethnic origins, the vast majority (98%) of HRPs were white (Appendix Tables 10 and 11).

AGE AND GENDER OF HRP

To categorise the age group of HRPs, respondents were asked the age of their HRP. Two-fifths (40%) of HRPs were aged 60 years or more (23% between 60-74 years; 17% aged 75 years or more). One-third (33%) of HRPs were aged between 40-59 years and less (24%) were aged between 25-39 years. In terms of gender, more than half (53%) of HRPs were male and just less than half (47%) female (Appendix Tables 12 and 13).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HRP

One-third (33%) of HRPs were working, 28 per cent were retired and 23 per cent were either permanently sick or disabled. A further 10 percent of HRPs were not working and six per cent were looking after the family/home (Appendix Table 14).

4.2 SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN INNER EAST BELFAST

GENERAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Respondents were asked about a number of services and facilities in their area and whether they found them satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

Emptying of wheelie bins 94% **Doctors** Street signage 89% Chemists 88% Primary school 87% Street lighting 86% Advice services 81% Secondary school 79% **Dentists** 78% Street sweeping 78% Higher/Further education 16+ Repairing of roads and pavements 73% Adult education Sports/leisure facilities 72% Policing of the area 66% Car parking 66% Play areas for children 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Figure 4.1: Satisfaction with local services and facilities

As Figure 4.1 above illustrates, there were high levels of satisfaction for many of the services listed in the survey. The highest proportions of respondents were satisfied with the emptying of wheelie bins (94%), doctors (91%) and street signage (89%) in the area.

Services and facilities most likely to be considered unsatisfactory by respondents were 'play areas for children' (38%) and 'policing of the area' (31%), (Appendix Table 15).

Of the 84 respondents who stated 'play areas for children' were unsatisfactory in the area the most common reasons were there were too few (23%; n=19), there were none in the area (21%; n=18) or they were of poor quality (15%; n=13); 36 per cent (n=30) did not give a reason. Regarding the 'policing of the area', of the 68 respondents who considered this service to be unsatisfactory, 37 per cent (n=25) stated they were never seen in the area; 37 per cent (n=25) did not state a reason.

In terms of services/facilities that could be provided locally, almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents said they would consider using a 'local shop', almost half (48%) would consider using 'sports/exercise classes' and over two-fifths (44%) would consider using/attending a 'community pharmacy/health and safety projects'. A further 40 per cent would consider using a community café. Worthy of note is the finding that over one-third (35%) would consider attending 'cross-community events' (Appendix Table 16).

Finally, when respondents were asked how satisfied/dissatisfied they were with their local community centre/building more than one-third (37%) were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' and 46 per cent had 'no strong feelings' toward their local community centre; a further 13 per cent were either 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' (Table 17).

SHARING RESOURCES IN INNER EAST BELFAST

As a community-led survey, the focus for the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network was on education – and specifically vocational skills training programmes – for young people in the Inner East Belfast Area. Moreover, in terms of the shared community concept, questions were included in the survey to gather views on developing projects on a shared basis which would be accessible to residents from different community and religious backgrounds.

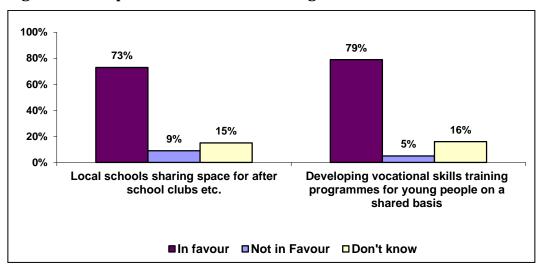


Figure 4.2: Respondents' views on sharing resources in Inner East Belfast

Figure 4.2 above shows that almost three-quarters (73%) of all respondents were in favour of local schools within Inner East Belfast sharing educational facilities such as after school clubs, school grounds and shared school programmes and more than three-quarters (79%) were in favour of developing vocational skills training programmes for young people in the area on a shared basis (Appendix Tables 18 and 20).

VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Specific questions were included in the survey to gather views on the possible development of vocational skills training programmes for the young people of Inner East Belfast. The majority (85%) of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that there was a need for vocational skills training programmes, such as carpentry, bricklaying and business administration, for young people in the area; 14 per cent neither agreed nor disagreed. Respondents were also asked their view on the possibility of developing vocational skills training programmes for young people on a shared basis, accessible to residents from different community and religious backgrounds: more than three-quarters (79%) were in favour of developing such programmes. A small proportion (5%) of respondents were not in favour and a further 16 per cent were undecided (Tables19 and 20).

According to survey findings, a minority of households (13%) included a young person(s) who would benefit from vocational skills training. Of these households, the majority (n=25) had members who the respondent thought would be willing to attend vocational skills training delivered on a shared basis. Almost three-quarters (n=21) of respondents said they would have no difficulties sending their

child on a vocational skills training programme delivered on a shared basis (Appendix Tables 21 to 23).

When asked if they had any other comments regarding the development of vocational skills training programmes in Inner East Belfast for young people on a shared basis, a small number (n=24) took the opportunity. The comments varied, but were mainly positive (n=20) in terms of agreeing that vocational skills training programmes were needed for the youth in the area. Comments which expressed this theme included 'anything that can give the youth a foothold in the job market has to be welcomed' and 'a brilliant idea as long as it is open to everyone and a skill people are interested in'. Those respondents who were less positive (n=4) expressed doubt over whether shared vocational skills training programmes would work across the communities with one respondent conveying caution by the following comment: 'both communities would need to feel safe and comfortable'.

SATISFACTION WITH INNER EAST BELFAST AS A PLACE TO LIVE

Residents were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with Inner East Belfast as a place to live. The majority of respondents (67%) were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied'. A further 19 per cent had 'no strong feelings'; 13 per cent were either 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'. The reasons given for dissatisfaction varied between respondents with the perceived lack of regeneration in the area and anti-social behaviour the most common issues (Appendix Table 24).

4.3 ATTITUDES TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS

ATTITUDES TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN INNER EAST BELFAST

In the first instance, respondents were asked how concerned they were about relations between people of different community backgrounds in the Inner East Belfast area. While just over half (54%) of all respondents were either 'not very concerned' or 'not at all concerned', more than two-fifths (43%) of respondents were either 'slightly concerned' or 'very concerned' about community relations in the area (Appendix Table 25).

