



Public Views and Perceptions of Policing in West Mercia 2023/24 Survey Quarter 1 Results Presentation







Section One Introduction & Methodology, Summary & Respondent Breakdown



Introduction & Methodology

- West Mercia Police (WMP) & the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, seek to obtain the views of residents, including their confidence in WMP, to inform the PCC's plan priorities and support decision making around the Safer West Mercia agenda
- WMP & the OPCC commissioned SMSR, a third party research agency, to conduct surveys over the phone and face to face with West Mercia residents and victims of crime
- The questionnaire includes key questions taken from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the 2018 Report on Public Perceptions of Policing in England and Wales (PPPEW)
- Where relevant, comparisons with CSEW AND PPPEW are displayed. Comparisons with CSEW include the average score of forces included in West Mercia Police's most similar group (MSG)**. Where comparisons have been made, results have been consistently analysed in accordance with this external reporting. Comparisons with CSEW are based on the most recent results available (March 2020)
- Over the 12 month period (July 2022 June 2023) 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 (82%) agreed that they had confidence in West Mercia Police with the slightly fewer that felt they would receive a good service from the force (80%).
- Three-fifths (60%) felt that West Mercia Police were doing either a good or excellent job.

Visibility

- A fifth of residents (18%) report that they see an officer or PCSO at least once a week with three-fifths (60%) 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; a tenth (10%) believed there had been a decrease with less than a tenth (6%) that thought there had been an increase.
- A tenth (11%) said that they had spoken to an officer or PCSO from their local policing team.

Interaction / Access

- Just under nine-tenths (88%) were confident that they could access the police in an emergency with seven-tenths (70%) confident they could do so in a non-emergency.
- The majority (76%) said they would prefer to contact West Mercia Police by telephone for a non-emergency issue.
- Over half (58%) said that they find out about crime and policing issues from the media, with just under half (49%) finding out through social media. More than half (53%) said they felt informed about what West Mercia Police is doing, with 47% that stated they did not feel informed.

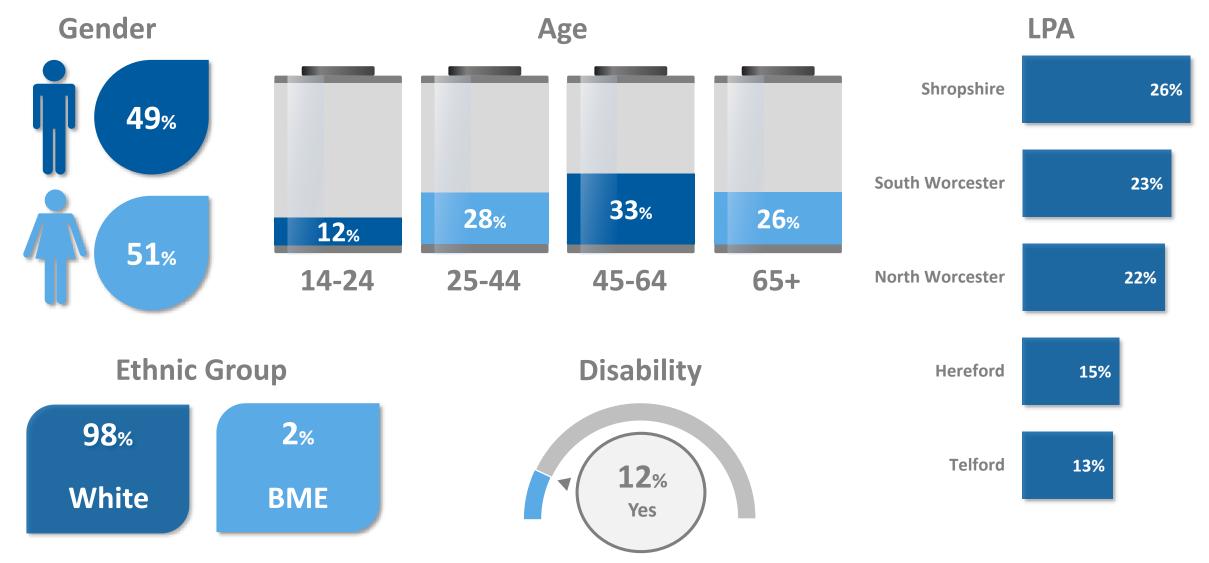
Effectiveness

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of residents felt that West Mercia Police understand the issues in their community and a fifth (22%) reported that they thought that crime and ASB was a problem in their area.
- Three-quarters (75%) thought that crime and ASB had remained the same compared to 12 months ago with over a tenth (14%) reporting an increase. Further to this, over three-quarters (76%) agreed that West Mercia Police are dealing with crime and ASB.

Trust / integrity

- The vast majority (94%) 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 (84%) and they believe they treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (91%). Around three-quarters felt West Mercia Police use their powers appropriately (77%), they take people's concerns seriously (77%) and can be relied to be there when you need them (72%).
- Three-fifths (64%) are confident West Mercia Police use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully. Only 3% felt West Mercia Police did not use their stop and search powers fairly and respectfully.

Respondent Breakdown



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



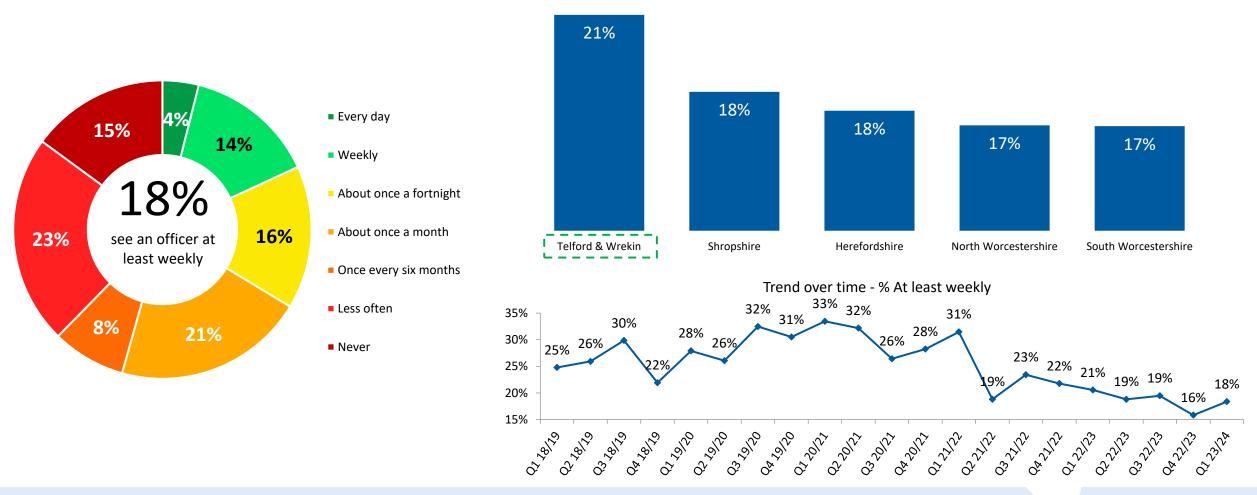


Section Two Visibility / Presence



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

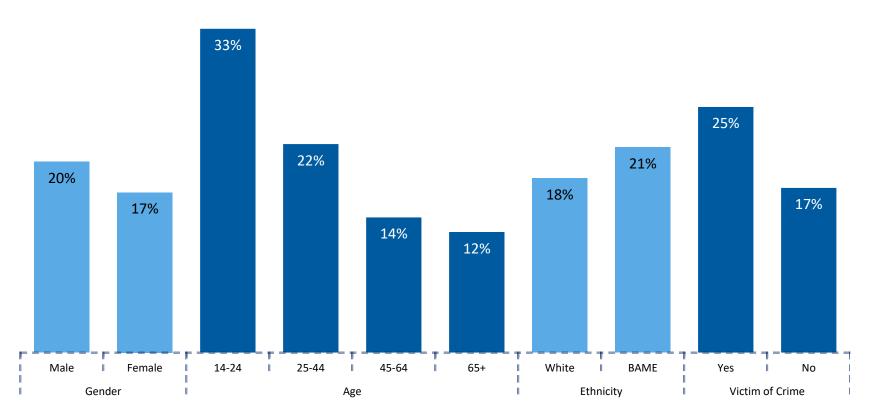
LPA Comparisons - % seeing a police officer or PCSO at least weekly



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

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

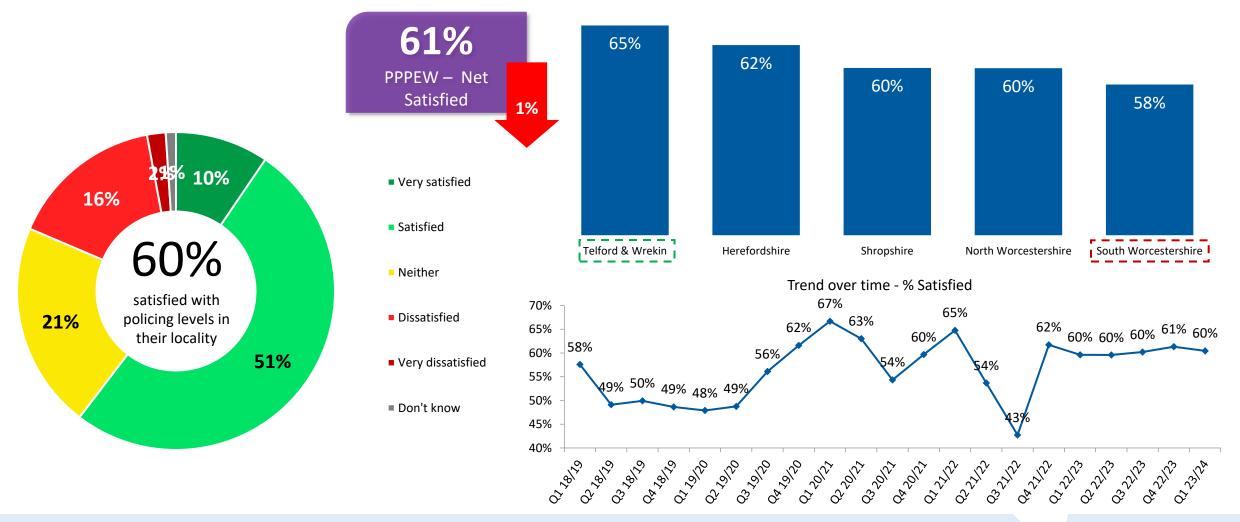
Residents of Telford & Wrekin more likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly

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

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

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

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

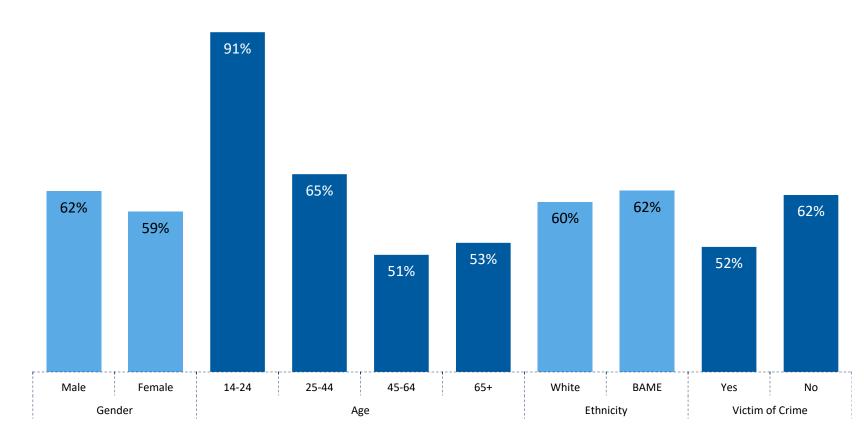


Q2 How satisfied are you with the level of policing in your local area?

