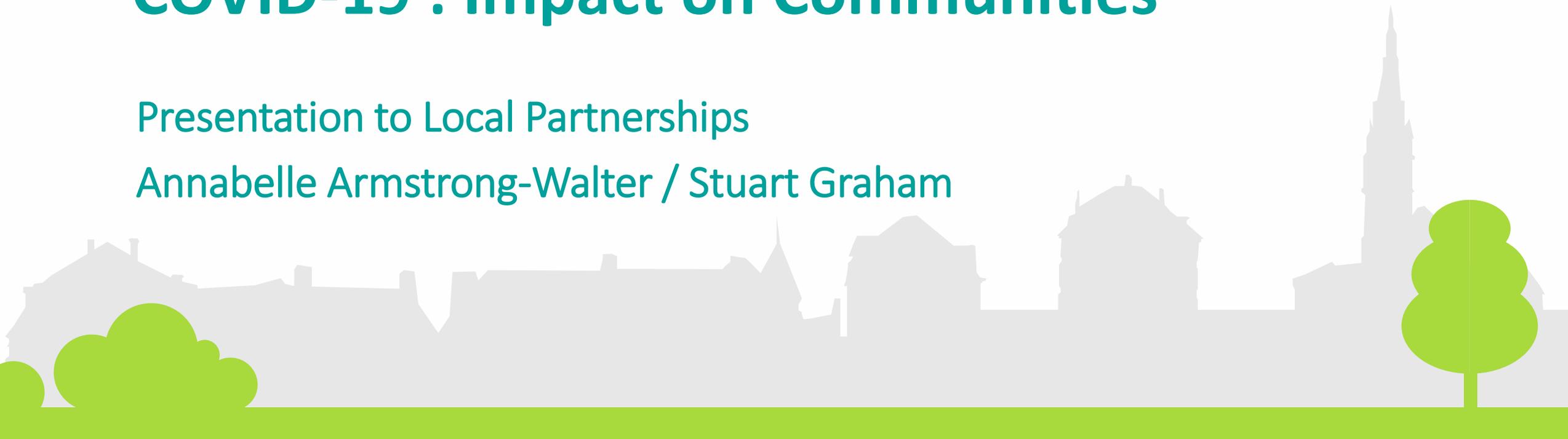


COVID-19 : Impact on Communities

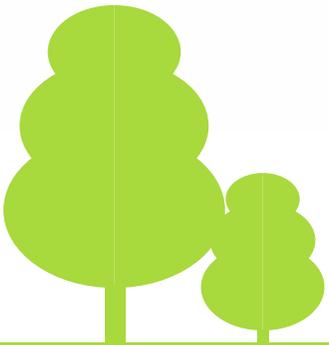
Presentation to Local Partnerships

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter / Stuart Graham



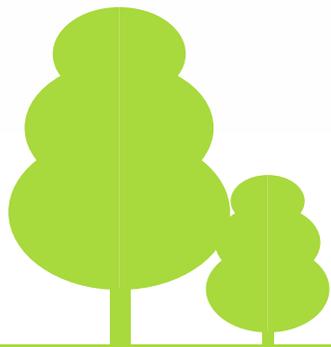
- COVID has disproportionately impacted people across Renfrewshire
- Evidence that pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities
- Short vs medium to long term impact
- Ongoing restrictions continue to be felt – tension between response and recovery
- Community Impact Assessment launched in August 2020
- Aim to gain deeper understanding of key issues / impact

“listening and learning to inform response and to fundamentally address existing inequalities going forward”



In this presentation:

- Update Local Partnership members on Community Impact Assessment work done to date
- Share data from Public Services Panel relevant to this Local Partnership
- Discussion on Local Partnership members experience of how COVID has impacted their community



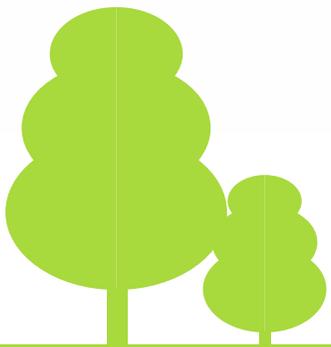
Data + research – key points

COVID cases

- 7,381 positive cases in Renfrewshire / 512 deaths to date

Employment / Support for businesses

- 80% increase in universal credit claimants between March and October
- At its peak in August 2020, 28,300 people were registered with the UK-wide furlough scheme – 8,800 people at the end of October 2020.
- Grant support in excess of £28.5m being paid out for more than 2,500 businesses



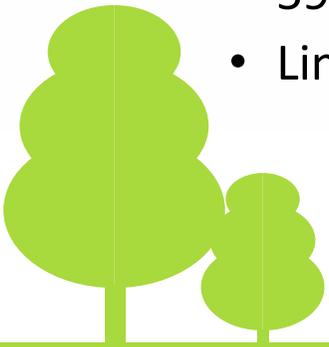
Data + research – key points

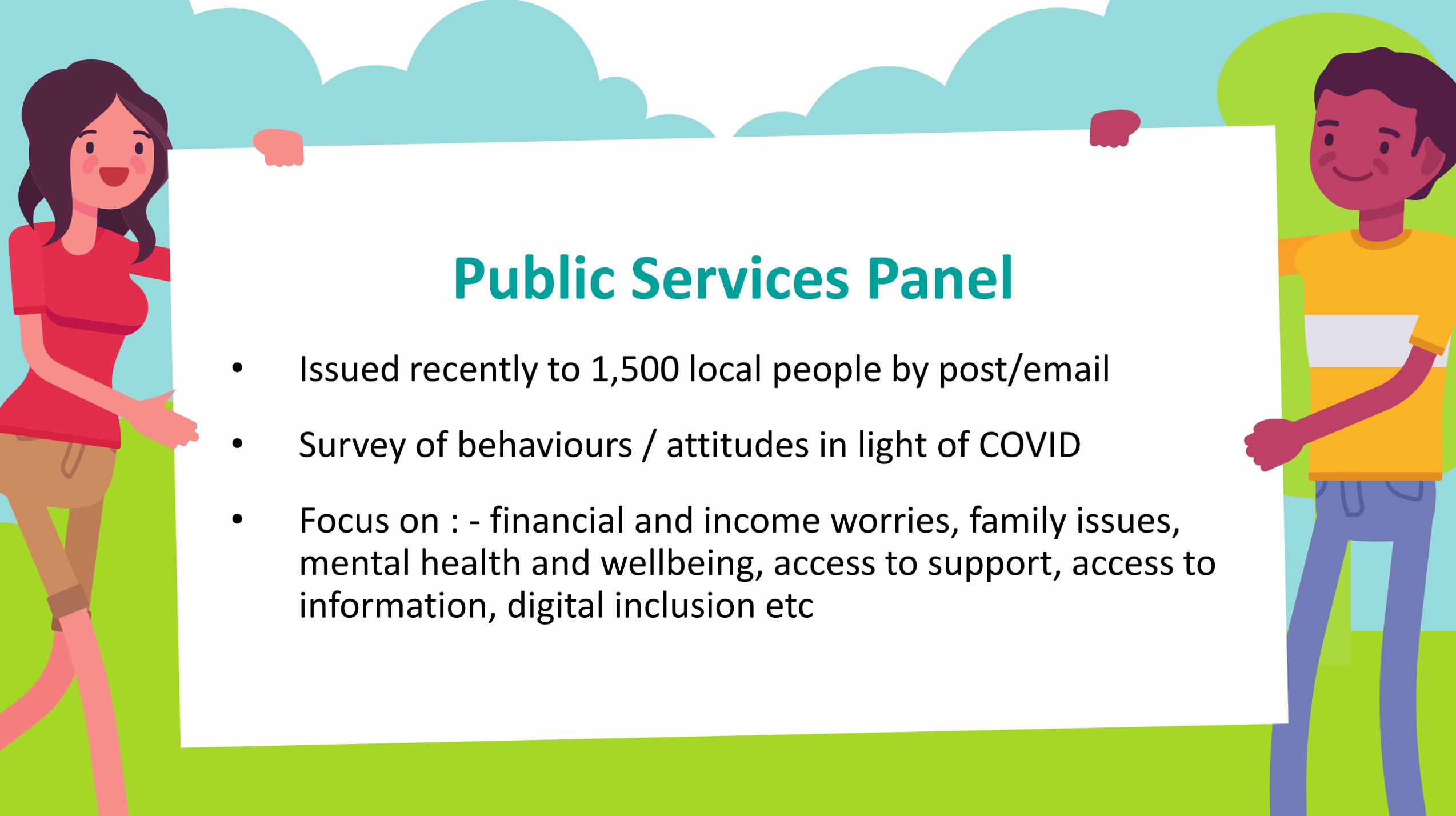
- Increase in crisis grants March – October – up 1,030 from same period last year to 6225.
- 4,000 contacts to Advice Works over same period (70% from recognised priority groups for child poverty)
- Increasing concerns re fuel poverty – community organisations increasingly focusing on distribution of fuel vouchers
- Renfrewshire Foodbank has provided food support to 3,148 adults and 1,200 children to date (broadly in line with previous years due to community food)
- Community food – hundreds of food parcels every week e.g. 350 visits to STAR food pantry in 2019/20 - 6,700 supports to date in 2020