Respondents were asked to expand on why they were either 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about community relations in Inner East Belfast. Whilst responses varied, a few themes were evident and they included concern over the continued tension and fighting between the two predominant communities, the lack of community development and mixing between communities and the lack of

tolerance for people of different minority ethnic backgrounds. There was also a concern expressed over the amount people from different ethnic backgrounds moving into the area. A small number (n=5) related their concern about community relations to the lack of investment and employment in the area.

ATTITUDES TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS A WHOLE

Respondents were also asked about their level of concern regarding relations between people of different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland as a whole. In the event, nearly three fifths (59%) of respondents were either 'not very concerned' or 'not concerned at all' and almost two fifths (39%) were either 'slightly concerned' or 'very concerned' (Appendix Table 26).

Again, respondents were asked to expand on why they were either 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about community relations in Northern Ireland as a whole. Some themes that emerged in response to the previous question were echoed here: concern was expressed over the continued tension and fighting, and the lack of understanding, between the two predominant communities within Northern Ireland as a whole.

MIXING WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS

In order to gauge the level of integration among residents, respondents were asked about the extent to which they mixed with people from different community, religious or ethnic backgrounds. As Figure 4.3 below illustrates, more than two-fifths (45%) reported that they mixed 'frequently' and almost one-third (29%) reported that they 'sometimes' mixed; a further nine per cent did not have the opportunity. However, almost one-fifth (17%) stated that they never mixed with people from different community, religious and/or ethnic backgrounds (Appendix Table 27).

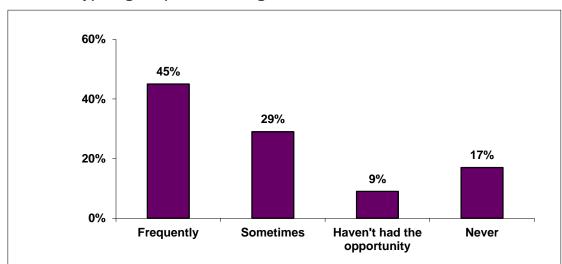


Figure 4.3: Self-reported level of mixing with people from different community/religious/ethnic backgrounds

WILLINGNESS TO SHARE RESOURCES

Respondents were asked whether they or any member of their household would be interested in taking part in activities or programmes delivered on a shared basis which would be accessible to residents from different community and religious backgrounds. More than two-fifths (43%) of respondents reported that they would be interested and more than one-fifth (23%) said they would possibly be interested in the future. One fifth (20%) said they would not be interested in any activities or programmes delivered on a shared basis and a further 14 per cent reported that they were not interested in any kind of community activity or programme at all (Appendix Table 28).

When asked to give a reason why they would not be interested in activities or programmes delivered on a shared basis, of the those who were not interested (20%; n=43), only six stated that this was because of existing tensions between the two predominant communities; 42 per cent (n=18) did not give a reason and the remainder (n=19) gave personal reasons, such as health circumstances and carer responsibilities.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PRESENT AND FUTURE

The survey included questions regarding community relations, present and future, and asked respondents their opinions on both.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN THE INTERFACE AREA

Initially, respondents were asked about the level of community spirit in the interface area of Inner East Belfast. Almost one-third (30%) felt community spirit was 'very good' or 'good' and one-quarter (25%) felt it was 'neither good nor poor' at the time of the survey. A further 28 per cent felt community spirit was 'poor' or 'very poor'; 16 per cent were undecided about the level of community spirit in the area (Appendix Table 29).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AT PRESENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Almost one-third (32%) of respondents felt that relations between people of different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland as a whole were 'better' at the time of the survey than they were five years ago and two-fifths (41%) felt they were 'the same'. A further 12 per cent of respondents felt community relations between people of different community backgrounds were 'worse' than five years ago and 15 per cent were undecided (Appendix Table 30).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Similarly, in terms of future community relations in Northern Ireland as a whole, almost one-third (30%) of respondents felt relations between people of different community backgrounds would be better in five years' time and two-fifths (40%) felt they would be the same. A small percentage (6%) felt they would be worse and almost one-quarter (23%) were undecided (Appendix Table 31).

MOVING TOWARDS A MORE MIXED COMMUNITY

Respondents were asked whether or not they would be in favour of their area moving towards a more mixed community rather than predominately Catholic or Protestant. Almost two-fifths (39%) of respondents reported they would be in favour of their area becoming a more mixed community. A smaller proportion (27%) was not in favour and one-third (33%) were undecided (Appendix Table 32).

An additional question was included in the survey which related to shared housing and the possible uptake of places for a mixed social housing development within Inner East Belfast. Almost one-third (29%) of respondents said they would consider taking up a place in affordable/social housing developed on a shared basis and offered to residents from both communities. Almost two-fifths (39%) said they would not and a further 28 per cent were undecided (Appendix Table 33).

4.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY

This section of the questionnaire focused on respondents' perceptions of community safety in the Inner East Belfast area. They were asked about their own feeling of safety, their experience, if any, of crime and their perception of living in an interface area.

PERCEPTIONS OF PERSONAL SAFETY IN INNER EAST BELFAST

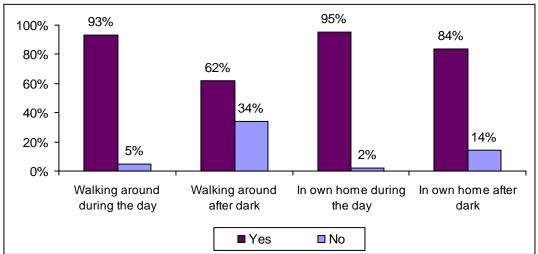
Respondents were asked about their feelings of personal safety in relation to the Inner East Belfast area.

WALKING AROUND DURING THE DAY

As Figure 4.5 below illustrates, the vast majority of respondents (93%) felt safe walking around the Inner East Belfast area during the day. Five per cent did not feel safe whist two per cent did not respond to this question. Explanations given for feeling unsafe were too varied to infer any general factors (Appendix Table 34).

Figure 4.4: Respondents' perceptions of personal safety in Inner East Belfast

95%



WALKING AROUND AFTER DARK

Fewer respondents were likely to feel safe walking around Inner East Belfast after dark. Whilst almost three-fifths (62%) reported feeling safe at this time, one-third (34%) did not feel safe walking around the area after dark; six per cent did not respond. Of those that reported feeling unsafe, nearly one-third (18%;

n=13) did not offer any explanation. For those that offered explanations (n=61), the most common reasons for feeling unsafe were the fear of being attacked (20%; n=12) the fear of interface violence (18%; n=11) and that there were too many strangers around after dark (16%; n=10), (Appendix Table 35).