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

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

Demographic Comparisons - % very satisfied / satisfied





Key Insights

Under 24's most likely to be satisfied with policing levels in their local area - those aged 45-64 least likely to be satisfied with policing levels

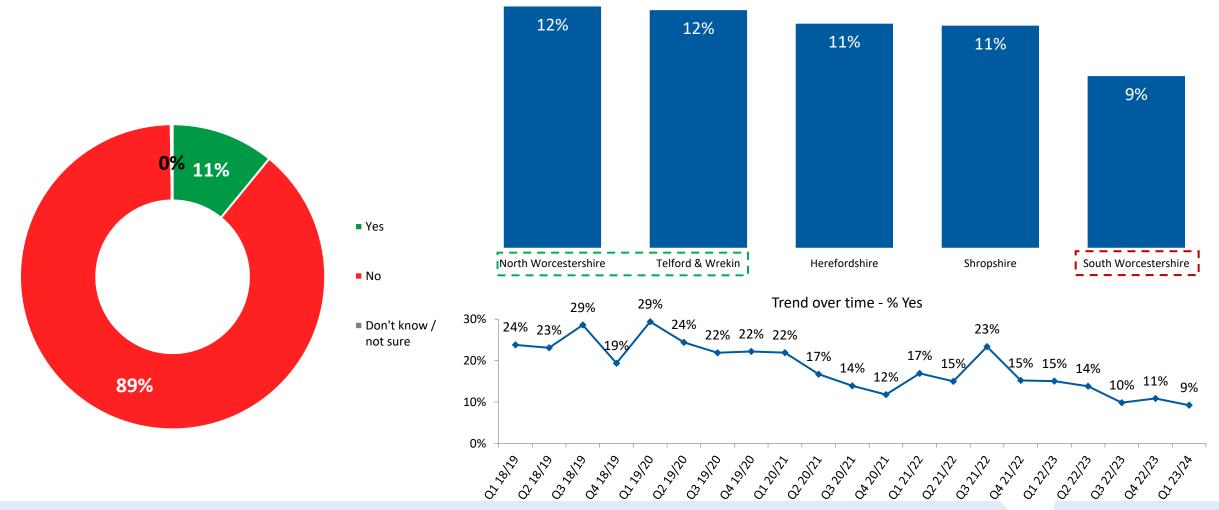
Females less likely to be satisfied with levels of policing compared to males

Those in Herefordshire more likely to be satisfied

Residents of South Worcestershire least likely to be satisfied

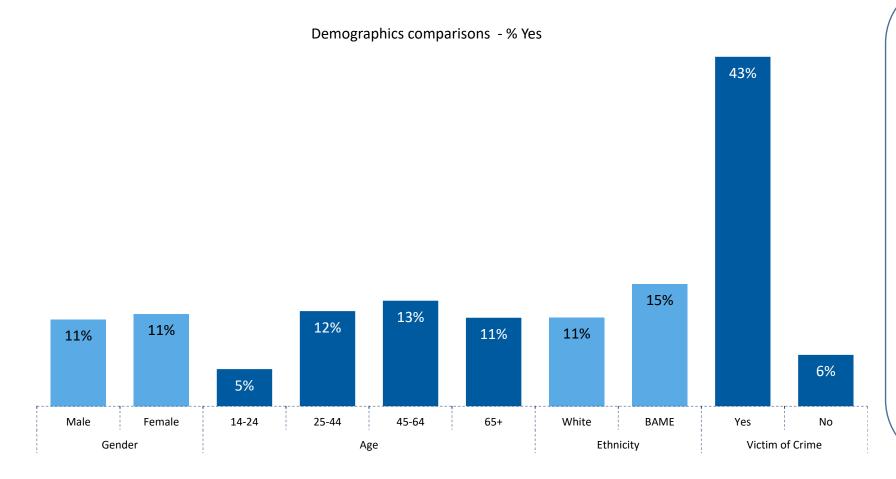
Q2 How satisfied are you with the level of policing in your local area?

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



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

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



Key Insights

Victims of crime much more likely to have spoken to a member of their local policing team

BAME respondents more likely to have spoken to local policing team

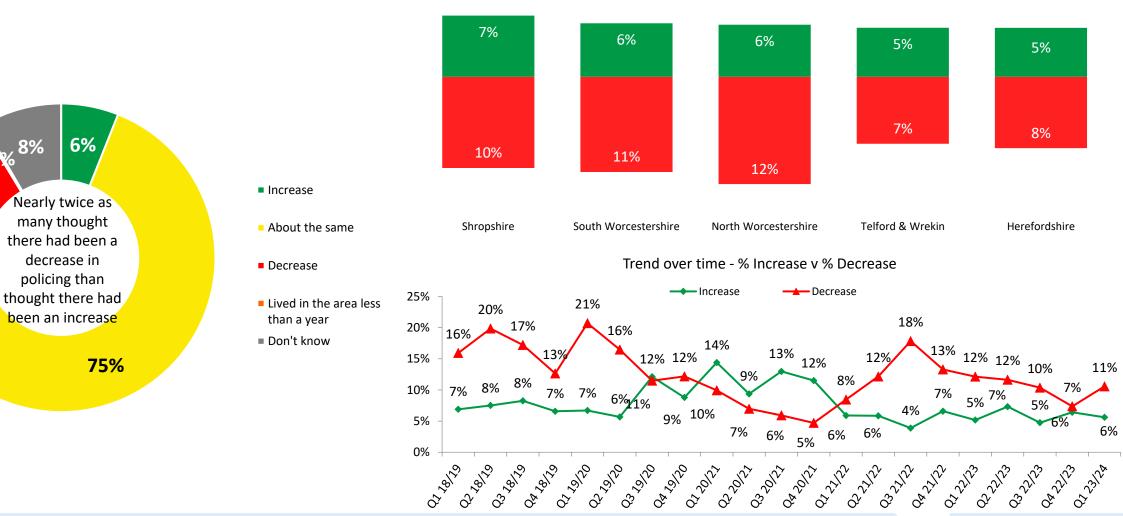
Those aged 16-24 least likely to have spoken to an officer or PCSO

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

Those in North Worcestershire and Telford & Wrekin most likely to have spoken to their local policing team

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

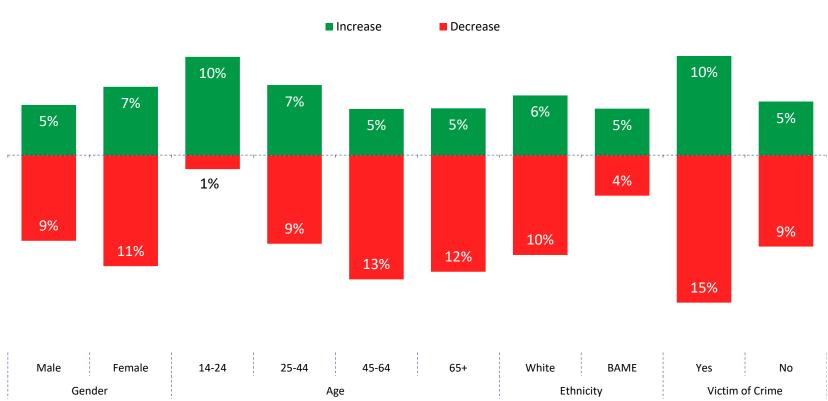
Three-quarters felt there had been no change in the level of policing



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

10%

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



Demographic Comparisons - % increase v % decrease

Key Insights

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

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

Residents of Shropshire most likely to notice an increase in policing

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

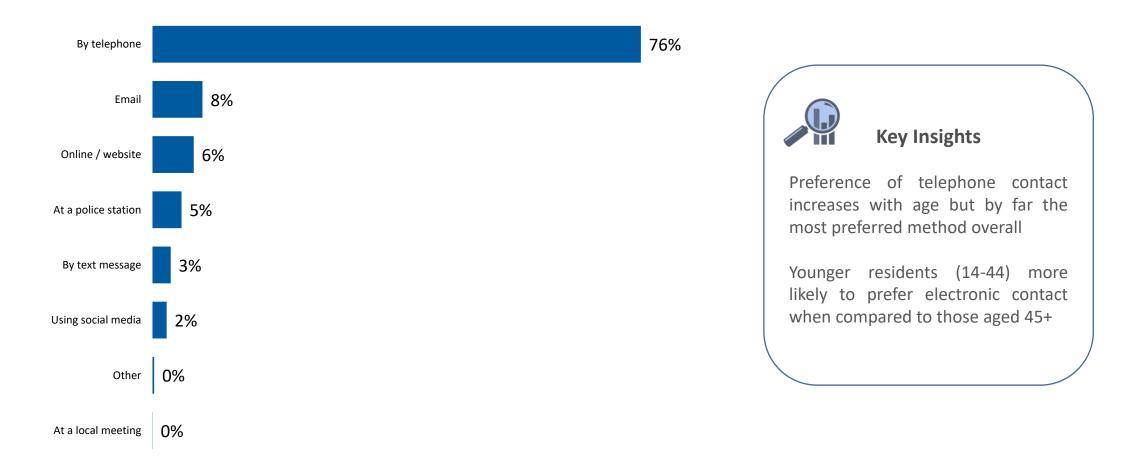




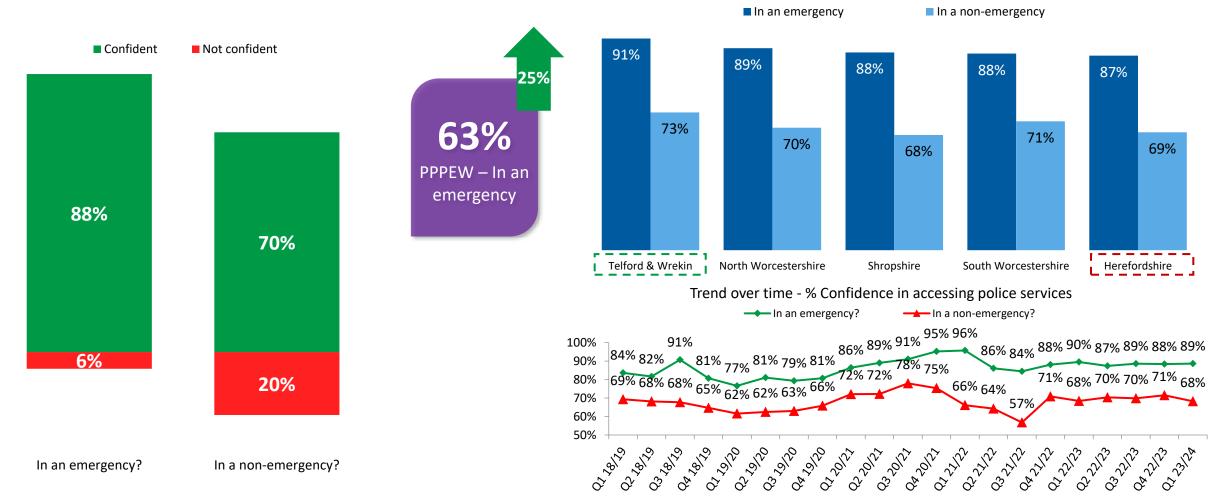
Section Three Interaction / Access



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



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...



