



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

10 June 2021

**Community Risk Management Plan Consultation 2021
Results**

Report of the Policy Support Officer

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with information regarding the results of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation which began on 8 February 2021 and ended on 23 March 2021.

Background

2. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document places a legal responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to produce and consult on their CRMP. These documents direct fire and rescue authorities to:
 - be accountable to communities for the service they provide;
 - identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face;
 - make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and the response to fire and rescue related incidents;
 - develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse;
 - collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.

Promotion

3. The CRMP document and an explanatory booklet have been published on our website together with the Community Risk Profile (CRP). Accessible versions of these documents have also been published.
4. In order to ensure that a wide range of views were gathered, links to an online survey were made available via the website and promoted throughout the Service and beyond.
5. The information regarding the Consultation and survey was sent to a range of partner organisations in sectors including Councils, Police, Health, Voluntary and Community, Education, Business, Faith and Housing. Colleagues shared the information to encourage participation.
6. Covid restrictions meant we could not distribute leaflets in the usual way, engage at community venues due to their closure, or hold face to face events. Instead, we sent posters to be displayed in GP practices which also contained information about how to access the survey if you were unable to get online.
7. The Consultation was presented at various online community meetings including at Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), and AAP Co-ordinators promoted the survey link to their contacts and on their Facebook pages where possible. We also presented to Darlington Borough Council, to Durham County Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Darlington Partnership and to the Durham Youth Council. We also consulted with the Senior Command teams of our neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services as well as the Senior Leadership Team of the Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner's Office.
8. The consultation was promoted extensively on social media. We posted about the CRMP Consultation 11 times on Facebook with an average reach of almost 3861 people per post. On Twitter our tweets over the period averaged over 1575 impressions per tweet. There have been three LinkedIn posts with 335 impressions.

Results

Number of responses: 237

9. Question 1

Do you have any overall comments about our CRMP and approach to allocating our resources?

Most respondents did not comment but where the free text box was completed in detail the following issues were raised:

- Fully crewed fire engines should be used rather than Targeted Response Vehicles.

- The plan is comprehensive and there should be an emphasis placed on communities being at the forefront of policy.
- Consideration should be given to the expansion of towns when deciding where resources are located.

10. **Question 2**

Protection: Should we continue to invest and prioritise Business Fire Safety activities to ensure the built environment within County Durham and Darlington remains safe for occupants and visitors?

Yes 93%

No 7%

11. **Question 3**

Emergency Response: Should we continue to trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs)?

Yes 56%

No 44%

12. **Question 4**

Collaboration: Should we identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and key partners?

Yes 96%

No 4%

13. In addition to the questions put to the public about the Service's future plans we also sought to gain more understanding of the diversity of our respondents. This will allow the Service to analyse whether there are low response rates for particular groups and will assist us to improve our engagement and address any gaps in the future.

The responses were as follows:

