





Public Views and Perceptions of Policing in West Mercia
2022/23 Survey Quarter 2 Results Presentation













### Section One Introduction & Methodology, Summary & Respondent Breakdown







### Introduction & Methodology

- West Mercia Police (WMP) & the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, seek to obtain the views of residents, including their confidence in WMP, to inform the PCC's plan priorities and support decision making around the Safer West Mercia agenda
- WMP & the OPCC commissioned SMSR, a third party research agency, to conduct surveys over the phone and face to face with West Mercia residents and victims of crime
- The questionnaire includes key questions taken from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the 2018 Report on Public Perceptions of Policing in England and Wales (PPPEW)
- Where relevant, comparisons with CSEW AND PPPEW are displayed. Comparisons with CSEW include the average score of forces included in West Mercia Police's most similar group (MSG)\*\*. Where comparisons have been made, results have been consistently analysed in accordance with this external reporting. Comparisons with CSEW are based on the most recent results available (March 2020)
- Over the 12 month period (October 2021 September 2022) SMSR have interviewed a representative sample of over 3000 residents –
   600 across each of the 5 Local Policing Areas (LPA): Hereford; Shropshire; Telford & Wrekin and North & South Worcestershire
- Results have been weighted to accurately represent the population size of each LPA
- The report tracks changes in perception levels, identifies high performing areas and those with need for improvement

### Summary – Overall Views

- The majority of residents (81%) agreed that they had confidence in West Mercia Police with the same proportion confident that they would receive a good service from the force (81%).
- Just under two-thirds (63%) felt that West Mercia Police were doing either a good or excellent job.

### Visibility

- A fifth of residents (21%) report that they see an officer or PCSO at least once a week with over half (56%) satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area.
- Three-quarters (75%) said that there had been no change in the level of policing; more than a tenth (14%) believed there had been a decrease with less than a tenth (6%) that thought there had been an increase.
- Just under a fifth (17%) said that they had spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team.

### Interaction / Access

- Just under nine-tenths (87%) were confident that they could access the police in an emergency with two-thirds (67%) confident they could do so in a non-emergency.
- The majority (77%) said they would prefer to contact West Mercia Police by telephone for a non-emergency issue.
- Over half (55%) said that they find out about crime and policing issues from the media, with two-fifths (43%) finding out through social media. Less than half (46%) said they felt informed about what West Mercia Police is doing, with 53% that stated they did not feel informed.

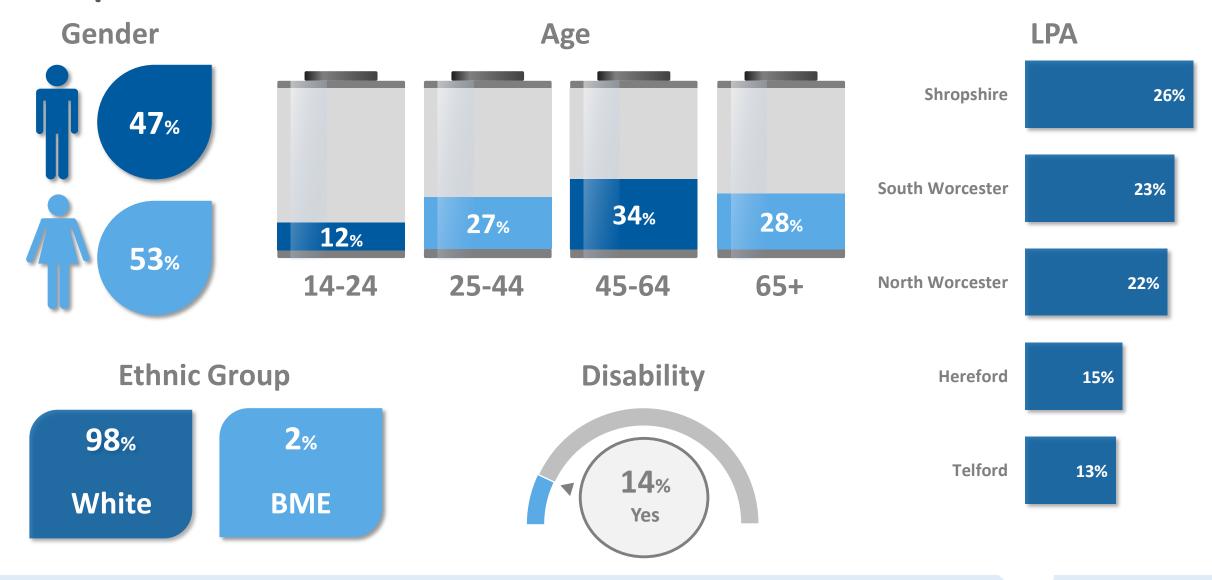
### Effectiveness

- Seven-tenths (70%) of residents felt that West Mercia Police understand the issues in their community and just over a fifth (21%) reported that they thought that crime and ASB was a problem in their area.
- Over seven-tenths (73%) thought that crime and ASB had remained the same compared to 12 months ago with over a tenth (15%) reporting an increase. Further to this, over 8 in every 10 residents (81%) agreed that West Mercia Police are dealing with crime and ASB.

### Trust / integrity

- The vast majority (93%) said that West Mercia Police have their support with just under nine-tenths that said they trust WMP (88%). Over 8 in every 10 said that they act with integrity (83%) and they believe they treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (85%). Around three-quarters felt West Mercia Police use their powers appropriately (78%), they take people's concerns seriously (75%) and can be relied to be there when you need them (74%).
- Three-fifths (60%) are confident West Mercia Police use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully. Only 4% felt West Mercia Police did not use their stop and search powers fairly and respectfully.

### Respondent Breakdown









# Section Two Visibility / Presence

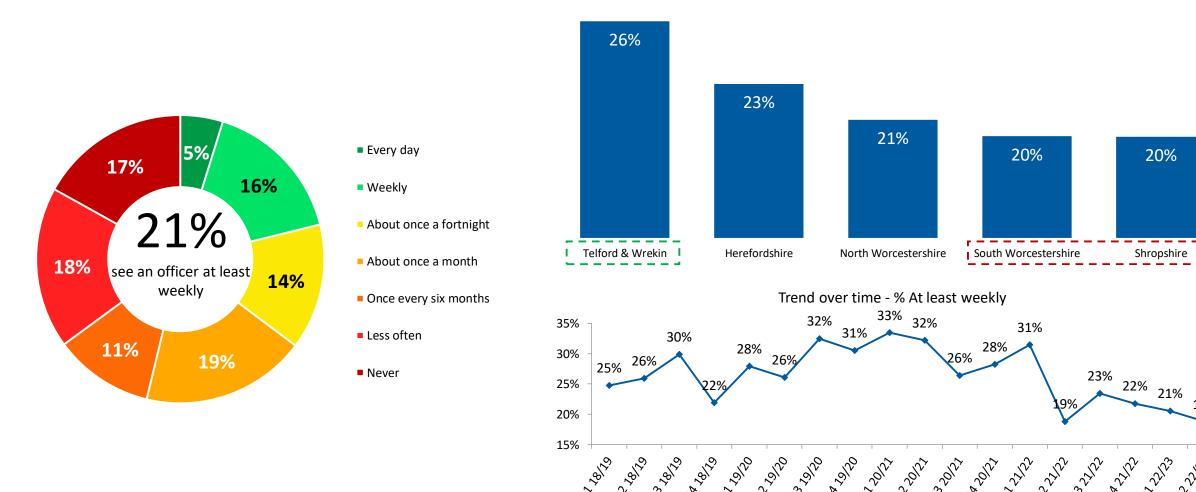






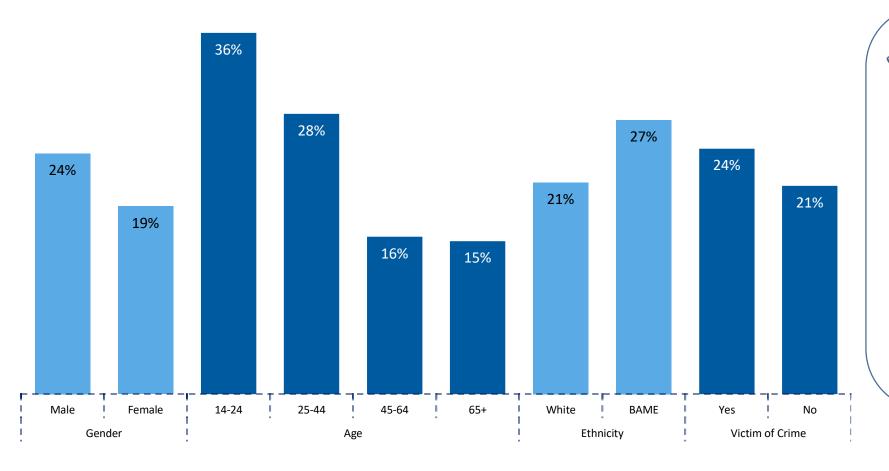
### A fifth see an officer or PCSO at least once a week

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



### A fifth see an officer or PCSO at least once a week

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





#### **Key Insights**

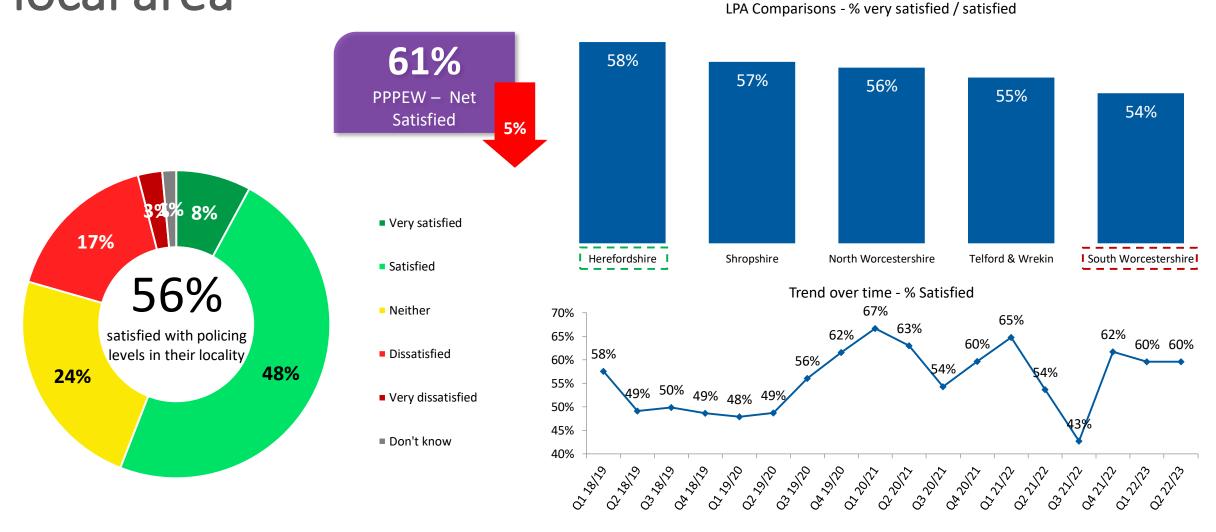
Residents of Telford & Wrekin more likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly

The older the respondent the less likely they were to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly

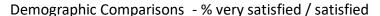
BAME respondents more likely to see an officer or PCSO weekly

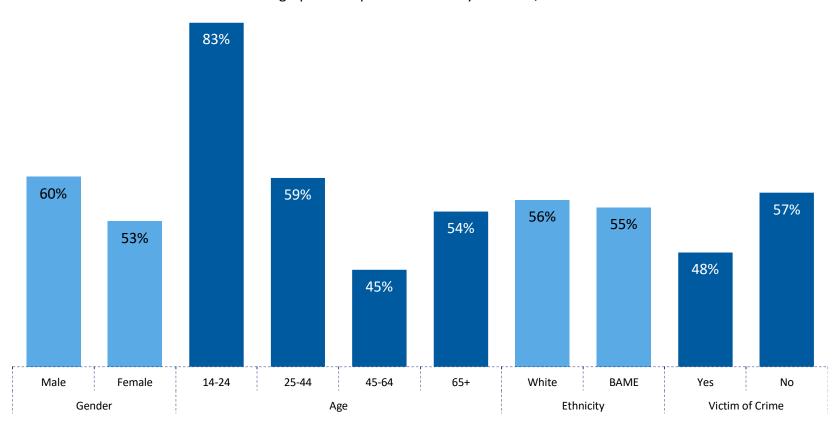
Males more likely than females to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly

