

# **HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY POLICE INITIATIVES**

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# **OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION**

- **Introduction and Policy Context**
- **The Context of Reidvale Housing Association's Scheme**
- **Research Methods**
- **Findings from the Baseline Study**
- **Policy Issues and Implications**

# **Introduction and Policy Context (1)**

- **Reports on Housing Association-funded initiative to increase policing presence in local area**
- **Growing policy focus on anti-social behaviour**
- **Increasing role for social landlords in neighbourhood management, community development and tackling anti-social behaviour**
- **Increasing anti-social behaviour problems for social landlords?**
- **Increasing range of legal and non-legal approaches being utilised by social landlords**

# **Introduction and Policy Context (2)**

- **Concern about social control in high-crime areas**
- **‘Narrowing the Gap’: Police Visibility**
- **Neighbourhood Wardens**
- **A Contracted Policing Model: The New Earswick Initiative and Study**

# **The Context of Reidvale Housing Association's Scheme (1)**

- **Long-established community-based HA in the East End of Glasgow**
- **Concentrated stock: approx. 900 tenants**
- **Issues of anti-social behaviour and young people, but lower than some surrounding areas**
- **Previously installed CCTV and contributed to environmental services**

# **The Context of Reidvale Housing Association's Scheme (2)**

- To address perceptions of insufficient police presence and provide reassurance
- To reduce anti-social behaviour, improve HA/Police/ Resident relations and encourage resident responsibility
- Involves 2 police officers doing 4 (overtime) hours each on two nights a week, within defined Reidvale area, subject to some 'designation' by Reidvale HA
- Regular communication and reports from police



# **Research Methods**

- **2 Waves of Research: baseline study in March/April 2004. Final study 12 months later**
- **Household Doorstep Survey of 181 Tenants: 18 % of stock, representative sample**
- **Focus groups with Reidvale tenants and young people**
- **Interviews with community police officers, housing officers and youth workers**
- **Analysis of police and housing association records**

# **Neighbourhood Problems**

- **Environmental nuisance**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Crime**



# **Gangs and Territory**

- Youth 1:** Fighting, there's loads of fighting, all the time, everyone is into it.
- Youth 2:** Yeah, fighting, with Gallowgate. Down there. We do to their bit and they try to come to our bit. There's loads of us.
- Youth 3:** You've got to...sometimes you could get done in, even over here.
- Youth 1:** that's why you go around together, they are not going to be able to give you a doing when there is loads of us.

**Youth Focus Group**

# Problems: National Comparison

	Very Big Problem (%)	
	Reidvale	GB
<b>Dog mess</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Litter &amp; rubbish</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Teenagers hanging around</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Graffiti</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>Drugs &amp; Alcohol</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>

