

# Public Perceptions of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Personal Safety in Medway

A Healthwatch Medway Report  
September 2025

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## Introduction

Throughout January to November 2024, Healthwatch Medway conducted a year-long project exploring the wider determinants of health by speaking to 455 residents across Medway. From this research we produced 10 reports that can be read on our website, [www.healthwatchmedway.com](http://www.healthwatchmedway.com).

The aim of this project was to understand which aspects of local communities people felt positively or negatively affected their wellbeing. When asked, “What are the negatives of living in your area, and how does that negatively impact you, if at all?”, **37%** (170 people) mentioned crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB)—making it the most frequently cited concern. These mentions were entirely unprompted, highlighting the prominence of this issue in residents’ everyday lives.

This report focuses specifically on the feedback from those 170 individuals.

## Context

Medway faces significant socioeconomic challenges that compound the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour. According to Medway Council’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment<sup>1</sup>, 37 neighbourhoods in the area rank among the 20% most deprived nationally, with 14 in the bottom 10%.

This deprivation is reflected in health inequalities: there is a nine-year gap in life expectancy between men in the most and least deprived areas, and a seven-year gap for women. The main contributors to this disparity include cardiovascular disease, cancer, and respiratory illness. These statistics highlight the urgent need to address the social determinants of health—such as crime and anti-social behaviour—within the broader context of Medway’s economic and health landscape.

Our findings reinforce the importance of exploring crime and anti-social behaviour in more depth—not only to understand their direct impact on wellbeing, but also to inform more responsive, community-based health strategies and inform future Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Community Safety Planning.

1- Medway’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)  
[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200591/medway\\_s\\_joint\\_strategic\\_needs\\_assessment\\_jsna/1577/infographics](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200591/medway_s_joint_strategic_needs_assessment_jsna/1577/infographics)

# Triangulation

## Community Safety Plan

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) consulted with stakeholders in its annual strategic assessment to create the Community Safety Plan. In September 2024, 103 respondents completed the online CSP survey. This survey focused entirely on aspects of community safety. When comparing the two data sets, we found:

Community Safety Partnership survey results	Healthwatch Medway community engagement
50% feeling very unsafe/fairly unsafe during the evening.	29% mentioned personal safety and feeling unsafe.
19% feeling very unsafe/fairly unsafe during the day.	16% of our sample mentioned avoiding certain places during the evening due to feeling unsafe.

## Medway Youth Council

Medway Youth Council (MYC) delivered its annual Young Peoples Conference in February 2025. On the lead up to and at the conference a survey was completed by 305 young people across Medway. Among the issues that were addressed, the question ‘Do you feel safe in Medway?’ was asked. Comparing the results of their survey to our data, we found:

Medway Youth Council survey results	Healthwatch Medway community engagement
33% of young people said they did not feel safe in Medway.	29% mentioned personal safety and feeling unsafe.
Young people mentioned a collective anxiety to use the highstreets due to anti-social behaviour and poor lighting, especially in the evenings and at night.	16% of our sample mentioned avoiding certain places during the evening due to feeling unsafe. <i>“There’s not a lot of streetlights or pavements and you feel a bit unsafe in the winter as a woman.”</i>
Homelessness was mentioned frequently as an issue by the young people.	8% mentioned homelessness.
Students spoke about the need for more visible police officers.	6% mentioned issues with policing or lack of police presence.
Participants felt ‘uneasy’ going out as they said they might get ‘harassed’ in the streets.	4% mentioned feeling intimidated, especially in reference to the high street areas.

Top issues identified across the Community Safety Partnership, Medway Youth Council and Healthwatch Medway:

The top issues identified by the CSP online survey	The top issues identified by the MYC survey (by number of frequency)	The top issues from Healthwatch Medway community engagement
People using or dealing drugs (80%)	Cleanliness/Litter (52)	Litter (35%)
People fly tipping (73%)	Safety/Crime (42)	Personal Safety (29%)
People driving carelessly or too fast (71%)	Homelessness (15)	Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (19%)
People being drunk or rowdy in public places (66%)	Community/ people attitudes (11)	Drugs and Alcohol (18%)
People dropping litter (60%)		Evening Avoidance (16%)

## Recommendations

- This report is reviewed by the Community Safety Partnership to inform the development of their priority areas.
- For the Community Safety Partnership to consider how certain communities i.e. women, Asian and Black communities are affected by certain issues.

## Methodology

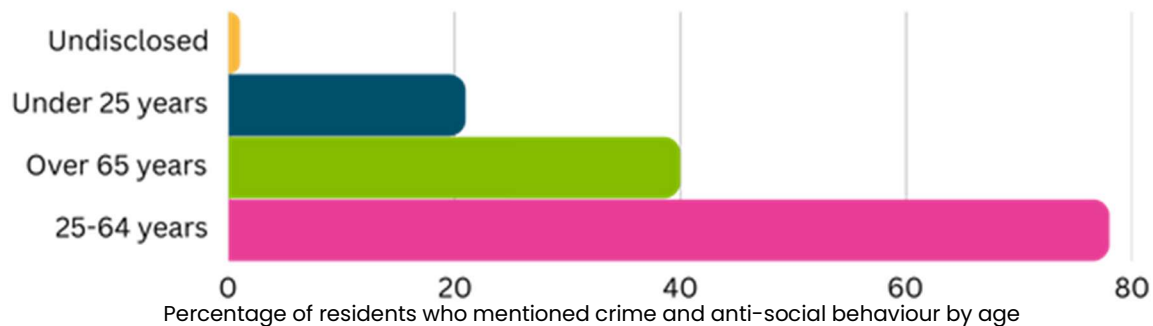
Using a semi-structured interview, we spoke to people face-to-face in their local community. Participants were selected by a randomised sample of who was out and about in their local area on the days we were engaging.

The methodological quality of this study was evaluated using Cochrane’s Risk of Bias Tool (ROBINS-E) for non-randomised studies (see: Higgins et al., 2024). Based on the assessment, this study was judged to have a low risk of bias, indicating that while residual confounding cannot be entirely ruled out due to the observational nature of the study, there were minimal concerns regarding bias in the results.

## Demographic Profile of Participants

170 people mentioned crime and anti-social behaviour as a negative factor, 66% (113) of these were female.

People aged between 25 and 64 years of age most frequently (78 people, 46%) mentioned crime antisocial behaviour or personal safety as an issue they felt negatively about. 23% (40) of people aged over 65 years and 13%, (21) of people under the age of 25 also mentioned the negative impacts of crime, antisocial behaviour or personal safety. One person preferred not to disclose their age.

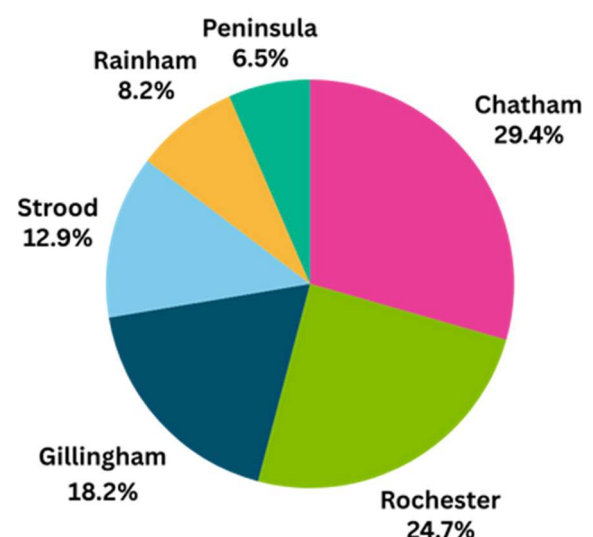


The majority (139 people, 82%) of people that raised concerns around crime, antisocial behaviour or personal safety were from a white English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background (139, 82%).