### Over half satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area



## Over half satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area







#### **Key Insights**

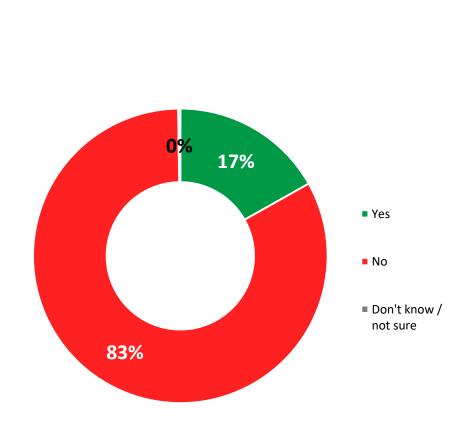
Under 24's most likely to be satisfied with policing levels in their local area - those aged 45-54 least likely to be satisfied with policing levels

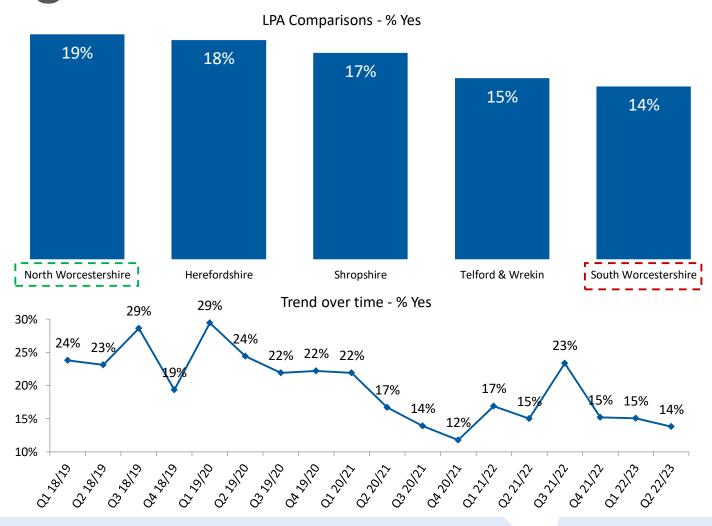
Females less likely to be satisfied with levels of policing compared to males

Residents of South Worcestershire least likely to be satisfied with policing levels

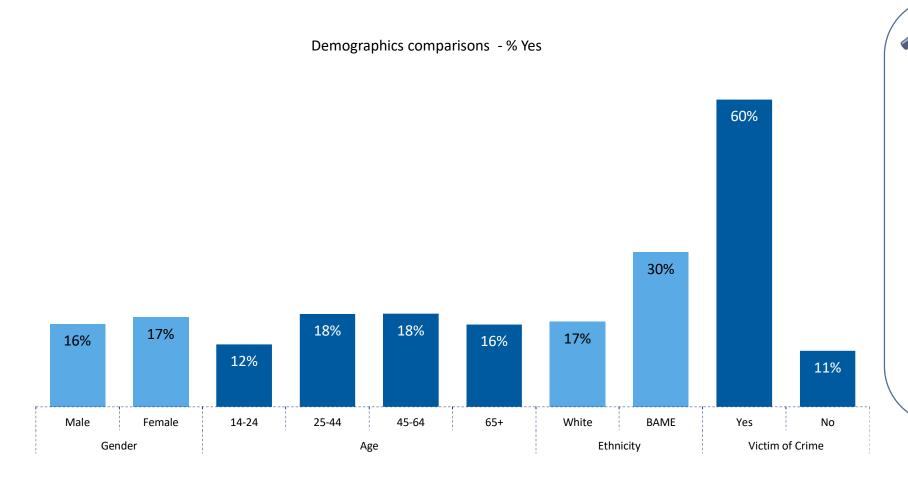
Those in Herefordshire more likely to be satisfied

## Around a fifth have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team





## Around a fifth have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team





#### **Key Insights**

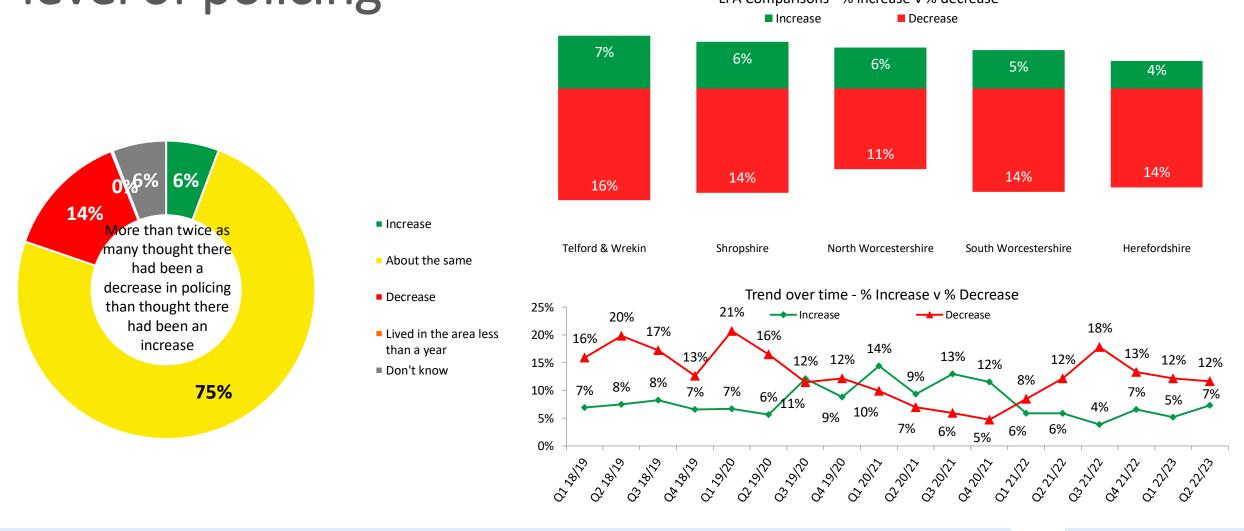
Victims of crime more than five times as likely to have spoken to a member of their local policing team

BAME respondents more likely to have spoken to local policing team

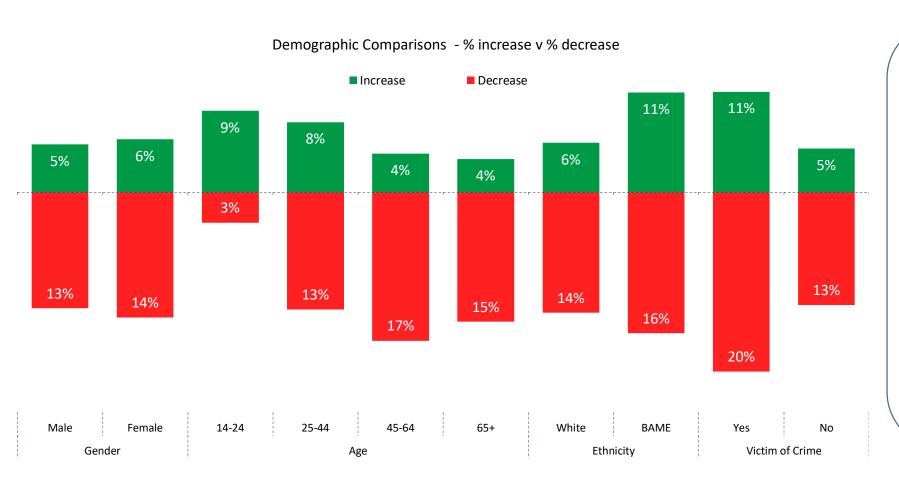
Residents of South Worcestershire least likely to have spoken to their local policing team

Those in North Worcestershire most likely to have spoken to their local policing team

## Three-quarters felt there had been no change in the level of policing LPA Comparisons - % increase v % decrease



## Three-quarters felt there had been no change in the level of policing





#### **Key Insights**

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

Victims of crime and BAME respondents also more likely to notice a decrease in levels of policing

Residents of Telford & Wrekin most likely to notice an increase in policing







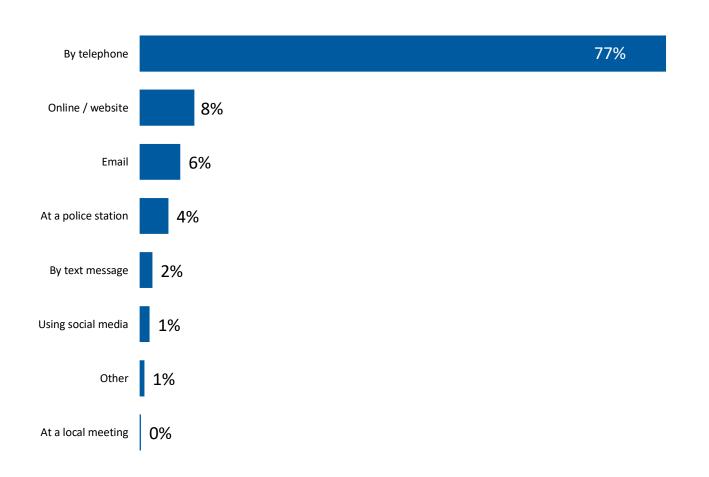
# Section Three Interaction / Access







## 8 in every 10 said they would prefer to contact the police by telephone for a non-emergency





#### **Key Insights**

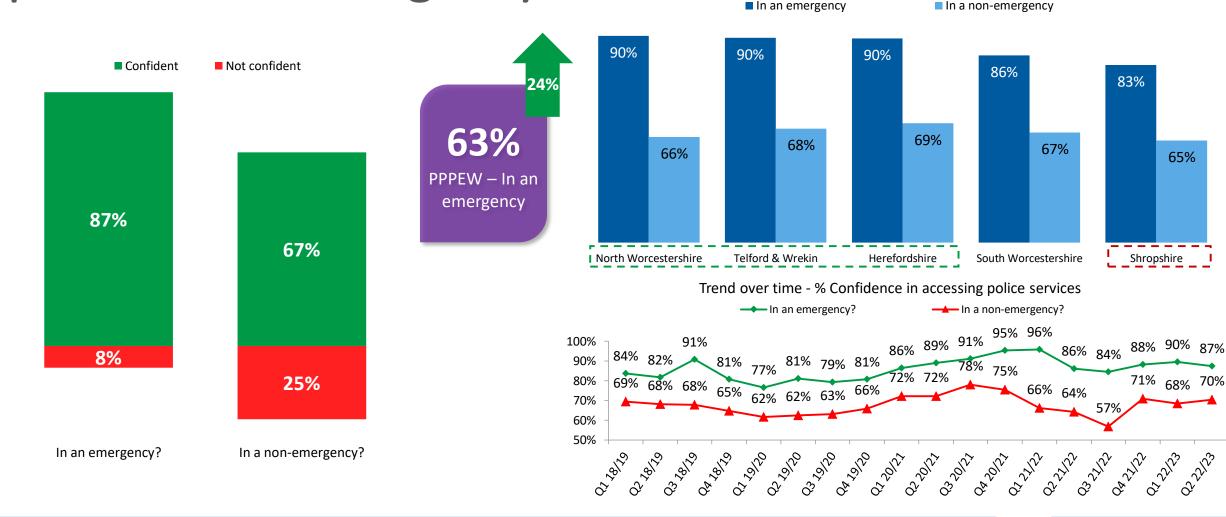
Preference of telephone contact increases with age but by far the most preferred method overall

Younger residents (14-44) more likely to prefer electronic contact when compared to those aged 45+

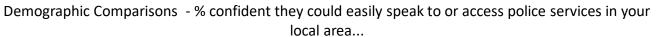
### Nearly nine-tenths confident they could access the