# Impacts: Safety

- **Feeling Safe**
- **Use of Space**

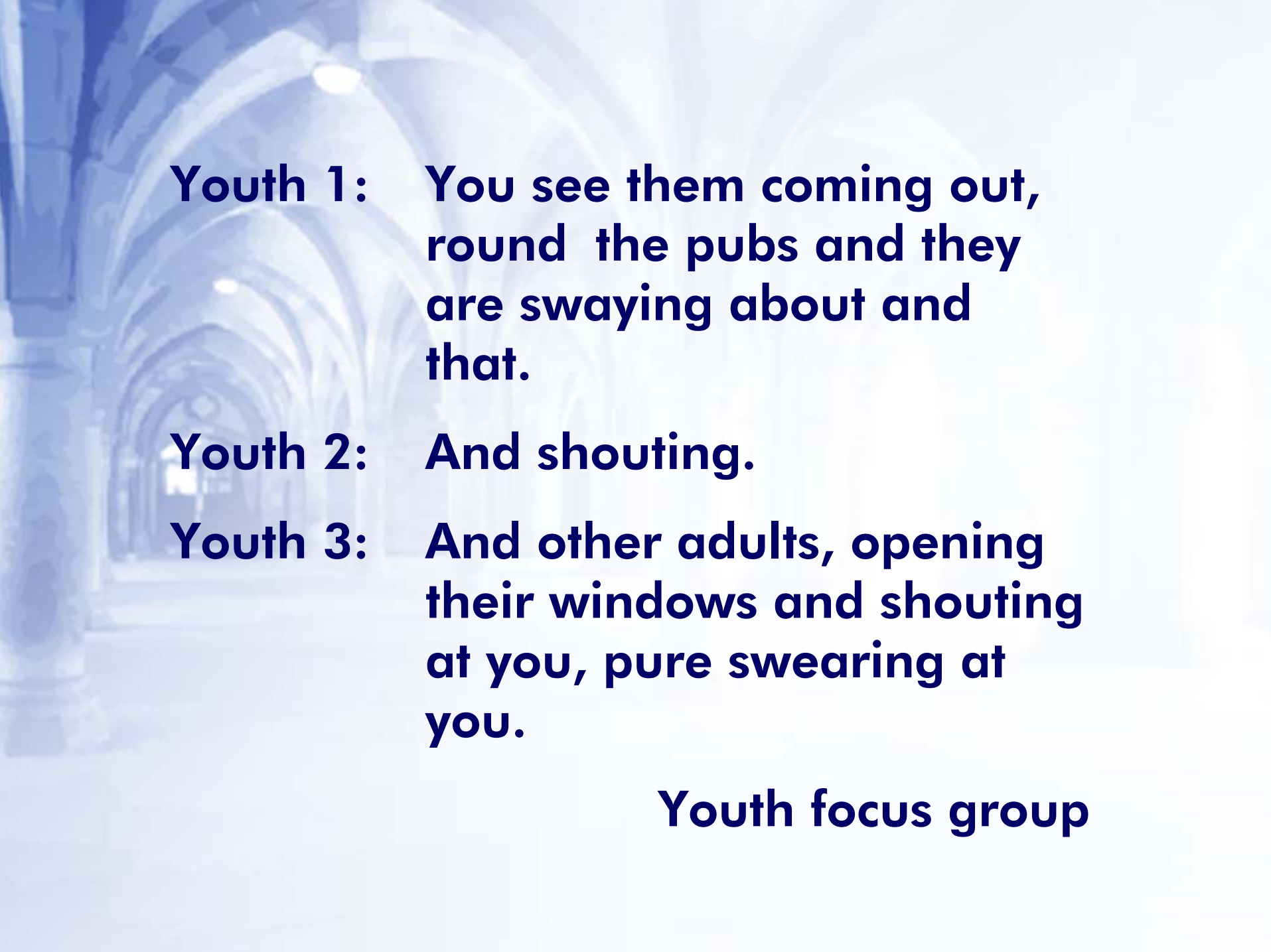
	Feeling Very Safe (%)	
	Reidvale	GB
Walking alone: daytime	18	60
Walking alone: after dark	8	21

# **Community**

- **Good levels of familiarity and contact**
- **Modest amounts of trust and reciprocity**
- **Declining community spirit**
- **Extended families exacerbate problems**

# **Role of Adults**

- **Inappropriate adult behaviour**
- **Poor adult: youth relations**
- **Lack of parental supervision**
- **Absence of tolerance of young people**
- **Negative attitudes to the police**



**Youth 1: You see them coming out,  
round the pubs and they  
are swaying about and  
that.**

**Youth 2: And shouting.**

**Youth 3: And other adults, opening  
their windows and shouting  
at you, pure swearing at  
you.**

**Youth focus group**

# **Attitudes to the Police**

- **Lack of confidence in the police**
- **Hostility and lack of respect**
- **Poor rate of response**
- **Culture of non-co-operation, but...**
- **Police have the main responsibility for tackling anti-social behaviour**



**Youth 1: No way would I report it. You'd get called a grass.**

**Youth 2: Yeah, no way I would grass.**

**Youth 3: An then the police know you, and that's bad, anytime something happens they's be on to you asking what you saw and that. You don't want to go to court.**

**Youth 1: No, then everyone knows you're a grass.**

**Youth 2: Polis wouldn't do anything about it anyway.**

**Youth Focus Group**

# **Positive Views of R.H.A.**

- **High levels of confidence in RHA**
- **Preference to report incidents to RHA staff**
- **Tenant priorities for firm action and funding additional police presence**
- **But...**

# **Some Issues...**

- **Single people less confident in RHA**
- **Reservations about paying for the police**
- **Lack of reporting to the police**
- **Unwillingness to pursue complaints**
- **Lack of community responsibility**

# **Policy Issues and Implications**

- **Communication, co-operation and identities: The police and the housing association**
- **Operational constraints**
- **Accountability and clearly defined decision-making**
- **Community relations**
- **The efficacy of this scheme over other options?**
- **Proactive or reactive?**
- **The limits of visibility in providing security**
- **'Community' Versus 'Public' Policing?**