IN YOUR OWN HOME DURING THE DAY

Whilst the majority of respondents (95%) felt safe in their own homes during the day, a small proportion (2%) did not feel safe; three per cent did not respond to this question (Appendix Table 36).

IN YOUR OWN HOME AFTER DARK

When asked whether they felt safe in their own homes after dark, more than four-fifths (84%) of respondents felt they did. More than a tenth (14%) did not feel safe in their own homes after dark; of these the most common reason stated was the fear of burglary (33%; n=10). Three per cent did not respond to this question (Appendix Table 37).

An additional open-ended question was asked regarding what would make respondents feel safer in the area. One-quarter (26%; n=57) of respondents made comment. Comments varied, but of those that made comment more than half (54%; n=31) felt more police presence would make them feel safer.

RESPONDENTS' EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

Respondents were given a list of crimes and asked if they or any members of their household had experienced such crimes during the 12 months prior to the survey. As Figure 4.5 below illustrates, the most common crime experienced by respondents was 'vandalism', with less than one-tenth (8%) noting 'vandalism to a car or other motor vehicle' and a similar proportion (7%) noting 'vandalism of property' (Appendix Table 38).

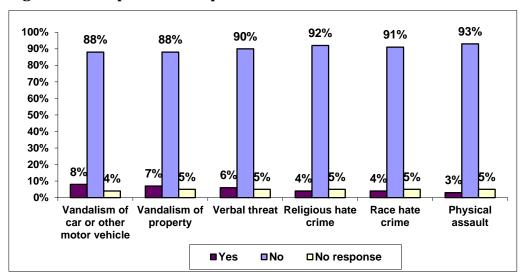


Figure 4.5: Respondents' experience of crime in the Inner East Belfast area

PERCEPTION OF INNER EAST BELFAST AS AN INTERFACE AREA

A number of questions included in this section of the survey concerned respondents' perception of Inner East Belfast as an interface area. In the first instance, respondents were asked whether they considered themselves to be living in or near an interface area. As Figure 4.6 demonstrates, whilst more than half (55%) of respondents considered themselves to be living in or near an interface area, just less than one-third (31%) felt they did not live in or near an interface area; 12 per cent were undecided (Appendix Table 39).

More than one-third (37%) of those who reported living in or near an interface area noted they lived more than 100 yards but less than 500 yards from the interface. A further 30 per cent reported living less than 100 yards and almost one-quarter (23%) more than 500 yards from the interface (Appendix Table 40).

All respondents were asked whether they thought relationships on the interface were getting better, the same or worse. One-tenth (11%) thought relationships on the interface were getting better, more than half (58%) thought they were the same and one-tenth (11%) felt they were getting worse. A significant proportion (19%), however, was undecided; two per cent gave no response to this question (Appendix Table 41).

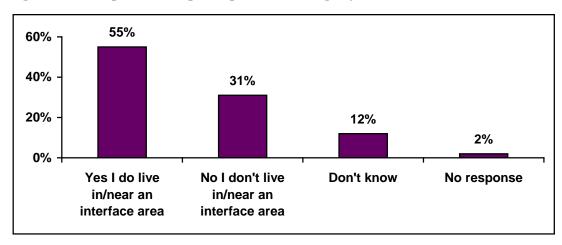


Figure 4.6 Respondents' perception of living in/near an interface area

Interestingly, of the 11 per cent (n=26) who felt relationships were getting worse, six felt this was to the do with incidence of crime and antisocial behaviour on the interface, six felt worsening relationships related to the ongoing sectarian divide and akin to this a further five felt the seasonal confrontation during parades caused relationships on the interface to worsen.

POSSIBLE IMPACT OF A SHARED SPACE ON THE INTERFACE

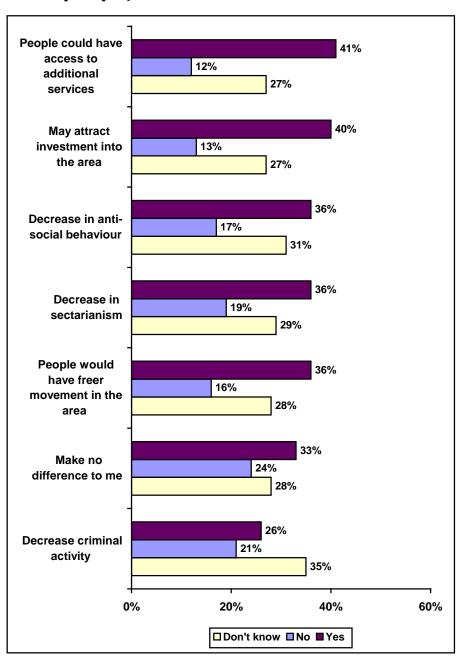
A list of what may happen if there was a shared space project on the interface, such as a decrease in sectarianism or criminal activity, was included in the survey and respondents were asked whether or not they thought each of these were likely to happen.

As Figure 4.7 below illustrates, two-fifths (41%) of all respondents thought a shared space project on the interface would mean 'people could have access to additional services' and a similar proportion (40%) felt that a shared project 'may attract investment into the area'. Respondents were least likely to think a shared space project on the interface would 'decrease criminal activity' with only one-quarter (26%) noting that this was a possibility (Appendix Table 42).

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments regarding a shared space project on the interface. In the event one-quarter (25%; n=56) of respondents made comment. Of these, 52 per cent (n=29) felt that a shared space project on the interface 'would not happen'.

However, the remainder were, on the whole, positive and encouraging. Their comments pointed to a desire for people to move on from conflict and for Inner East Belfast to be a better place for children.

Figure 4.7: Respondents' perceptions regarding the possible impact of a shared space project in the interface



KEEPING RESIDENTS AWARE OF WORK ON THE INTERFACE

Finally, respondents were asked about the best way to keep people aware of and interested in community work on the interface. More than four-fifths (82%) of respondents thought a community newsletter was the best way to create and maintain interest, while identical proportions (5% each) thought community meetings and feedback through existing community groups were the best means (Appendix Table 43).