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

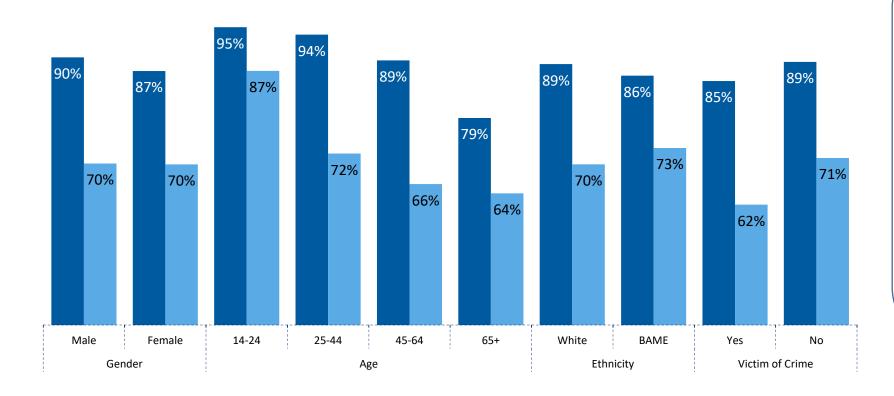
PPPEW Question: How confident are you, if at all, that the police in your local area would be easy to access/speak to if you (or someone else) needed help in an emergency

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

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

In a non-emergency

In an emergency





Key Insights

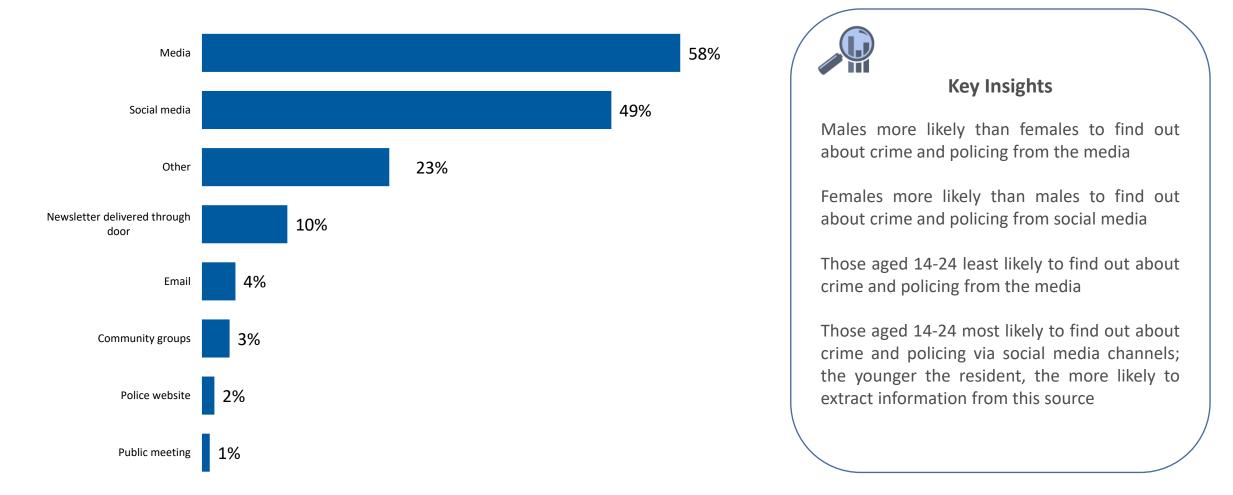
Residents in Herefordshire least confident in being able to access the police in an emergency

Residents of Telford & Wrekin most confident they could access the police in an emergency

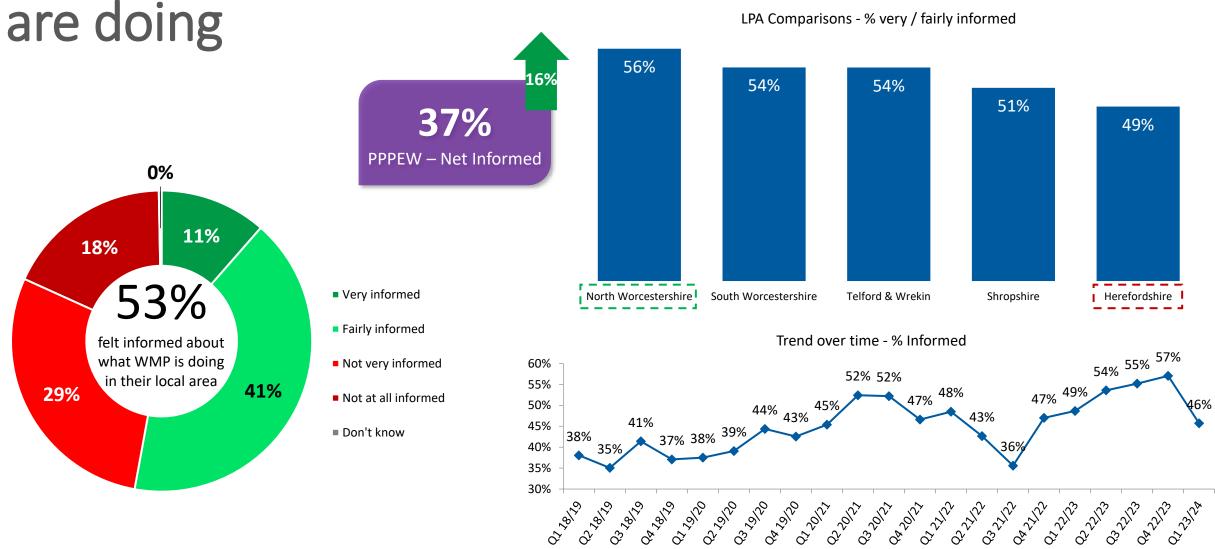
Those under 45 more likely to have confidence they can access WMP in an emergency than those aged 45+

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

Over half said they found out about crime and policing from the media – just under half from social media



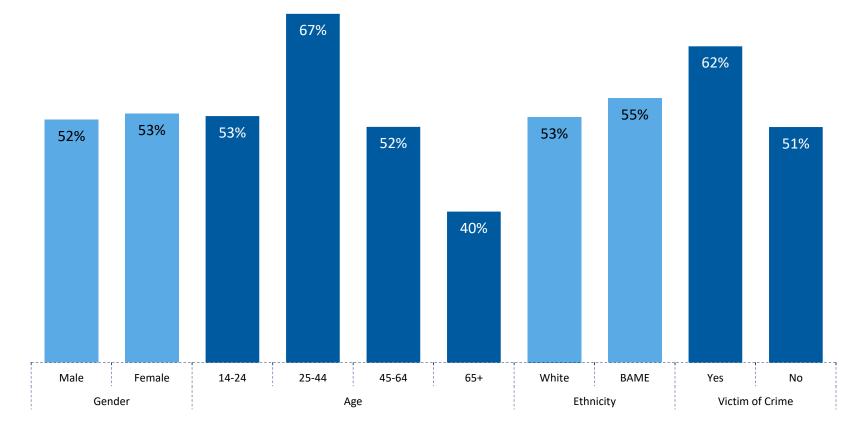
Around half do not feel informed about what WMP



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

Around half do not feel informed about what WMP are doing

Demographic Comparisons - % very / fairly informed



Key Insights

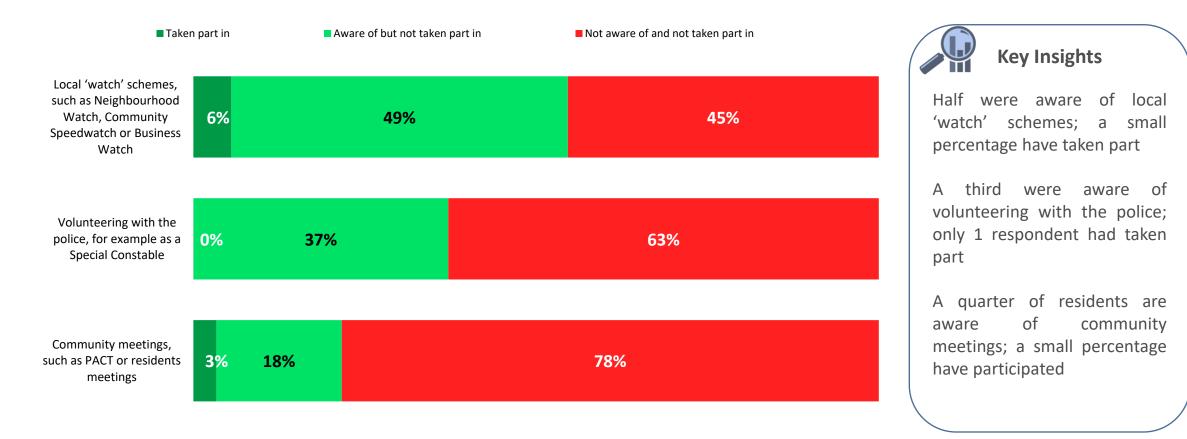
9% decrease in those that felt informed compared to the previous quarter

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

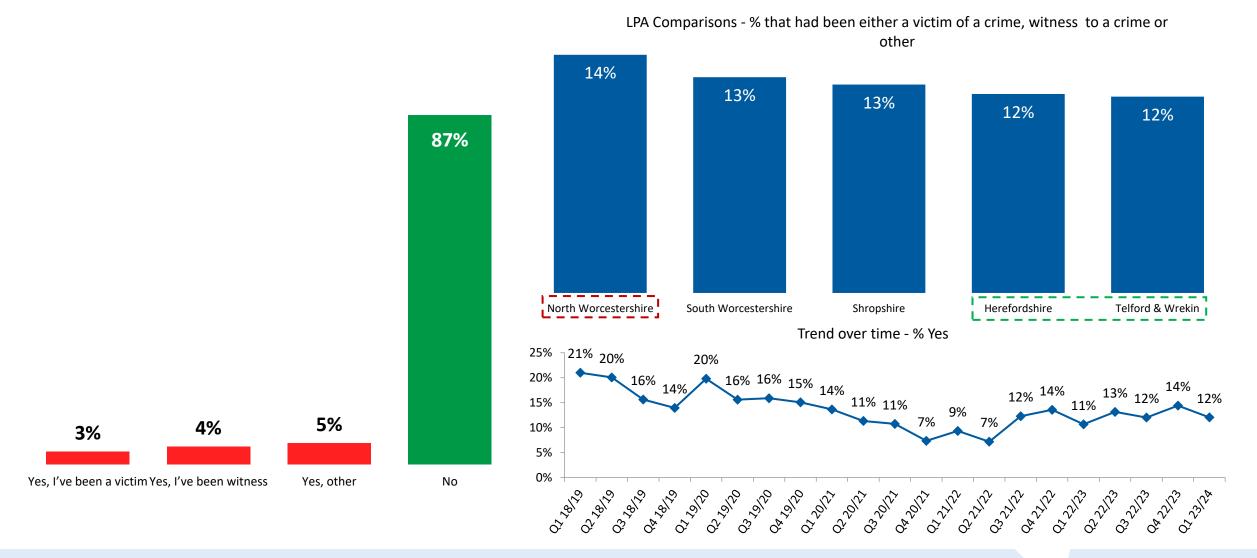
Those aged 25-44 more likely to feel informed about what the police are doing

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

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

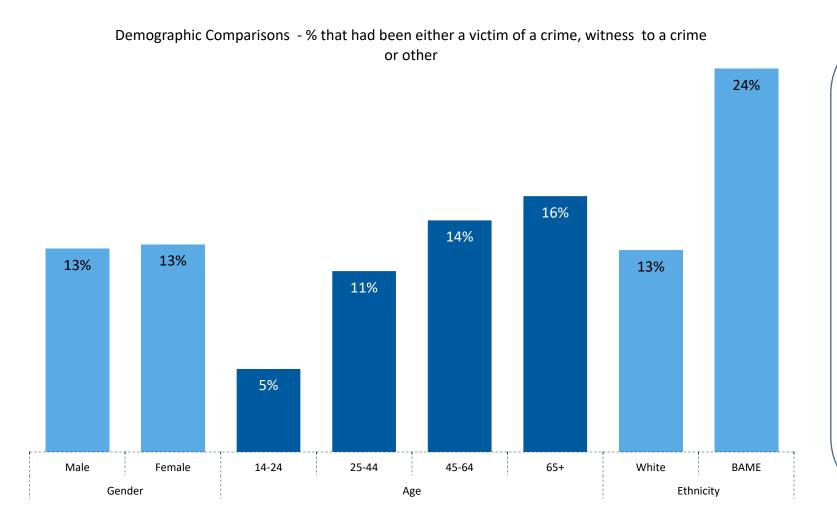


A tenth have been a victim of, or witness to, a crime



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

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





Key Insights

Residents in North Worcestershire more likely to have encountered crime

Those in Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin least likely to have been a victim of crime

