



**Police and Crime Plan Priority: Standing Up for Young People**

**Title: Standing Up for Young People**

**Presented by: Mary Jacobs**

**Purpose.**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Strategic Police and Crime Board on the work undertaken by the Youth Commissioners which are reflected in the section of the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan entitled 'Standing Up for Young People'. It will also provide a report on the 2017 Youth Summit and an overview of several other innovative ventures which aim to improve the employment and life chances of young people.

**Background**

2. The Youth Commission was established in 2014 and is made up of two elected representatives from each Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPU). Following changes in the number of Birmingham NPU's the current Youth Commission is made up of 16 Youth Commissioners.
3. There is flexibility in the term of office, with Youth Commissioners serving 1 or 2 year terms. The Youth Commission is serviced by an Engagement and Partnership Officers who is the youth engagement lead for the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.
4. In 2014, the model relied on a negotiated level of support from Local Authority Youth Services and UK Youth Parliament workers responsible for Youth Parliamentarians. Local Authority staff organised bi-annual elections (or when a vacancy arose). They also provided regular support and safeguarding when required for Youth Commissioners to attend activities and meetings. This provided valuable ongoing

support regarding contact and engagement of Youth Commissioners by the Police and Crime Commissioners office.

5. Since 2014, Youth Service resources have radically reduced, and most Local Authorities have either chosen between support for Youth Parliament based engagement and a Youth Council. The PCC's office is grateful for the commitment of these partners in continuing to prioritise limited resources to support Youth Commissioners.
6. Officers are now exploring the commissioning of one provider to deliver the recruitment of Youth Commissioners through an election- by-peers process in all 8 NPU's across the region, with the target of a new process being in place for the autumn of 2018.
7. The opportunity exists to see what wider influence an election process can have within the PCC's Youth Strategy and WMP Children and Young People's (CYP) Strategy and for the future process to further ensure elected Youth Commissioners are fully engaged and representative of communities. It is hoped that the process will also allow the gathering of insights/analysis into young people related matters.
8. Young people aged 10 to 24 are more likely to be victims of violence , robbery and sexual violence and unfortunately, become involved in criminal activity and the work of the Youth Commission has been vital in highlighting significant issues such as child sexual exploitation, cyber-bullying, mental health and youth violence. Youth Commissioners are one way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and police officers can engage with the views of youth representatives, and break down barriers to trust and confidence in order to protect more young people from harm.

### **The Terms of Reference for the Youth Commission**

9. Youth Commissioners represent young people in the relevant city or town and sit on a central Youth Commission. The Youth Commission will:
  - Lead on consultation with young people on the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, monitoring of priorities and police responses to young people
  - Be the voice of young people. Commission members will have the opportunity to speak directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner, police officers and decision makers. One of the key roles is to make sure you represent the views of young people in their area.
  - Engage and consult with other young people in their local communities and listen to their views
  - Be able to question, challenge and inform policy
  - Help to build relationships and break down barriers that exist between the police, young people and the community
  - Raise the profile of young people with the community in a positive way.

#### Time commitment

- There will be 5 meetings a year
- The term of office can be for a year or 2 year period.
- There will be an annual Youth Summit, led by the Youth Commission, where Youth Commissioners will report back on the work that they have done, and consider the issues that young people want to raise during the coming year.

#### Current cohort of Youth Commissioners

10. Fifteen Youth Commissioners are currently serving, with 1 vacancy existing temporarily in Dudley until an election later in March 2018. The demographic of the Youth Commission is representative in gender and race of the West Midlands population and their ages range from 13 to 18 years of age.

Youth Commissioner	Area represented.
Connor Fowler	Birmingham East/North
Zoe Allen	Birmingham East/North
Caitlin Kelly	Birmingham West
Jack McTavish	Birmingham West
Lucy Hunt	Sandwell
Amirah Shah	Sandwell
Anil Kararra	Coventry
Yasmin Francis	Coventry
Alex Russell	Dudley
Parveen Sahota	Solihull
Molly Rose Byrne	Solihull
Brandi Thompson	Wolverhampton
Khatira Hakimi	Wolverhampton
Luke McDermott	Walsall
Charlie Graver	Walsall

