

emerge

What do people in the West Swindon community think about local facilities and relations between young people and the elderly?



The Community Foundation
for Wiltshire & Swindon

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Executive summary

This research report presents the methodology used, and findings of, a “snapshot” survey of people in the Shaw shopping centre of the West Swindon area. This survey was carried out on 9th February 2008 and responses were obtained from 70 people of all ages above 10 years old. The survey was managed by ncounter, a local charity, and funded by the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon.

The survey asked people questions about how well they consider young people and the elderly get on, what facilities could improve the area and what could improve relationships between the generations. The results will inform local organisations and others working within the area.

The key findings are;

- Most people consider that young people and the elderly get on well in the local community.
- The most popular proposal for improving facilities was a community café, followed by a schools out (after school) club.
- Although there was no strong consensus on what would improve relations between young people and the elderly, the most popular proposal was for more community events and places to meet, which would enable age groups to mix.

Introduction

The 2008 emerge community survey is a “snapshot” survey of people at the Shaw shopping centre in West Swindon, which asks their views of what would improve the local area, and how they view relations between young people and older people. The questionnaire was funded by the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon (<http://www.wscf.org.uk>) and developed by ncounter (<http://ncounter.co.uk>), a local charity and partner in the emerge (West Swindon) project. Emerge is a partnership, formed in 2007, between ncounter and five West Swindon churches. The partnership has a Christian foundation and aims to help young people to reach their potential, developing activities and facilities to support them in achieving this.

The survey will inform the emerge partnership and others working within the West Swindon area, and was carried out by members of the youth steering team set up by emerge to develop facilities which meet the needs and aspirations of young people in West Swindon.

People were asked to complete the survey by personal interview, on 9th February 2008.

Survey methodology

The sampling was designed to try to ensure we obtained a “snapshot” indication across all sections of the West Swindon community.

The survey was carried out by young people who asked questions of those willing to take part in the survey. Care was taken to ensure all age groups above 10 years old were sampled.

Administration of the survey

Local people at the Shaw shopping centre were asked if they would be willing to take part in the survey, which was compiled by ncounter. The purpose of the survey was explained using guidance from the ncounter Youth Work Manager.

Data analysis

Data preparation

The nature of the survey, intended to offer a “snapshot” of community opinions, meant that data cleansing was not required.

Weighting

The sample population was selected at random from those in the shopping centre, taking care to ensure all age groups were represented.

Analysis of the final data set

The dataset of responses was analysed using Microsoft Excel. Percentage data was calculated for all questions. The published percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point, and therefore do not always total 100%.

Guide to the reporting

Survey outputs

Following the survey, results were collated and are presented here.

Response rates

In total, 70 people took part in this survey. This represents approximately 0.33% of all people living in the West Swindon area, and gives a confidence interval of 11.7 (at a 95% confidence level). I.e., if we obtain a result for a particular question of 45% of those asked, we can be 95% sure that, had we asked all 21,000 people living in West Swindon, the outcome would have been between 33.3% (45% - 11.7%) and 56.7% (45% + 11.7%).

Confidentiality

All those taking part in the survey were assured of the confidentiality of their responses. No names were collected.

Results

The results obtained are presented in detail in Appendix B.

64% of respondents thought a community café would improve the local area, and 51% considered a schools out (after school) club would also improve the area. 31% thought a drop-in for elderly people would be of benefit, and 18% a crèche.

56% consider young people and the elderly get on well in the area, with only 16% considering there are a lot of problems. To improve relations across generations, 33% said more community events and places to meet were needed. Understanding, respect and communication were also considered important by 24% and 14% of those responding, with only 2% considering relationships would improve if young people were to stop hanging around and drinking.

Conclusions

- Most people consider that young people and the elderly get on well in the local community.
- The most popular proposal for improving facilities was a community café and a schools out (after school) club.
- Although there was no strong consensus on what would improve relations between young people and the elderly, the most popular proposal was for more community events and places to meet which would enable age groups to mix.

Appendix A: Questionnaire

Where do you live?

George Tweed, Shaw
Nine elms
Shaw
Toothill
Grange Park
Middleaze
Freshbrook
Wootton Bassett
Lydiard
Eastleaze
Westlea

What age bracket do you fit in?

1= 10-19
2= 20-35
3= 35-50
4= 50-65
5= 65+

What do you think would improve the local area?

Schools out club (school year 7-9)
Community café - open to all ages in day, youth in the evening
Creche
Drop in for elderly
Other:

What do you think about young people/older people in this area?

1= Get on well
2= No problems
3= some difficulties
4= A lot of problems

How could relationships between young people and the elderly be improved here?

Appendix B: Detailed Results

A total sample size of 70 responses was obtained. Of these, 17% were in the age group 10-19, 11% in the 20-35 age range, 30% in the 25-50 range, 21% the 50-65 range and 20% the 60+ age group. The areas people live in were;

Shaw	42%
Middleaze	20%
George Tweed, Shaw	8%
Nine Elms	8%
Grange Park	8%
Toothill	3%
Lydiard	3%
Wootton Bassett	3%
Other	5%

1. What would improve the local area? **100% response rate**

Community café	64%
Schools out club	51%
Drop in for the elderly	31%
Creche	18%

Other: policing, clean up the area, less litter, more for young people to do, tea dance for the elderly, skate park, something for older youth, free groups for young people.

2. What do you think about how young people and the elderly get on in this area? **99% response rate**

Get on well, no problems	56%
Some difficulties	27%
A lot of problems	16%

3. How could relationships between young people and the elderly be improved here?

60% response rate

More community events/place to meet/mixing age groups	33%
Understanding and respect	24%
Communication	14%
Youth helping elderly, and vice versa	14%
More to do	9%
Better parenting	7%
Stop young people hanging around and drinking	2%
CCTV	2%