6% of people (11) were from Asian ethnicities and 5% of people (8) from African and Caribbean ethnicities.

When we explored the areas that people who mentioned crime, antisocial behaviour and personal safety as negative issues live in, we found that:

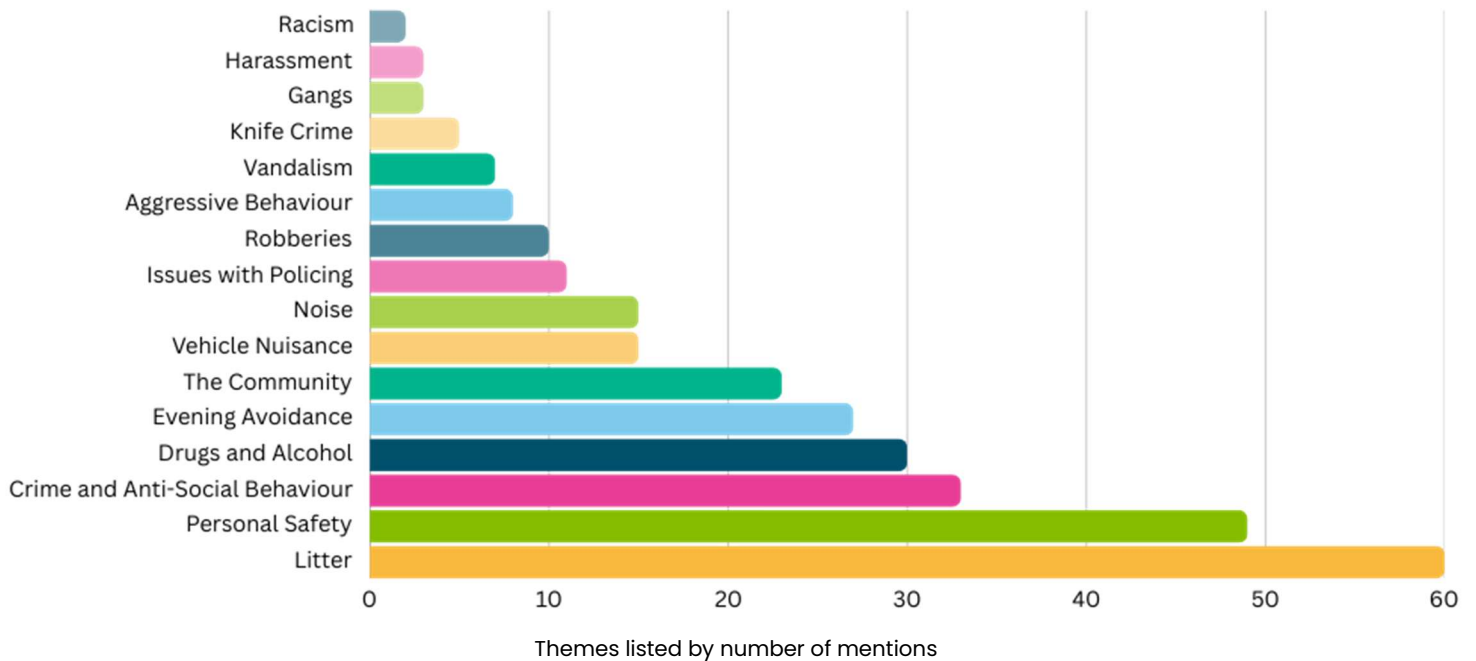
- 29% of people (50) lived in Chatham, including Lordswood and Walderslade.
- 25% of people (42) lived in Rochester, including Halling.
- 18% of people (31) lived in Gillingham, including Twydall and Wigmore.
- 13% of people (22) lived in Strood.
- 8% of people (14) lived in Rainham, including Parkwood.
- 7% of people (11) lived in the Peninsula villages, including Allhallows, Cliffe, Cliffe Woods, Hoo, Isle of Grain, Upnor and Wainscott.



Percentage of residents who mentioned crime and anti-social behaviour by location

## Themes

A number of themes were identified within the respondents' comments. They are listed in order of frequency of mention.



### Litter (60 mentions, 35%)

60 people mentioned littering as a negative factor, 62% (37) of these were female and 38% (23) were male.

48% (29) of people aged 65 and over most frequently mentioned littering as an issue they felt negatively about.

42% (25) of people aged between 25 and 64 years of age, and 8% (5) of people under the age of 25 also mentioned the negative impacts of littering.

When examining the data by age, gender and ethnicity, the comments are broadly similar as illustrated below.

- "My main bugbear is the rubbish - it's always in the high street. You go towards Borstal and there is rubbish everywhere. It's demoralising to see."
- "Could be tidier. Lots of rubbish get dumped and community end up cleaning themselves."
- "Roads are dirty and there are puddles in the street they don't pick up the rubbish. Gillingham is a dirty place. There is not enough cleaning."
- "Environmental issues such as consistent rubbish left on paths and no action being taken to curb this; we never had any rubbish on paths years ago."
- "It could be more tidy, especially late at night leaves a lot of litter."
- "I get irritated when I see litter."

### *Litter by Location*

When examining the data by area there are some differences in themes.

Chatham including Lordswood and Walderslade - 28% (17 mentions)

Gillingham including Wigmore - 27% (16 mentions)

In Gillingham and Chatham residents talked about the volumes of rubbish and street littering. There are also mentions of pest infestation.

- "It's filthy. The council don't do anything. There are rats everywhere. It makes you depressed. The dirt around, ashtrays just don't get used, it's all on the ground."
- "There is a lot of trash around the area that is leading to an increase of pest infestation."
- "People dumping rubbish and bins overflowing because they haven't been emptied."
- "I don't like seeing all the rubbish on the streets, they are dirty, and they need to be cleaned more regularly."
- "The amount of litter. People get takeaways and then drop the takeaway litter wherever they finish their meal."
- "There's rubbish everywhere and people just don't care about their environment."
- "The litter does my head in."

Rochester including Halling - 20% (12 mentions)

Strood - 7% (4 mentions)

Residents of Rochester and Strood spoke about dog poo and fly tipping.

- "The mess on the street is not being cleaned, especially on the side roads. For example, on the Delce, the amount of rubbish left. It's not being looked after enough. The sideroads are the worst for potholes and fly tipping. It's not nice to see."
- "There are sometimes homeless people around here, and people who fly tip and throw rubbish right in the centre of town!"
- "Borstal has a settlement where there is a lot of fly tipping."
- "People are dumping everything on country lanes, and they just have a general lack of respect for the area."
- "All the dog poop left lying around. People don't clear up their mess. It's an annoyance."
- "The dog walkers not picking up their dog poo. The residents here understand that it's a clean area."

Rainham, including Parkwood - 12% (7 mentions)

The Peninsula including Cliffe Woods, Isle of Grain and Wainscott - 7% (4 mentions)

On the Peninsula and in Rainham, people also mentioned dog mess and the amount of litter and a sense of the council not taking action.

- "There's rubbish around that people drop. It's not just the council that are bad it's the people too."



- “I used to like it a lot more. I seem to be in constant arguments with the council about litter.”
- “People leave their dog poop around.”
- “The place is filthy, look at the state of it. The people here are filthy; they don't throw their rubbish away.”
- “It's terrible. There's great big thistles everywhere, lots of rubbish. It's terrible, disgraceful. It's a rubbish hole. The dog bins are always full. No one seems to bother. I'm always picking up the rubbish. There are people leaving muck and rubbish around the doors.”