5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

- Whilst one-third rent their homes from the Housing Executive and onequarter from a housing association, the survey shows that the area is mixed in terms of tenure with nearly one-third of householders being owner occupiers.
- There are many established households in the area with nearly two-fifths having lived in the area for more than 15 years. This is also evident in the fact that almost three-quarters lived in Inner East Belfast before they moved to their present home.
- The area has a mixture of household types, among them being those with dependent children under the age of 16, those older and of pensionable age living on their own and two-adult households.
- In broad terms the breakdown with regard to religious composition of households included in this survey was two-thirds Protestant and one-third Catholic; although a small proportion described their household as having no religion.
- The employment status of household reference persons varied between households: one-third of HRPs were working at the time of the survey, but almost one-quarter (23%) were permanently sick or disabled.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN INNER EAST BELFAST

- The majority of respondents were satisfied with the services and facilities available in the Inner East Belfast area although 'play areas for children' and 'policing of the area' were most likely to be considered unsatisfactory.
- There is a willingness to share resources among the communities of Inner East Belfast and this was evidenced by the majority of respondents who were in favour of local schools sharing educational facilities such as after school clubs, school grounds and shared school programmes.
- Moreover, the majority of respondents said they would be in favour of developing vocational skills training programmes for young people in the area on a shared basis for residents from different community and religious backgrounds.

- Whilst only a small proportion of those households surveyed included a
 young person(s) who would benefit from vocational skills training
 programmes, the majority of respondents felt that those young persons
 would be willing to attend such programmes on a shared basis.
- There was encouraging feedback with regard to developing vocational skills training programmes on a shared basis: the majority of respondents agreed that this type of initiative was necessary for the youth in the area.
- Whilst respondents were generally happy with Inner East Belfast as a place to live, more than one-tenth reported being dissatisfied. The lack of regeneration in the area and anti-social behaviour were among the issues accounting for their dissatisfaction.

ATTITUDES TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Whilst there was concern about community relations both within Inner East Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole, there seems to be a willingness to engage in cross-community activities.
- Conversely, whilst there was evidence that household members mixed frequently with people from different community and religious backgrounds, fewer respondents were in favour of their area moving towards becoming a mixed community rather than predominantly Catholic or Protestant.
- Furthermore, attitudes to community relations within Northern Ireland as a
 whole were disheartening. Less than a third of respondents felt that relations
 between people of different community backgrounds were better at the time
 of the survey than they had been five years previously and only a similar
 proportion was of the opinion that relations would be better in five years'
 time.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- In general people feel safe in Inner East Belfast. However, significantly fewer felt safe walking around the area at night than during the day. Those that did not feel safe walking around at night cited fear of being attacked, interface violence and too many strangers in the area as reasons for feeling unsafe.
- Whilst comments varied, a number of respondents said an increased police presence in the community would make them feel safer.

- Relatively small numbers of respondents had experienced crime in the area.
 Vandalism was the most common form of crime and this included both vandalism to properties and to cars and other motor vehicles. Verbal threats had also been experienced by a number of residents surveyed.
- In terms of Inner East Belfast as an interface area, the findings are encouraging. While those living closest to the peace walls and contested areas were more likely to conclude they lived in an interface area, almost one third of respondents (31%) did not consider themselves to live on an interface.
- Nonetheless, only one-tenth of respondents felt relationships on the interface were getting better. The 11 per cent who felt relationships were getting worse on the interface blamed incidences of crime, the ongoing sectarian divide and the perennial confrontations during parades.
- Looking to the future, however, respondents did feel that shared space
 projects on the interface would have positive consequences such as attracting
 investment into the area and allowing people to have access to additional
 services.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Given the evidence that residents within the Inner East Belfast area are
 willing to use shared resources, the community groups represented on the
 Inner East Belfast Local Area Network should continue to work together on a
 cross-community basis, both across the interface and within their
 communities, and promote their transformative work as much as possible
 through the use of community newsletters, meetings and the internet
 (through information websites as well as social media).
- It is evident from survey findings that people living in Inner East Belfast are willing to share space and would like to see *safe* as well as *equal* use of resources. As the community groups represented on the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network move forward, they should build on the good work already done and continue to develop the trust within and between communities required for residents to feel secure using shared spaces within Inner East Belfast.
- Whilst there is concern regarding community relations both in Inner East
 Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole, there is a willingness among
 residents to work on a cross-community basis and this survey should be used
 by the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network as a baseline to build on and
 move forward. For instance, a scoping exercise to assess the demand and
 needs of young people in the area could be conducted to move forward the
 development, on a shared basis, of vocational skills training programmes in
 the area.
- Whilst the level of reported crime resulting from this survey is low, crimes related to antisocial behaviour such as vandalism and verbal threats are the most common. Furthermore, fear of interface violence and attacks is prevalent among those residents who feel unsafe. Given that an increase in community policing would be welcomed by those who feel unsafe, community groups represented on the Inner East Belfast Local Area Network should work together to explore the types of community policing that would be effective and welcomed by all within the Inner East Belfast area.



APPENDIX 1: TABULAR RESULTS

Table 1: Household types and their definitions

			No.	Valid %
	LONE ADULT	One person below pensionable age	47	24
	LONE OLDER	Lone person of pensionable age	39	20
	LONE PARENT	Lone adult living with one or more dependent children aged under 16	27	14
	TWO ADULTS	Two people, related or unrelated, below pensionable age	27	14
	TWO OLDER	Two people, related or unrelated, at least one of whom is of pensionable age	24	12
	LARGE ADULT	Three or more adults, related or unrelated, living with or without one dependent children aged under 16	17	9
	SMALL FAMILY	Any two adults, related or unrelated, living with one or two dependent children aged under 16	12	6
	LARGE FAMILY	Any two adults, related or unrelated, living with three or more dependent children aged under 16 or three or more adults, related or unrelated, living with two or more dependent children aged under 16	4	2
	Total		197	100
Missing	No response	Reponses gave insufficient information to define household type	23	
Total			220	

Table 2: How long have you lived in your present home?

	Number	%
Less than 1 year	18	8
1 year or more but less than 5 years	44	20
5 years or more but less than 10 years	41	19
10 years or more but less than 15 years	30	14
15 years or more	87	39
Total	220	100

Table 3: Where did you live immediately before your present home?

		Number	Valid %
	Same local area	158	72
	Outside local area but within Belfast	40	18
	Outside Belfast but within Northern Ireland	17	8
	Other, Outside Northern Ireland	<5	-
	Total	219	100
Missing	No response	<5	
Total		220	

Table 4: Do you think you are likely to move away from the Inner East Belfast area in the next two years?