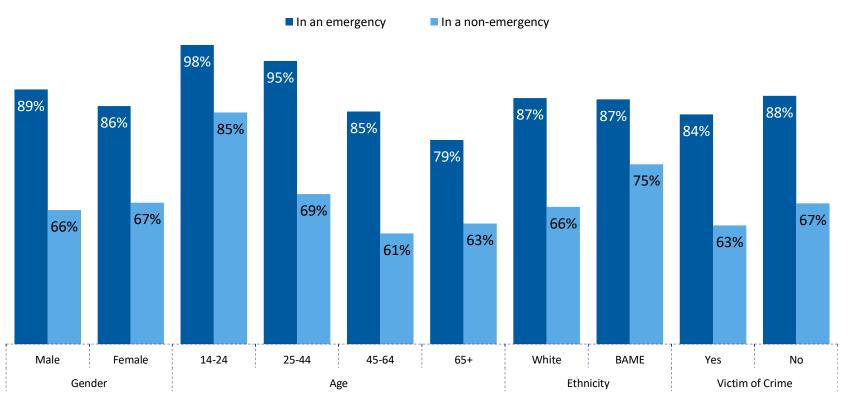
police in an emergency

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



## Nearly nine-tenths confident they could access the police in an emergency







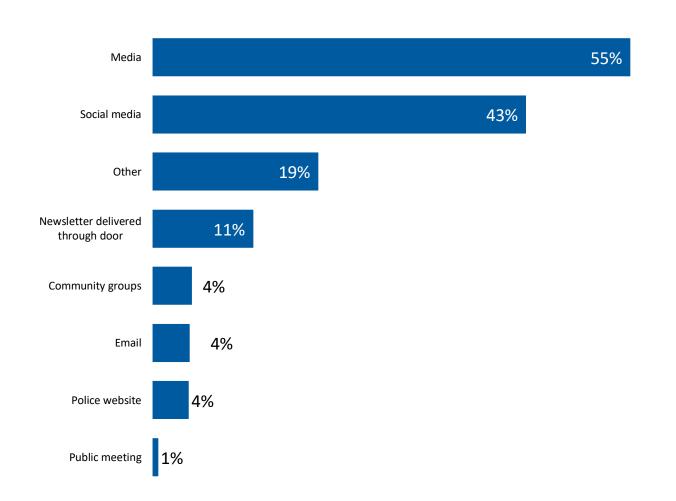
#### **Key Insights**

Residents in Shropshire least confident in being able to access the police in an emergency

Residents of Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin and North Worcestershire most confident they could access the police in an emergency

Those under 45 more likely to have confidence they can access WMP in an emergency than those aged 45+

### Over half said they found out about crime and policing from the media – over a two-thirds from social media





#### **Key Insights**

Males more likely than females to find out about crime and policing from the media

Females more likely than males to find out about crime and policing from social media

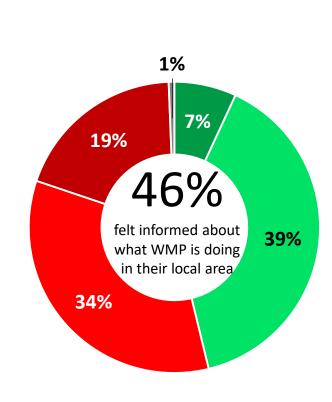
Those aged 14-24 least likely to find out about crime and policing from the media

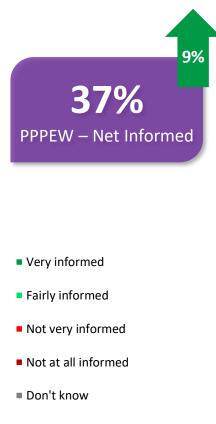
Those aged 14-24 most likely to find out about crime and policing via social media channels; the younger the resident, the more likely to extract information from this source

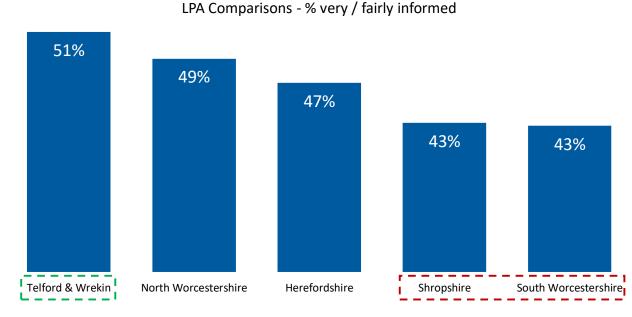
BAME residents and victims of crime less likely to find out about crime and policing from the media – more likely to find out through social media

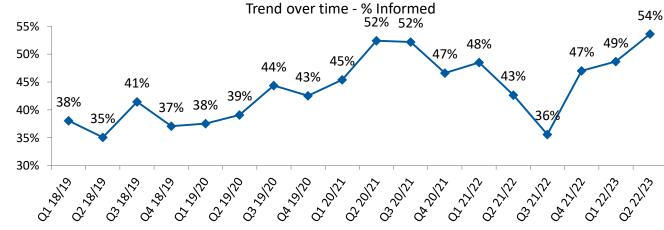
Over half do not feel informed about what WMP

are doing

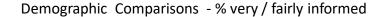


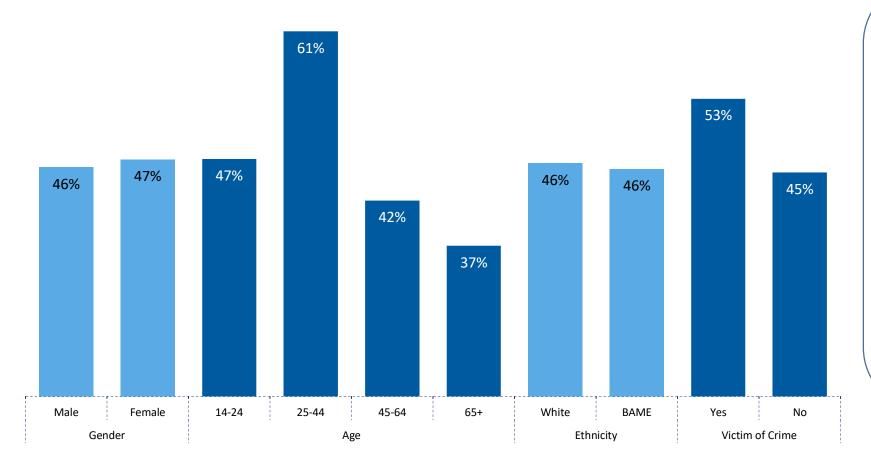






## Over half do not feel informed about what WMP are doing







#### **Key Insights**

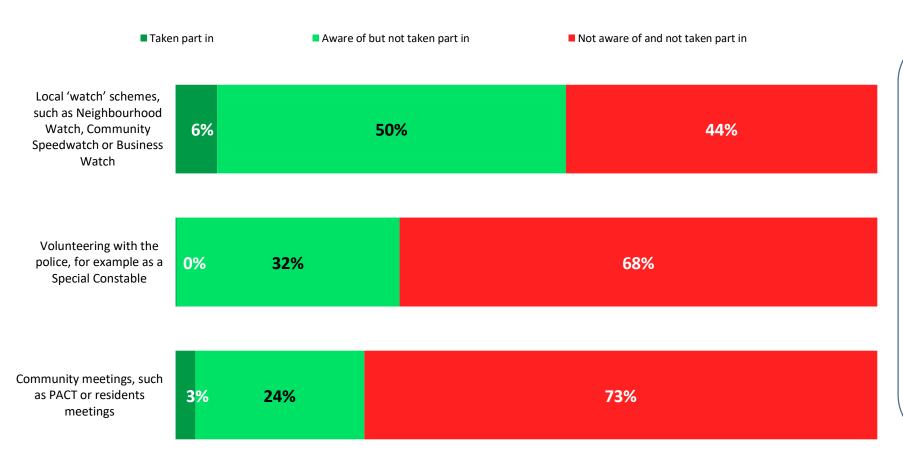
5% increase in those that felt informed compared to the previous quarter – now at highest level since tracking began

Those aged 65 and over less likely to feel informed about what WMP is doing

Those aged 25-44 more likely to feel informed about what the police are doing

Residents from Telford & Wrekin felt most informed about what the police are doing in their local area; those from Shropshire and South Worcestershire least informed

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





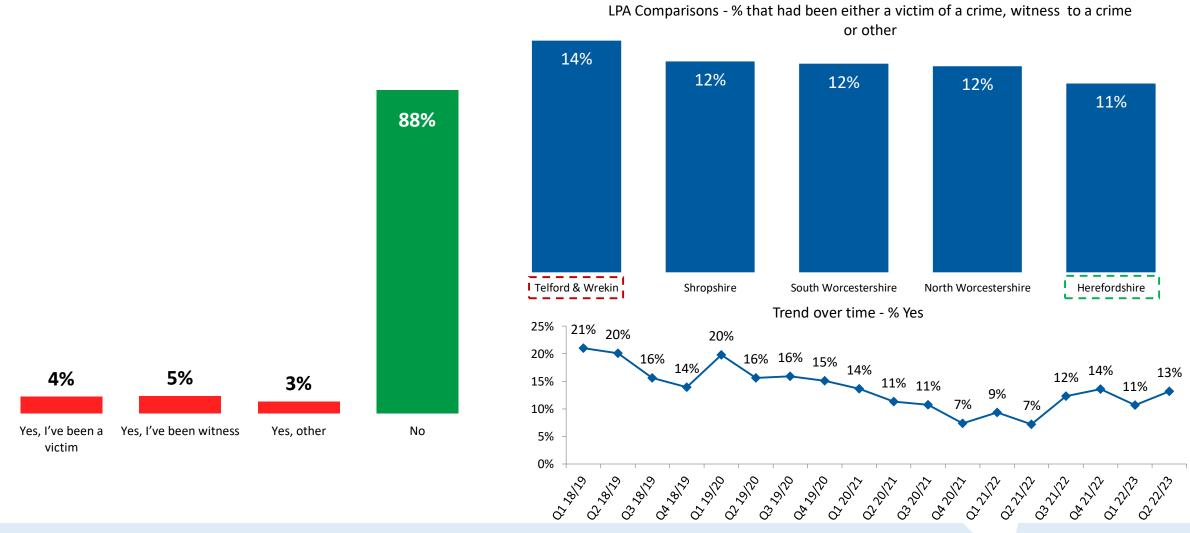
#### **Key Insights**

Half were aware of local 'watch' schemes; a small percentage have taken part

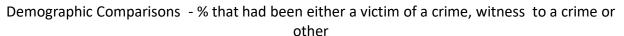
Over a third were aware of volunteering with the police; only 4 respondents had taken part

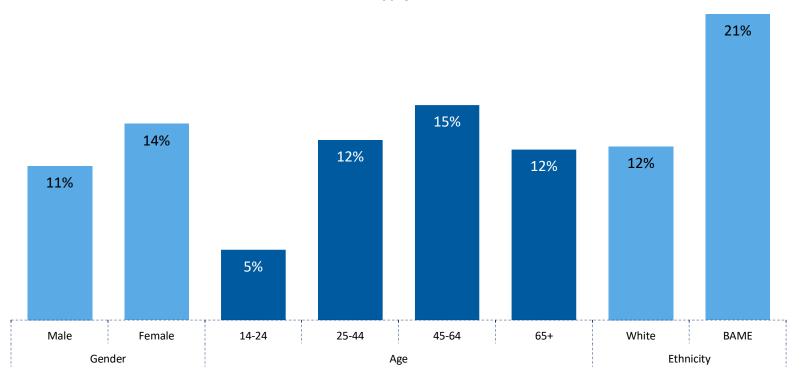
A quarter of residents are aware of community meetings; a small percentage have participated

### A tenth have been a victim of, or witness to, a crime



### A tenth have been a victim of, or witness to, a crime







#### **Key Insights**

Residents in Telford & Wrekin more likely to have encountered crime

Those in Herefordshire least likely to have been a victim of crime

Those aged 14-24 least likely to have been a victim of crime, those aged 45-64 most likely to have been a victim of crime

BAME respondents more likely to have been victims of crime compared to White respondents

90% of those that had been a victim of crime said they reported this to the police