## Personal Safety (49 mentions, 29%)

49 people mentioned personal safety as a negative factor, with 82% (40) of these being female and 18% (9) male.

43% (21) of people aged between 25 and 64 years of age, most frequently mentioned personal safety as an issue they felt negatively about.

41% (20) of people aged 65 and over, and 22% (11) of people under the age of 25 also mentioned negative impacts on their personal safety.

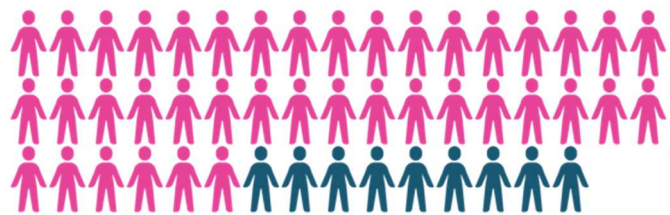
63% (38) people who mentioned personal safety identified as from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background.

12% (7) mentions were from residents of Asian ethnic backgrounds.

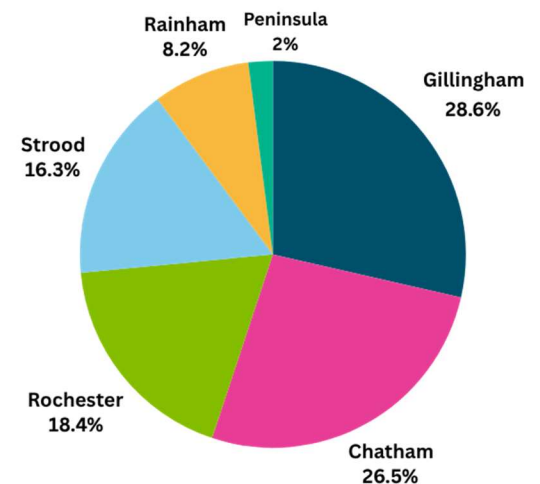
5% (3) mentions were from people who identified as from any other White background and 2% (1) mention was from a resident of Black Caribbean ethnicity.

This issue had one of the highest levels of feedback from non-White British backgrounds.

29% (14) mentions of personal safety were from residents living in Gillingham (including Twydall). 27% (13) were from Chatham (including Walderslade and Lordswood), 18% (9) living in Rochester, 16% (8) from Strood, 8% (4) from Rainham and 2% (1) from the Peninsula (Upnor).



Number of females to males who mentioned personal safety



Percentage of personal safety feedback by location

When examining the feedback by demographics, there were no major differences in the topics of the comments. By gender, age, ethnicity, location and sexual identity there is a single overarching theme of feeling unsafe in Medway. There are also mentions of homelessness (8%, 4 mentions) and intimidation (6%, 3 mentions).

- “The anti-social element to the high street, it's intimidating and makes me feel intimidated and I don't like my 12-year-old daughter coming into the town centre, I actively discourage it or if she has to, to make a beeline behind the high street.”
- “I think Chatham town centre itself is very rough. It feels unsafe walking around, like London. I hold my bag safe against me.”
- “There are lots of arseholes there [in the town] that play knock down ginger, I hate it. I didn't have a choice because of social services, but I feel unsafe.”
- “It's not safe, there are a few paedophiles about - one was arrested and let go just last week. It makes you feel scared when you have grandchildren, it's scary.”
- “There's also a lot more down-and-outs, lying on the pavements, begging. It's not nice to see, it's a bit intimidating.”
- “I'm always looking over my shoulder in Rainham by the church.”
- “You have to walk up a busy and steep hill to get to Jackson's Field. It doesn't always feel safe walking there.”
- “There is a lot of crime and its dirty. It affects how safe I feel, especially being somewhere with my children. Even at the park and in the playground.”
- “As a female I don't feel safe.”
- “I don't like where I live so much now because it's much rougher now. When you live on your own and you have a house you have to be so careful, like not answering the door to people.”
- “There's not a lot of streetlights or pavements and you feel a bit unsafe in the winter as a woman.”

## Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (19%, 33 mentions)

33 people spoke generically about crime and anti-social behaviour. 61% (20) of these were female and 39% (13) were male.

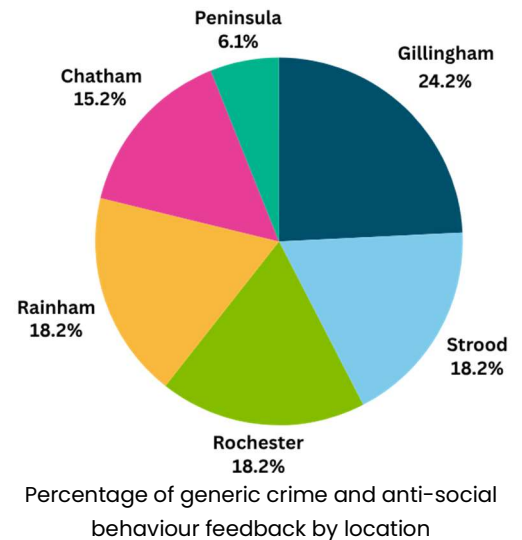
Of those who spoke widely about crime and anti-social behaviour, 52% (17) were between the ages of 65-84 and 45% (15) were in the 25-64 age range. One person preferred not to share their age.

35% (6) of the 65-84-year-old cohort mentioned young people.

- “The young people don't want to know either. They don't interact with you on the street, and they can be antisocial.”
- “The youth behaviours really aren't good, and they don't have anything to do these days. Kids are really horrible to the homeless.”
- “The kids are troublesome at night.”

24% (8) of people in this cohort were residents of Gillingham (including Twydall). Residents of Strood (6), Rochester, including Halling (6) and Rainham, including Parkwood (6) each made up 18%. 15% (5) of residents were from Chatham (including Lordswood), and a final 6% (2) were from the Peninsula villages (Allhallows).

97% (32) of the people who spoke generically about crime and anti-social behaviour identified as being from English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British backgrounds, whilst 3% (1) identified as from an Indian background. There are no noticeable differences between other demographic groups.



- “Where my sister lives there is a lot of anti-social behaviour. They say it is a safe place to live but it's not. I'm worried about my sister so it does affect me. The anti-social crime is worrying, it puts pressure on me and stresses me out. It takes my health down, that's the only way I can describe it.”
- “There can be anti-social behaviour. At night different people come out.”
- “There is some anti-social behaviour at times, but that happens wherever you live.”

## Drugs and Alcohol (18%, 30 mentions)

30 (18%) people mentioned drugs and alcohol as a negative factor that affects them. Of the 30 mentions, drugs were mentioned 20 times (67%), and alcohol was mentioned 15 times (50%). Drugs and alcohol were frequently mentioned together (8 mentions, 27%).



Of the people who mentioned drugs and alcohol as a negative factor, 70% (21) were female and 30% (9) were male.

100% of the male cohort mentions were regarding drugs, whilst 62% of the female mentions were regarding drugs.

57% (17) of people who mentioned drugs and alcohol were between the ages of 25 and 64. In this cohort, 76% (13) of mentions were about drugs, with 24% (4) being about alcohol. 27% (8) of drug and alcohol mentions came from residents in the 65–99 age bracket, with an even number of both drug (6) and alcohol (6) mentions.

7% (2) of drug and alcohol mentions were from residents aged 16–24, with 100% of mentions regarding drugs. These mentions were both from Chatham residents.