Data + research – key points

- Neighbourhood Hubs – almost 700 referrals, 109 of which in the Renfrew LP area
- 1,250 digital devices/connectivity being distributed in Renfrewshire through the Connecting Scotland Programme through the hubs and partners
- Health and wellbeing
 - Ongoing impact on delivery of health and care services e.g. service waiting times
 - National surveys indicate 25-28% of people would not contact a GP at this time about a non-COVID related medical concern
 - In Scotland-wide Ipsos MORI surveys carried out between May and July 2020 between 53-59% felt lonely some/most/almost all or all of the time.
 - Link to alcohol and drug use





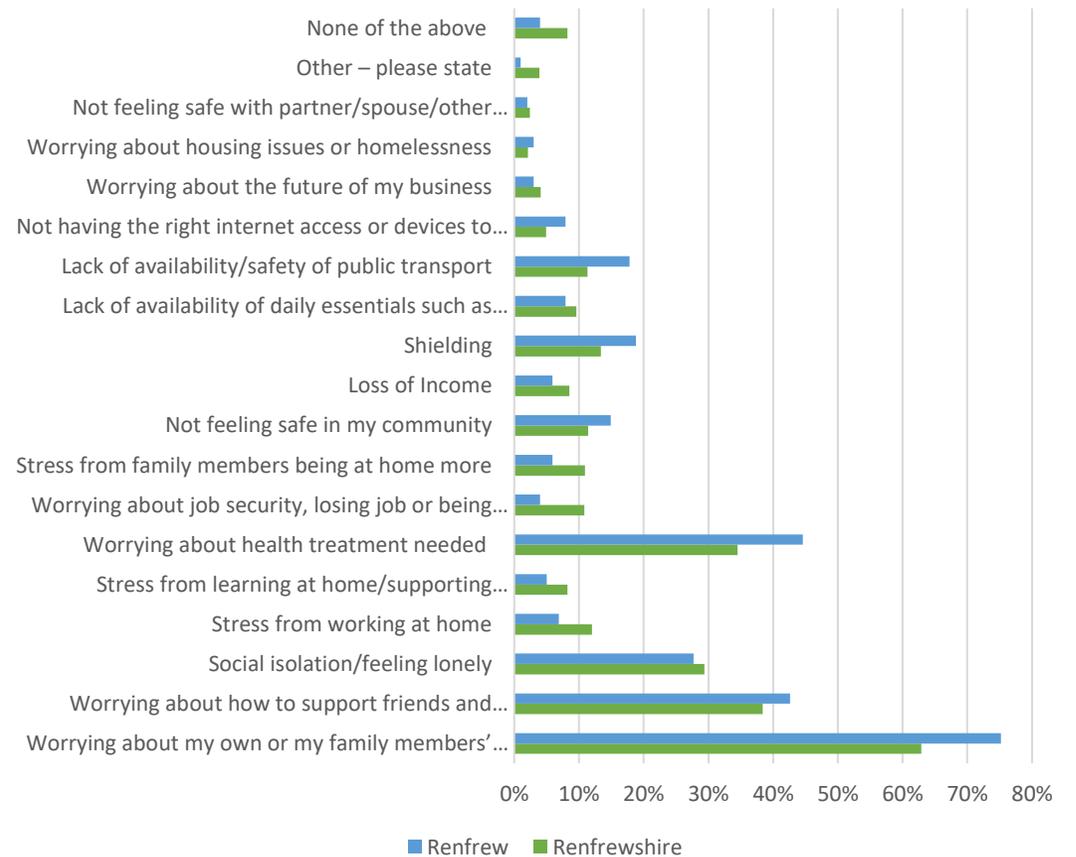
Public Services Panel

- Issued recently to 1,500 local people by post/email
- Survey of behaviours / attitudes in light of COVID
- Focus on : - financial and income worries, family issues, mental health and wellbeing, access to support, access to information, digital inclusion etc

What has affected you most during the coronavirus pandemic?

People reported being most affected by:

- worrying about their own or their families future (63%)
- worrying about how to support family and friends who need help (38%)
- worrying about health treatment needed (35%)
- social isolation/feeling lonely (29%)



Which of the following things, are major worries for you ...

Major worries at the moment include:

- friends or family becoming seriously ill with COVID (73%)
- becoming seriously ill themselves with COVID (49%)
- a family member or friends mental health (28%)
- their own mental health (22%)
- their financial situation/losing their job (11.2%)

How is your household managing financially?