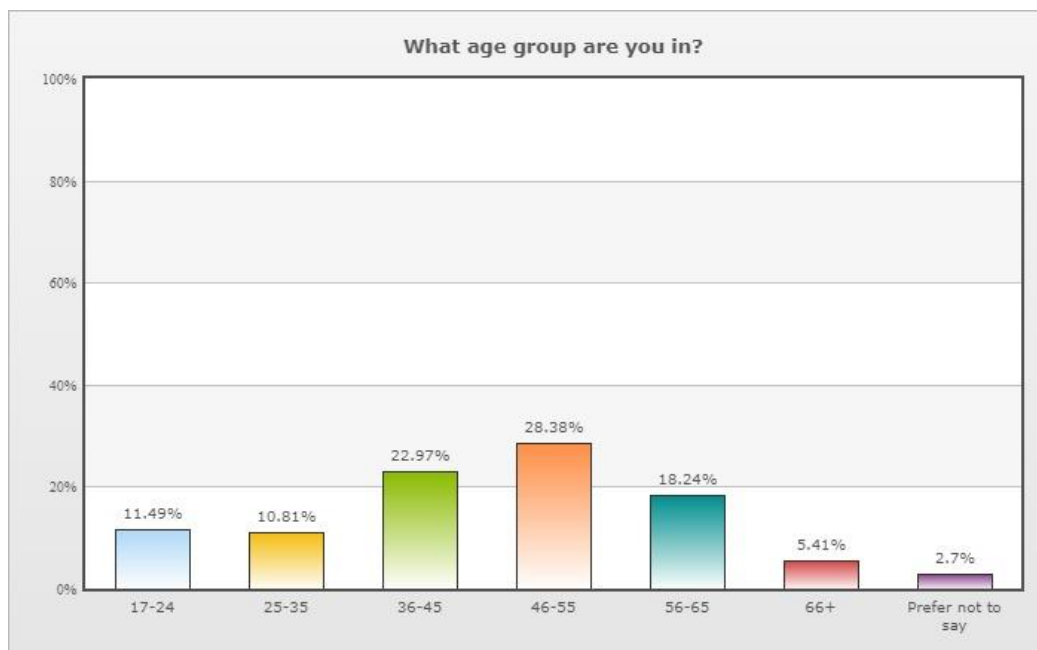
14. **Question 5**

What best describes your gender? (Please self describe)

Male	64%
Female	33%
Non-Binary	1%
Preferred not to say	2%

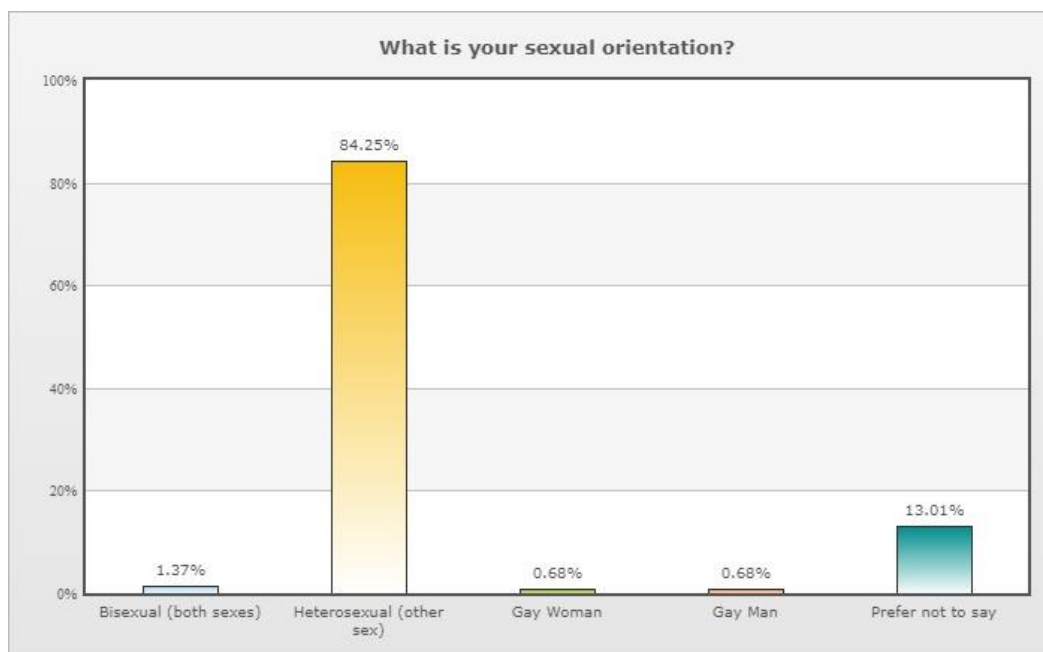
15. **Question 6**

What age group are you in?