- “There is also a big drug problem with lots of addicts out on the street.”

- “There is some issues of safety in some areas, and there is a definite drug problem which is very obvious.”

One person preferred not to share their age.

80% (24) of people who mentioned drugs and alcohol as a negative factor identified as from English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British backgrounds. 10% (3) identified as from Asian backgrounds and 3% from both Czech (1) and Latvian (1) backgrounds. One person preferred not to disclose their ethnicity.

### *Drugs and Alcohol by Location*

27% (8) of mentions were from residents of Chatham, with 100% of mentions regarding drugs, and 13% (1 mention) regarding both drugs and alcohol.

- “I liked it more before the problem with drug takers happened - that all happened quickly and it looks like it's here to stay.”
- “There's quite a few drug addicts and beggars on and around the high street that directly approach you and ask for money. They even go right up to you at cash machines, which is where I feel vulnerable because I am handling my money.”
- “It's gone downhill so much more. The drunks and the druggies.”

A further 27% (8) of drug and alcohol mentions were from residents of Strood, with 75% of mentions (6) regarding alcohol. 62% (5) of mentions from Strood residents were regarding drugs.

- “The drugs. My children are exposed to drugs.”
- “It has its ups and downs, like anywhere you live - they all have their lows and highs. We have the drunks in Pigeon Square, a few do come in here [the shop]. The down and outs try to sell me stuff that they say isn't stolen, but...”
- “We are also getting all the drunks and druggies near us, it's not nice to see, you don't feel comfortable. They come round and you know it's going to be trouble. They go to the toilet in public - you just don't need to see it or want to see it.”
- “We have got a little drug and alcohol problem here, especially in the square.”
- “Problems with alcohol and drugs are increasing, like by the train station, which is at the end of my road. We see dealers but the police don't do much, no-one is looking after the street. It does affect people, kids are scared, people don't want to leave their homes if they know dealing is going on. You are nervous to go out. Even when you are watching TV, you hear the cars screech along the street and know what it means. It is becoming normalised, and it shouldn't be.”

23% (7) of drug and alcohol mentions were from residents of Rochester (including Halling), with 71% (5) of mentions regarding drugs and 57% (4) regarding alcohol.

- “People also smoke weed around here too, they pull up in their cars into the parking spaces and have a view of the river whilst they sort themselves out on it. There are even adults that smoke weed in the kids playgrounds.”
- “I live alone and I am hoping to sell as it feels edgy, there are alcohol issues of an evening. I understand that poverty brings problems and I am very understanding of

vulnerability, but where I live is a converted building and people are accessing it to do drug deals. We think someone across the road managed to spot the security code being inputted and told their friend [who's coming in to deal]."

- "I don't particularly like where I live, my housemates - I live in sheltered accommodation and they smoke so much weed, it's everywhere. That's why I go out as much as I do."
- "Drugs and drinking is everywhere on the High Street, it's a free for all. Not nice to see, sadly. I don't like it, I shouldn't like it."
- "There is a lot of drug dealing in Rochester, it's blatant and I hate it."

10% (3) of drug and alcohol mentions were from residents of Gillingham, with 67% regarding drugs and 33% regarding alcohol.

- "There's some people that smoke grass by the train station."
- "The high street in Gillingham is a ghost town. There's lots of drunk people that congregate in that area."
- "There are more drug dealers on the road, they are more open now. You have to keep yourself safe, be streetwise. I would say that the biggest change for me is how the drug issue is way more open now."

Another 10% (3) of drug and alcohol mentions were from residents of Rainham with 100% (3) of mentions regarding alcohol and 33% (1) mentioning both drugs and alcohol.

- You never used to get the down-and-outs, the alcoholics, the druggies just hanging around; you never used to.
- In the high street all the down and outs are drinking.

3% (1) of drug and alcohol mentions were from residents of the Peninsula villages (Cliffe), with 100% (1) of mentions regarding drugs.

## Evening Avoidance (16%, 27 mentions)

16% (27) of people we spoke to mentioned they avoid certain places during the evening or at night. 89% (24) of this cohort identified as female and 11% (3) identified as male.

Of the 27 people who told us they avoid certain places during the evening or at night, 44% (12) were between the ages of 65-84.

37% (10) of respondents who mentioned evening avoidance were between the ages of 25-64.

15% (4) of this cohort were between 16 and 24 years of age.

One person preferred not to disclose their age.

85% (23) of this cohort were from English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British backgrounds, with 7% (2) identifying as from Asian ethnic backgrounds, 4% (1) from White & Black Caribbean backgrounds and 4% (1) from any other White background.

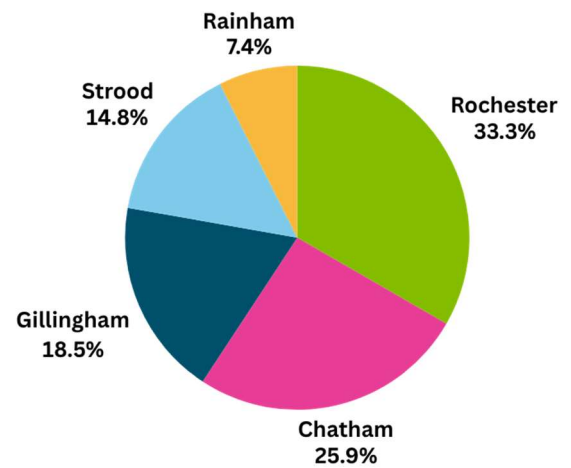


Number of females to males who mentioned evening avoidance

### Evening Avoidance by Location

33% (9) of people who mentioned evening avoidance were residents of Rochester. The high street is mentioned frequently as a place that people avoid when it is dark.

- "I avoid the High Street of an evening - I wouldn't feel safe."
- "Sometimes Rochester High Street can feel a bit dicey with the homeless people there, it's ok at the present, but it can be intimidating especially if you are a woman on your own. I don't know why they hang around on the high street, why don't they go to a park, or why isn't there anything for them? I don't come here at night."
- "I feel safe where I live, but not safe going out at night. I love The Vines but wouldn't dream of walking here in the dark. It does impact as I used to love going out of an evening, but I don't feel safe out now."
- "It can be dangerous which puts you off going out. If I am by myself, I will not come out alone after a certain time of day, only with my partner."



Percentage of evening avoidance feedback by location

26% (7) were residents of Chatham (including Lordswood and Walderslade). In these comments there is a theme of residents not wanting to interact with the community in Chatham after dark.

- "You never know what you'll run into at night I have been in a few situations and there's rough people around."
- "I don't go out at night, it just doesn't feel safe. I wouldn't let my kids go out after dark. I hate it. I'm trying to move out of the area. I don't want to go out or mix with the community at all."
- "I also don't feel safe at night and feel quite nervous since the far-right riots."
- "I really don't feel safe on the high street if I am on my own, and not safe at all once it is dark."
- "I don't go out in the evening or at night because it is not safe enough."

19% (5) of mentions regarding evening avoidance came from residents of Gillingham. These comments mention locking doors and residents making sure they are secure after dark. They also mention the high street as an area of avoidance.

- "In the evening people don't feel safe to out. You don't know who is out and what could happen. Once my door is shut at night that's it."
- "It's not very safe at night. I keep my doors locked."
- "I sometimes feel uneasy when I got to the high street to do the smallest of chores like food shopping and I hardly leave my home after dark as I do not feel that safe to walk the street."
- "[The high street], it's a no-go area for elderly people after dark unless I really have to."