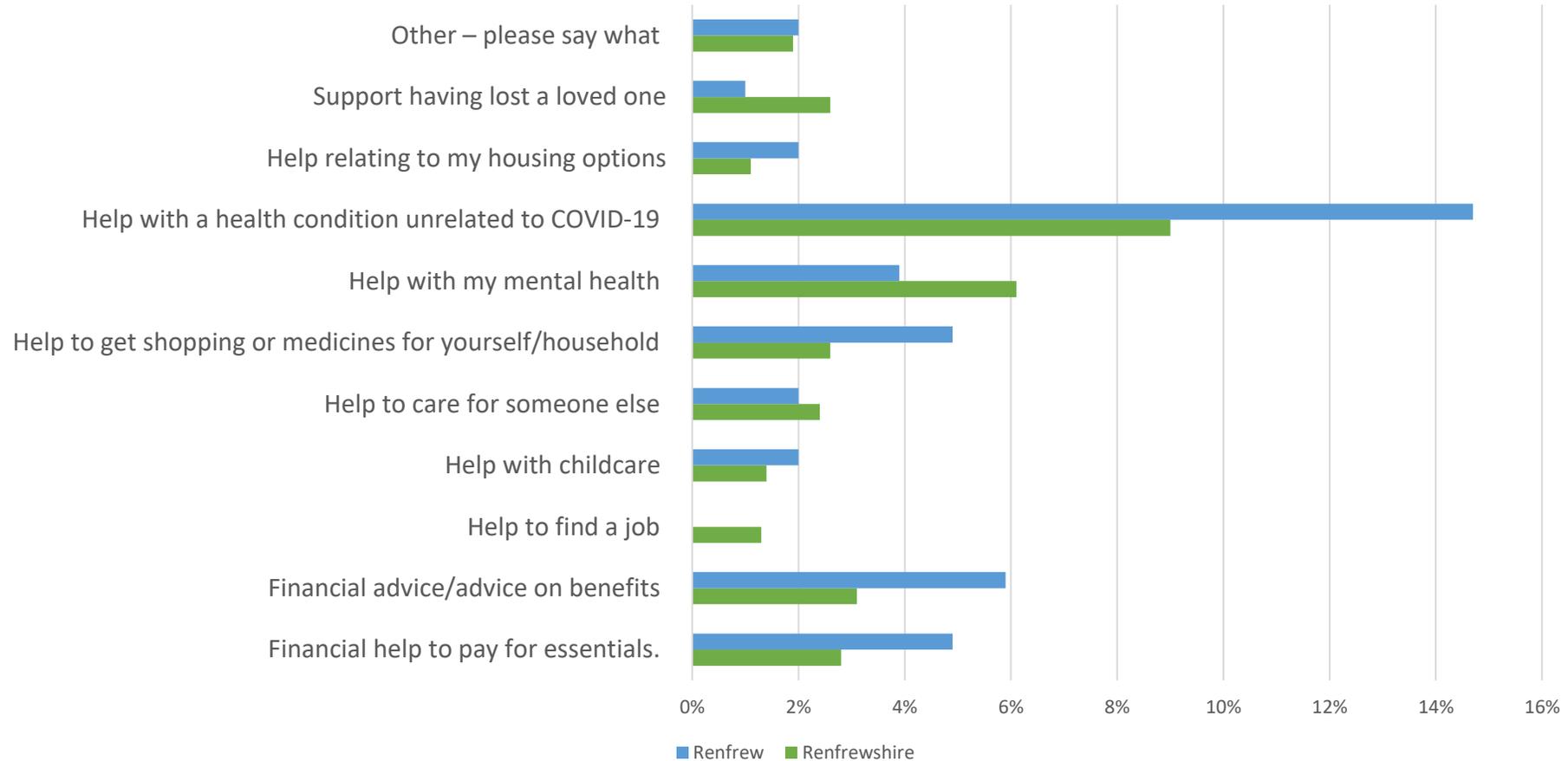
Q8a Again, thinking back to the start of March this year, before the coronavirus lockdown, which of the following best describes how you and your household were managing financially?

408 (47.6%)	Manage very well
269 (31.4%)	Manage quite well
150 (17.5%)	Get by alright
9 (1.0%)	Don't manage very well
18 (2.1%)	Have some financial difficulties
4 (0.5%)	Experiencing serious financial difficulties

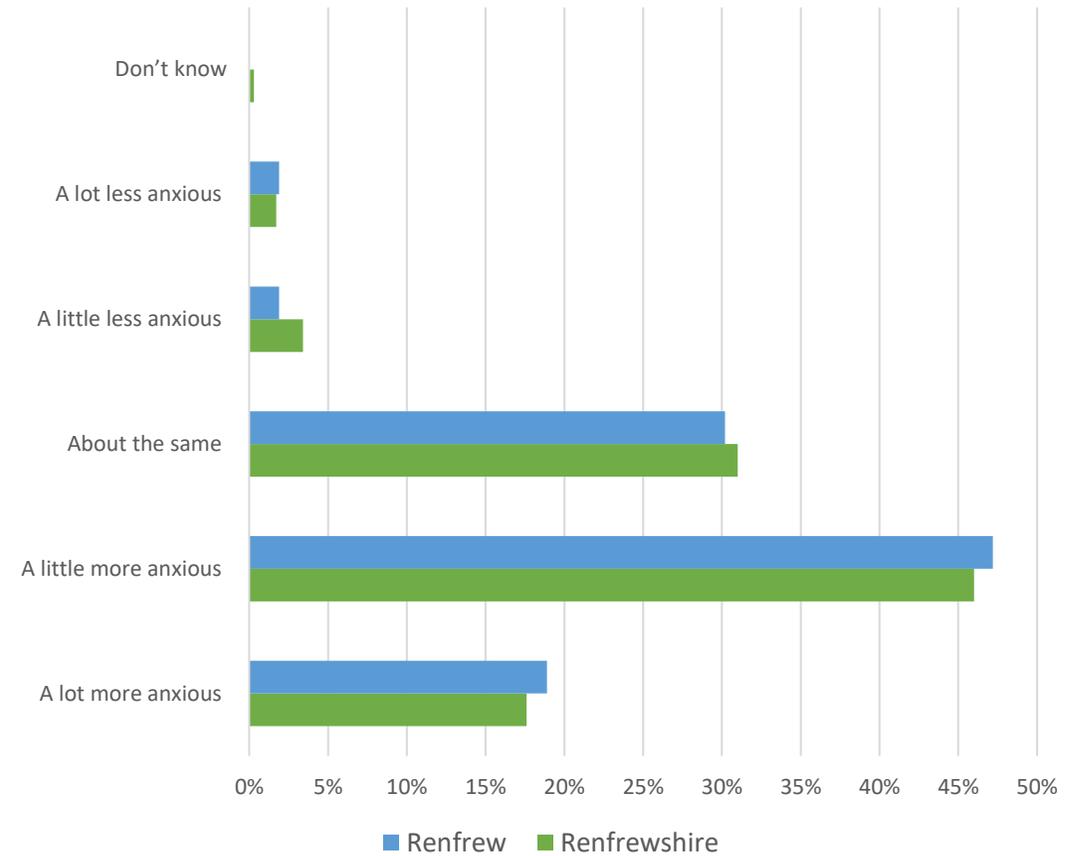
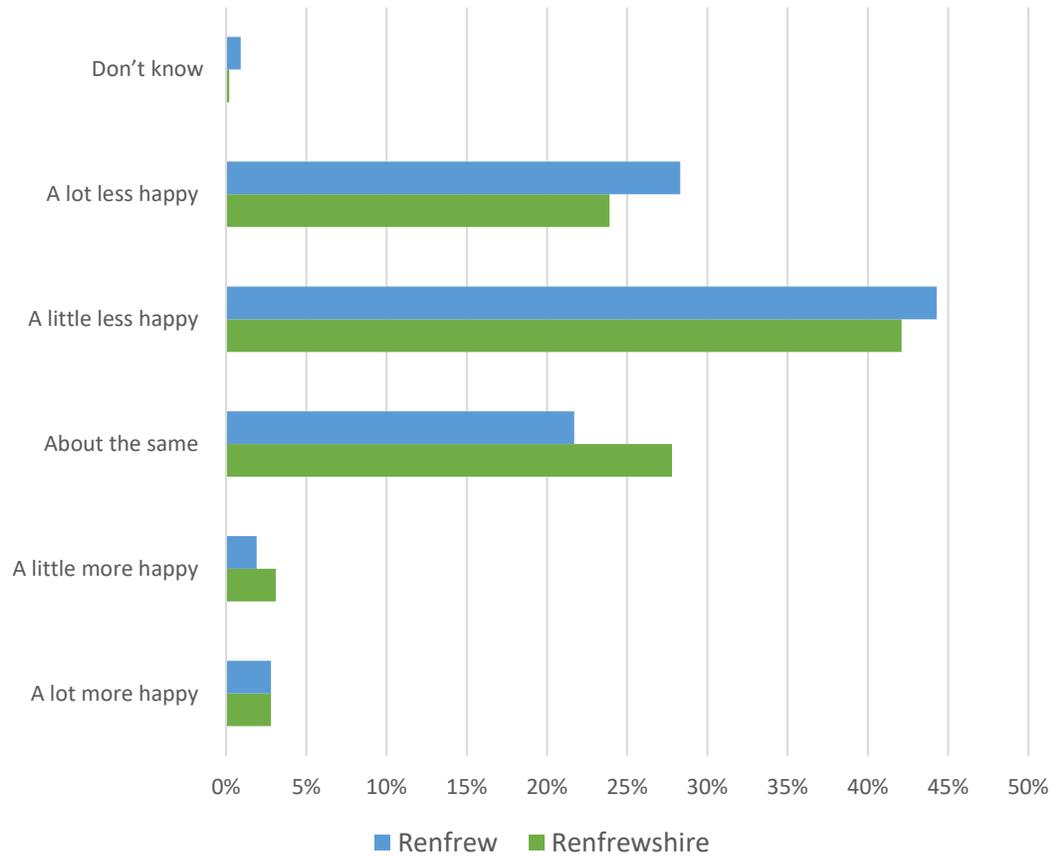
Q8b And thinking about now, which of the following best describes how you and your household are managing financially?