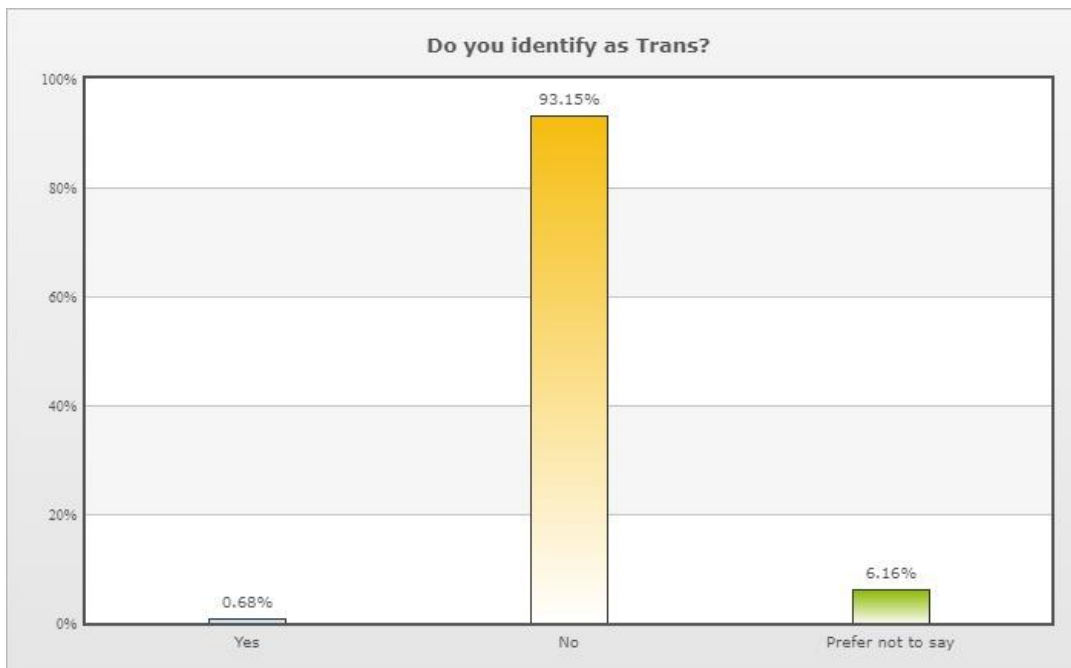
16. **Question 7**

What is your sexual orientation?