15% (4) of evening avoidance mentions were from Strood residents and a further 7% (2) of mentions were from Rainham residents. Both Strood and Rainham residents mention homelessness.

- “There are a lot of homeless people. There are some rough areas that I don't like to be around after dark. Sort of similar to parts of London in that regard.”
- “There's a lot more crime. I will not come out at night. This all makes me feel uncomfortable. I now only come out once a week. There's also a lot more down-and-outs, lying on the pavements, begging. It's not nice to see, it's a bit intimidating.”
- “I stay in a lot as I do not feel safe leaving my own home. I do not feel safe, even during the day. I wouldn't dream of leaving the house after dark – too dangerous, moody.”
- “It's not as safe as it used to be. You need to have your wits about you. It makes me feel uneasy. I don't walk around in the dark.”

## The Community (14%, 23 mentions)

23 (14%) people mentioned the community having a negative impact. 52% (12) of this cohort identified as female and 48% (11) identified as male.

52% (12) of people who mentioned the negatives of the community were between the ages of 25 and 64, 30% (7) were between 65 and 84 years of age and 13% (3) were aged 0–24 years old. One person preferred not to disclose their age.

78% (18) of this cohort identified as being from English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British backgrounds. 9% (2) were of Indian ethnicity, 4% (1) identified as being from African backgrounds, a further 4% (1) were from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds and a final 4% (1) were from other White backgrounds.

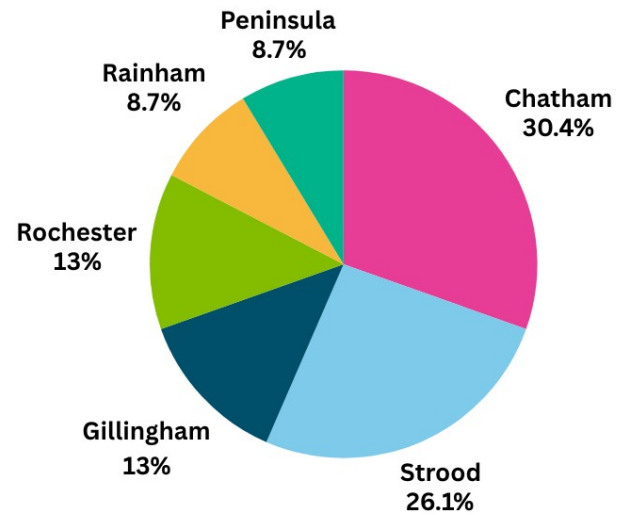
### *The Community by Location*

In Chatham, Strood and Gillingham, residents spoke about immigration (4 mentions).

- “It's a shithole. The crackheads and foreigners. It's too overpopulated.”
- “We have too many immigrants. It's not been too bad recently, but you get groups of them hanging around, it feels threatening.”
- “So many new houses going up and the people moving in are all very ignorant. Some people really are not nice. Too many different ethnicities.”

Other locations and demographic groups spoke about the community.

- 30% (7) of mentions about the community were from residents of Chatham, including Lordswood and Walderslade.
- 26% (6) of mentions were from residents of Strood.
- 13% (3) of people that mentioned the community were residents of Gillingham.
- 13% (3) were from Rochester.
- 9% (2) of the responses about the community were from residents of Rainham, including Parkwood.
- 9% (2) or responses about the community were from the Peninsula villages (Cliffe and Hoo).



Percentage of feedback about the community by location

- “Some of the people are dangerous around here and I'd like to live.”
- “Sometimes there are dodgy people.”
- “I don't feel safe, it's just some of the people.”
- “I think Chatham is really dirty and a lot of the people there are questionable.”
- “The people of today are not very friendly, I just see family and friends.”
- “You can't really control it but the type of people, like the homeless and stuff. If there was a way of segregating them that would be good. We need more quality people.”
- “I don't like being so near to Chatham - it's depressing, full of drop-outs, it's a horrible place. I avoid going there as I feel depressed whenever I've had to go there.”
- “There are some dodgy people around here. I used to be a cab driver around this area and found myself in quite a few dodgy situations.”

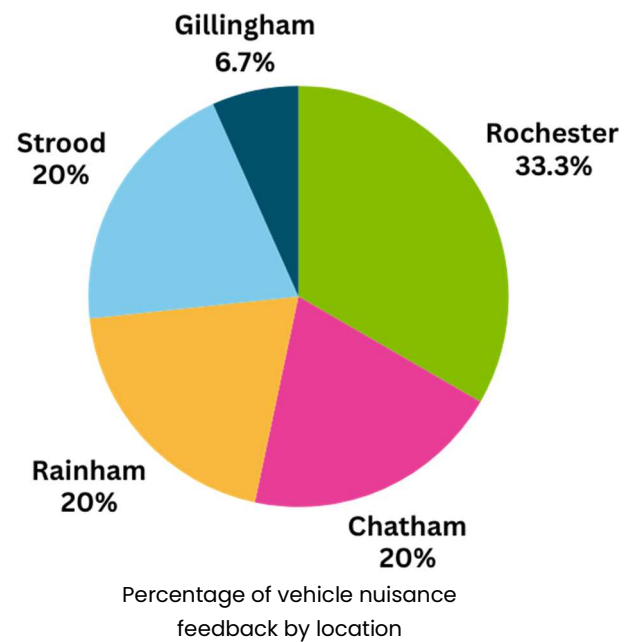
## Vehicle Nuisance (9%, 15 mentions)

15 (9%) people mentioned vehicle nuisance as a negative in their area. This is a broad term that covers any use of a vehicle that causes annoyance, alarm, or distress to others, or that violates laws or rules.

- 60% (9) of these people identified as female and 40% (6) identified as male.
- 40% (6) of people that mentioned vehicle nuisance were between the ages of 25 and 64.
- 60% (9) were between 65 and 99 years of age.
- 87% (13) of people who mentioned vehicle nuisance were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background.
- 7% (1) identified as Indian.



- 7% (1) were from other White backgrounds.
- 33% (5) of the mentions of vehicle nuisance were from residents of Rochester, including Halling.
- 20% (3) of mentions were from residents of Lordswood (Chatham).
  - 100% of vehicle nuisance mentions from residents of Lordswood were regarding motorbikes.
- 20% (3) of vehicle nuisance mentions were from residents of Rainham.
- 20% (3) of mentions were from residents of Strood.
- 7% (1) of mentions were from Gillingham residents.



People spoke on a variety of topics, but the mentions of motorbikes make up 60% (9) of the comments in this section.

- “There can be issues with noise, people with loud cars or motorbikes driving around late at night and causing a lot of noise. Feels a bit Wild West at times almost.”
- “The anti-social behaviour. The motorbikes screeching, the e-bikes and scooters.”
- “There have been motorbikes down alleyways, on pavements. But no matter where you go, there are incidences – always a little trouble wherever you go.”
- “There are always motorbikes up and down. It's just chaos at the moment.”
- “We did have an issue with anti-social behaviour a little while ago, some kids were riding their motorbikes through where I live and we had to get the police involved. Thankfully it got sorted.”

People also mention issues with electric scooters (27%, 4 mentions) and speeding (13%, 2 mentions).

- “The scooters racing around, someone's going to get knocked over.”
- “There is a cycle lane outside my house instead of a footpath and I feel like I am going to get hit by people going far too fast on these electric scooters.”
- “All the litter, the anti-social behaviour like nicking from the shops, people on electric scooters and going really fast.”
- “The bypass and the boy racers that drive over the bridge. We need more traffic calming.”
- “Borstal has a settlement where there is a lot of fly tipping and quad bikes. The traffic is mad around Rochester and people are always speeding along the Esplanade, despite the speed bumps. No one ever gets caught.”
- “The kids seem more feral – I nearly got knocked down by one on a bike just walking here today.”

