

Fife People's Panel - Survey 28

June 2017 - 892 respondents

Issues in Fife

The topics listed below are relevant throughout the UK, but we would like to know how much of an issue you think they are in Fife:

	Major issue	Minor issue	Not an issue	Don't know	No answer
01 Access to local services	31.7%	31.6%	27.2%	7.3%	2.1%
02 Access to suitable housing	46.9%	18.7%	13.6%	18.6%	2.2%
03 Climate change - flooding etc.	20.7%	40.8%	28.3%	7.4%	2.8%
04 Cost of living (including food, petrol prices)	57.3%	30.7%	8.1%	2.0%	1.9%
05 Crime / antisocial behaviour	48.4%	41.6%	6.1%	2.7%	1.2%
06 Defence / terrorism	31.6%	35.5%	25.6%	4.8%	2.5%
07 Economy	62.4%	26.1%	5.6%	3.6%	2.2%
08 Education / schools	61.1%	20.7%	10.3%	5.7%	2.1%
09 Funding for public services	72.1%	18.3%	3.4%	4.3%	2.0%
10 Increasing elderly population	67.2%	22.1%	6.1%	2.7%	2.0%
11 Local lifestyles - e.g. alcohol/drug abuse	45.9%	39.0%	6.4%	6.5%	2.2%
12 Low pay / fair wages	50.7%	32.1%	8.3%	6.1%	2.9%
13 Migration / changing population	27.2%	42.8%	21.5%	6.3%	2.1%
14 NHS / hospitals / healthcare	75.3%	16.9%	5.7%	1.2%	0.8%
15 Pensions and benefits	55.9%	29.8%	8.0%	4.4%	1.9%
16 Poverty / inequality	52.4%	33.4%	6.4%	5.4%	2.5%
17 Quality of local area / environment	34.1%	42.9%	18.9%	1.5%	2.6%
18 Quality of public services	45.2%	37.4%	11.4%	3.6%	2.4%
19 Rural issues	20.5%	44.8%	16.8%	13.9%	3.9%
20 Town centres	49.4%	37.6%	8.4%	2.2%	2.4%
21 Unemployment	51.3%	28.3%	8.2%	9.3%	2.9%
22 Other	5.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.1%	4.8%

Please enter the number of the issue in the list which you feel is most important in Fife today

01 Access to local services	1.7%		12 Low pay / fair wages	1.8%
02 Access to suitable housing	5.2%		13 Migration/changing population	2.5%
03 Climate change (flooding etc)	0.4%		14 NHS / hospitals / healthcare	18.5%
04 Cost of living	4.4%		15 Pensions and benefits	1.9%
05 Crime / antisocial behaviour	5.6%		16 Poverty / inequality	4.9%
06 Defence / terrorism	1.2%		17 Quality of local area/environment	1.7%
07 Economy	5.8%		18 Quality of public services	2.6%
08 Education / schools	9.4%		19 Rural issues	0.3%
09 Funding for public services	13.3%		20 Town centres	2.7%
10 Increasing elderly population	4.4%		21 Unemployment	3.4%
11 Local lifestyles	2.1%		22 Other	1.2%
			No answer / multiple answers	4.9%

Views on Poverty

Taking each of the following circumstances in turn, would you say that someone is in poverty if:	Yes	No	Don't know	No answer
They have enough to buy things they really need, but not enough to buy things most take for granted	24.6%	62.2%	6.3%	7.0%
They have enough to eat and live, but not enough to buy other things they need	58.4%	30.8%	4.7%	6.1%
They have not got enough to eat and live without getting into debt	86.9%	6.8%	3.1%	3.1%

Why do you think there are people who live in need?

Because they have been unlucky	9.0%
Because of injustice in our society	33.2%
None of these	15.7%

Which of the views below is closest to your own?

Because of laziness or lack of wilpower	19.4%
It's an inevitable part of modern life	18.6%
No answer	4.1%

Some people say that there is very little real poverty in Fife today. Others say there is quite a lot. Which comes closest to your view?