353 (41.1%)	Manage very well
256 (29.8%)	Manage quite well
191 (22.3%)	Get by alright
20 (2.3%)	Don't manage very well
31 (3.6%)	Have some financial difficulties
7 (0.8%)	Experiencing serious financial difficulties

Is there help that you feel you currently need but you are not receiving?

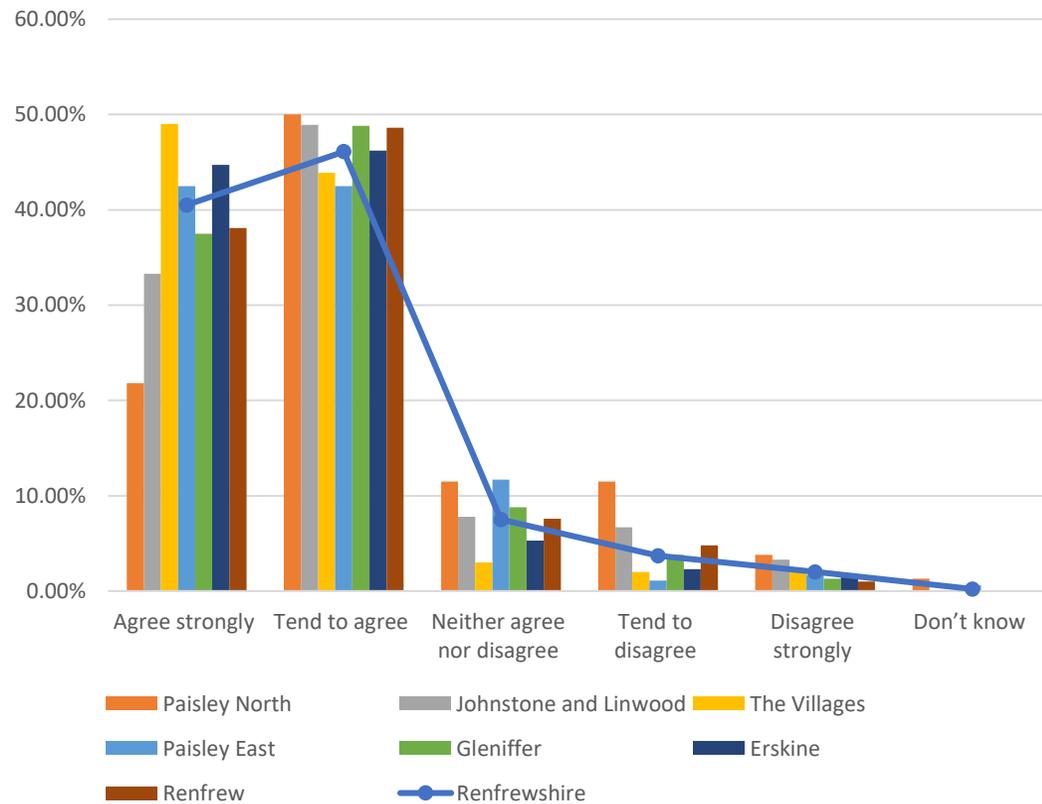


Compared with how you felt on a typical day before the start of March, would you say you felt....