## Noise (9%, 15 mentions)

15 (9%) people mentioned the levels of noise as having a negative impact. 67% (10) identified as female and 33% (5) identified as male.

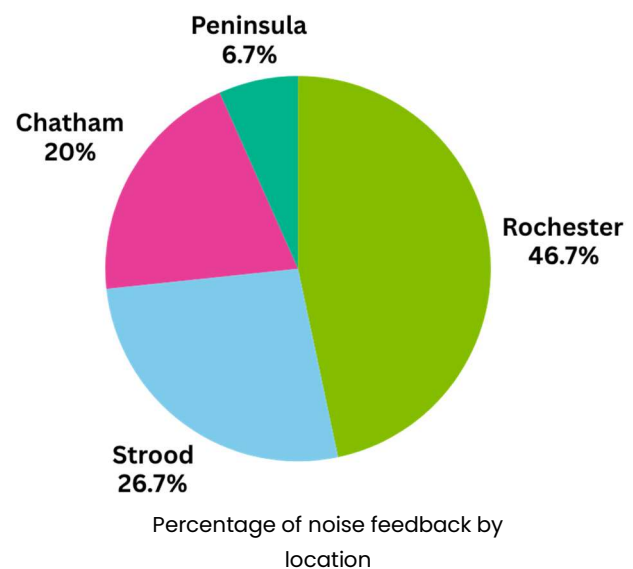
47% (7) of people who mentioned noise were between the ages of 25 and 64, 40% (6) were between 65 and 84 years of age and 7% (1) of people were between the ages of 16 and 24.

87% (13) of people who mentioned vehicle nuisance were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background. 7% (1) identified as Indian and 7% (1) identified as Bangladeshi.

### Noise by Location

47% (7) of comments about noise having a negative impact were from residents of Rochester.

- "I hate all the festivals - too busy, too noisy, all adds to the pollution, it makes me feel dizzy."
- "The nightclub is so noisy. The noise travels - you can hear it in the new flats built across from it. It's in the week too - you are getting woken up at 3am by all the drunk people stumbling home. Even pubs stay open to 1, 2 in the morning. One of the ladies who usually comes said she would not have moved into the flats if she had known how noisy they would be - and the walls are paper-thin as she can hear someone chopping vegetables in the flat next door."
- "You don't think about how traumatic it is living by the river when all the people jump off the bridge - you hear the helicopter and your heart sinks. You hear the sirens of the police and ambulance racing along the Esplanade as they go to park in the rowing club. I didn't think about this before I moved here. It's traumatic."
- "All the construction, it's relentless. When I first moved here, there was not much development. I dislike the noise and the dust produced - it will be much better when finished."



27% (4) of mentions of noise were from residents of Strood and 20% (3) of mentions were from residents of Chatham, including Lordswood.

Out of the 7 mentions of noise from residents of Strood and Chatham, 43% (3) talk about young people.

- "The noise pollution of young people on motorbikes."
- "I live on the road to the youth centre. They're so loud when they come out, shouting and swearing."
- "We live opposite a bar/club which can be very lively, especially on Fireworks Night; people were setting off fireworks at 3am, which isn't ideal when you have to get up at 6am to go to work. I think the rowdiness, the shouting at all hours can negatively impact

your mental health. I wouldn't challenge anyone as if they have just come out of the pub after a session, you do not know how they would react!"

- "Parents just let their kids run around and they're shouting and screaming."

7% (1) of mentions about noise were from residents of the Peninsula villages (Wainscott).

- "The upstairs neighbours were noisy when I first moved in, but they have moved out and now it's fine."

## Issues with Policing (6%, 11 mentions)

11 (6%) people mentioned issues with policing in their local areas. 73% (8) of those identified as female and 27% (3) identified as male.

45% of people that mentioned issues with policing were between the ages of 35 and 54, a further 45% were between 65 and 99 years of age and 9% (1) were aged 16 to 24 years old.

64% (7) of people that mentioned issues with policing were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background, with 18% (2) of people from a White and Asian background and 9% from both Caribbean (1) and other White backgrounds (1).

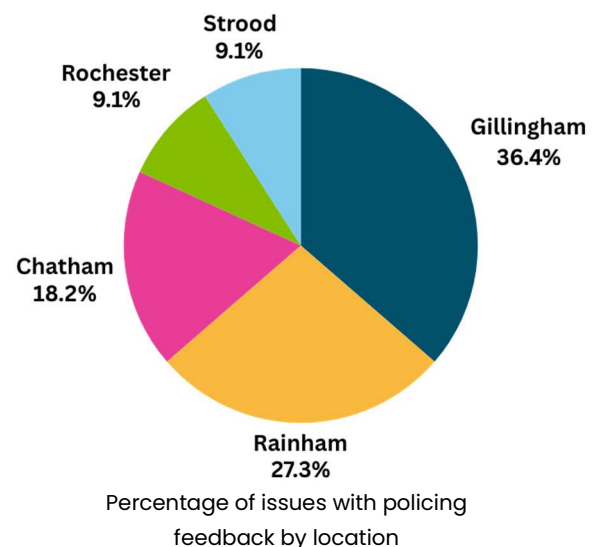
This issue had one of the highest levels of feedback from non-White British backgrounds.

### Issues with Policing by Location

The location with the most mentions of issues with policing was Gillingham, making up 36% (4) of all mentions.

In Gillingham, residents talk about not being given police support for specific issues.

- "There are lots of glass bottles thrown in our garden, one of them killed our rabbit. Dog poop has been thrown at our car. There should be more community policing."
- "The policing is bad, my neighbours stole from me and the police didn't do anything."
- "The policing isn't great. There are issues with getting help for incidents. The lack of policing resources makes me feel unsafe. I pay taxes and everything."
- "Poor police service, I recently had squatters move into my property and nothing was done to support me as the custom in this incident and so have lost all faith in the police."



27% (3) of people who mentioned issues with policing were residents of Rainham with 18% (2) from Chatham, and 9% from both Rochester (1) and Strood (1).

By other locations, residents said they would like to see more of a police presence in their areas.

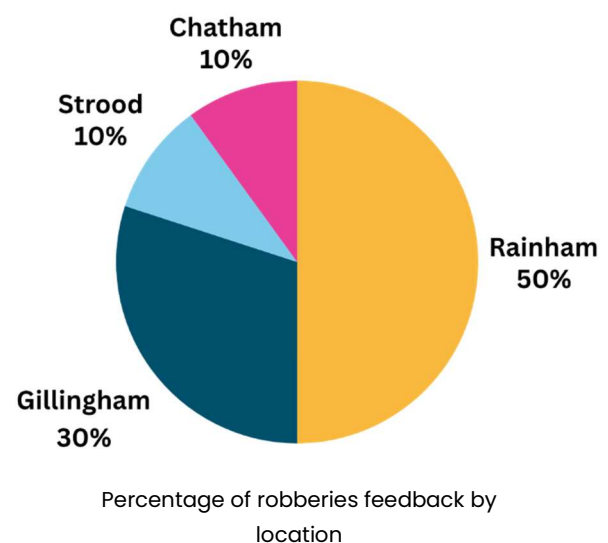
- “The police don't come down here [to the high street] very often.”
- “The lack of police – there's no presence anymore. It affects others more but needs to be sorted. It's such a shame to see this.”
- “The police aren't doing enough – there aren't enough bobbies on the beat anymore. Where there are pockets of crime, there are not the resources to tackle them.”
- “I don't feel safe where I live at all, also think that there is a real lack of policing.”
- “There is a lack of police presence, even if it is just a patrol.”
- “I'd like to see more of a presence of bobbies on the beat.”