That there is very little real poverty in Fife	31.7%	That there is quite a lot of real poverty in Fife	48.8%
Neither	16.3%	No answer	3.3%

Do you think the Government is doing too much, too little or about the right amount to help people in poverty?

Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Don't know	No answer
4.6%	25.3%	55.4%	13.3%	1.3%

Jobs

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about jobs?	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer
I would enjoy having a paid job - even if I did not need the money	24.9%	40.5%	18.2%	5.0%	5.7%	5.7%
A job is just a way of earning money - no more	6.2%	17.5%	41.5%	29.0%	1.7%	4.1%
Around here, most unemployed people could find a job if they really wanted one	16.3%	37.2%	22.6%	10.9%	10.1%	2.9%

A list of different job attributes is given below. To what extent do you personally think each one is important?	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know	No answer
Job security	71.7%	24.9%	2.0%	0.2%	0.1%	1.0%
High income	6.7%	59.6%	28.8%	1.5%	0.8%	2.6%
Good opportunities for advancement	26.5%	60.7%	10.2%	0.6%	0.2%	1.9%
An interesting job	43.4%	49.1%	5.6%	0.3%	0.0%	1.6%
A job that allows someone to work independently	16.1%	44.6%	31.3%	3.8%	2.2%	1.9%
A job that allows someone to help other people	21.9%	49.1%	20.9%	4.5%	1.8%	1.9%
A job that is useful to society	29.1%	48.9%	15.1%	3.0%	1.3%	2.5%
A job that allows someone to decide their time or days of work	7.5%	39.3%	37.8%	10.9%	2.0%	2.5%
A job that involves personal contact with other people	15.2%	46.0%	27.1%	8.1%	1.7%	1.9%

Welfare Benefits

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about welfare benefits?	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer
The welfare system provides an important safety net for people in need	45.9%	39.8%	7.4%	3.6%	2.2%	1.1%
Large numbers of people fail to claim benefits	12.9%	35.9%	20.4%	5.8%	23.4%	1.6%
Many people who get benefits don't really deserve any help	8.5%	31.2%	34.3%	13.3%	10.4%	2.2%
The government should top up wages for working families on low income	22.5%	31.4%	17.2%	7.0%	5.4%	16.6%
People are better off in work than on benefits	34.0%	33.7%	16.1%	4.9%	9.2%	2.0%
Large numbers of people these days falsely claim benefits	20.3%	29.8%	19.3%	9.0%	20.2%	1.5%
The government should top up wages for lone parents	13.2%	39.6%	27.6%	8.0%	9.2%	2.5%
Other people judge claiming benefits to be shameful	9.5%	37.2%	30.0%	7.6%	13.5%	2.1%
There should be conditions for receiving benefits	42.6%	45.7%	5.3%	2.5%	1.9%	2.0%
People should receive benefits for as long as it takes to find a suitable job	20.3%	45.2%	22.2%	6.1%	4.9%	1.3%
Benefit payments should be stopped if conditions are not met	33.6%	39.8%	14.2%	4.3%	5.7%	2.4%
A household can manage on £20,000 a year	27.9%	30.7%	17.0%	4.8%	17.7%	1.8%
On the whole, the media gives accurate information about welfare benefits and the people who claim them	3.8%	16.5%	34.4%	25.4%	17.9%	1.9%

Opinions differ about the level of benefits for unemployed people. Which of these statements comes closest to your view?

Benefits for unemployed people are too low and cause hardship	24.8%	Neither	40.6%
Benefits for unemployed people are too high and discourage them from finding jobs	31.4%	No answer	3.3%

Basic Income

How familiar are you with the concept known as basic income?