# Section Four Effectiveness

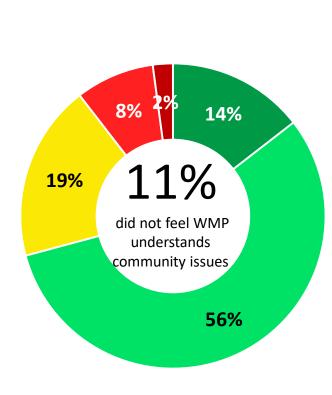






Seven out of every ten felt WMP understands issues

in their community

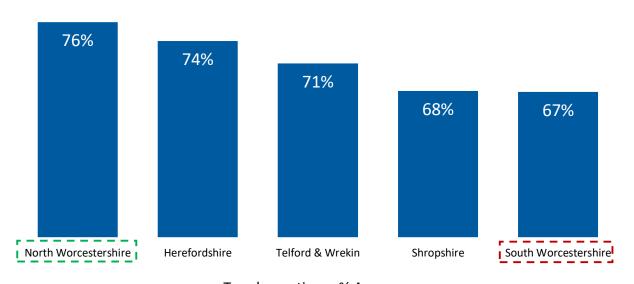


67%

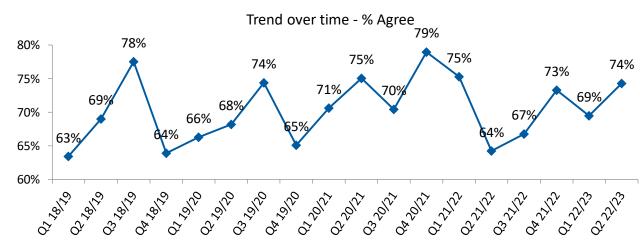
CSEW MSG

Average 
Net Agree

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree



LPA Comparisons - % strongly / tend to agree



## Seven out of every ten felt WMP understands issues in their community



#### **Key Insights**

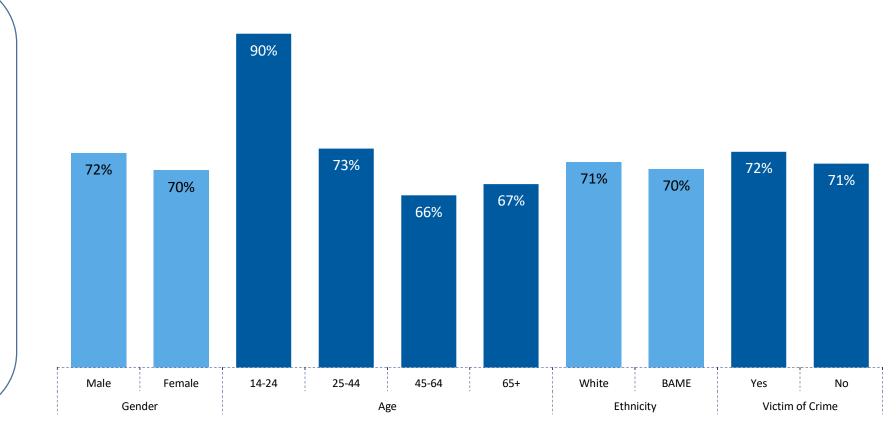
Residents aged 14-24 most likely to agree WMP understand the issues in their area

Residents in South Worcestershire least likely to agree the police understands community issues

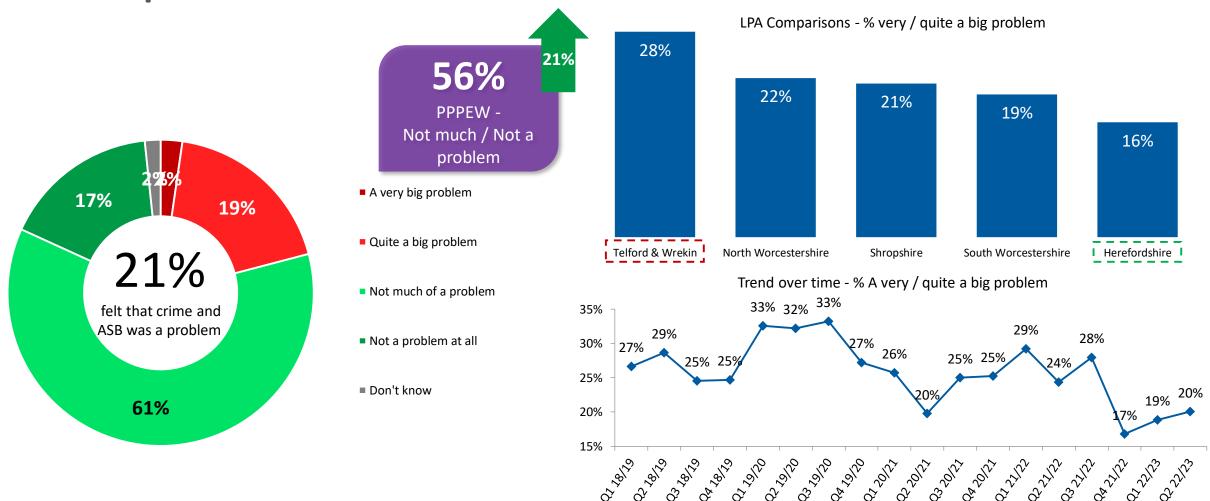
Residents North Worcestershire most likely to agree the police understands community issues

5% increase in agreement from the previous quarter

Demographic Comparisons - % strongly / tend to agree

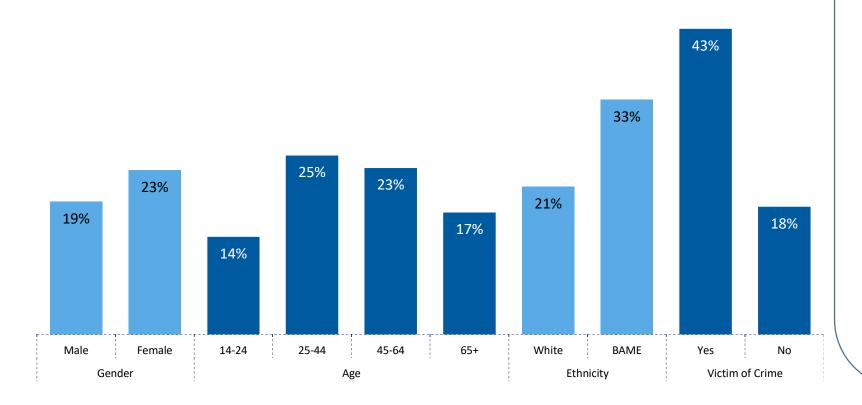


## Around three-quarters did not think crime and ASB was a problem in their local area



## Around three-quarters did not think crime and ASB was a problem in their local area

Demographic Comparisons - % very / quite a big problem





#### **Key Insights**

Victims of crime more than twice as likely to have said crime and ASB was a problem

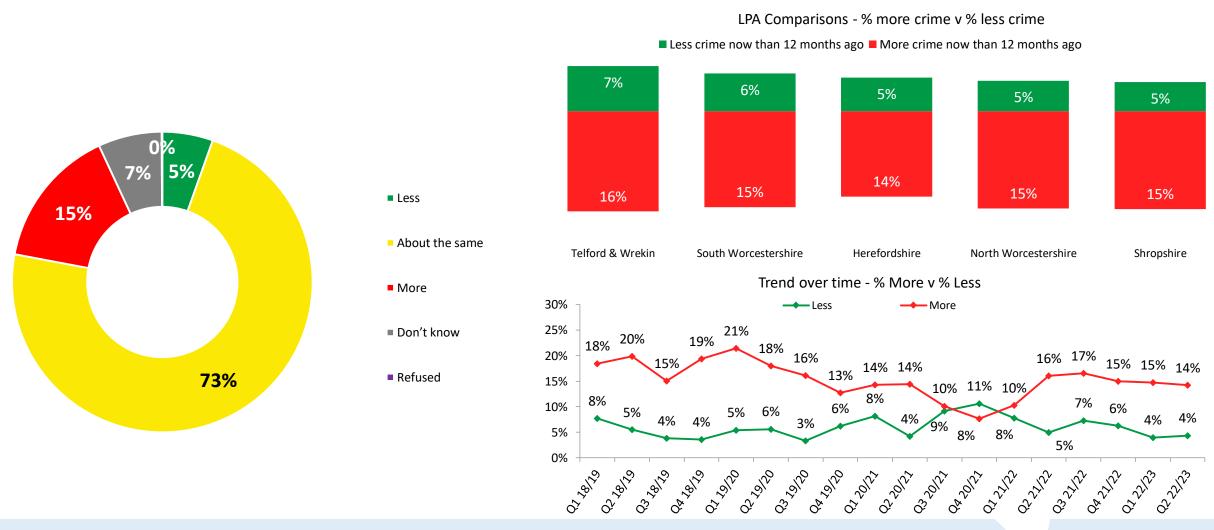
BAME respondents more likely than White respondents to say crime and ASB is a problem

Females more likely to say crime and ASB a problem than males

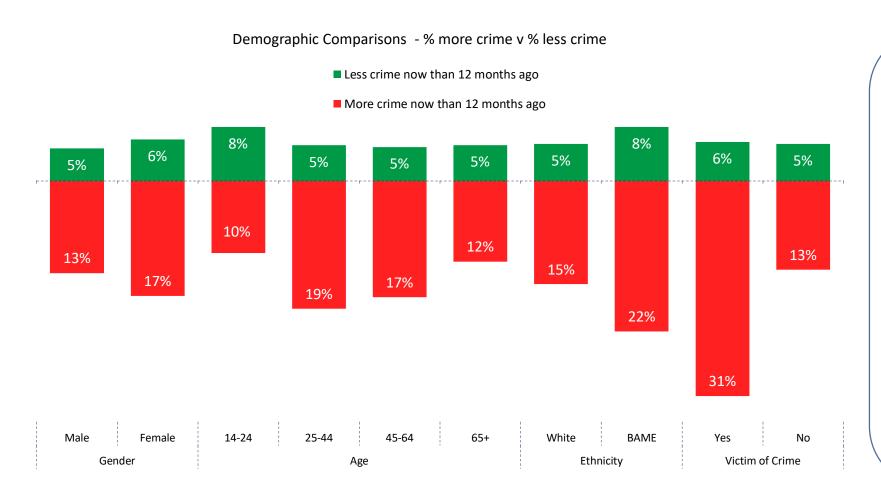
Those aged 14-24 less likely to feel crime and ASB was a problem in their area

Residents in Herefordshire least likely to say crime and ASB was a problem; those in Telford & Wrekin most likely

### Over seven-tenths felt crime and ASB levels had remained the same – over a tenth felt there was more



### Over seven-tenths felt crime and ASB levels had remained the same – over a tenth felt there was more





#### **Key Insights**

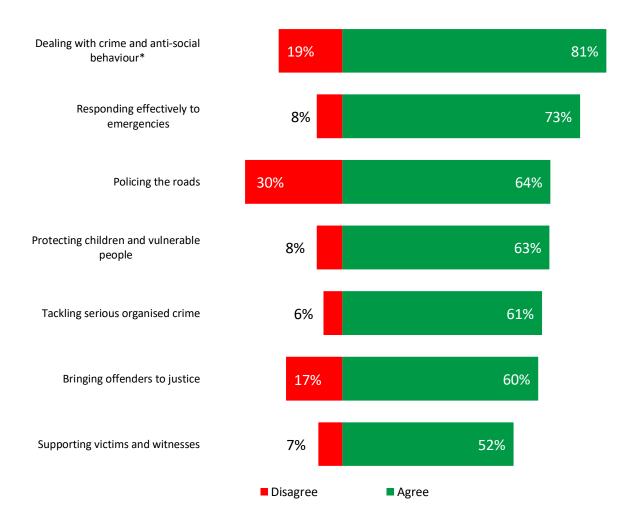
Victims of crime more likely to feel that crime and ASB levels had risen in the last 12 months compared to non-victims

BAME respondents more inclined than white respondents to feel that crime and ASB has increased

Those aged 25-44 and 45-64 more likely to feel there has been an increase in crime over the past 12 months

Residents of Telford & Wrekin more incline to feel there has been an increase in crime and ASB

Over 8 out of every 10 agreed WMP are dealing with crime and ASB



26% 54% **CSEW MSG** Average -Dealing with crime and **ASB** 



#### **Key Insights**

Just under three-quarters agreed WMP effectively responding are to emergencies

Around a fifth disagree that WMP are dealing with crime and ASB and bringing offenders to justice