## Robberies (6%, 10 mentions)

10 (5%) people mentioned robberies. 60% (6) identified as male and 40% (4) of those identified as female.

80% (8) of people who mentioned robberies were between the ages of 25 and 64, with 20% (2) aged between 75 and 99 years old.

80% (8) of people that mentioned robberies were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background, with 10% from both Irish (1) and other White backgrounds (1).



In Rainham, including Parkwood (50%, 5 mentions) and Strood (10%, 1 mention), residents talk about being mugged, as well as other specific events.

- “I got mugged the other day on the church path. they took my purse and everything. Thankfully the police got everything back for me, and now the guy is locked up.”
- “It's not safe in the evenings especially Thursday and Friday evenings, the pigeon square over there has so many thugs, they start on people, that's where you can get robbed. And if you walk through the Churchyard 9/10 times you're going to get robbed. With the thugs they also try and offer you drugs/drink and I'm clean, I've been ten years sober.”
- “It would be better if we didn't get as many drunks coming into the shop. Some of them are violent and dangerous, some of them are lovely. It just depends, you never know. But you can see the old ladies who are out are scared of them, they see the shoplifting and feel unsafe. Things are definitely getting worse, you see more of this happening with the cost of living.”
- “Kids steel apples from my tree. They all cut across my front lawn!”

In Gillingham, including Twydall (30%, 3 mentions) and Chatham, (10%, 1 mention) residents mention theft on private property and shoplifting.

- “It's quite safe here too – we've only been burgled once and that was out garage. There's a council estate at the bottom of the road, so it goes with the territory.”

- “The amount of theft. I got my van stolen not too long ago. You have to lock everything up like Fort Knox around here.”
- “People stealing out of shops.”

## Aggressive Behaviour (5%, 8 mentions)

8 (5%) people mentioned aggressive behaviour as having a negative impact, with 75% (6) of this cohort identifying as women and 25% (2) identifying as male.

- 63% (5) of people that mentioned aggressive behaviour were aged between 25 and 64 years.
- 13% (1) were between the ages of 16 and 24.
- 13% (1) were between 75 and 84 years of age.
- One person preferred to not disclose their age.

63% (5) of people that mentioned aggressive behaviour were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background, with 13% from each Indian ethnicity (1), Caribbean ethnicity (1) and other White backgrounds (1).

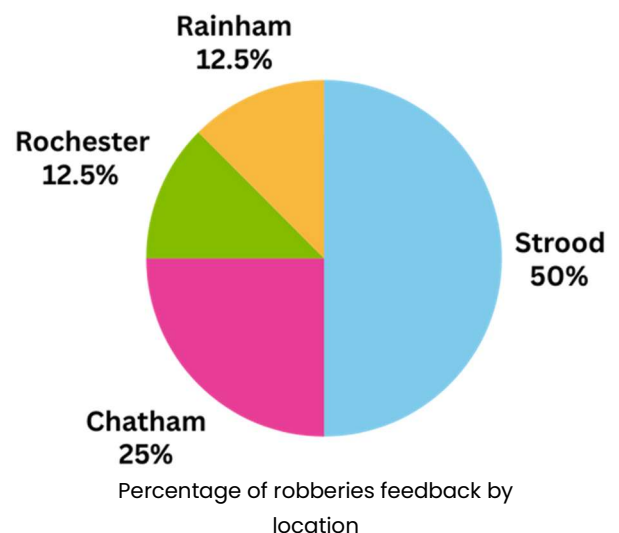
This issue had one of the highest levels of feedback from non-White British backgrounds.

### Aggressive Behaviour by Location

In Rochester, Chatham and Strood, residents mention fights (38%, 3 mentions) and violence.

- “I don't come to Rochester at night on my own anymore. The bars get quite aggressive, and I see lots of fights and drunk people.”
- “There's been more violence lately.”
- “There was a punch up here at 8am, it makes me feel very uncomfortable.”
- “Just now I witnessed a couple of homeless guys getting into a drunken fight in the middle of the day. It gives a bit of an aggy vibes to the place, but the good thing is they just keep it to themselves, they don't involve you. I just avoid it and to be honest, it doesn't bother me that much.”

50% (4) of those who mentioned aggressive behaviour were residents of Strood, with 25% (2) of people living in Chatham and 13% from each Rochester (1) and Rainham (1).



## Vandalism (4%, 7 mentions)

7 (4%) people mentioned vandalism. 57% identified as male and 43% identified as female.

86% (6) of people who mentioned vandalism were between the ages of 65 and 84. 14% (1) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

100% (7) of people who mentioned vandalism were from English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British backgrounds.

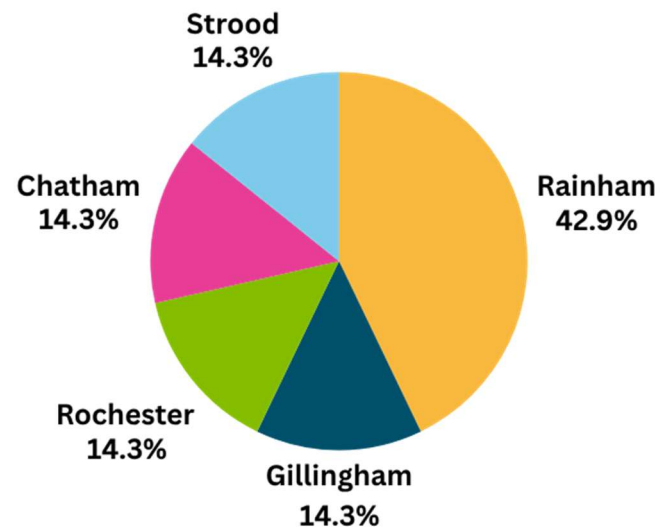
The majority of comments about vandalism were from residents Rainham, including Parkwood at 43% (3 mentions). Gillingham, Rochester (Halling), Chatham (Lordswood) and Strood are all mentioned once, at 14% of mentions each.

57% (4) of mentions were about destruction of property.

- “The area has gotten rowdier with the kids, we live near Broomhill Park where they congregate, and they can be a bit aggressive. They were messing with our fence one day and I told them not to – the next day, it was no longer there. I am now very conscious every time I hear footsteps on the path outside – you never know who it might be. It is a little unsettling. I don’t like the way it is going.”
- “Some parts of the area are fine however the high street is horrid, full of mess and so much graffiti everywhere that it has turned into an eye sore.
- There’s nothing for the kids to do. They throw things at my door, and they burnt it. They have no respect.”

43% (3) of mentions were about vandalism generally.

- “There’s problems with vandalism.”
- “We get vandalism now, we never used to – plus fly-tipping and litter. It’s annoying, but you get on with it.”
- “I used to like living here, but not anymore – too much crime, rubbish everywhere, vandalism.”