Those aged 14-24 least likely to have been a victim of crime, those aged 65+ most likely to have been a victim of crime

BAME respondents nearly twice as likely to have been victims of crime compared to White respondents

93% of those that had been a victim of crime said they reported this to the police

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



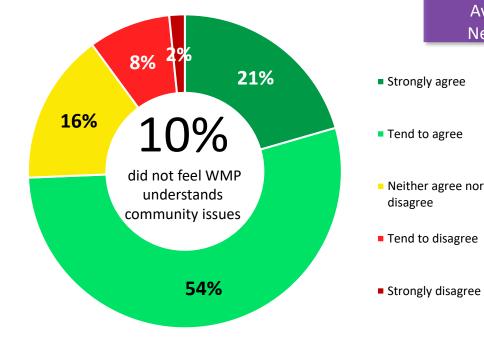


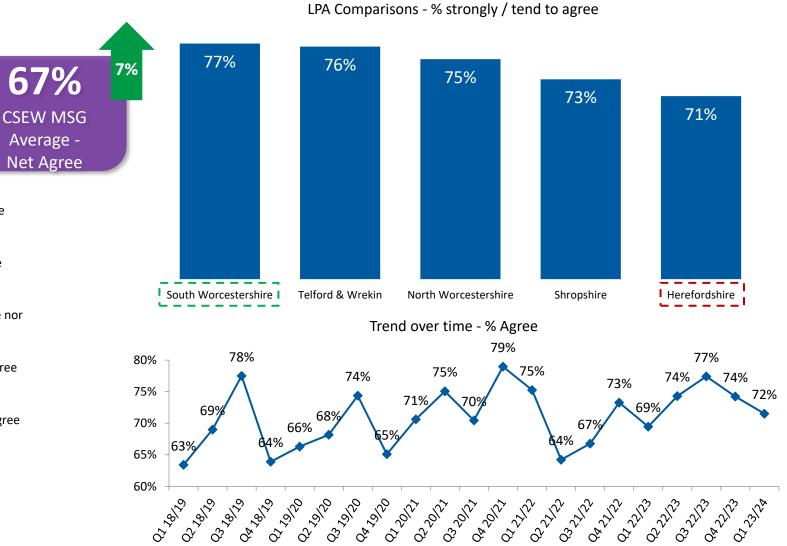


Section Four Effectiveness



Three-quarters felt WMP understands issues in their comunity





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

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

Three-quarters 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 Herefordshire least likely to agree the police understands community issues

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

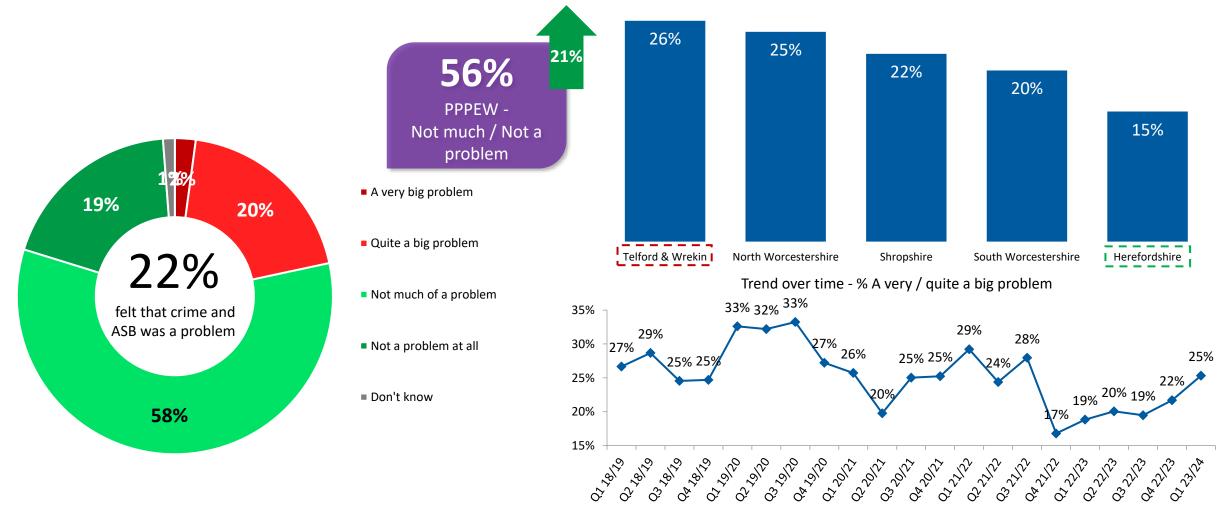
2% decrease in agreement from the previous quarter

95% 77% 75% 75% 75% 74% 74% 74% 70% 69% Male Female 14-24 25-44 45-64 65+ White BAME Yes No Victim of Crime Gender Age Ethnicity

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

Demographic Comparisons - % strongly / tend to agree

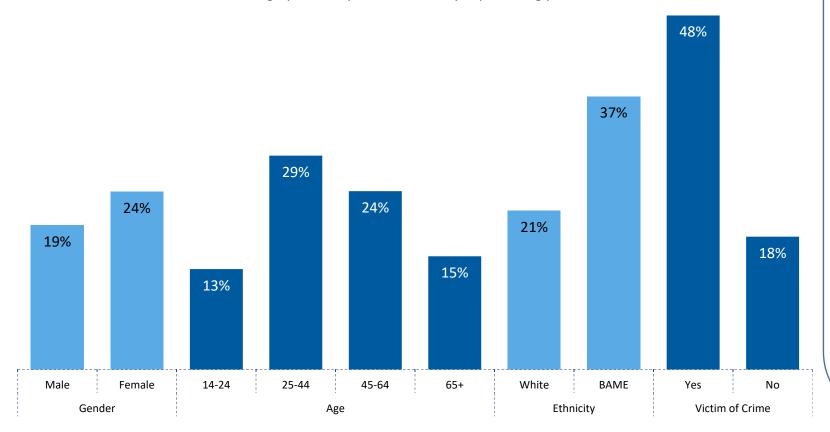
Three-quarters did not think crime and ASB was a problem in their local area



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

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

Three-quarters 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 is a problem than males

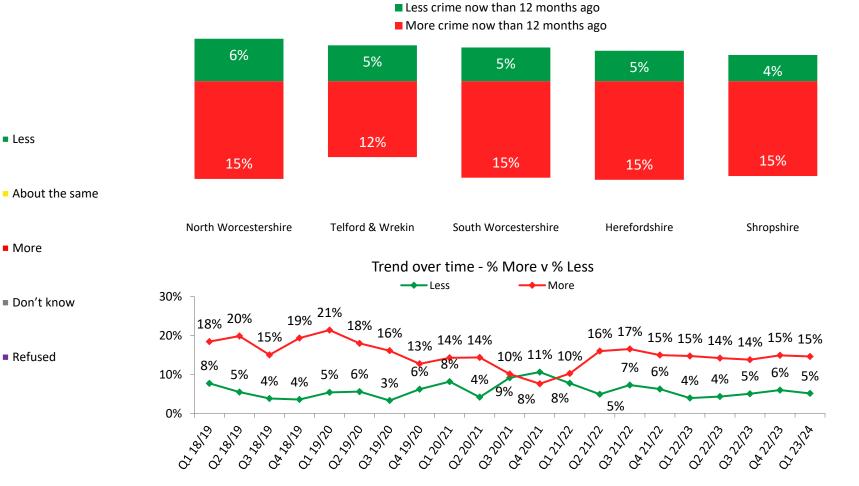
Those aged 14-24 less likely to feel crime and ASB was a problem in their area

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

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

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

0% 5% 5% 14% 75%



LPA Comparisons - % more crime v % less crime

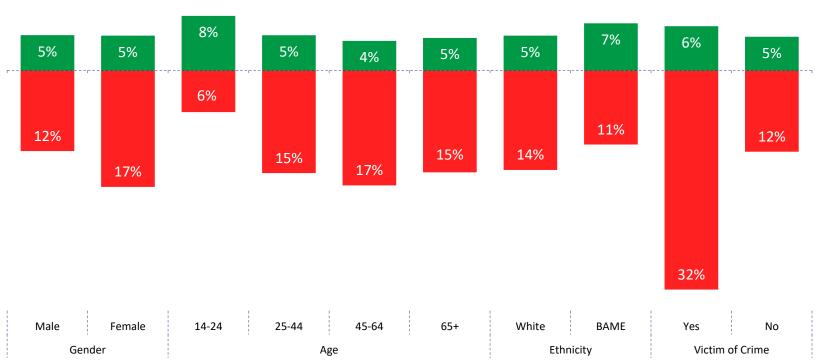
Less

More

Refused

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

Demographic Comparisons - % more crime v % less crime



More crime now than 12 months ago

Less crime now than 12 months ago



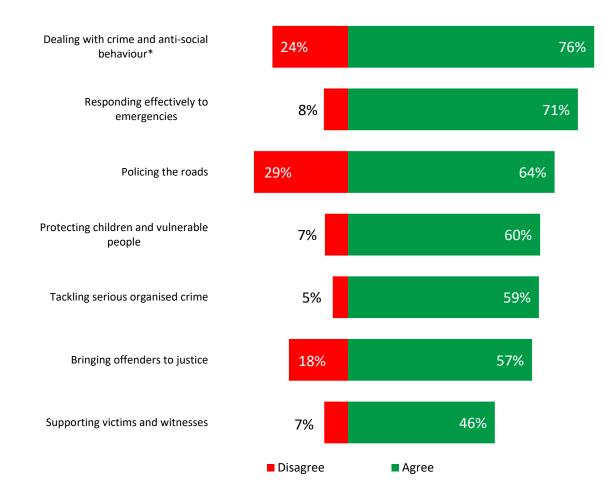
Victims of crime more likely to feel that crime and ASB levels had risen in the last 12 months compared to non-victims

Females more inclined than males to feel that crime and ASB has increased

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

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

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





Key Insights

Seven-tenths agreed WMP are responding effectively to emergencies

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

Around three-tenths 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

Q16 To what extent do you agree or disagree that West Mercia Police are: *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