		Number	Valid %
	Yes	16	8
	No	179	92
	Total	195	100
Missing	No response	<5	
	Don't know	21	
Total		220	

Table 5: Household tenure

	Number	%
Rent from Housing Executive	73	33
Owner occupier	67	31
Rent from a housing association	51	23
Rent from private landlord	29	13
Total	220	100

Table 6: Dwelling type

	Number	%
House	173	79
Flat	39	18
Bungalow	8	4
Total	220	100

Table 7: Religious composition of households

		Number	Valid %
	Protestant	125	60
	Catholic	66	32
	None	14	7
	Mixed Protestant / Catholic	<5	-
	Other	<5	-
	Total	208	100
Missing	Refused	6	
	No response	6	
Total		220	

Table 8: Does any member of your household have a disability?

		Number	Valid %
	Yes	108	50
	No	109	50
	Total	217	100
Missing	No response	<5	
Total		220	

Table 9: Number in household with disability

	Number	%
One	93	86
Two	15	14
Total	108	

Base: 108 of respondents who reported disability in their household

Table 10: Nationality of Household Reference Person (HRP)

		Number	Valid %
	British	135	65
	Irish	34	16
	Northern Irish	30	14
	Polish	5	2
	Other	<5	-
	Total	208	100
Missing	no response	12	
Total		220	

Table 11: Ethnicity of HRP

		Number	Valid %
Valid	White	204	98
	Other	5	2
	Total	209	100
Missing	No response	11	
Total		220	

Table 12: Age group of HRP

		Number	Valid %
	16-24	5	3
	25-39	41	24
	40-59	57	33
	60-74	40	23
	75+	29	17
	Total	172	100
Missing	No response	48	
Total		220	

Table 13: Gender of HRP

		Number	Valid %
	Male	108	53
	Female	97	47
	Total	205	100
Missing	no response	15	
Total		220	

Table 14: Employment status of HRP

		Number	Valid %
	Working	67	33
	Retired	57	28
	Permanently sick/disabled	46	23
	Not working	21	10
	Looking after family home	13	6
	Total	204	100
Missing	No response	16	
Total		220	

Table 15: Satisfaction with services and facilities in Inner East Belfast

	Satisfac	Satisfactory Unsatisfactory		ctory	No Res	ponse
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Emptying of wheelie bins	207	94	8	4	5	2
Doctors	199	91	14	6	7	3
Street signage	195	89	17	8	8	4
Chemists	194	88	20	9	6	3
Primary school	191	87	11	5	18	8
Street lighting	189	86	24	11	7	3
Advice services	179	81	24	11	17	8
Secondary school	173	79	25	11	22	10
Dentists	172	78	38	17	10	5
Street sweeping	172	78	41	19	7	3
Higher/Further education 16+	167	76	28	13	25	11
Repairing of roads and pavements	161	73	47	21	12	6
Adult education	158	72	39	18	23	11
Sport/leisure services	158	72	47	21	15	7
Policing of the area	144	66	68	31	8	4
Car parking	146	66	61	28	13	6
Play areas for children	124	56	84	38	12	5

Table 16: What services/programmes/facilities would you or any members of your household consider using?

	Ye	S	N	0	No res	ponse
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local shop	142	64	59	27	19	9
Sports/exercise classes	106	48	95	43	19	9
Community pharmacy, health and safety projects	98	44	94	43	28	13
Community café (including healthy eating)	87	40	112	51	21	9
Cross community activities	77	35	118	54	25	11
Community training and education	69	31	127	58	24	11
Adult specific interest clubs	52	24	141	64	27	12
Unemployment/Job Club	51	23	140	64	29	13
Senior citizen programmes (craft, lunch club etc)	48	22	151	69	21	9
Women's group	48	22	146	66	26	12
Restorative justice programmes	48	22	149	68	23	11
Volunteering programme	47	21	148	67	25	11
Youth programmes (aged 10+)	44	20	149	68	27	12
Children's specific interest clubs (aged 4+)	41	19	153	70	26	12
After-school child care for children	38	17	158	72	24	11
Men's group	35	16	160	73	25	11
Child care facilities for children under 4 years	32	15	165	75	23	11
Adult Dialogue Group	30	14	162	74	28	13

Table 17: How satisfied/dissatisfied are you with your local community centre/building?

	Number	%
Very satisfied	22	10
Satisfied	59	27
No strong feeling	101	46
Dissatisfied	16	7
Very dissatisfied	14	6
No response	5	2
Don't know	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 18: Are you in favour of local schools sharing educational facilities?

	Number	%
Yes	160	73
No	19	9
Don't know	33	15
No response	8	4
Total	220	100

Table 19: How much do you agree/disagree there is a need for vocation skills training programmes for local youth?

	Number	%
Strongly agree	138	63
Agree	48	22
Neither	31	14
Disagree	<5	-
Strongly disagree	<5	-
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 20: Are you in favour of developing vocational skills training programmes for the youth living in Inner East Belfast on a shared basis?

	Number	%
I would be in favour	173	79
I would NOT be in favour	11	5
don't know	34	16
No Response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 21: Are there any members of your household who would benefit from youth vocational skills training?

		Number	Valid %
	Yes	29	13
	No	188	87
	Total	217	100
Missing	no response	<5	
Total		220	

Table 22: Would any member of you household be willing to attend vocational skills training on a shared basis?

	Number
Yes	25
No	<5
No response	<5
Total	29

Base: 29 respondents with a member(s) of their household who would benefit from skills training

Table 23: Would you have any difficulty sending you child/children on a vocational skills training programmed delivered in Inner East Belfast on a shared basis?

	Number
No I would not have any difficulty	21
Yes I would have any difficulty	7
no response	<5
Total	29

Base: 29 of respondents with a member of their household who would benefit from skills training

Table 24: Level of satisfaction with Inner East Belfast as a place to live

	Number	%
Very satisfied	48	22
Satisfied	100	45
No strong feeling	42	19
Dissatisfied	19	9
Very dissatisfied	8	4
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 25: How concerned/not concerned are you about relations between people of different community backgrounds in Inner East Belfast?

	Number	%
Very concerned	38	17
Slightly concerned	56	26
Not very concerned	80	36
Not at all concerned	40	18
No response	6	3
Total	220	100

Table 26: How concerned/not concerned are you about relations between people of different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland?

	Number	%
Very concerned	33	15
Slightly concerned	52	24
Not very concerned	90	41
Not at all concerned	39	18
No response	6	3
Total	220	100

Table 27: Do you or any of your household mix with people from a different community/religious or ethnic background?

	Number	%
Frequently	99	45
Sometimes	64	29
Haven't had the opportunity	19	9
Never	37	17
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 28: Would you or any member of your household be interested in taking part in activities/programmes delivered on a shared basis?