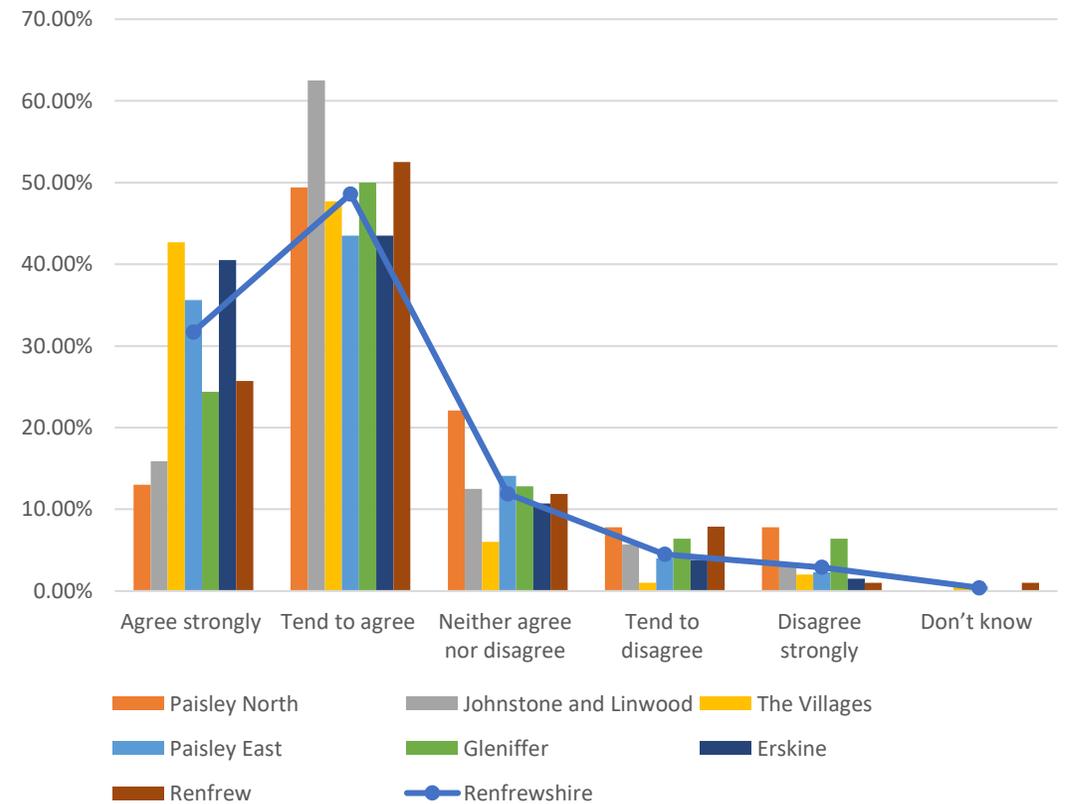


Public Services Panel responses

I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as a place to live

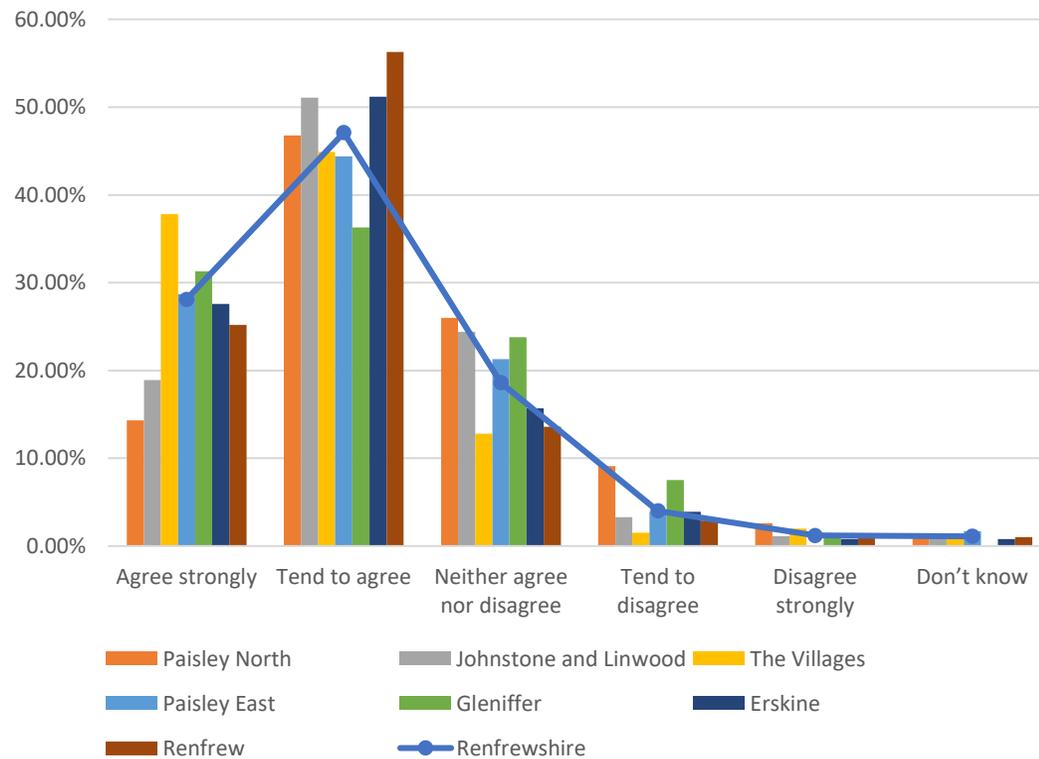


My local area is a safe place to live

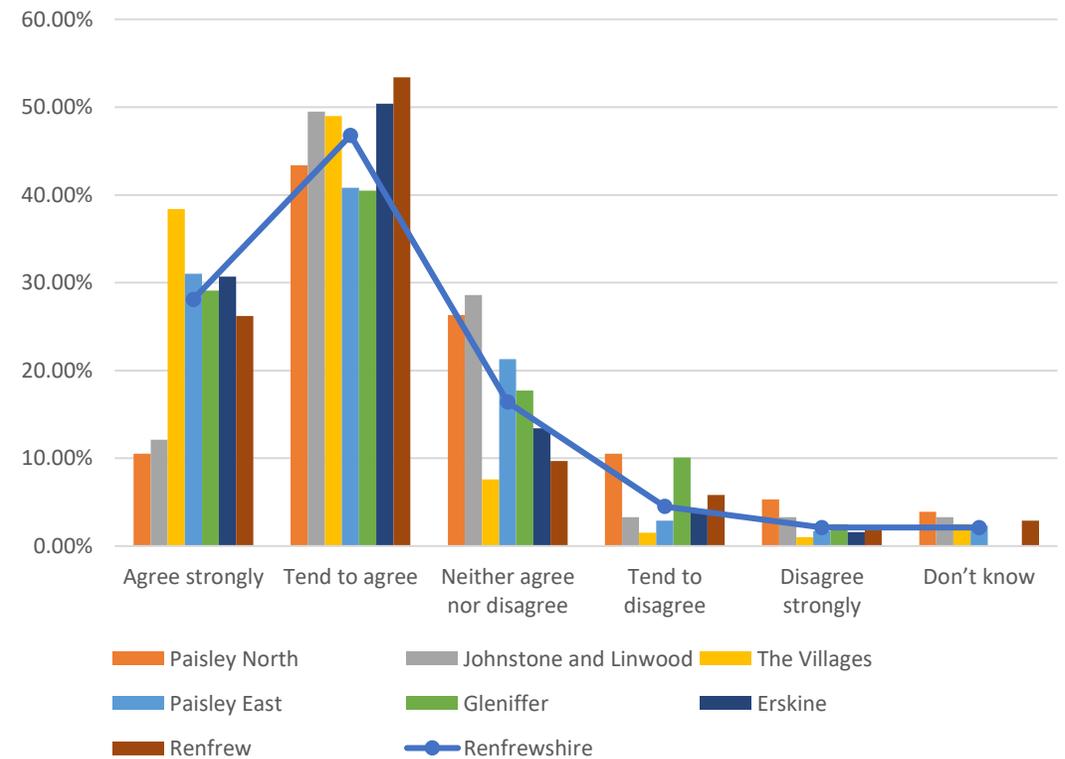


Public Services Panel responses

This is a neighbourhood where people are kind to each other

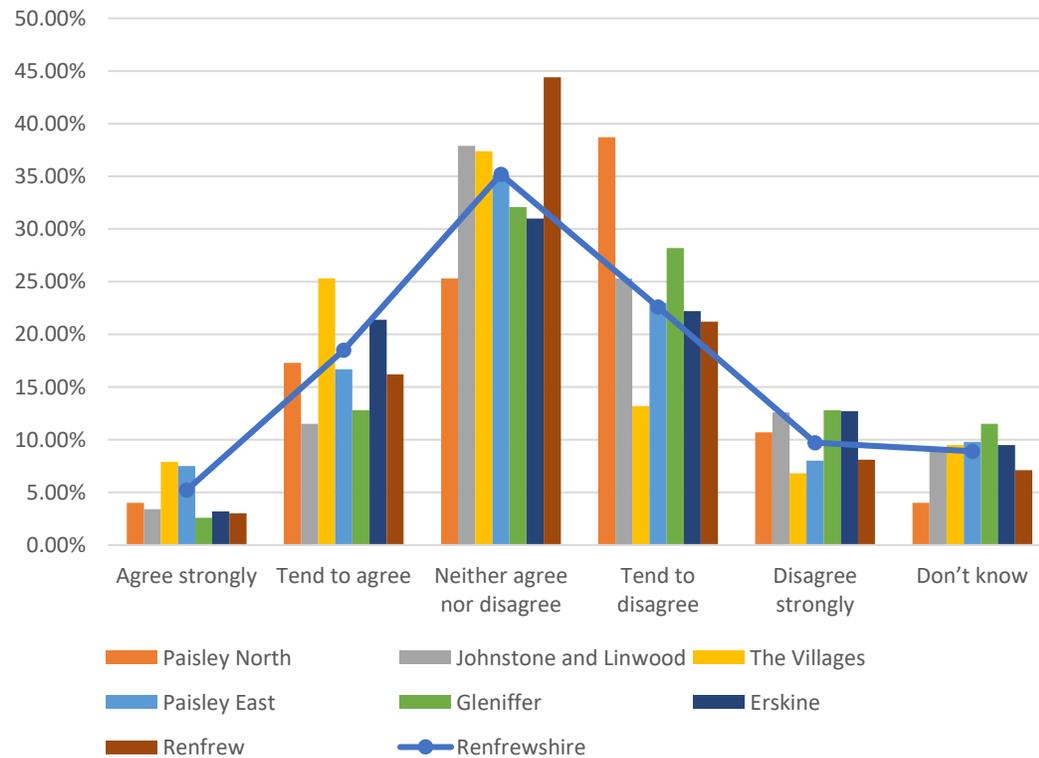