A third disagreed that WMP are policing the roads

Agreement towards statements generally declined the older the respondent was

BAME respondents tended to be more agreeable towards these statements compared to white respondents







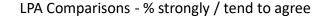
# Section Five Trust / Integrity

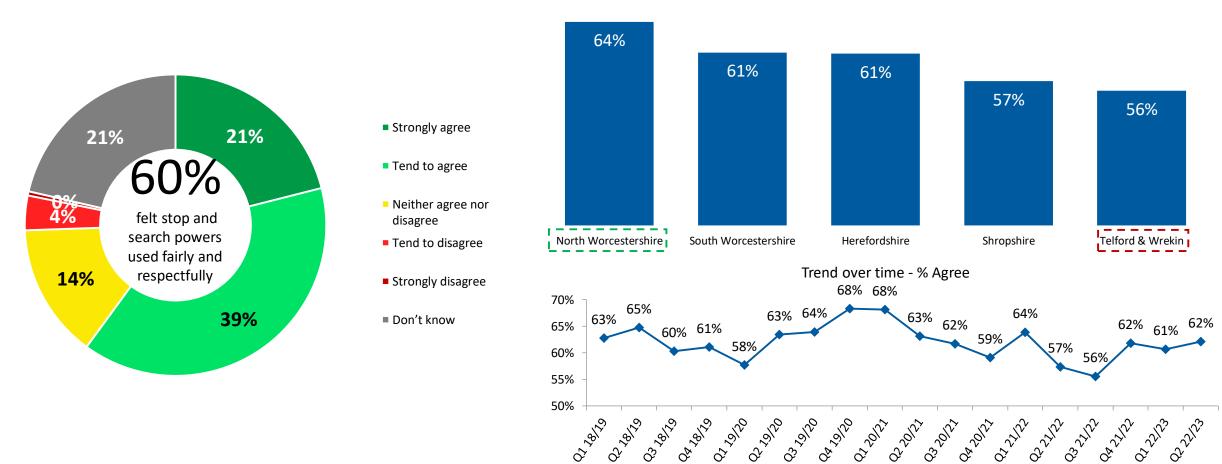




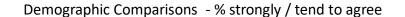


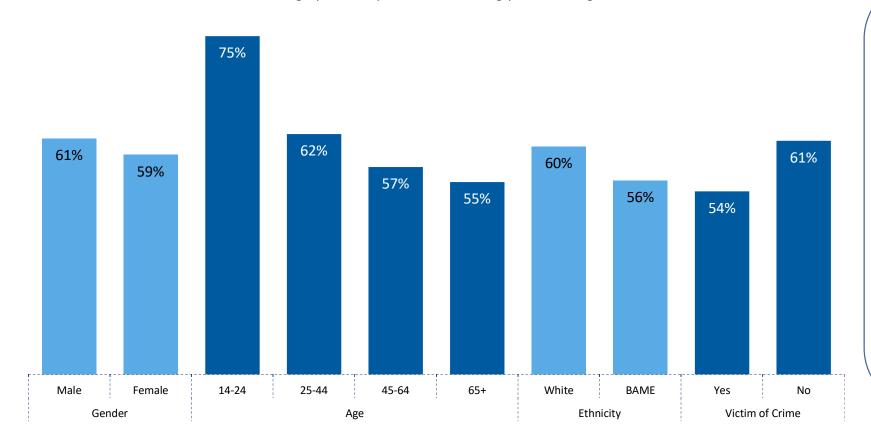
## Three-fifths confident WMP use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully





# Three-fifths confident WMP use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully







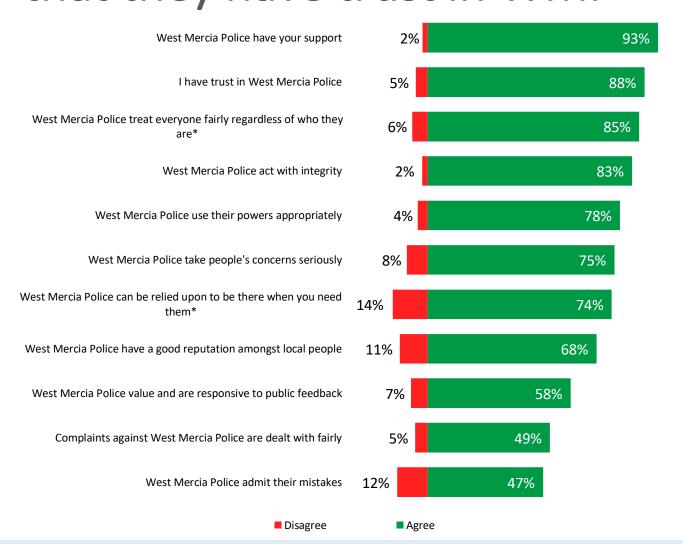
#### **Key Insights**

BAME respondent less confident the police use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully compared to white respondents

Those aged 14-24 more likely to feel confident the police use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully, with confidence declining the older the respondent was

Residents in Telford & Wrekin least likely to feel WMP use stop and search powers fairly and respectfully, those in North Worcestershire most likely

Around nine-tenths say that WMP have their support and that they have trust in WMP









#### **Key Insights**

Over 9 out of every 10 residents say that WMP have their support

Over 8 in 10 say they have trust in WMP, they believe WMP treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are and that WMP act with integrity

More than a tenth disagreed WMP can be relied upon to be there when needed, have a good reputation amongst local people and admit their mistakes

Less than half felt complaints against WMP are dealt with fairly and that WMP admit their mistakes







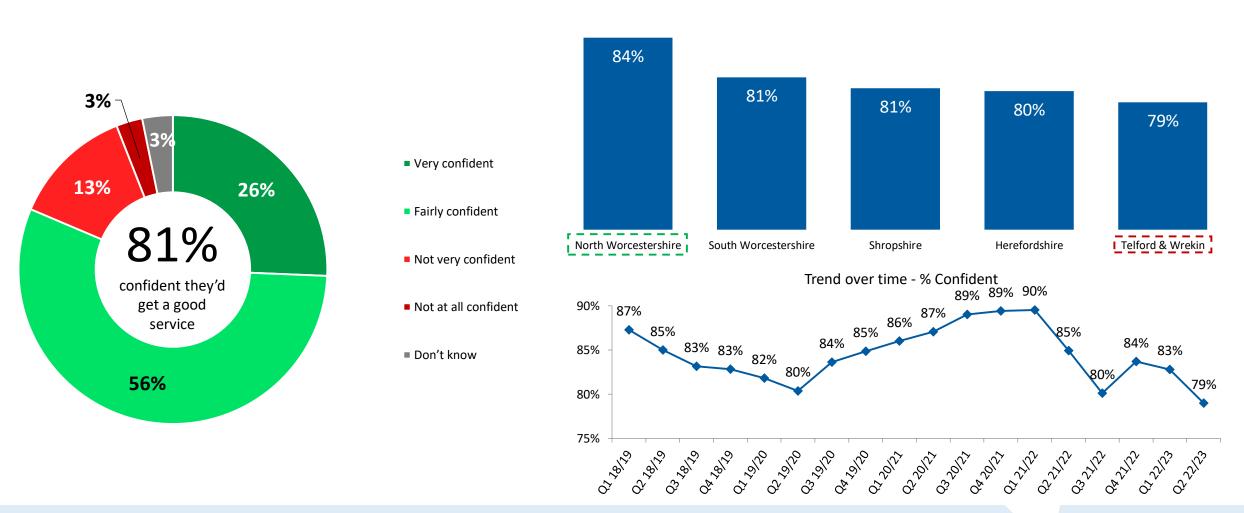
## Section Six Confidence in West Mercia Police







## More than four-fifths confident they would receive a good service from WMP LPA Comparisons - % very / fairly confident



# More than four-fifths confident they would receive a good service from WMP



#### **Key Insights**

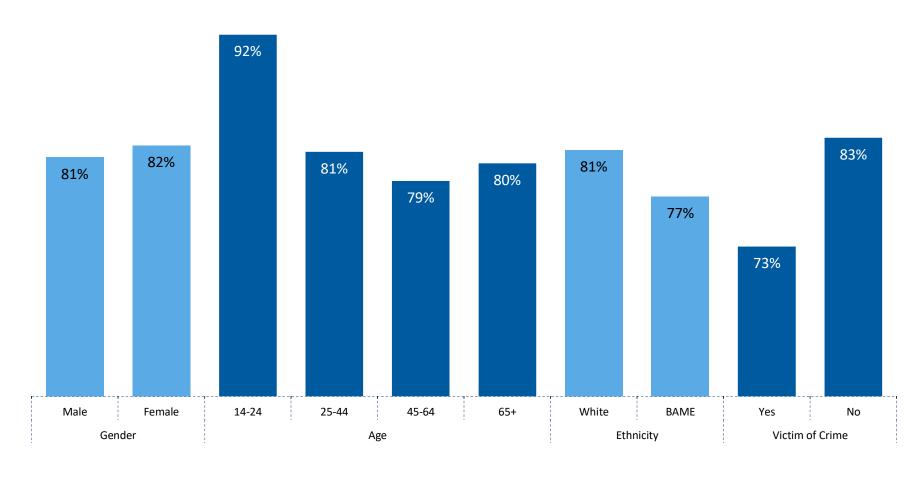
4% decrease in confidence from the previous quarter — now at lowest level since tracking began

Those aged 14-24 most confident they would receive a good service from WMP

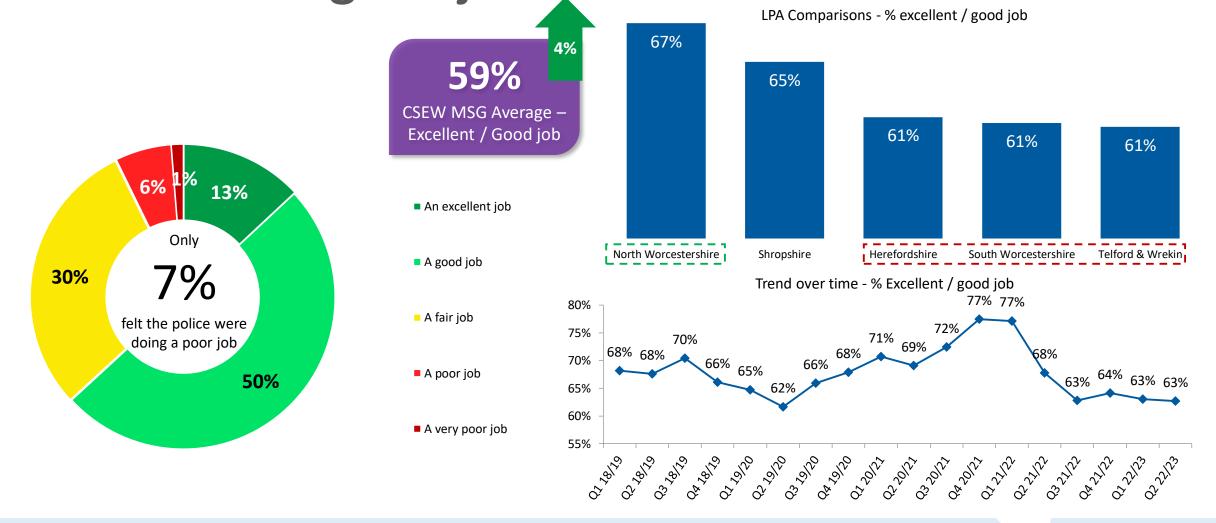
BAME respondents and victims of crime were less confident in receiving a good service

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

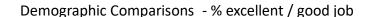
Demographic Comparisons - % very / fairly confident