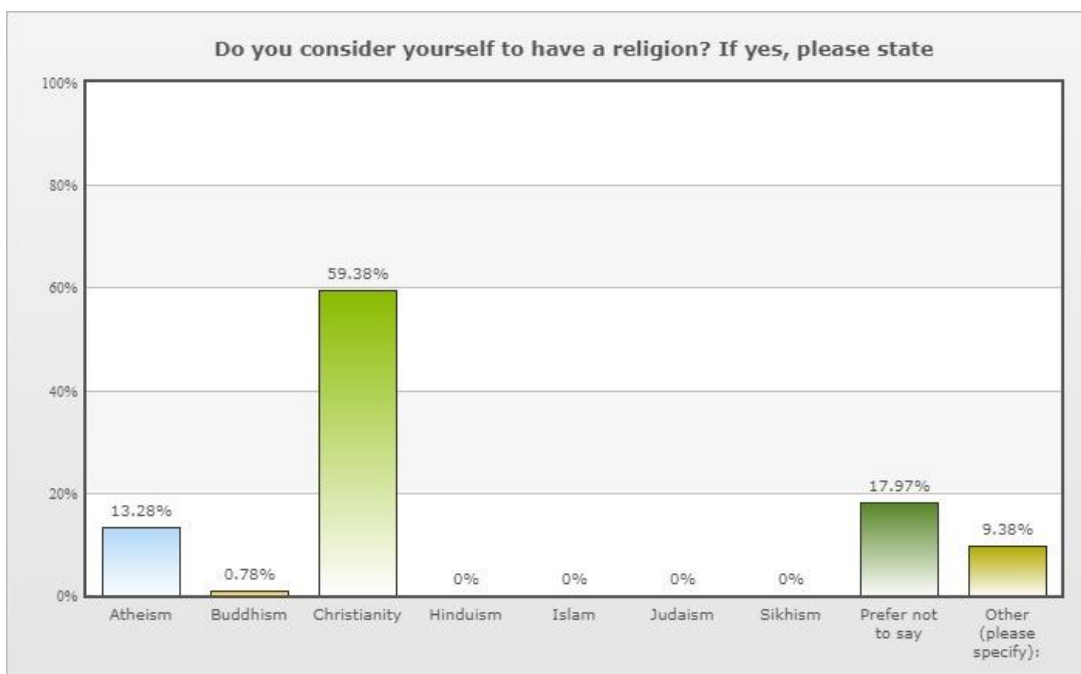
17. **Question 8**

Do you identify as Trans?



18. **Question 9**

Do you consider yourself to have a religion? If yes, please state



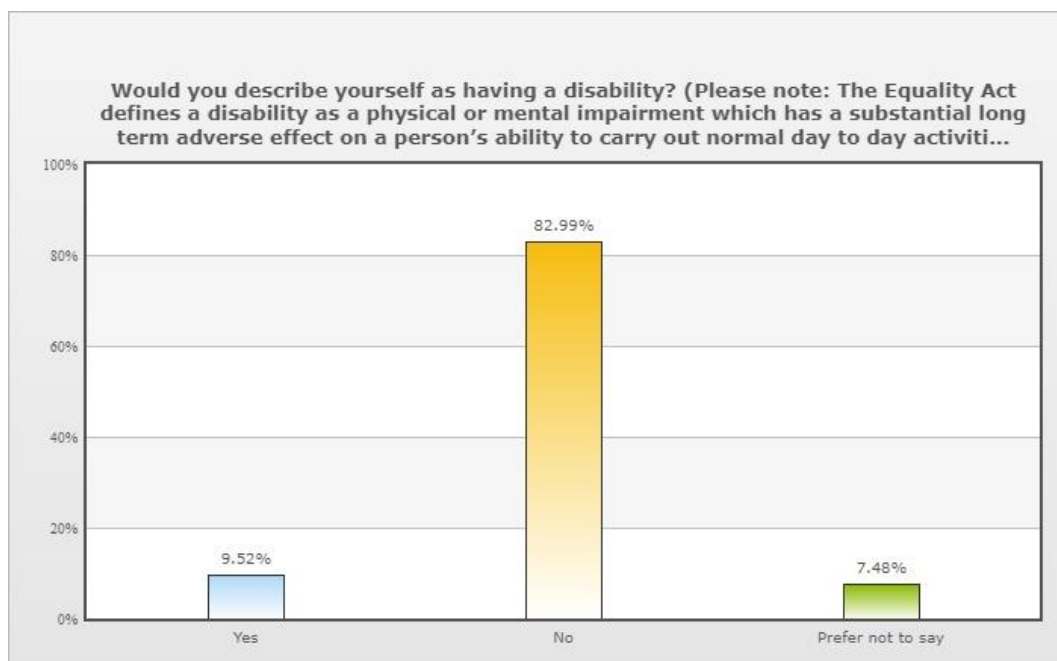
19. **Question 10**

What is your ethnic background?

White British	89%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2%
Any other white	2%
Any other mixed background	1%
Did not disclose	6%

20. **Question 11**

Would you describe yourself as having a disability? (Please note: The Equality Act defines a disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Cancer, HIV and Multiple Sclerosis are covered from point of diagnosis. People who have had a disability but no longer have one are covered by the Act).



Next Steps

21. The Service will analyse the results of the CRMP Consultation, including the Equality and Diversity questions we asked in the survey, together with the Equalities Impact Assessments we carried out on the CRMP document and on the consultation process and incorporate the learning from this into next year's consultation. Current thinking is to carry out the next consultation from December 2021 to February 2022.

Recommendations

22. Members are requested to:
 - a) **note** the contents of the report.
 - b) **consider** the survey results as part of the decision-making process when considering Service resources going forward.