Understand it fully	17.4%	Know something about it	38.1%	No answer 2.0%
Heard just a little about it	29.0%	Never heard of it	13.5%	

A basic income is an income unconditionally paid by the government to every individual, regardless of whether they work, and irrespective of any other sources of income. It replaces many means-tested payments (but not housing or disability benefits) and is high enough to cover basic needs (food, etc). Most models suggest at least £73.10 per week for an adult of working age, in line with current benefits.

If there was to be a basic income at this level, what would be the most likely effect of basic income on how you use your time?

A basic income would not affect how I use my time	46.3%	I would do more volunteering work	13.3%
I would gain additional skills	19.5%	I would look for a different job	18.0%
I would spend more time with family	11.7%	I would stop working	1.5%
I would work less	4.3%	I would work for myself	7.0%
Other (please tell us below)	4.1%	None of these options	19.8%

Which of the following arguments FOR a basic income do you find convincing?

It creates more equality of opportunity	25.1%	It encourages independence and a sense of control	29.4%
It is fairer to women	22.6%	It increases appreciation for household work and volunteering	18.9%
It increases solidarity because it is funded by everyone	12.2%	It encourages people to give back to their community	17.2%
It reduces anxiety about financing basic needs	50.7%	It reduces bureaucracy and administrative costs	29.8%
Other (please tell us below)	3.1%	None of these options	18.2%

Which of the following arguments AGAINST a basic income do you find convincing?

It might encourage people to stop working	37.4%	It increases dependence on the state	39.3%
It would be giving people something for nothing	24.7%	It is against the principle of linking effort and reward	30.4%
It would be difficult to finance	36.8%	It would mean everyone paying higher taxes	26.9%
Others might come to my community to take advantage	20.0%	Only the people who need it most should get something	39.7%
Other (please tell us below)	3.5%	None of these options	10.7%

If there were to be a vote on introducing basic income in Scotland today, how would you vote?

For it	Against it	Not sure	No answer
30.0%	28.5%	40.1%	1.3%

If there were to be a trial of introducing basic income in a community in Fife, would you be?

For it	Against it	Not sure	No answer
37.6%	27.7%	33.3%	1.5%

Respondents

Age / gender	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Not stated
Female	0.1%	1.5%	3.9%	9.1%	11.8%	16.8%	8.2%	0.4%
Male	0.0%	0.1%	1.5%	5.4%	10.5%	17.6%	10.1%	0.0%
Not stated	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.8%	0.3%	1.1%
Total	0.1%	1.7%	5.5%	14.9%	22.5%	35.2%	18.6%	1.5%

What is your ethnic background?

White Scottish	76.3%	African	0.1%	Other ethnic background	0.3%
Other White British	16.7%	Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	0.0%	Mixed or multiple ethnic background	0.1%
Other White	4.5%	Caribbean or Black	0.0%	No answer	1.9%

What is your current employment status?

Employed full-time	21.6%
Employed part-time	5.0%
Self-employed	0.9%
Looking after family / home	0.2%
Out of work and looking for work	2.9%
A student	
Unable to work	

Employed part-time	7.7%
Looking after family / home	1.1%
Out of work but not currently looking for work	1.3%
Retired	58.0%
No answer	1.1%

How would you describe your current housing situation?

Buying with loan / mortgage	19.8%	Owned outright	63.0%	Rent from a social landlord	10.2%
Rent from a private landlord	2.6%	Living rent free	2.2%	No answer	2.1%

	Yes	No	No answer
Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	18.2%	78.7%	3.1%
Do you have problems with mobility?	21.2%	75.2%	3.6%
Do you (or your partner) receive any state benefit or tax credit?	19.4%	76.9%	3.7%
Do you care for a family member/friend because of their illness or disability?	15.2%	81.1%	3.7%
Do you have pre-school children living with you?	2.1%	94.1%	3.8%
Do you have school-age children living with you?	11.0%	85.8%	3.3%

Local Area Committee

City of Dunfermline	Cowdenbeath	Glenrothes	Kirkcaldy	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South West Fife	No answer
14.2%	9.0%	13.0%	16.1%	7.8%	22.2%	15.4%	2.2%