Percentage of vandalism feedback by location

## Knife Crime (3%, 5 mentions)

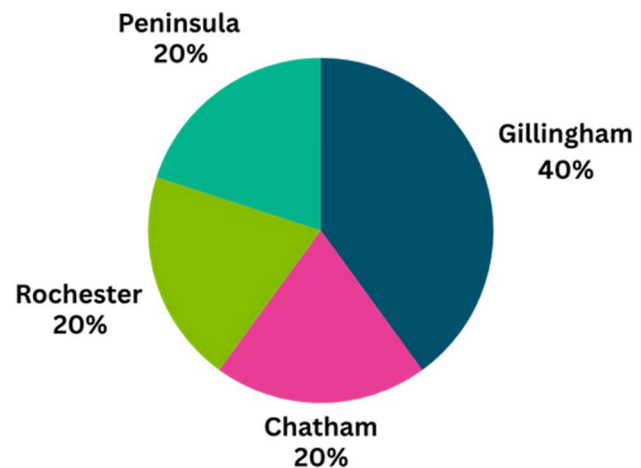
5 (3%) people mentioned knife crime, with 80% (4) of mentions coming from those who identify as female, and 20% (1) from those who identify as male.

The two largest age cohorts who mentioned knife crime were people aged between 16 and 24 years (2 mentions) and those aged between 25 and 34 years, both making up 40% of knife

crime mentions. The last 20% of mentions were from people ages 65 to 74 years of age (1 mention).

80% (4) of people who mentioned knife crime were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background, with 20% (1) of people mentioning knife crime being of Caribbean ethnicity.

The majority of people who mentioned knife crime were residents of Gillingham (40%, 2 mentions), followed by Chatham (1), Rochester (1) and the Peninsula villages (Cliffe) (1), each making up 20% of mentions.



Percentage of knife crime feedback by location

When talking about knife crime, 60% of people mentioned stabbings (3 mentions).

- "It's shit. The people are not nice people. There are too many stabbings around."
- "I did nearly get stabbed the other day. There are some assholes that live in the village."
- "All the stabbings it's not safe, I don't want to bring my children out. I don't go out anywhere by myself, this is the first time in two weeks. I don't even go to my mum and dad's even though its right around the corner."

40% of residents mention people carrying knives (2 mentions).

- "I wouldn't come down to the high street in the evening past 7pm. There are always police around and someone always has a knife, and I am disabled so that scares me."
- "Medway is like a 'wish' version of London, 13-year-olds with knives and that."

## Gangs (2%, 3 mentions)

3 people mentioned gangs. 67% (2) of this cohort were female and 33% (1) were male. 67% (2) were between the ages 45 and 64 years, and 33% (1) were aged 75 to 84. 100% (3) of people who mentioned gangs were from English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British backgrounds.

There was one comment each from Chatham, Rainham and Cliffe (Peninsula).

- "There are too many young people. There's lots of people that come down from London, and now there are gangs and they deal drugs."
- "There are a lot of drugs and gangs in the area now."
- "A lot of people are coming down from London and now there are gangs here. You're always looking over your shoulder."

## Harassment (2%, 3 mentions)

3 (2%) people mentioned harassment, with 67% (2) of those identifying as female and 33% (1) identifying as male.

67% (2) of people who mentioned harassment were between the ages of 45 and 64, with 33% (1) aged 16 to 24 years.

67% (2) of people who mentioned harassment were from an English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British background, with 33% (1) from Caribbean backgrounds.

67% of mentions of harassment were from residents of Chatham, including Walderslade (2 mentions) and 33% of mentions were from Gillingham residents (1 mention).

- "I get used to it. People used to shout at me on the streets, but they don't anymore."
- "I got stalked around here too."
- "On the High Street there are lots of foreign men that make rude comments to young girls."

## Racism (1%, 2 mentions)

100% (2) of people who mentioned racism identified as male.

50% (1) of people who mentioned racism were between the ages of 16 and 24, with the other 50% (1) from people aged 35 to 44 years.

Of the people who mentioned racism, 50% (1) identified as of African ethnicity, and the other 50% (1) identified as from a White and Black African background.

50% (1) of people that mentioned racism were residents of Rochester, with the other 50% (1) residing in Chatham.

- "I have experienced some racial incidents. That's nothing new. I am used to it by now. You just crack on."
- "There is a little bit of racism, but I have come down from London, so I am used to that."

## A Summary of Themes by Location

### Chatham (29%, 50 people)

In Chatham, including Lordswood and Walderslade, the most mentioned themes were as follows:

- 34% of Chatham residents mentioned litter (17 mentions).
- 26% mentioned personal safety (13 mentions).
- 16% mentioned drugs and alcohol (8 mentions).
- 14% mentioned evening avoidance (7 mentions).
- 14% mentioned the community (7 mentions).



## Rochester (25%, 42 people)

In Rochester, including Halling, the most mentioned themes were as follows:

- 29% of Rochester residents mentioned litter (12 mentions).
- 21% mentioned personal safety (9 mentions).
- 21% mentioned evening avoidance (9 mentions).
- 17% mentioned drugs and alcohol (7 mentions).
- 17% mentioned noise (7 mentions).

## Gillingham (18%, 31 people)

In Gillingham, including Twydall and Wigmore, the most mentioned themes were as follows:

- 52% of Gillingham residents mentioned litter (16 mentions).
- 45% mentioned personal safety (14 mentions).
- 25% mentioned a general theme of crime and anti-social behaviour (8 mentions)
- 16% mentioned evening avoidance (5 mentions).
- 13% mentioned issues with policing (4 mentions).

## Strood (13%, 22 people)

In Strood, the most mentioned themes were as follows:

- 36% of Strood residents mentioned drugs and alcohol (8 mentions).
- 36% mentioned personal safety (8 mentions).
- 27% mentioned a general theme of crime and anti-social behaviour (6 mentions).
- 27% mentioned the community (6 mentions).

## Rainham (8%, 14 people)

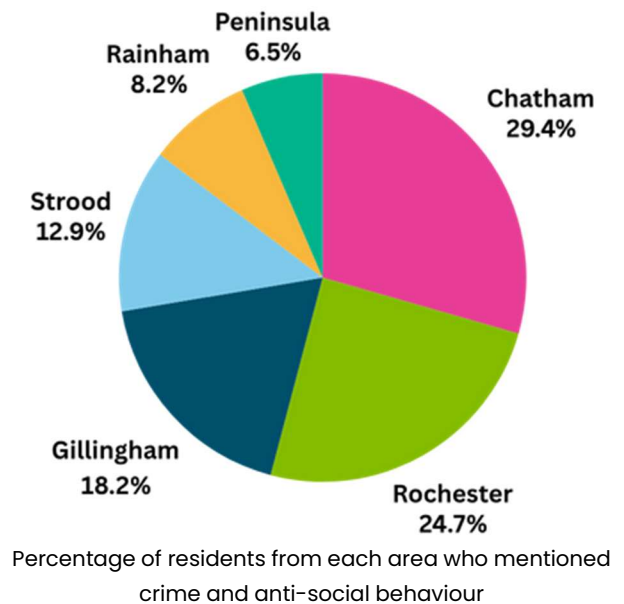
In Rainham, including Parkwood, the most mentioned themes were as follows:

- 50% of Rainham residents mentioned litter (7 mentions).
- 43% mentioned a general theme of crime and anti-social behaviour (6 mentions).
- 36% mentioned robberies (5 mentions).
- 29% mentioned personal safety (4 mentions).

## The Peninsula (6%, 11 people)

On the Peninsula, including Allhallows, Cliffe, Cliffe Woods, Hoo, Isle of Grain, Upnor and Wainscott, the most mentioned themes were as follows:

- 36% of Rainham residents mentioned litter (4 mentions).
- 18% mentioned the community (2 mentions).
- 18% mentioned a general theme of crime and anti-social behaviour (2 mentions).



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