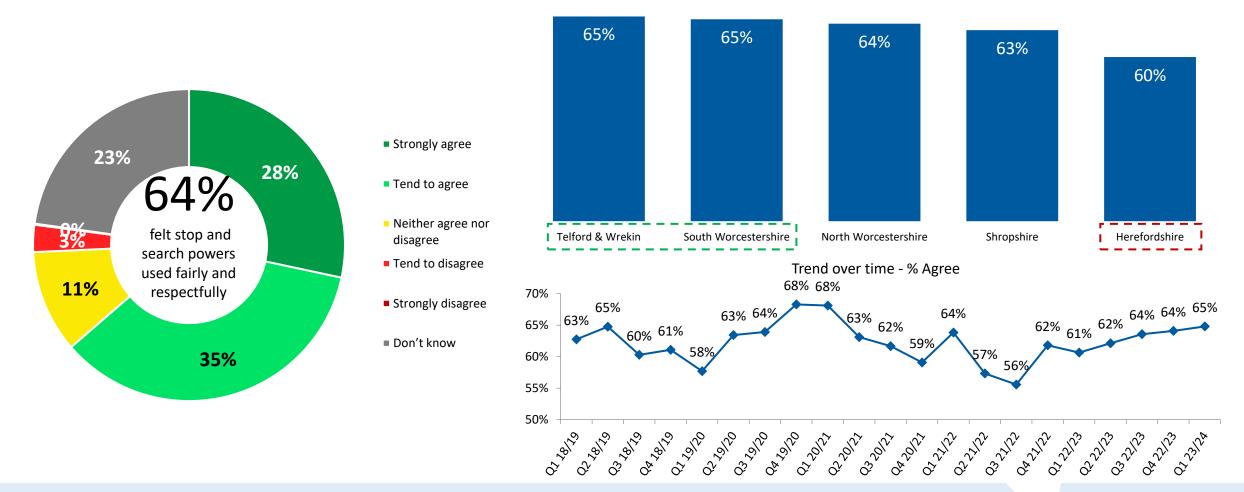




Section Five Trust / Integrity



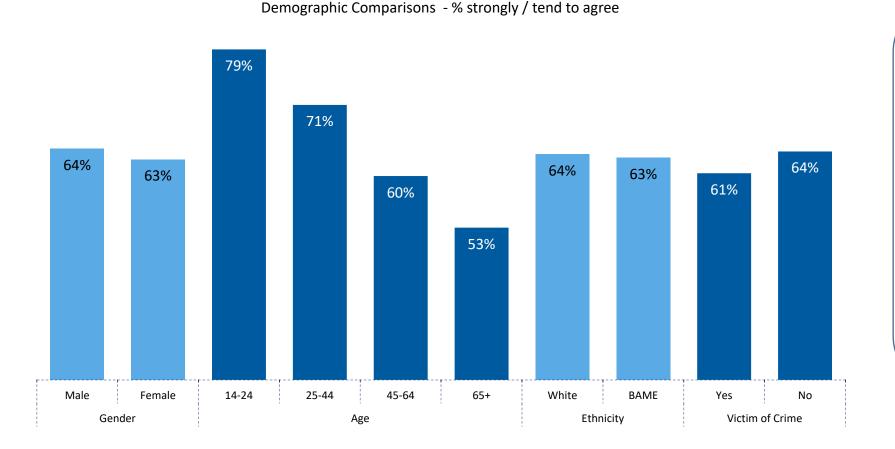
Nearly two-thirds confident WMP use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully



LPA Comparisons - % strongly / tend to agree

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

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



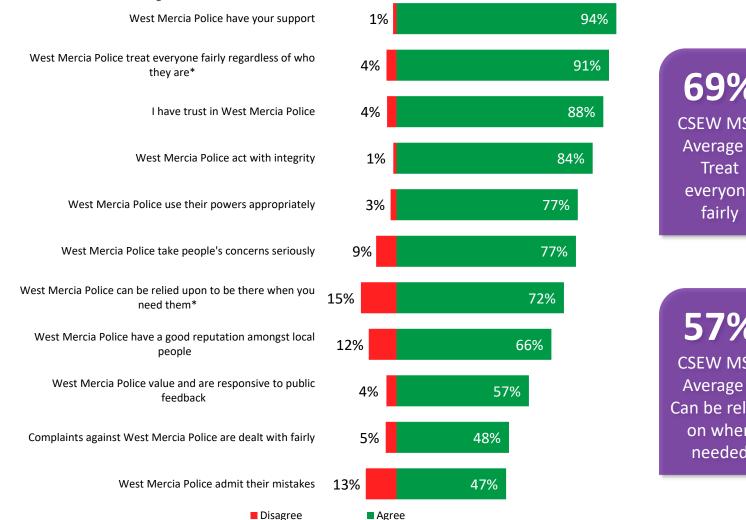
Key Insights

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 Herefordshire least likely to feel WMP use stop and search powers fairly and respectfully

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

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



Q18 Thinking about West Mercia Police, to what extent do you agree or disagree that...? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW



Key Insights

Over 9 out of every 10 residents say that WMP have their support and believe WMP treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

Over 8 in 10 say they have trust in and that WMP act with WMP 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

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

CSEW Questions: They (the police in this area) can be relied on to be there when you need them / The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

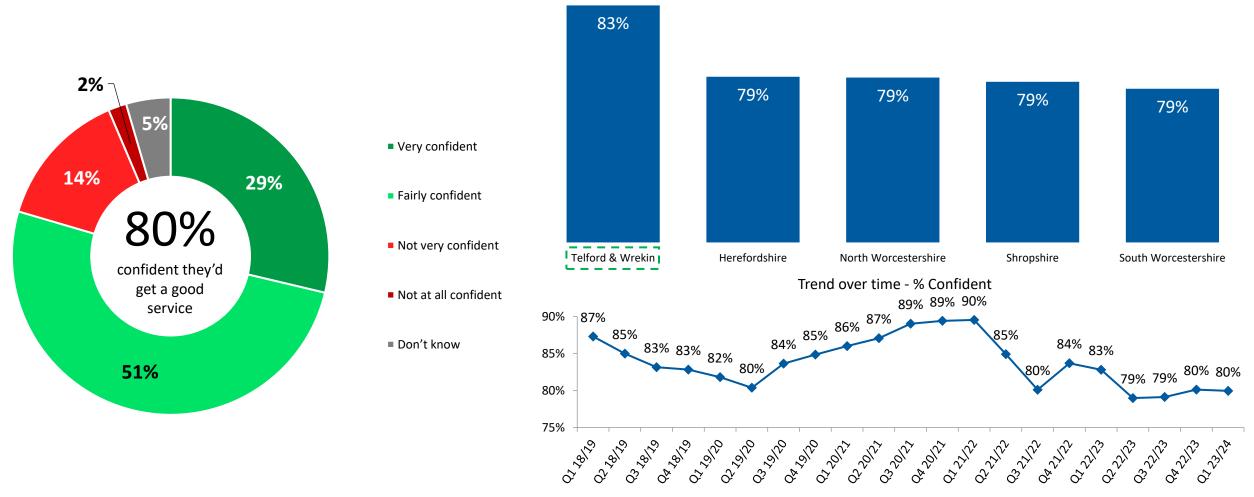




Section Six Confidence in West Mercia Police



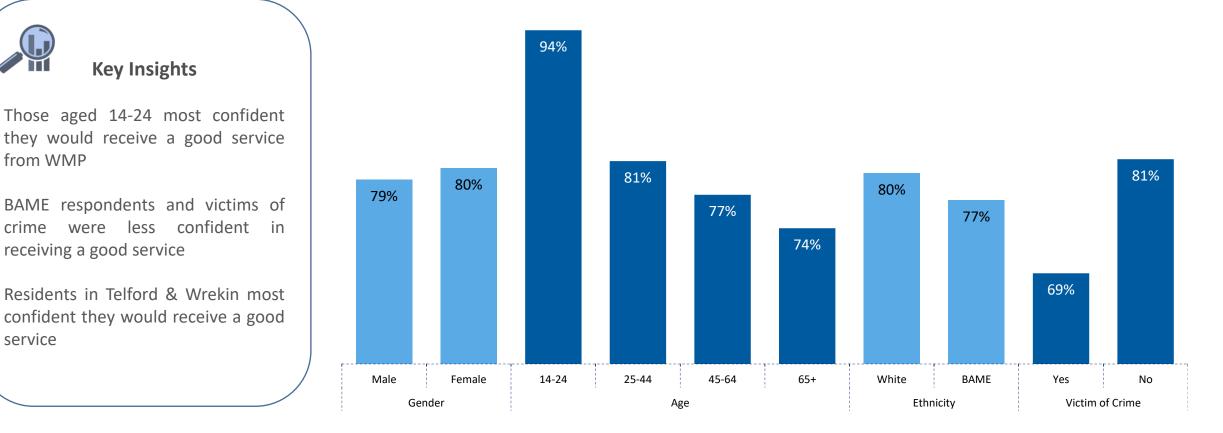
Four-fifths confident they would receive a good service from WMP



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

LPA Comparisons - % very / fairly confident

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



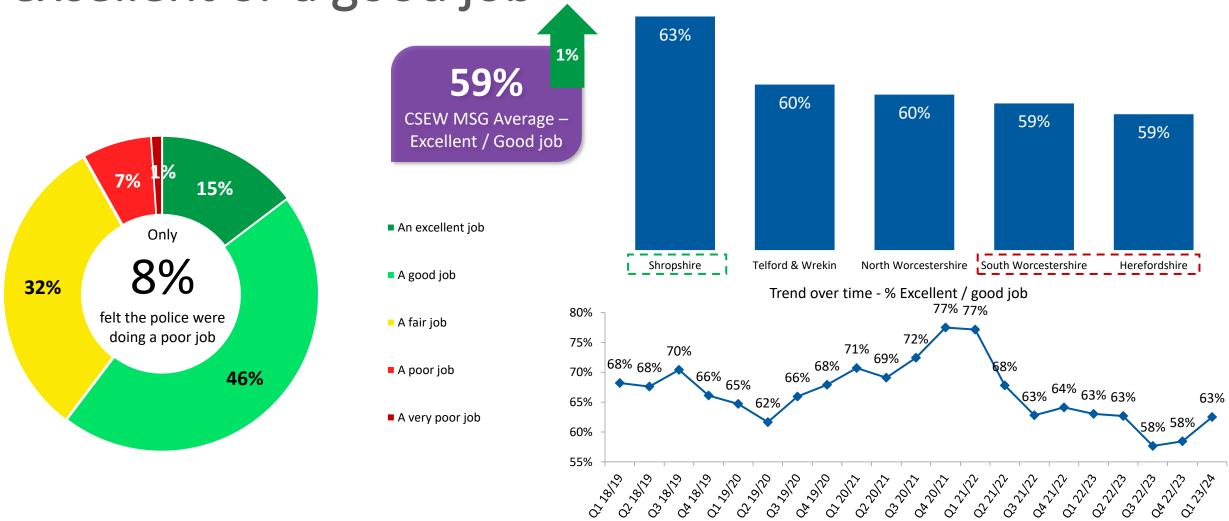
Demographic Comparisons - % very / fairly confident

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

from WMP

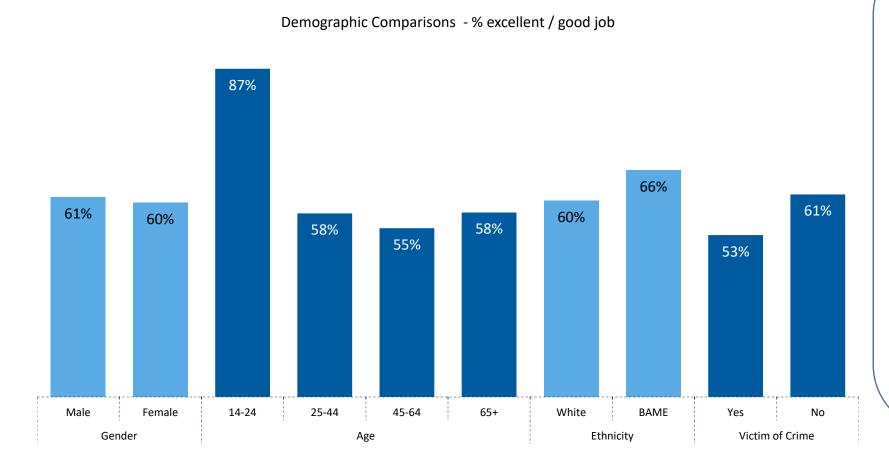
service

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



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

Three-fifths 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

BAME residents more likely to feel WMP were doing an excellent or a good job

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

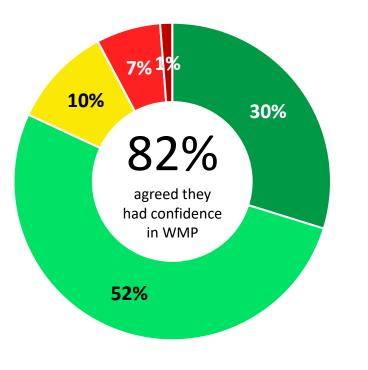
Those in Shropshire were the most likely to say WMP were doing either an excellent or good job