This is a neighbourhood where most people can be trusted

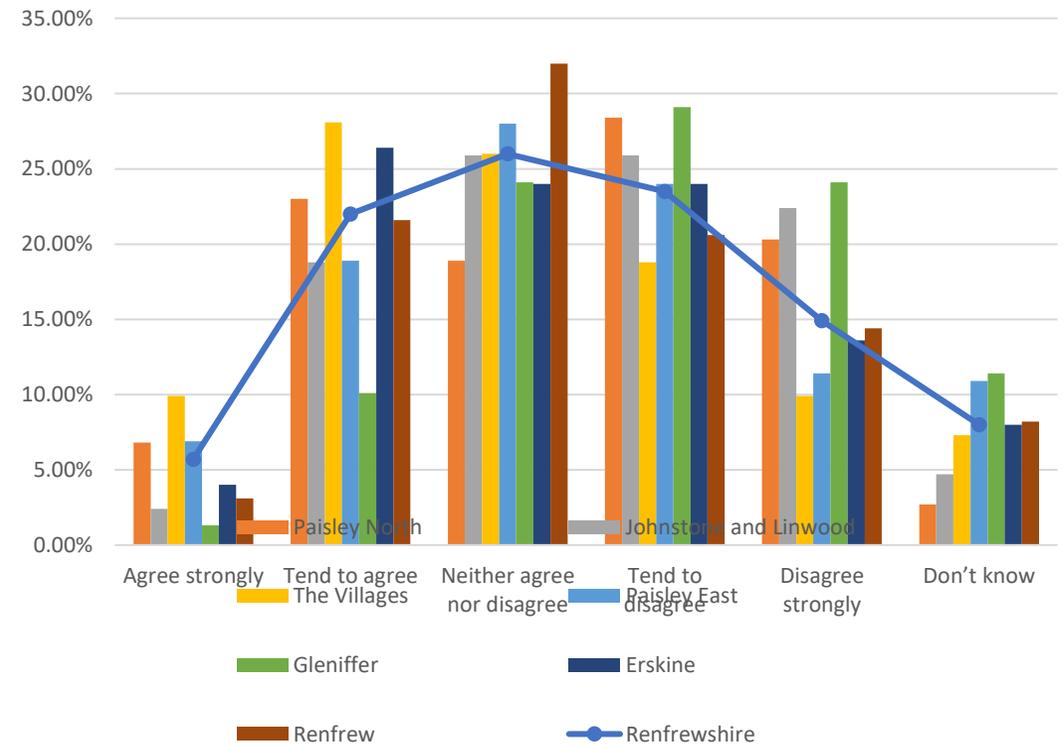


Public Services Panel responses

There are welcoming places and opportunities to meet new people

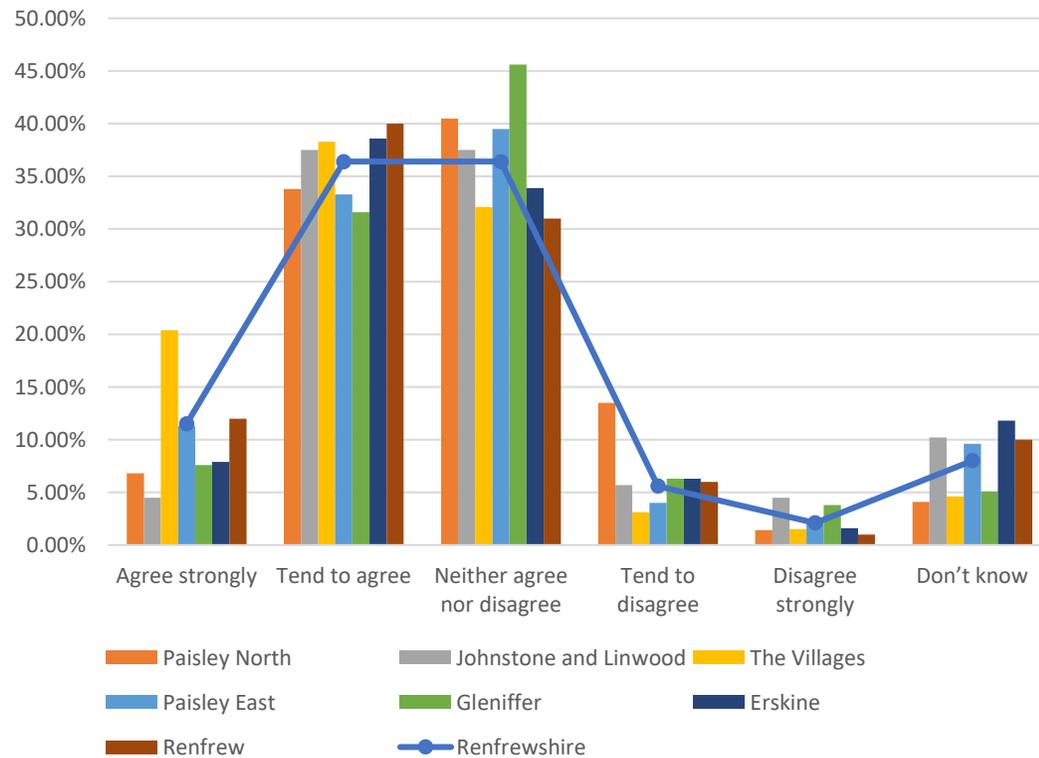


There are places where people can meet up and socialise

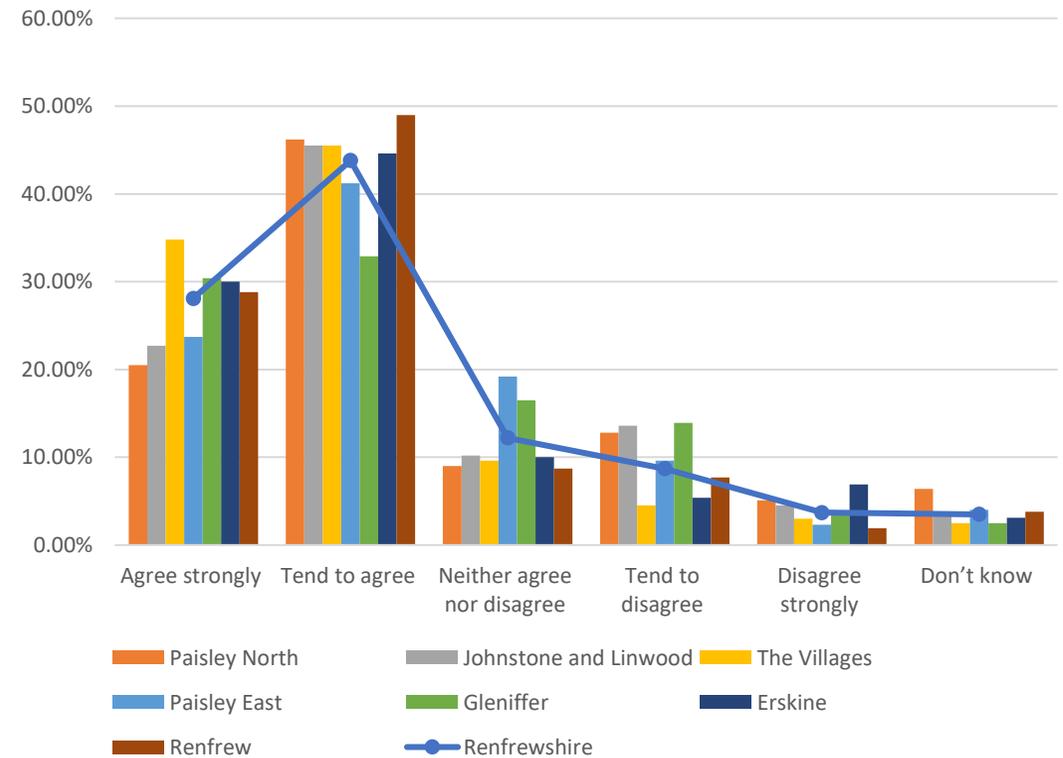


Public Services Panel responses