	Number	%
Yes	94	43
No	43	20
Possibly in the future	50	23
Not interested in any community activity or programme	31	14
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 29: Respondents perceptions of community relations in Inner East Belfast

	Number	%
Very good	18	8
Good	48	22
Neither good nor poor	54	25
Poor	34	15
Very poor	29	13
Don't know	36	16
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 30: Are relations between people of different community backgrounds better, the same or worse now than 5 YEARS AGO?

	Number	%
Better	71	32
The same	91	41
Worse	26	12
Don't know	32	15
Total	220	100

Table 31: Will relations between people of different community backgrounds be better, the same or worse in 5 YEARS TIME?

	Number	%
Better	66	30
The same	87	40
Worse	14	6
Don't know	51	23
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 32: What would be your view on your area moving towards a more mixed community rather than predominantly Catholic and Protestant?

	Number	%
I would be in favour of this	85	39
I would NOT be in favour of this	59	27
Don't know	73	33
No response	<5	-
Total	220	100

Table 33: Would you consider taking a place in a shared housing scheme developed on your area?

	Number	%
Yes	65	29
No	85	39
Don't know	61	28
No response	9	4
Total	220	100

Table 34: Do you feel safe walking around the area during the day (i.e. 6.00am to 9.00pm)?

	Number	%
Yes	204	93
No	12	5
No response	4	2
Total	220	100

Table 35: Do you feel safe walking around the area at night (i.e. 9.00pm to 6.00am)?

	Number	%
Yes	137	62
No	74	34
No response	9	4
Total	220	100

Table 36: Do you feel safe in your own home during the day (i.e. 6.00am to 9.00pm)?

	Number	%
Yes	209	95
No	5	2
No response	6	3
Total	220	100

Base: 220

Table 37: Do you feel safe in your own home during a night (i.e. 9.00pm to 6.00am)?

	Number	%
Yes	184	84
No	30	14
No response	6	3
Total	220	100

Table 38: Respondents' experience of crime in the Inner East Belfast area

	Y	es	No			No ponse	Did they report it to the police?
	N	%	N	%	N	%	Number
Vandalism of car or other motor vehicle	17	8	194	88	9	4	6
Vandalism of property	16	7	194	88	10	5	9
Verbal threat	13	6	197	90	10	5	<5
Religious hate crime	8	4	202	92	10	5	<5
Race hate crime	8	4	200	91	12	5	<5
Physical assault	6	3	203	93	11	5	<5
Burglary	<5	-	207	94	9	4	<5
Theft from car or other motor vehicle	<5	-	208	95	11	5	<5
Other, please specify	<5	-	189	86	28 13		<5
Theft of car or other motor vehicle	-	-	209	95	11	5	-

Table 39: Would you consider yourself to be living in/near an interface area?

	Number	%
Yes	122	55
No	68	31
Don't know	26	12
No response	4	2
Total	220	100

Table 40: How close do you live to the interface?

	Number	%
Under 100 yards	37	30
More than 100 yards but less than 500 yards	45	37
More than 500 yards	28	23
Don't know	11	9
No response	1	1
Total	122	100

Base: 122 of respondents who reported they lived in/near an interface area

Table 41: Do you think relationships on the interface are getting better, about the same or getting worse?

	Number	%
Getting better	24	11
About the same	127	58
Getting worse	24	11
Don't know	41	19
No response	4	2
Total	220	100

Table 42: What do you think would happen if there were a shared space project on the interface?

	Y	es	N	0	Do kn	n't ow	N resp	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
People could have access to additional services	91	41	27	12	60	27	42	19
May attract investment into the area	88	40	28	13	60	28	44	20
Decrease in anti-social behaviour	79	36	37	17	67	31	37	17
Decrease in sectarianism	79	36	42	19	63	29	36	16
People would have freer movement in the area	79	36	34	16	62	28	45	21
Make no difference to you	73	33	52	24	62	28	33	15
Decrease in criminal activity	58	26	46	21	76	35	40	18

Table 43: What would be the best way for your household to be kept aware of and interested in their work on the interface?

	Number	%
Community newsletter	181	82
Community meetings	10	5
Feedback through existing community groups	10	5
Other	<5	-
No response	18	8
Total	220	100

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

Research Unit, Northern Ireland Housing Executive					
OFFICE USE ONLY					
Received	Punched		Schedule No:		
Coding	Validated				

INNER EAST BELFAST LOCAL AREA NETWORK

(Ballymac Friendship Centre/Lower Castlereagh Community Group/ Short Strand Community Centre/Oasis/Lagan Village Youth & Community Group)

This confidential survey has been developed in partnership with Inner East Belfast Local Area Network and the Housing Executive Community Cohesion Unit. It is important to note that this survey is for <u>all residents</u> so whether you are a Housing Executive or Housing Association tenant, a home owner or are renting from a private landlord we would be grateful if all householders take the time to complete the survey. Please do so by circling the appropriate response(s) for each question. <u>All information will be treated in the strictest confidence</u> and will be used only for the purposes of this research.

Section 1: Living Here

Q1. How long have you lived in your present home?

Please circle one response only

Less than 1 year	1
1 year or more but less than 5 years	2
5 years or more but less than 10 years	3
10 years or more but less than 15 years	4
15 years or more	5

Q2. Where did you live immediately before your present home?

Please circle one response only

Same local area (Inner East Belfast)	1	
Outside current local area but within Belfast	2	
Outside Belfast but within Northern Ireland	3	
Outside Northern Ireland, please specify	4	

Q3. Do you rent or own your home?

Please circle one response only

Rent from Housing Executive	1
Rent from Housing Association	2
Rent from private landlord	3
Owner occupier	4
Other, please specify	5

Q4. Which of the following best describes your home?

i icase circle one re-	sponse only
House	1
Bungalow	2
Flat	3
Other, please specify	4

Q5a. Do you think you are likely to move away from the Inner East Belfast area in the next two years?

Please circle one response only				
Yes		1	Go to Q5b	
No		2	Go to Q6	
Don't know		888	Go to Q6	

Q5b. If yes, why do you think you are likely to move away in the next two years?					

Section 2: Services and facilities in the Inner East Belfast Area

Q6. The following is a list of general services within the area. Please circle a response for each to indicate whether the service is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If it is unsatisfactory, please give your main reason why.