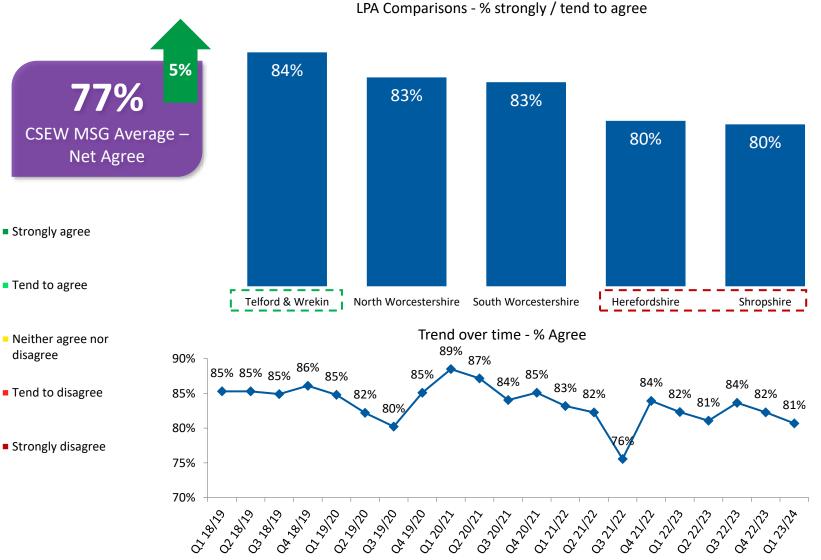
Victims of crime less likely to feel the police were doing either an excellent or good job

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

More than 8 out of 10 say they have confidence in





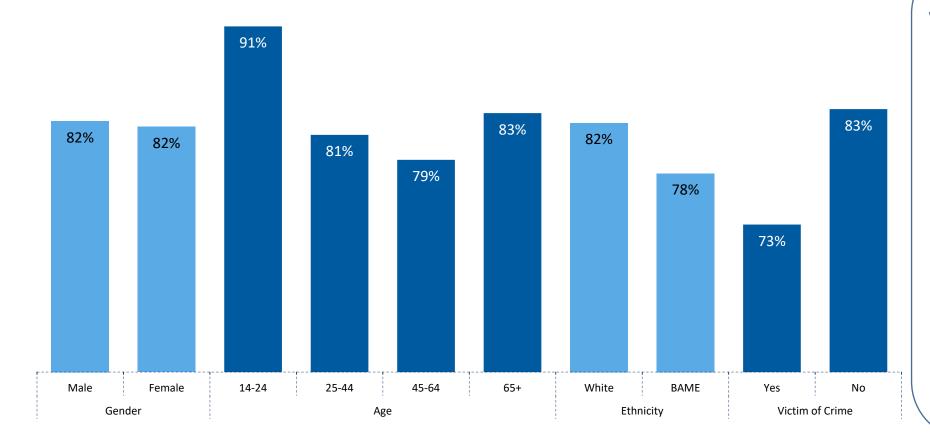


Q21 Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Taking everything into account I have confidence in West Mercia Police?

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

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

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



Demographic Comparisons - % strongly/ tend to agree

have confidence in West Mercia Police? *Don't know option has been excluded from calculation to make question comparable to CSEW

Q21 Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Taking everything into account I

45

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

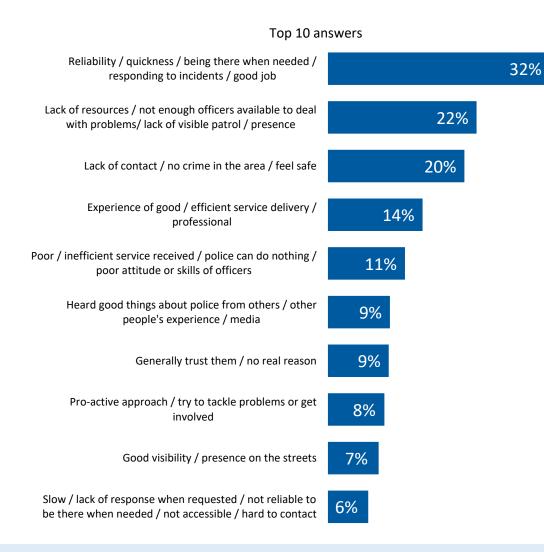
Key Insights

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

Victims of crime and BAME respondents less likely be confident in WMP

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

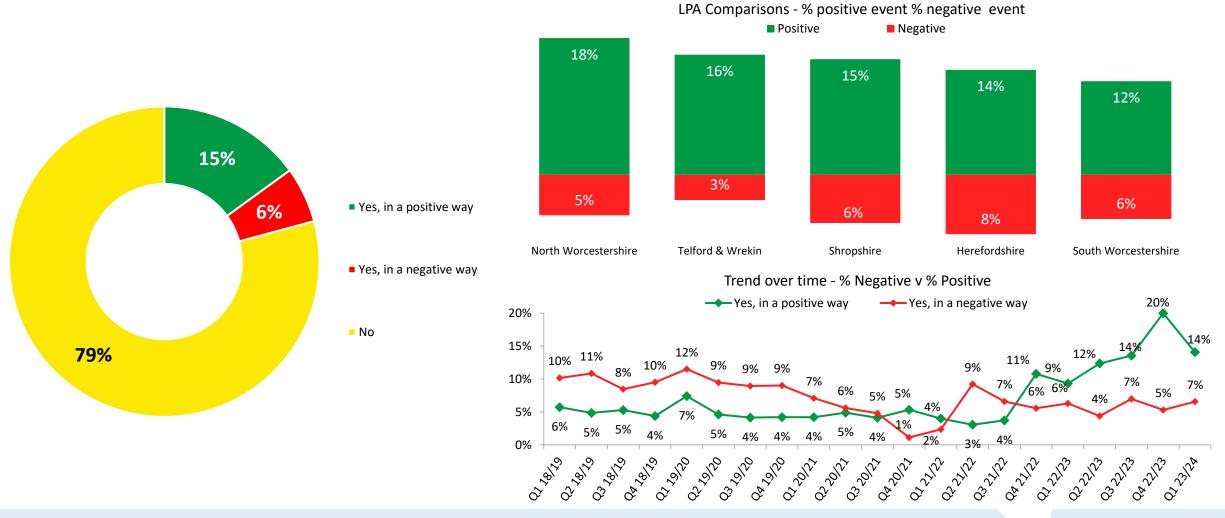
Factors influencing confidence





Q22 Why do you say that?

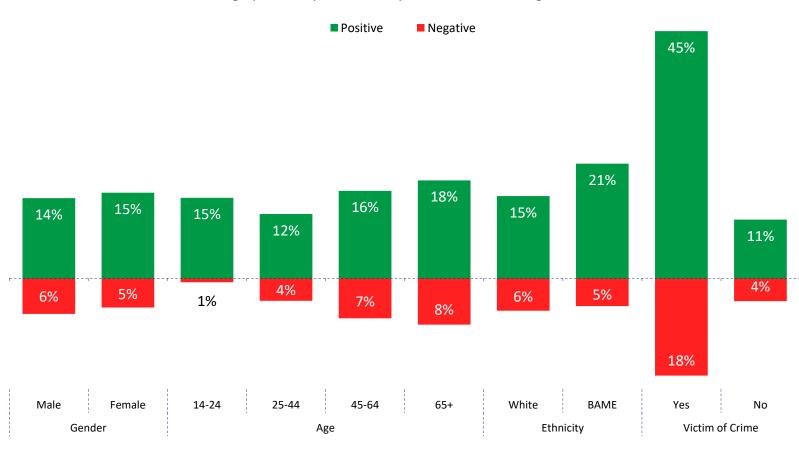
Less than a tenth have experienced an event that negatively affected their confidence in the police



Q23 Has any particular event affected your confidence in the police in the last 12 months?

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

Demographic Comparisons - % positive event v % negative event





Key Insights

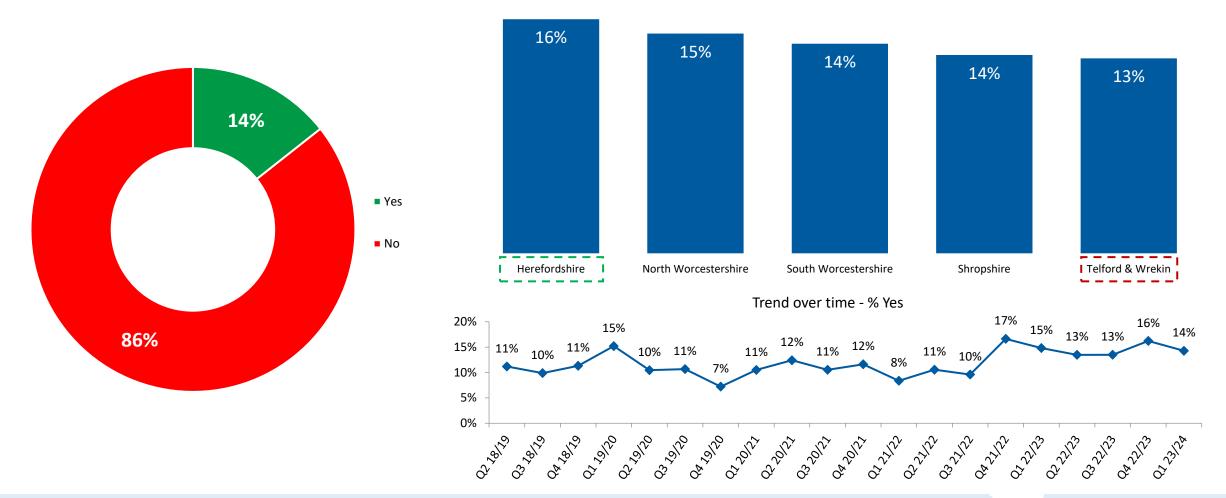
Victims of crime were the most likely to experience an event that negatively affected their confidence; victims were also more likely to be affected in a positive way

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 positively affected their confidence in WMP

Q23 Has any particular event affected your confidence in the police in the last 12 months?

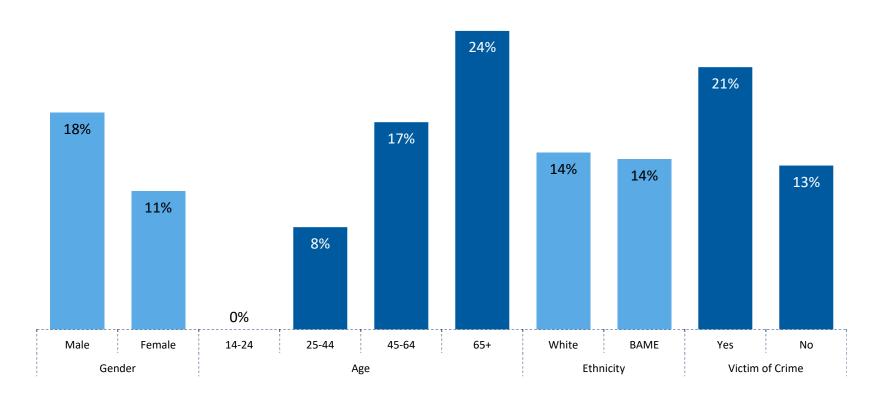
More than a tenth of respondents said they are aware of the Police and Crime Commissioner



LPA Comparisons - % aware of PCC

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

Demographic Comparisons - % aware of PCC





Key Insights

Higher awareness found in Herefordshire; least awareness in Telford & Wrekin

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

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.