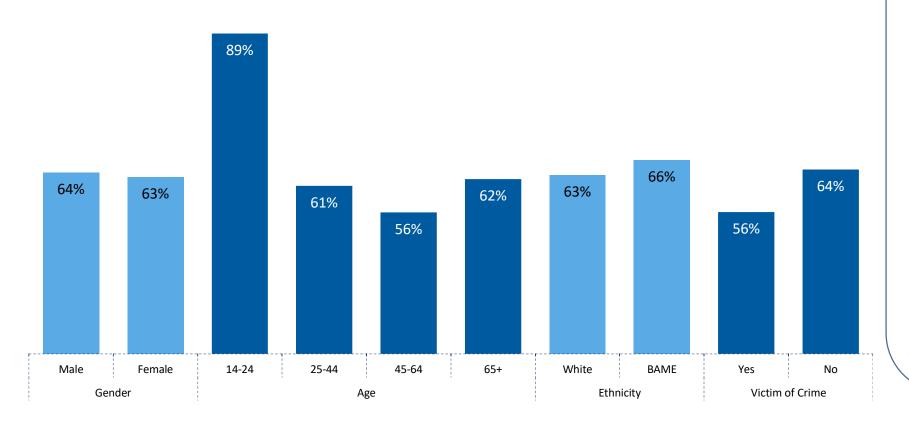


Over two-thirds felt the police were doing either an excellent or a good job



Over two-thirds felt the police were doing either an excellent or a good job







#### **Key Insights**

Those aged 14-24 significantly more likely to feel the police were doing an excellent or good job compared to other age groups

Residents in Telford & Wrekin, South Worcestershire and Herefordshire least likely to say WMP were doing an excellent or good job

Those in North Worcestershire were the most likely to say WMP were doing either an excellent or good job

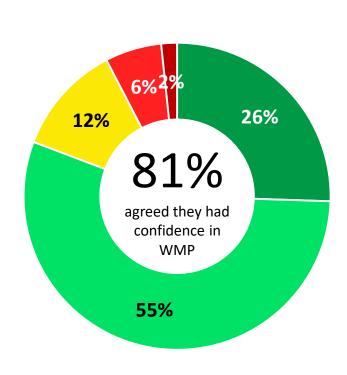
Victims of crime less likely to feel the police were doing either an excellent or good job

More than 8 out of 10 say they have confidence in

North Worcestershire

Herefordshire

**WMP** 



77%

CSEW MSG Average –
Net Agree

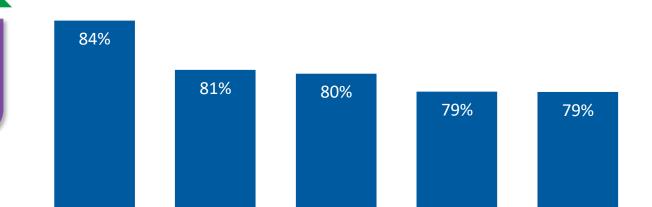
Strongly agree

■ Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

■ Tend to disagree

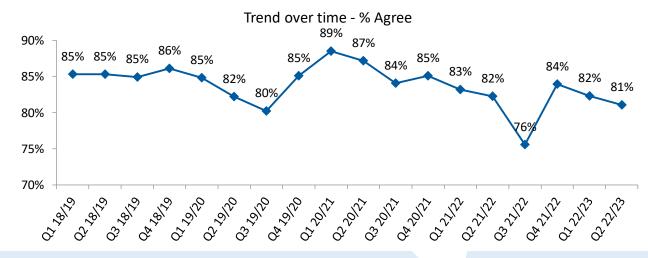
■ Strongly disagree



South Worcestershire

Telford & Wrekin

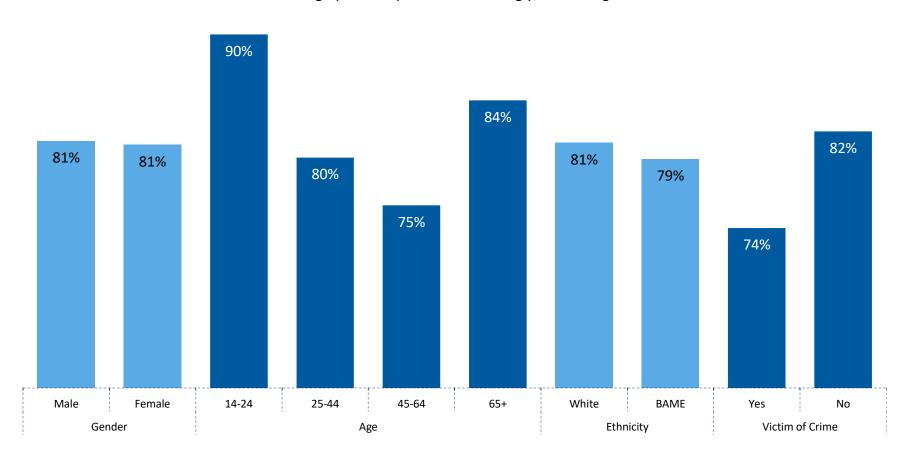
LPA Comparisons - % strongly / tend to agree



Shropshire

## More than 8 out of 10 say they have confidence in WMP

Demographic Comparisons - % strongly/ tend to agree





#### **Key Insights**

Those aged 14-24 more likely to have confidence in WMP compared to other age groups

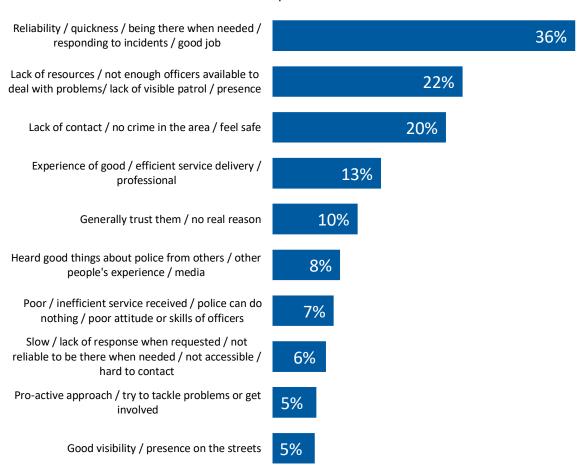
Those aged 45-64 less inclined to have confidence in WMP

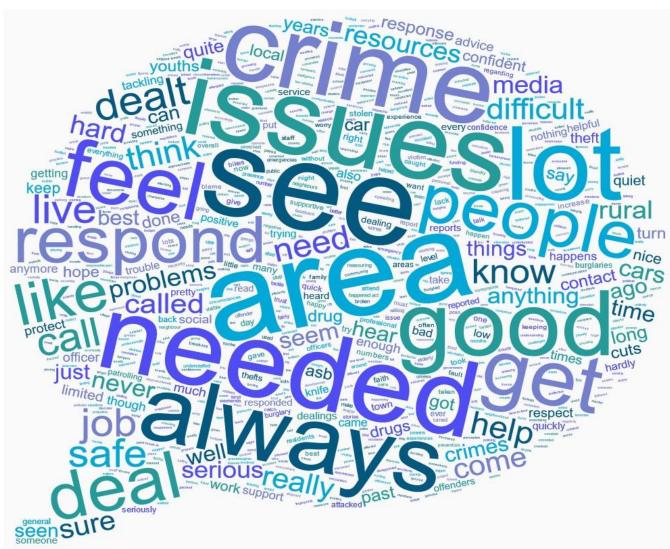
Victims of crime less likely be confident in WMP

Residents of North Worcestershire more likely to have confidence in WMP - those in Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire less likely to have confidence

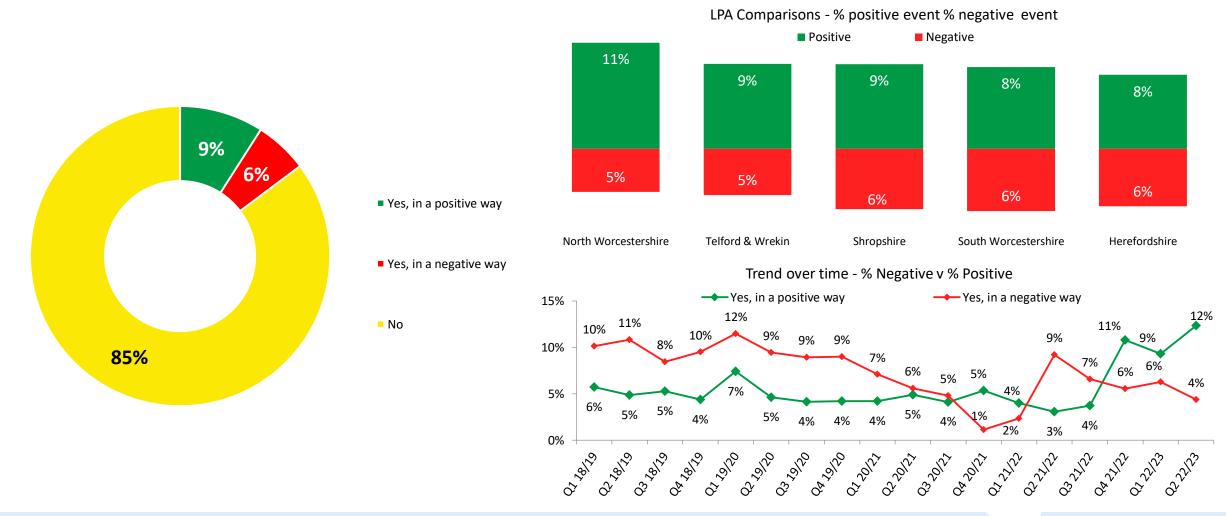
## Factors influencing confidence

#### Top 10 answers

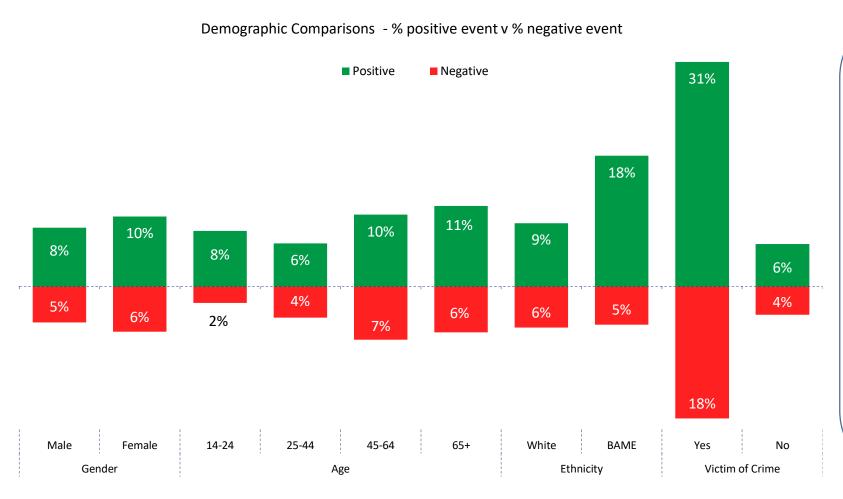




# Less than a tenth have experienced an event that negatively affected their confidence in the police



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





#### **Key Insights**

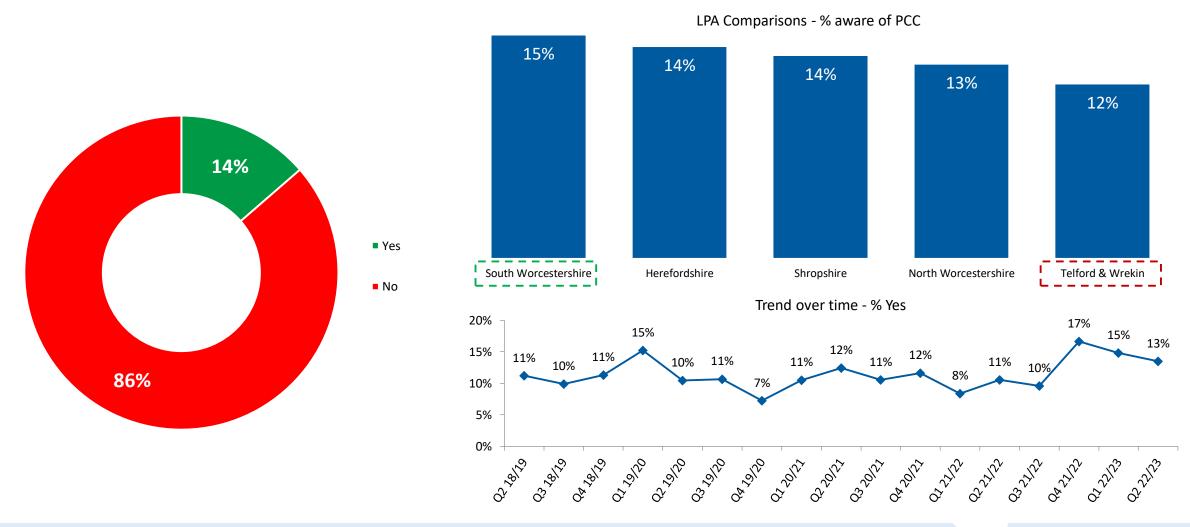
Victims of crime were the most likely to experience an event that negatively affected their confidence; victims were also more likely to be affected in a positive way