Please circle a response on each line **Satisfied** Unsatisfactory Why unsatisfactory Emptying of wheelie bins 2 1 Repairing of roads and 1 2 pavements Street sweeping 1 2 Street signage 1 2 2 1 Street lighting 2 Policing of the area 1 Car parking 1 2 Play areas for children 1 2 1 2 **Doctors** 2 1 Chemists **Dentists** 1 2 1 2 Advice services 2 Primary school 1 2 Secondary school 1 Higher/Further education 16+ 2 1 Adult education 1 2 Sport/leisure services 1 2

Q7. Ar	e vou	involved	in	any	local	community	groups?
--------	-------	----------	----	-----	-------	-----------	---------

Please circle one response only

Yes			1	
No			2	

Q8. If provided locally, which of the following activities/services/programmes would you or any member of your household be interested in using?

Please circle one response on each line

	Please circle	one response on each line
	Yes – one or more	No – no household
	household members	member would use
	would use this activity,	this activity, service
	service or programme if	or programme.
	provided.	
Child care facilities for children under 4 years	1	2
After-school child care for children	1	2
Children's specific interest clubs (aged 4+)	1	2
Youth programmes (aged 10+)	1	2
Senior citizen programmes (craft, lunch club etc)	1	2
Adult Dialogue Group	1	2
Women's group	1	2
Men's group	1	2
Volunteering programme	1	2
Adult specific interest clubs	1	2
Community café (including healthy eating)	1	2
Community pharmacy, health and safety projects	1	2
Local shop	1	2
Sports/exercise classes	1	2
Unemployment/Job Club	1	2
Community training and education	1	2
Restorative justice programmes	1	2
Cross community activities	1	2
Other, please specify	1	2

Q9. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local community centre/building?

Very satisfied	Satisfied	No strong feelings	P I I II I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	
1	2	3	4	5
Go to Q10			Go t	o Q9b

Q9b.	If dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, please state how it could be improved.

Q10. Are you in favour of local schools within the Inner East Belfast area sharing educational services such as after school clubs, school grounds, shared school programmes etc.?

Please circle one response only

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	888

Q11. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement...

Please circle one response only

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
There is a need for vocational skills training (e.g. such carpentry, bricklaying, business administration) for youth living in the Inner East Belfast area?	1	2	3	4	5

Q12a. What would be your view on developing vocational skills training programmes (e.g. such carpentry, bricklaying, business administration) for youth living in the Inner East Belfast area, on a shared basis, for residents from different community/religious backgrounds?

Please circle one response only

I <u>would</u> be in favour of skills training programmes for youth developed on a shared basis	1	Go to Q13a
I <u>would not</u> be in favour of skills training programmes for youth developed on a shared basis	2	Go to Q12b
Don't know	888	Go to Q13a

Q12b. If you <u>would not</u> be in favour, please state why.				

Q13a. Are there any members of your household who may benefit from youth vocational skills training?

Please circle one response only

1 Go to 13b

Yes	1	Go to 13b
No	2	Go to 14a

Q13b. If there were resources available for vocational skills training programmes for the youth living in Inner East Belfast area, on a shared basis, for residents from different community/religious background, would any members of your household be willing to attend such programmes?

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Yes	1	Go to Q14a
No	2	Go to Q13c

Q13c. -	If no, please explain why	•		
-				
_ Q14a.	carpentry, bricklaying, b	en who may benefit from vocational s usiness administration) would you ha ed in the Inner East Belfast area on a	ve any diffici	ulty sending them
		[V.]		e one response only
		Yes I <u>would</u> have difficulty No I <u>would not</u> have any difficulty	2	Go to Q14b Go to Q15
Q14b. _	If yes, please explain wh	y.		
_				
Q15. _	In your opinion where we programmes to be delive	ould be the best location within Inner ered on a shared basis?	East Belfast	for such
_				
Q16.		ments regarding the possibility of devente the youth living in the Inner East Belf		

Q17a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the Inner East Belfast area as a place to live?

Very satisfied	Satisfied	No strong feelings	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
1	2	3	4	5
Go to Q18a			Go to	Q17b

Q17b. If dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, please state why.				

Section 3: Attitudes to community relations

Q18a. How concerned are you about relations between people of different community backgrounds in the **Inner East Belfast** area?

Please circle one response only

	r icase entire one response only				
Very	Slightly	Not very	Not at all		
concerned	concerned	concerned	concerned		
1	2	3	4		
Go to Q18b		Go	to Q19a		

Q18b.	If very concerned or slightly concerned, please explain why.

Q19a. How concerned are you about relations between people of different community backgrounds in **Northern Ireland** as a whole?

Please circle one response only

	r lease circle one response only				
	Very	Slightly	Not very	Not at all	
	concerned	ed concerned concer		concerned	
Ī	1	2	3	4	
	Go to Q19b		Go	to Q20	

Q19b.	If very concerned or slightly concerned, please explain why.		

Q20. Do you or members of your household mix with people from a different community/religious or ethnic background?

Please circle one response only

Frequently	1
Sometimes	2
Haven't had the opportunity	3
Never	4

Q21a. If there were events/activities/projects delivered in Inner East Belfast, on a **shared basis** which are open to people from different community/religious backgrounds, would you or any member of your household be interested in taking part?

		one respense emy
Yes	1	Go to Q22
No	2	Go to Q21b
Possibly in the future	3	Go to Q22
Not interested in any community activity or programme	4	Go to Q22

Q21b.	If no, what would be the main reasor	n?			
Q22.	Would you say the level of communi	ity opirit in this int	orfoco oron in	2	
QZZ.	Would you say the level of communi	ny spirit in this int			ne response only
		Very good	i icasi	e circle or	1
		Good			2
		Neither god	nd nor poor		3
		Poor			4
		Very poor			5
		Don't know			888
Q23a.	Do you think relations between peo Ireland are better, the same or wor		pared to 5 years	s ago?	
					ne response only
			Better	1	Go to Q24a
			The same	2	Go to Q24a
			Worse Don't know	3	Go to Q23b
			DOIT KNOW	888	Go to Q24a
	If worse, please state why.				
 Q24a.	Do you think relations between peo			grounds i	n Northern
	,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		e circle or	ne response only
			Better	1	Go to Q25
			The same	2	Go to Q25
			Worse	3	Go to Q24b
			Don't know	888	Go to Q25
Q24b.	If worse, please state why.				

Q25. What would be your view on your area moving towards a more mixed community rather than predominantly Catholic or Protestant?

Please circle one response only

r icase circle one re-	sponse only
I would be in favour of this	1
I would not be favour of this	2
Don't Know	888

Q26a. Given the demand for affordable/social housing, if there were a shared housing scheme developed in your area would you or any member of your household consider taking a place in such a development?