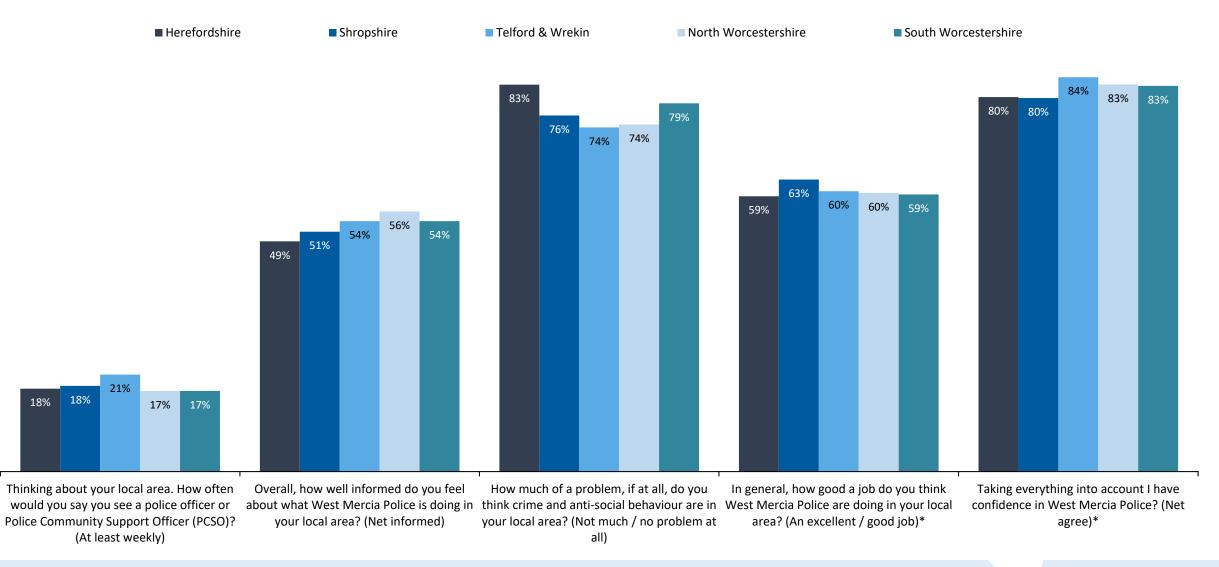




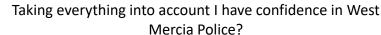
Section Seven LPA & Victim Comparisons

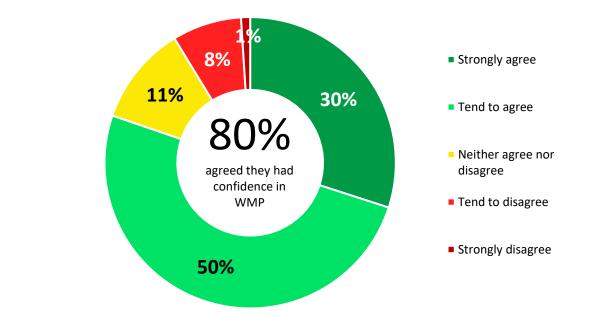


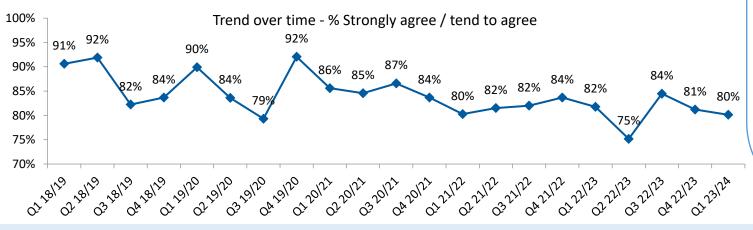
LPA Key Question Overview



LPA Key Findings - Herefordshire







Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

Least confident they could access the police in an emergency (87%)

Least informed about what WMP are doing in their local area (49%)

Least likely to have been a victim of crime over the past year (12% - joint with Telford & Wrekin)

<u>Least</u> likely to feel WMP understand issues in their community (71%)

<u>Least</u> likely have said crime and ASB is a problem in their area (15%)

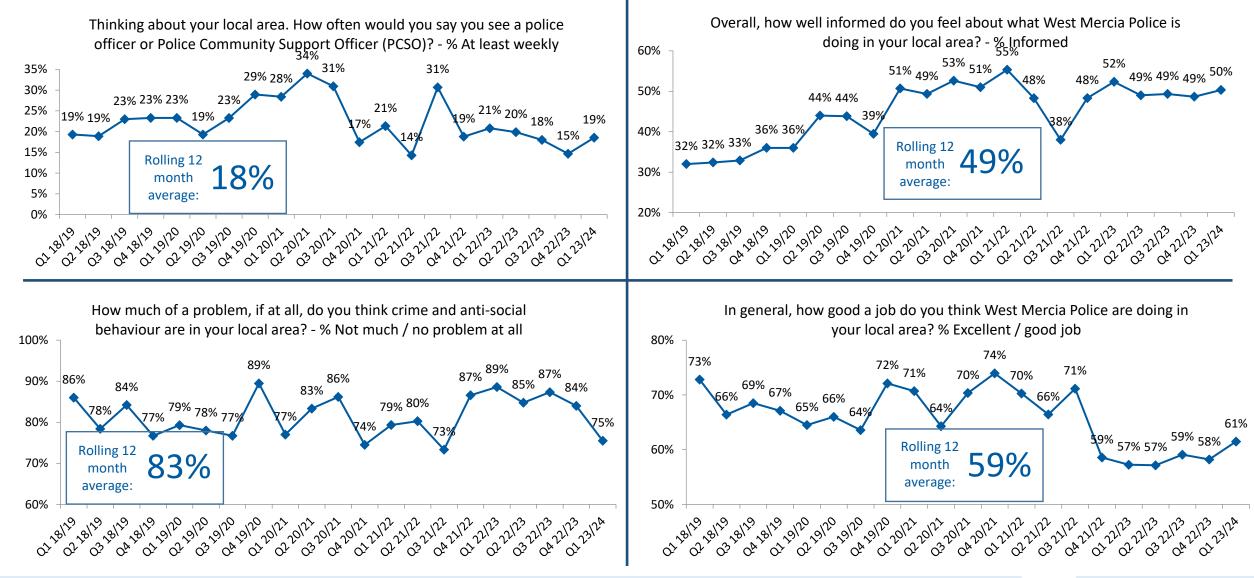
Least confident that WMP use there stop and search powers fairly and respectfully (60%)

Least likely to feel the police were doing either an excellent or a good job in their local area (59% - joint with South Worcestershire)

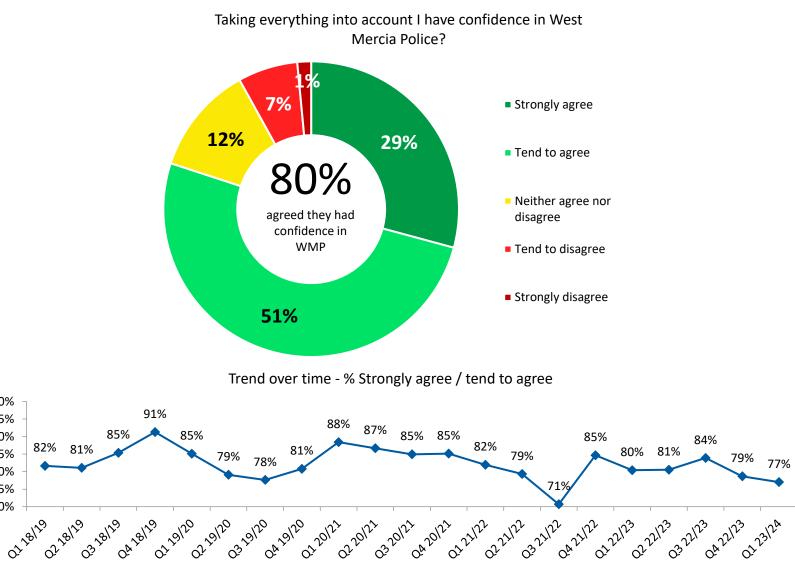
Least likely to have confidence in WMP (80% - joint with Shropshire)

Highest awareness of the PCC (16%)

LPA Key Findings - Herefordshire



LPA Key Findings - Shropshire



Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs *Least* confident they could access the police in a non-emergency (68%) Least confident they would receive a good service from WMP (79% - ioint with Herefordshire, North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire) *Most* likely to feel the police were doing either an excellent or good job (63%)

Least likely to have confidence in WMP (80% joint with Herefordshire)

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

100%

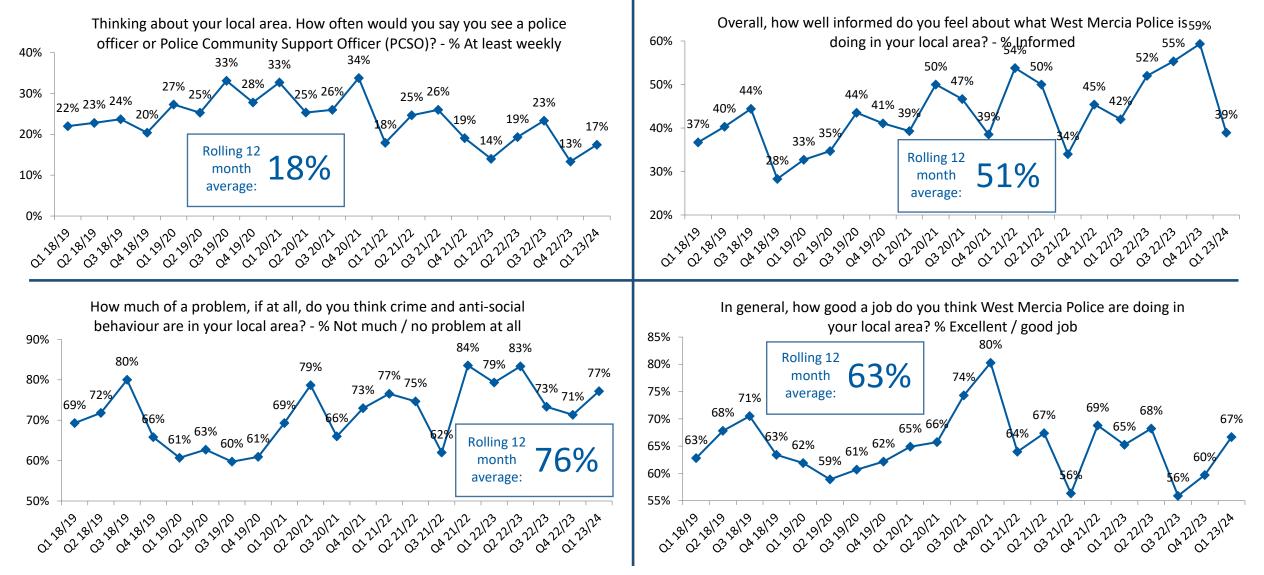
95%

90%

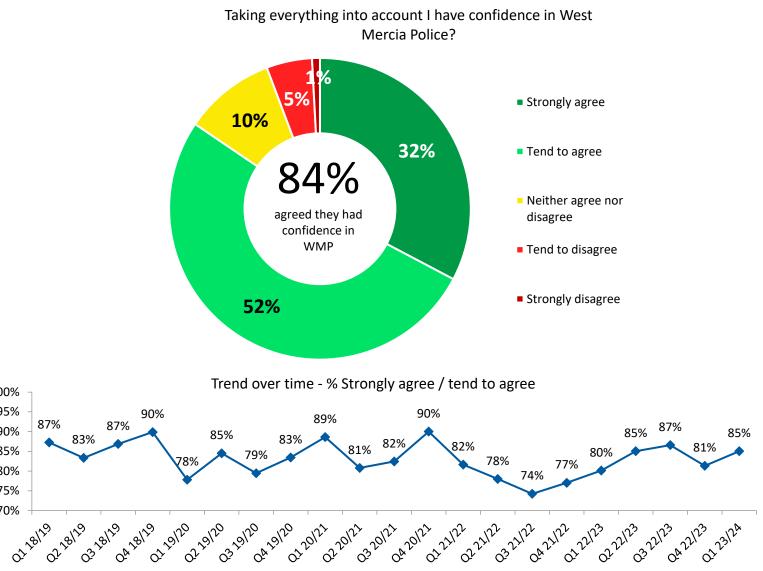
85%

80% 75% 70%

LPA Key Findings - Shropshire



LPA Key Findings - Telford & Wrekin





Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

Most likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (21%)

Most satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (65%)