This is a neighbourhood where people from different backgrounds get on well together

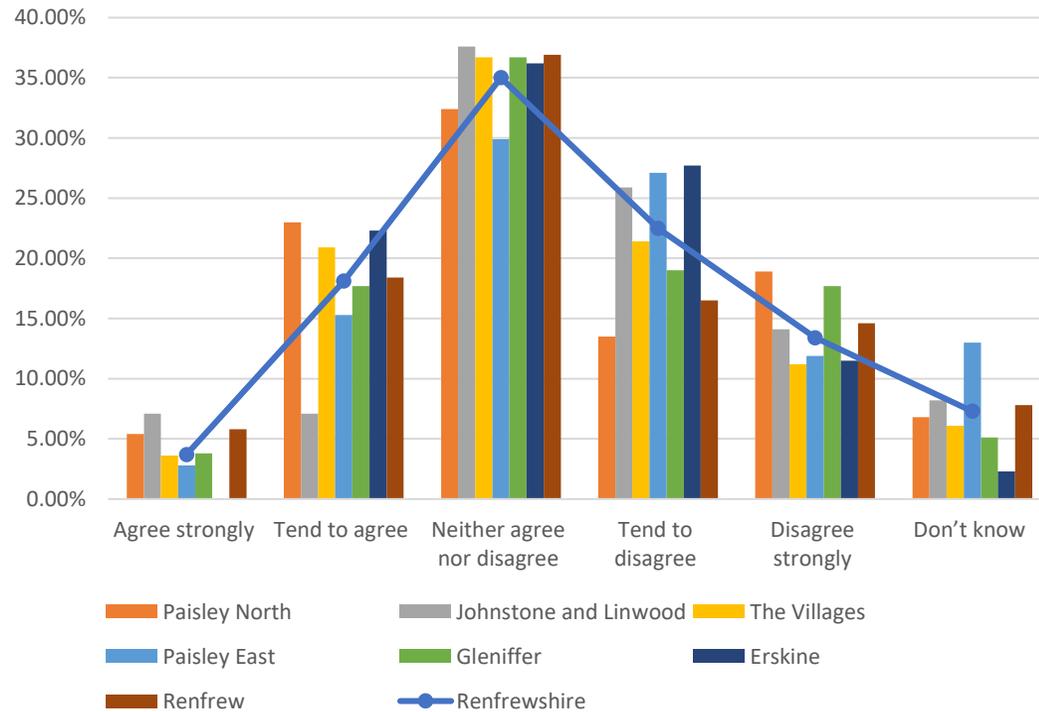


If I was alone and needed help, I could rely on someone in this neighbourhood to help me

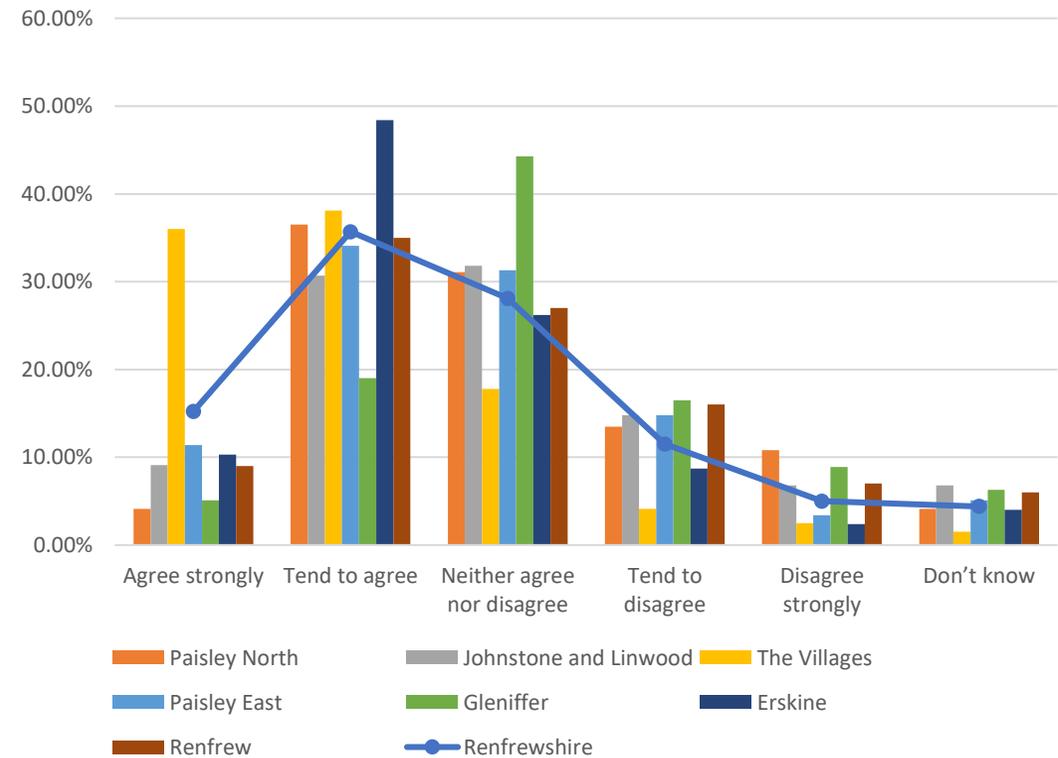


Public Services Panel responses

To what extent do you agree you can influence decisions about public services and other issues of public interest