Yes	1	Section 4
No	2	Go to Q26b
Don't Know	888	Section 4

Q26b.	If no, please state why.
_	
·	
-	

Section 4: Community safety

(i.e. 9.00 pm to 6.00 am)

Q27a. The following questions are about your own personal safety. Do you feel safe... (If you answer "No" please state why).

Please circle one response on each line Yes No If no, why? ...walking around this area during 1 2 the day? (i.e. 6.00 am to 9.00 pm) ... walking around this area after 1 2 dark? (i.e. 9.00 pm to 6.00 am) ...in your own home during the 1 2 day? (i.e. 6.00 am to 9.00 pm) ...in your own home after dark? 1 2

Q27b.	If 'no' to any of the above, could you state what would make you feel safer?

Q28. Over the last 12 months have you, or any member of your household, experienced any of the following within the Inner East Belfast area? If yes, did you report it to the police?

Please circle one response on each line

			If yes, did you report incident to police?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Burglary	1	2	1	2
Theft of car or other motor vehicle	1	2	1	2
Theft from car or other motor vehicle	1	2	1	2
Vandalism of car or other motor vehicle	1	2	1	2
Vandalism of property	1	2	1	2
Religious hate crime	1	2	1	2
Race hate crime	1	2	1	2
Verbal threat	1	2	1	2
Physical assault	1	2	1	2
Other, please specify	1	2	1	2

Q29a. Would you consider yourself to be living in/near an interface area?

ГІ	ease circle	one response only
Yes	1	Go to Q29b
No	2	Go to Q30a
Don't Know	888	Go to Q30a

Q29b. If	ves. how	close do	you live to	the interface?
QZJD. II	VCS. HOW	CIUSC UU	VOU IIVO IO	tile ilitellace:

DI	-!!-			
Please	circie	one	response	oniv s

Under 100 yards	1
More than 100 yards but less than 500 yards	2
More than 500 yards	3
Don't know	888

Q30a. Do you think relationships on the interface are...?

Please circle one response only

		.o . ooponoo om,
Getting better	1	Go to Q31a
About the same	2	Go to Q31a
Getting worse	3	Go to Q30b
Don't know	4	Go to Q31a

)30b.	If you think relationships on the interface are getting worse, please state why.			

Q31a. If there were a shared/integrated project on the interface, open to people from different community/religious backgrounds, which of the following do you think would be likely to happen?

Please circle one response on each line

	Yes	No	Don't
			Know
Decrease in anti-social behaviour	1	2	888
Decrease in criminal activity	1	2	888
Decrease in sectarianism	1	2	888
Make no difference to you	1	2	888
May attract investment into the area	1	2	888
People would have freer movement in the area	1	2	888
People could have access to additional services	1	2	888

Q31b.	Have you any other comments regarding the possibility of sharing space, facilities, trainin programmes, services etc. with people from different community/religious backgrounds within Inner East Belfast?		

Q32. What do you think would be the best way for your household to be kept aware of and interested in community work on the interface?

Please circle one response of	oniy
Community newsletter	1
Community meetings	2
Feedback through existing community groups	3
Other, please specify	4

Section 5: You and your household

It would be very helpful to the research if you could provide some details about yourself and the people who live with you

Under the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) a "disabled person" is defined as a person with:

"A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

Day to day activities are normal activities carried out by most people on a regular basis. The effect of the disability must have lasted 12 months, or be likely to last at least 12 months or for the rest of the life of the person.

Q33a. Does any member in the household have any long term illnesses, health problems or disability which limits his/her daily activities or the work they can do?

Please circle one response only				
Yes	1	Go to Q33b		
No	2	Go to Q34		

Q33b. How many members of the household have a disability that affects their normal day to day activities

Ple	ase circle on	e response only
1	2	3+

Q34. How many people live in this household? Enter number

Q35. Could you please complete the following table and provide details of everyone who lives here and how they are related to the **Household Reference Person** (HRP)? This is the person who would be considered to be the head of the household. Please circle a response for each category that applies to each person. Please start by giving the age of the Household Reference Person and then work down the categories, circling the appropriate response.

appropriate response.	•	•	•	Ť	•	•	•	•	•	•
Person:	HRP	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Age on last birthday:										
Gender Male	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Your Household HRP	1									
Relationship to HRP: Partner (married)		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Partner (cohabiting)		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Partner (civil partnership)		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Child		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Parent		6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Other Relative		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Lodger		8	8	8	8	8 9	8	8	8	8
Other non-relative		9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Employment Status	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Self Employed	1 2	1 2	1 2	_	1	2	1 2	2	1 2	1 2
Working full-time Working part-time	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Not working short term (< 1 year)	4	4	3	3 4	3 4	3	3 4	3 4	3 4	4
Not working long term (> 1 year)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Retired (excludes looking after home)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Student (further / higher education)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Permanent Sick/Disabled	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Looking after family/home	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Other, including schoolchild	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Marital Status										
Single (never married)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Married (first marriage)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Re-married	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Civil Partnership	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Separated (but still legally married)		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Divorced (but not legally remarried)		6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Widowed (but not legally remarried)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Ethnic Group		_	_			_	_	_		
White	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chinese	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Irish Traveller	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Indian	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Pakistani	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bangladeshi Black Caribbean	6	6	6 7							
Black Caribbean Black African	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Mixed Ethnic (please specify)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Other, please specify	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Black other (please specify)	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Nationality		· ·								
British	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Irish	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Northern Irish	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Portuguese	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Latvian	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Lithuanian	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Polish	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Nigerian	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Other (please specify)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Q36. The Housing Executive has a policy of promoting complete equality in the provision of housing and housing related services in Northern Ireland. In order to help monitor this it would be helpful if you would describe the religious composition of this household.

Please circle one response only

Protestant	Catholic	Mixed Religion Protestant/Catholic	Other (Specify)	None	Don't Know	Refused
1	2	3	4	5	888	777

Q37.	Are there any other comments you would like to make about living in the Inner East Belfast area or the research being carried out?							

Thank you very much for completing the questionnaire.

A research officer will call at your door during the next few weeks to collect the completed questionnaire. The research officer will help you if you would like assistance to complete the questionnaire.

If you have any queries regarding this survey, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah McCloy in the Research Unit of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive on the following number: 028 9031 8545 or use our Freephone Number 0800 072 0987 (no cost from landline phones, mobile providers may vary). Alternatively you can email queries to Sarah.McCloy@nihe.gov.uk