BAME respondents more likely to experience an event that affected them positively compared to white respondents

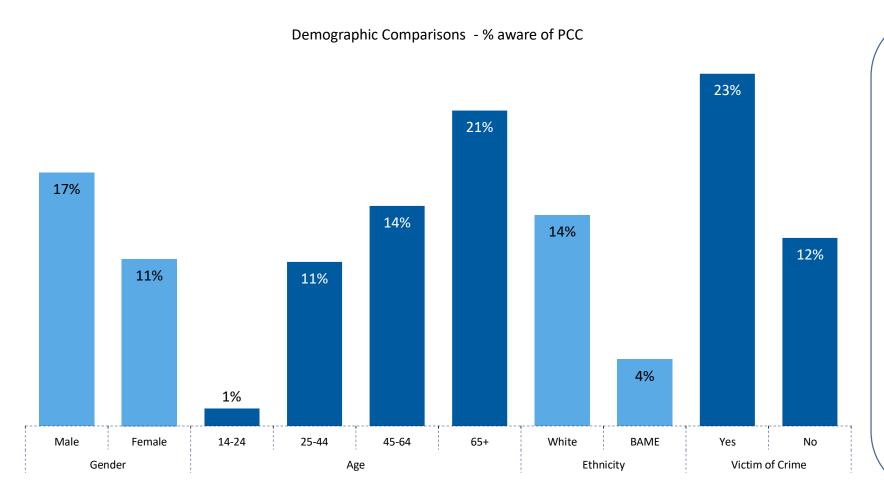
Residents in North Worcestershire were the most likely to have experienced an event that negatively affected their confidence in WMP

Those that had experienced an event that had positively affected them now at highest level since tracking began

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



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





#### **Key Insights**

Higher awareness found in South Worcestershire; least awareness in Telford & Wrekin

Males more likely to be aware of the PCC compared to females

Awareness lower amongst BAME respondents when compared to White respondents

The older the respondent the more likely they were to be aware of the PCC

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







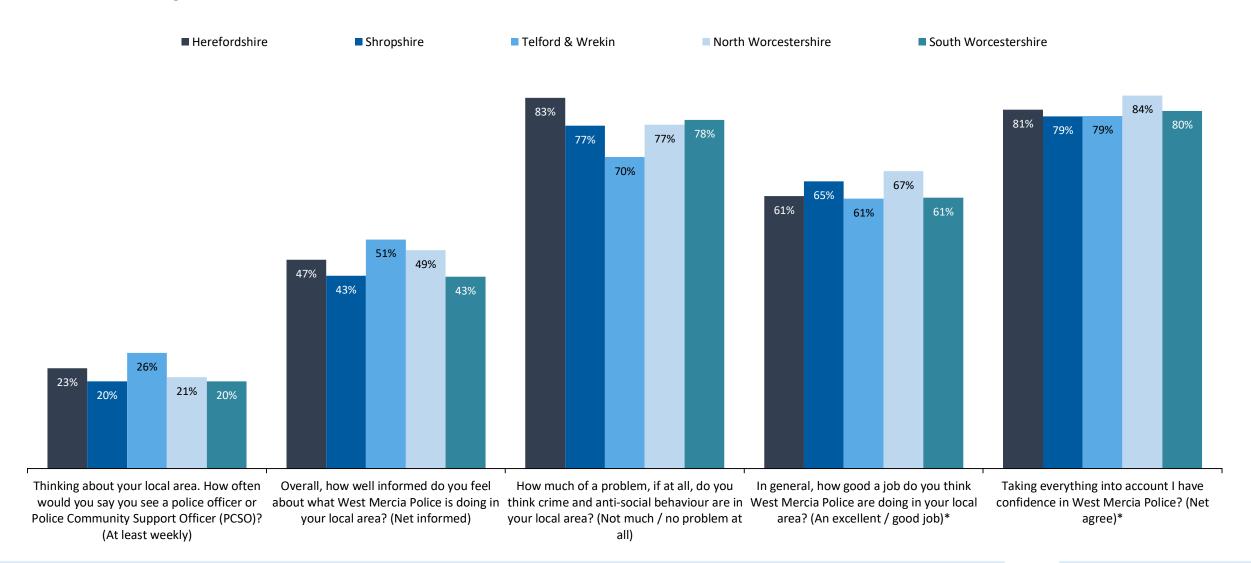
## Section Seven LPA & Victim Comparisons







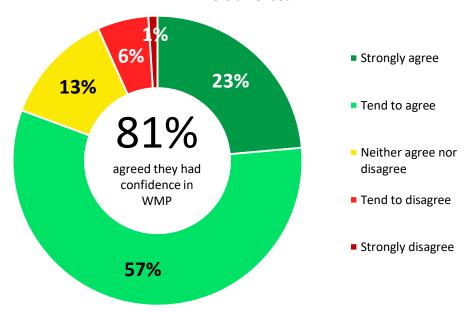
## LPA Key Question Overview



<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - Herefordshire

Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?



Trend over time - % Strongly agree / tend to agree





#### **Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs**

**Most** satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (58%)

<u>Most</u> likely to feel they could access the police in both an emergency (90% - joint with North Worcestershire and Telford & Wrekin) and non-emergency (69%)

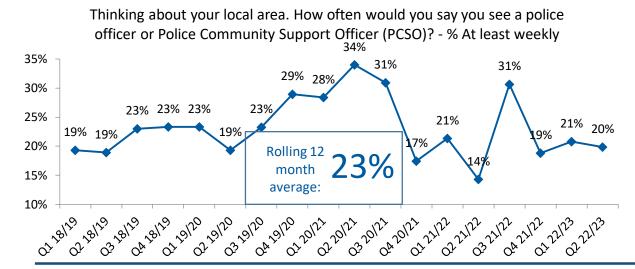
<u>Least</u> likely to have been a victim of crime over the past year (11%)

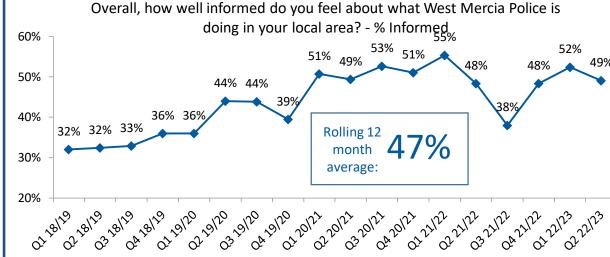
<u>Least</u> likely have said crime and ASB is a problem in their area (16%)

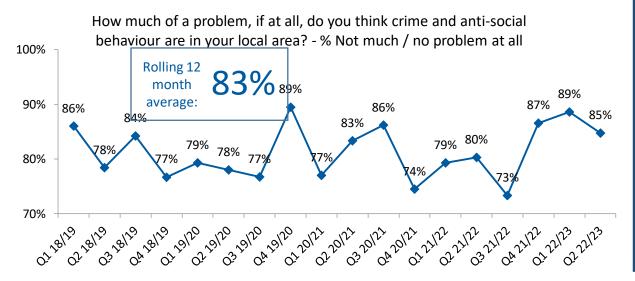
<u>Least</u> likely to feel WMP were doing either a good or a poor job (61% - joint with South Worcestershire and Herefordshire)

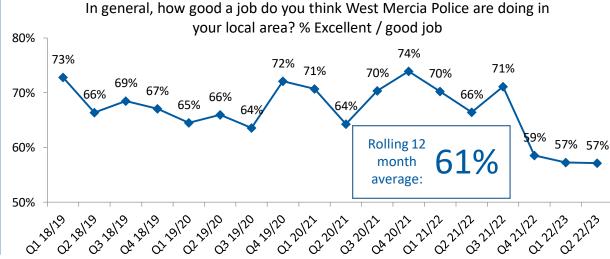
<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - Herefordshire





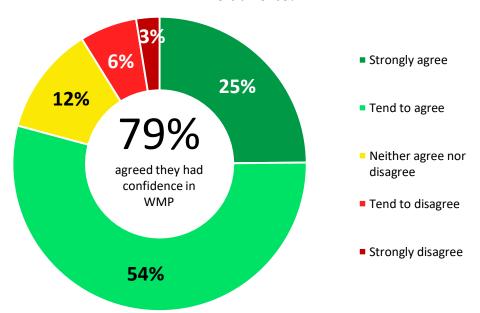


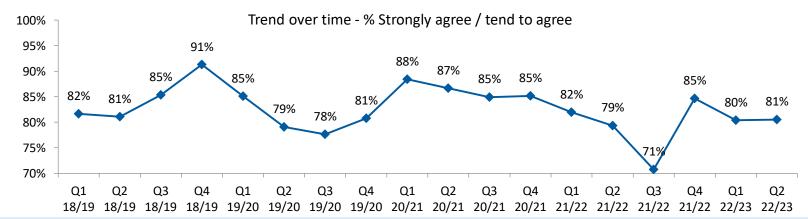


<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - Shropshire

Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?







#### Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

<u>Least</u> likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (20% - joint with South Worcestershire)

<u>Least</u> confident they could access the police in an emergency (83%)

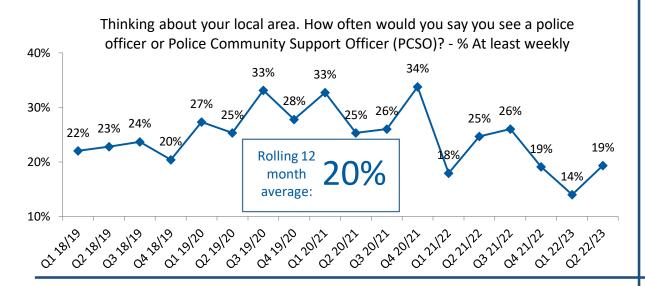
<u>Least</u> confident they could access the police in a non-emergency (65%)

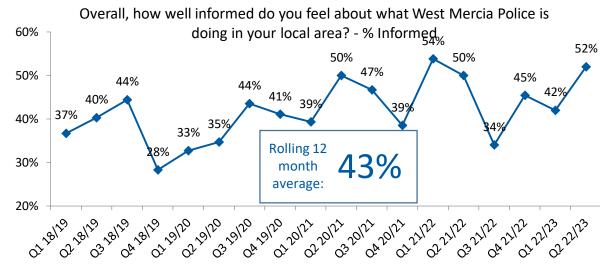
<u>Least</u> informed about what WMP are doing (43% - joint with South Worcestershire)

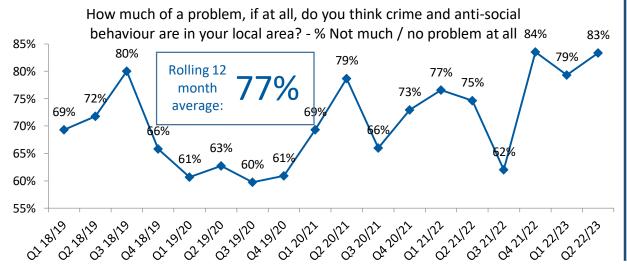
<u>Least</u> confident in WMP (79% - joint with Telford & Wrekin)

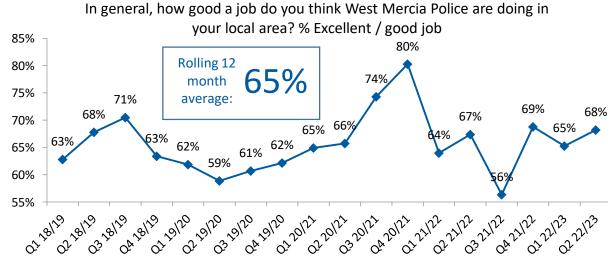
<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - Shropshire





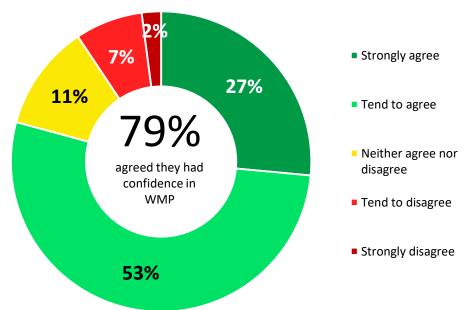


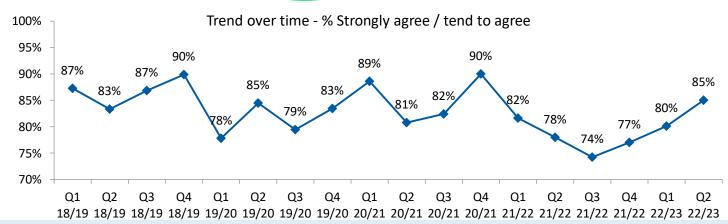


<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - Telford & Wrekin

Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?