This is a neighbourhood where local people take action to help improve the neighbourhood



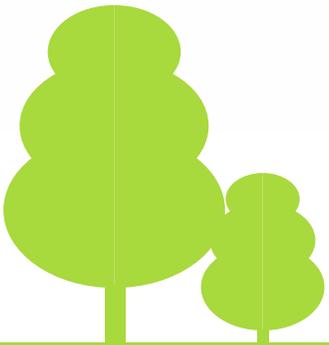


Listening events

- Programme of Listening Events held over winter 2020/21, facilitated by Engage Renfrewshire
- Targeted engagement is being prioritised going forward, i.e. with Diversity and Equality Alliance Renfrewshire and local women's groups
- Discussions with Local Partnerships also important part of this!

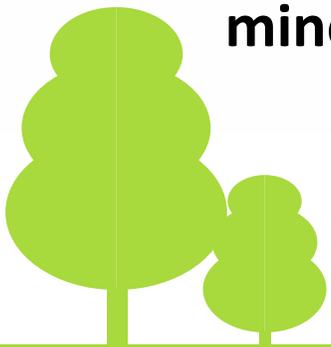
Listening events - key points to date

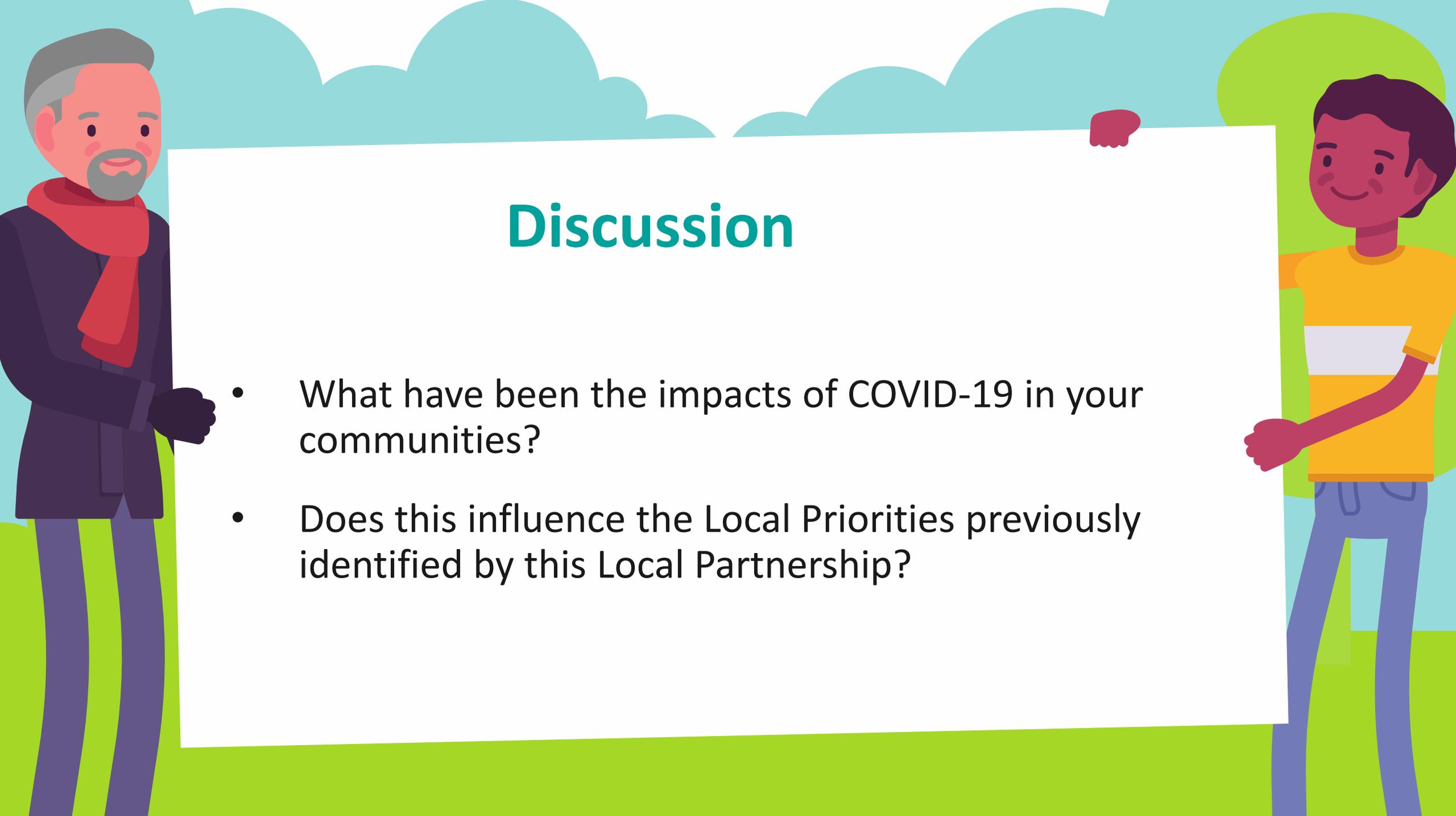
- The impact of the pandemic on people with **low incomes or who are in more insecure employment** is increasingly apparent to community groups and support organisations across Renfrewshire
- **Food insecurity and fuel poverty** are seen as being particular issues, with high ongoing demand for community based supports.
- Partners and Neighbourhood Hubs seeing increasing **complexity in needs** and demand – people with COVID / multiple needs / not always in contact with services or have any other support networks.



Listening events - key points to date

- **Digital exclusion** is a key issue – engagement indicates online provision had worked well in some instances, but that significant issues remained in terms of access and engagement through online means.
- There are particular concerns with the ongoing nature of restrictions and the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly in relation to **loneliness and isolation** and the impact that this can have on **mental health and wellbeing**. Young people were a particular area of concern.
- Engagement indicates that some specific groups are also experiencing potentially greater impact as a result of the pandemic, including those from **black and minority ethnic communities, women, and carers**.



An illustration of two men standing on a green field under a blue sky with stylized clouds. The man on the left is older, with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket and a red scarf. The man on the right is younger, wearing a yellow and white striped shirt and blue pants. They are holding a large white sign that contains the text.

Discussion

- What have been the impacts of COVID-19 in your communities?
- Does this influence the Local Priorities previously identified by this Local Partnership?