Most confident they could access the police in both an emergency (91%) and a non-emergency (73%)

Least likely to have experienced crime over the past 12 months (12% - joint with Herefordshire)

Most likely to think that crime and ASB was a problem in their local area (26%)

Most confident they would receive a good service from WMP (83%)

Most likely to have confidence in WMP (84%)

Least awareness of the PCC (13%)

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

100% 95%

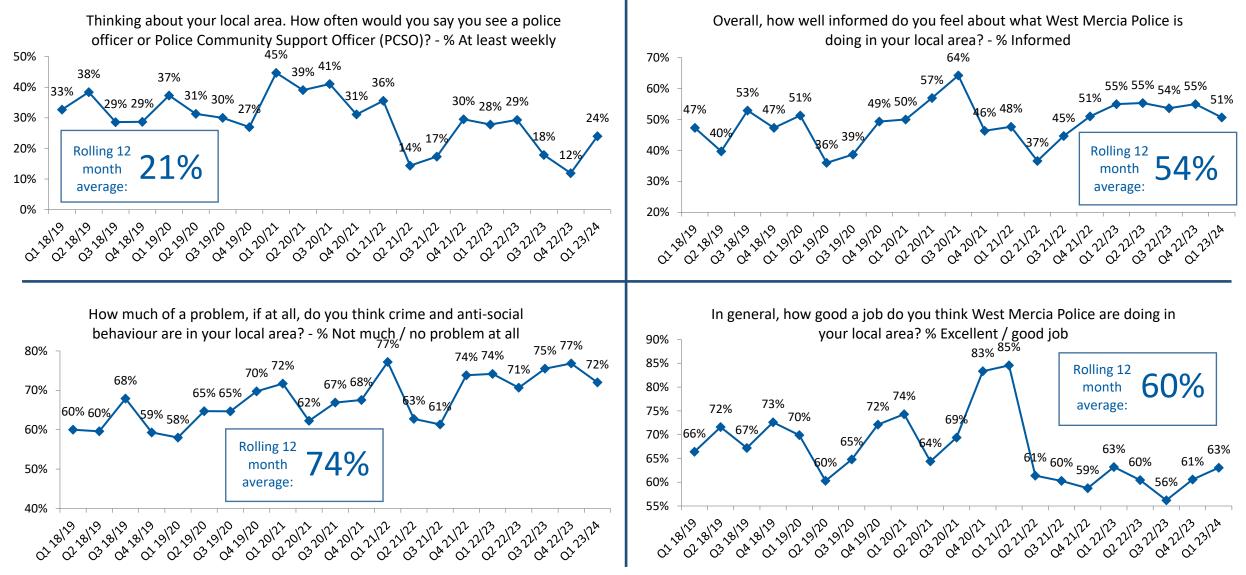
90%

85%

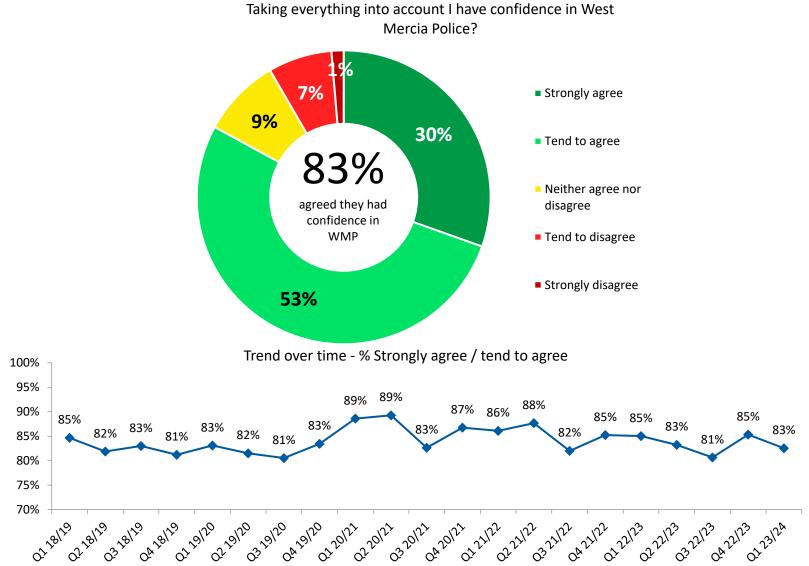
80%

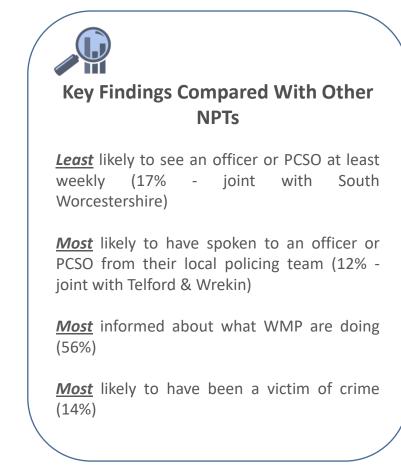
75% 70%

LPA Key Findings - Telford & Wrekin

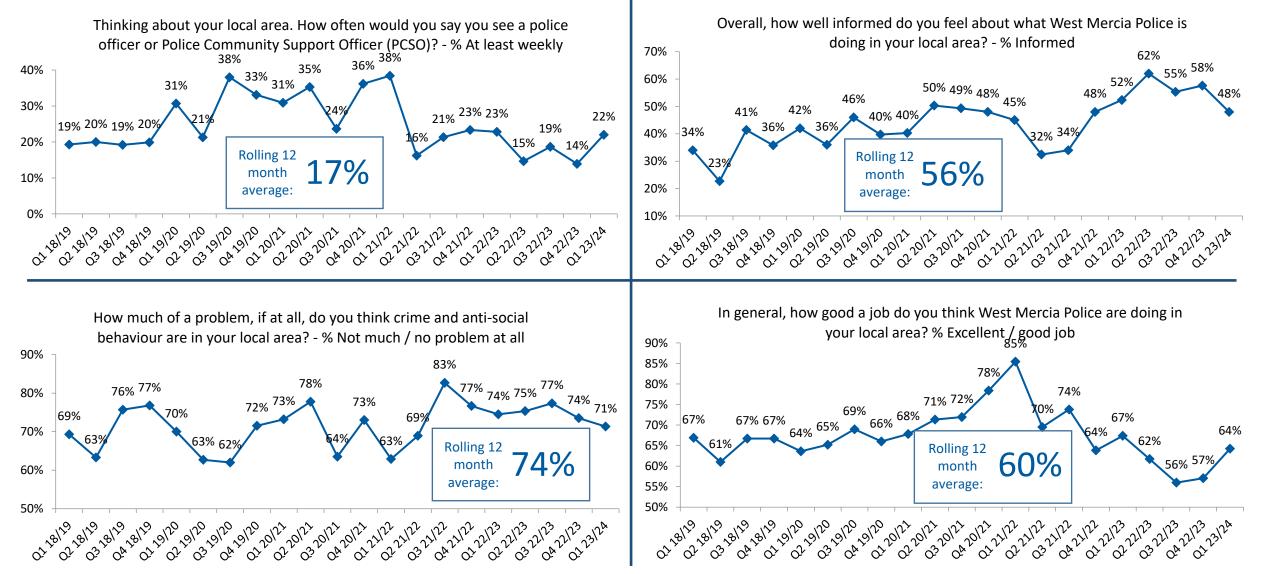


LPA Key Findings - North Worcestershire

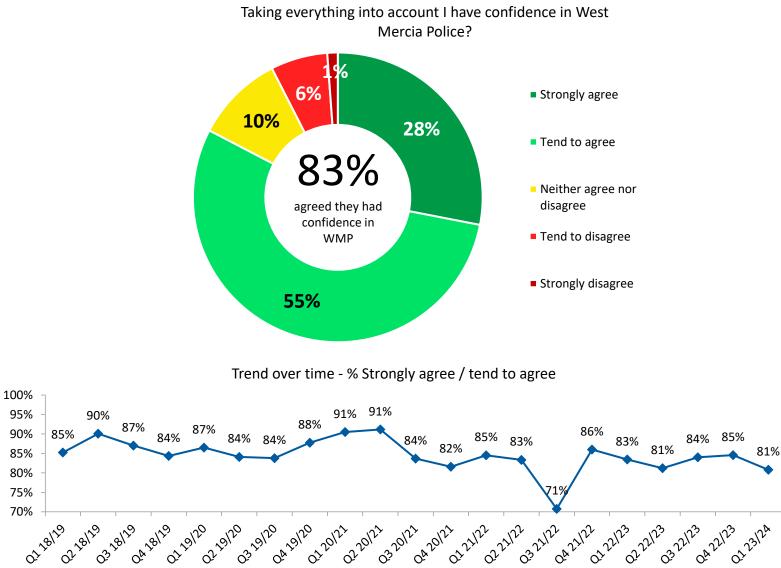




LPA Key Findings - North Worcestershire



LPA Key Findings - South Worcestershire



Key Findings Compared With Other NPTs

<u>Least</u> likely to see an officer or PCSO at least weekly (17% - joint with North Worcestershire)

<u>Least</u> satisfied with the levels of policing in their local area (58%)

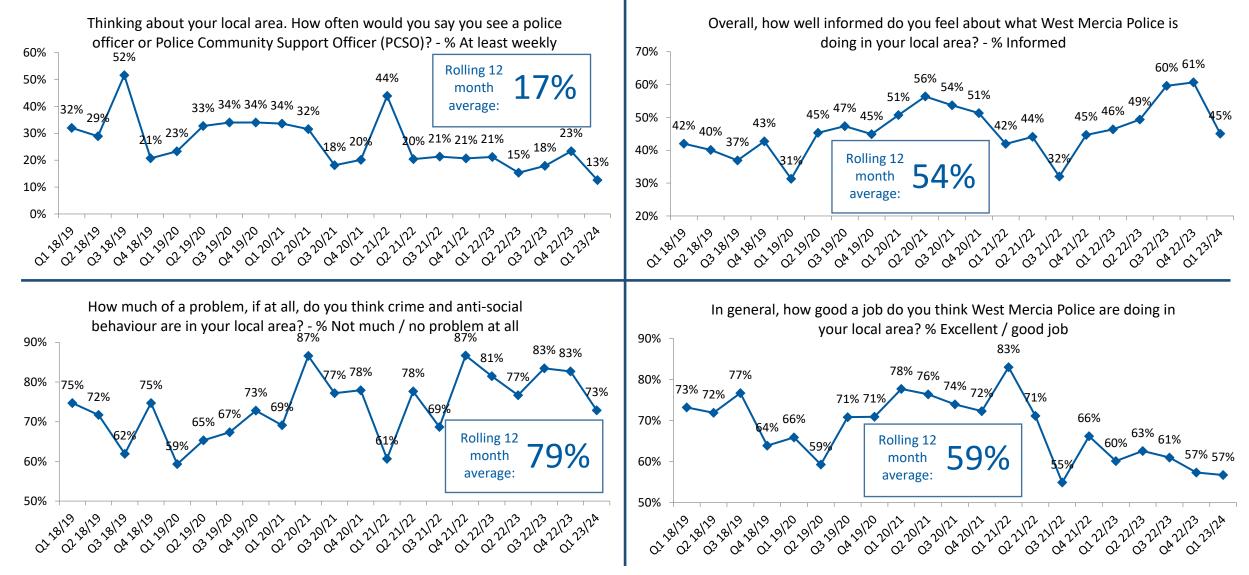
<u>Least</u> confident they could access the police in a non-emergency (68%)

<u>Most</u> confident that WMP understands the issues in their community (77%)

<u>Most</u> confident that WMP use there stop and search powers fairly and respectfully (65% - joint with Telford & Wrekin)

Least likely to feel the police were doing either an excellent or a good job in their local area (59% - joint with Herefordshire)

LPA Key Findings - South Worcestershire



Victim of Crime Comparisons