#### **Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs**

**Most** likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (26%)

<u>Most</u> confident they could access the police in an emergency (90% - joint with North Worcestershire and Herefordshire)

**Most** informed about what WMP are doing in their area (51%)

**Most** likely to have been a victim of crime (14%)

**Most** likely to say that crime and ASB is a problem in their area (28%)

<u>Least</u> likely to feel WMP are doing either an excellent or a good job (61% - joint with Herefordshire and South Worcestershire)

<u>Least</u> confident they would receive a good service from WMP (79%)

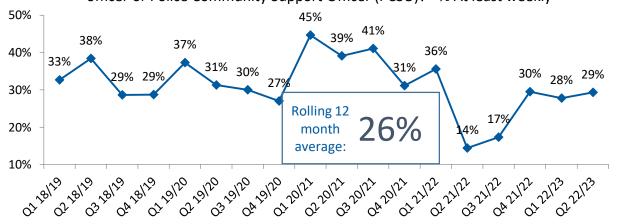
**Least** likely to have confidence in WMP (79% - joint with Shropshire)

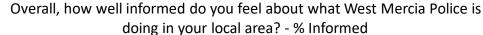
**Least** awareness of the PCC (12%)

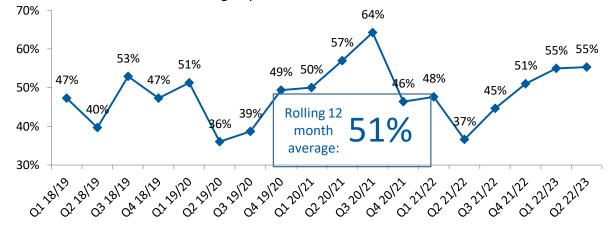
<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

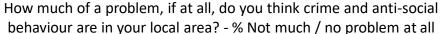
### LPA Key Findings - Telford & Wrekin

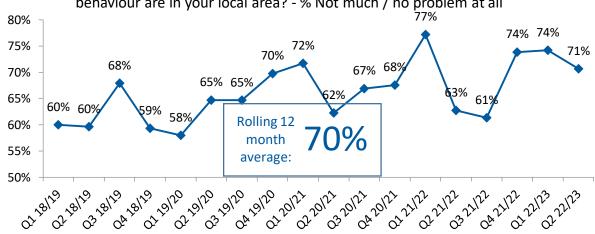
Thinking about your local area. How often would you say you see a police officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)? - % At least weekly

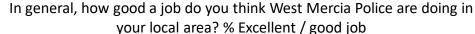


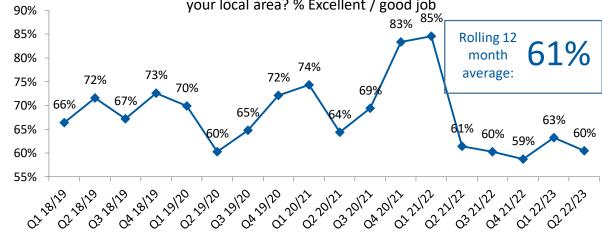








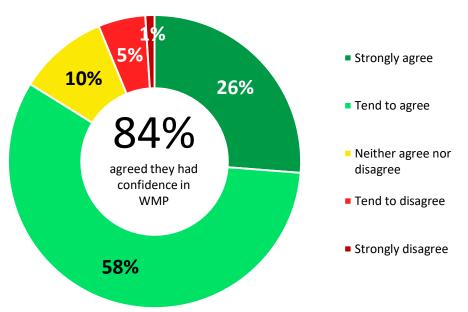




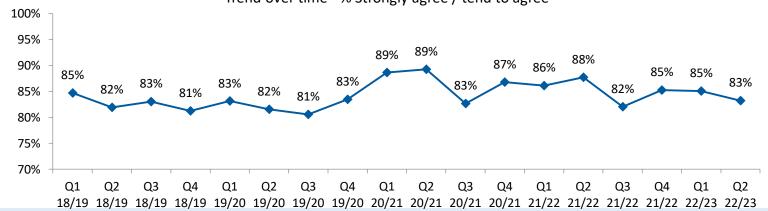
<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

### LPA Key Findings - North Worcestershire

Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?



Trend over time - % Strongly agree / tend to agree





#### **Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs**

<u>Most</u> likely to have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team (19%)

<u>Most</u> confident they could access the police in an emergency (90% - joint with Telford & Wrekin and Herefordshire)

<u>Most</u> likely to feel WMP understand the issues in their community (76%)

<u>Most</u> confident WMP use their stop and search powers fairly and respectfully (64%)

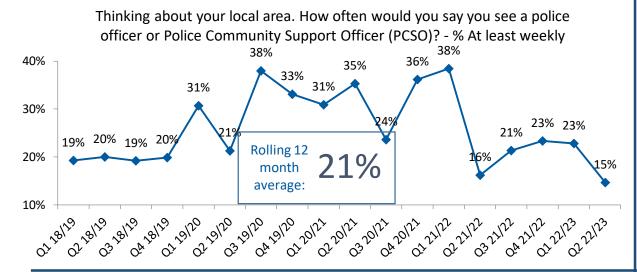
<u>Most</u> confident they would receive a good service from WMP (84%)

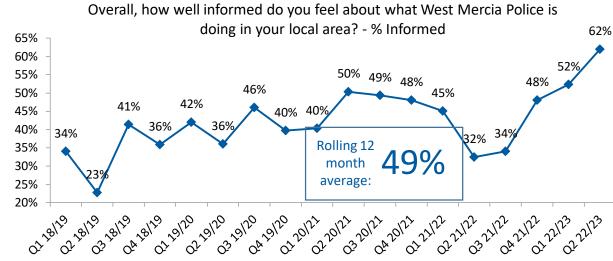
<u>Most</u> likely to feel WMP were doing a good or excellent job (67%)

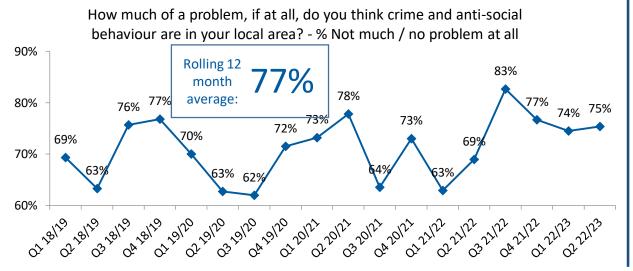
Most likely to have confidence in WMP (84%)

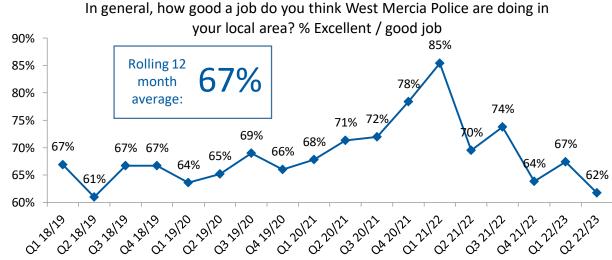
 $<sup>\</sup>hbox{*Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW}$ 

## LPA Key Findings - North Worcestershire





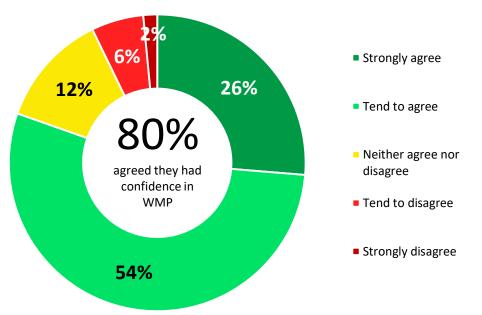


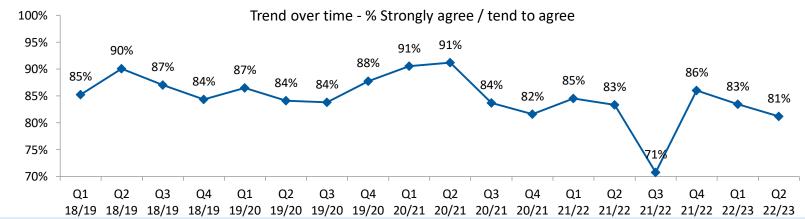


<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - South Worcestershire

Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?







#### **Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs**

<u>Least</u> likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (20% - joint with Shropshire)

<u>Least</u> satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (54%)

<u>Least</u> likely to have spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team (14%)

<u>Least</u> informed about what WMP are doing (43% - joint with Shropshire)

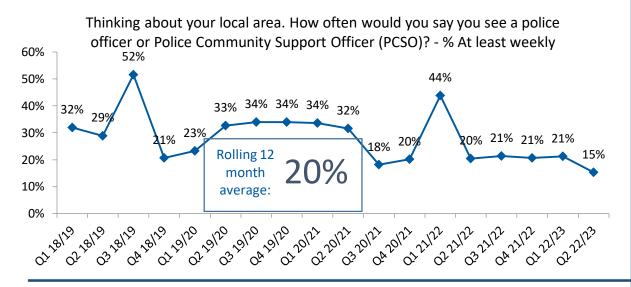
<u>Least</u> confident that WMP understands the issues in their community (67%)

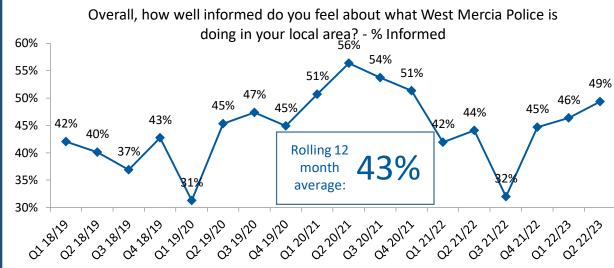
<u>Least</u> likely to feel WMP were doing either an excellent or a good job (61% - joint with Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin)

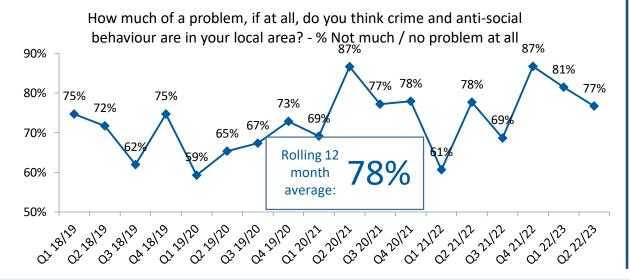
<u>Highest</u> awareness of the PCC (15%)

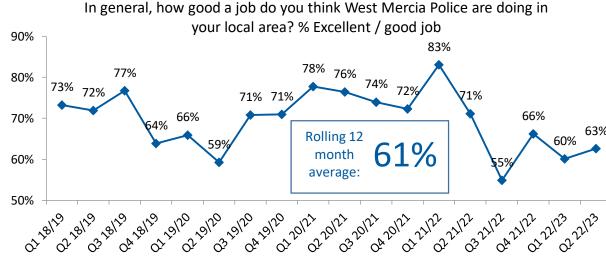
<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

## LPA Key Findings - South Worcestershire









<sup>\*</sup>Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

### Victim of Crime Comparisons





#### **Key Insights**

For all but two statements respondents who did report the crime were more positive towards WMP than those that did not report the crime