#### The activity of the Youth Commission

11. Meetings of 2 hours duration take place bi-monthly between 6 and 8pm in Lloyd House and are timetabled outside academic exam periods. They are chaired by a Youth Commissioner and attended by the Commissioner and/or APCC Ashley Bertie. West Midlands Police are represented by the Silver Lead Officer, currently Chief Supt. Claire Bell. Other subject lead officers attend dependent on the agenda.
12. Induction sessions are conducted once a year for new Youth commissioners, the latest one being in February 2018. Induction includes a welcome and explanation of the role of the PCC and Youth Commissioners from David Jamieson or APCC Ashley Bertie. A senior WMP officer outlines the learning and experience of operational policing that is

offered, as well as their responsibility to represent the views of other young people. The session explores their personal motivation for the role and the areas of crime which most concern them and the young people they represent. Lastly, the induction provides an introduction to the responsible use of social media and communications delivered by the PCC's Communications Manager, Richard Costello.

13. The Youth Commission follows a bi-annual pattern of activity; in Year One, the Youth Commissioners spend more time establishing relationships with the NPU team and local community safety partnership team, as well as visiting partner organisations that provide support services in the areas of policing and crime the individuals are interested in or wish to make a difference.
14. In Year One Youth Commission meetings are taken up with:
  - presentations from WMP and the PCC's staff on policing and crime topics requested by the young people – in 2017 this has included Hate Crime, CSE, drugs and alcohol misuse amongst young people, Careers in WMP, FGM and Forced Marriage, perceptions on migrants, Cyber bullying, Mental Health, firearms and knife crime, peer pressure and gang culture and suicide awareness.
  - topics that the Commissioner or WMP bring to the Youth Commission; interaction and debate on service development, potential new policy or processes, or simply young people's reactions to topical events – in 2017 this has included consultation on the new digital platform WMPolice Online, the ethical use of Big Data, Question Time with the Chief Constable, Police Cadets, spit guards and counter terrorism communications. Youth Commissioners supported the launch of the Cadets Service, the Chief Constable road shows, and the Commissioner's annual business summit in January 2018.
  - responding to an annual themed consultation task set by the Commissioner – in 2017 Youth Commissioners were tasked with researching and evaluating which victim support services were accessible and adapted to young people in their areas, and what young people considered should be taken into account when commissioning victim support services for young people generally. The research was to inform the Commissioners development of appropriate and accessible support services provided specifically for young people who are victims of crime. The results of this year's research was presented at the 2017 Youth Summit.
15. In Year two, Youth Commission meeting time is taken up by participation in a Leadership Course. The course is provided by an external provider but supported

internally with input by WMP and the PCC's lead officer for young people, Mary Jacobs.

16. This be-spoke training for Youth Commissioners was trialled in 2016, to invest in their development as volunteers, providing them with skills to create effective campaigns around issues raised at previous Youth Summits and in ways that would resonate with other young people and stakeholders. This first course received a positive evaluation and is now being repeated.
17. The course will run again in 2018 between April and September, giving Youth Commissioners the opportunity to acquire skills in identifying goals, developing issues and campaigns, identifying the symptoms and causes of crime, mapping solutions, creating an action plan, recognising risks, working in teams, project management, setting SMART goals, stakeholder mapping, market research, digital campaigning, measuring impact, evaluation and making a presentation.

### **Youth Summit 2017**

18. The annual Youth Summit in December 2017 saw approximately 140 youth representatives and neighbourhood police officers from across the seven local authority areas gather in festive spirits at Tally Ho. Invitations were extended to all Local Authority youth groups within the WMP area, to Youth Offending Teams, selected schools and youth organisations directly engaged with the work of the PCC's Office in 2017.
19. The evening was opened by PCC David Jamieson who reflected on a busy year of activity spent on action and collaboration with partner agencies to improve the life chances of young people and protect them from harm. He commended the inspiration and dedication provided by young people, specifically commending former Youth Commissioner Jardell Miller for his role in the new WMP Cadet Service.
20. Co-hosting on the night was provided by Assistant PCC Ashley Bertie and 5 Youth Commissioners, introducing speakers on mental health and youth violence. The agenda alerted a younger audience to the outcomes from the Commissioners work related to reducing crime and preventing harm. The presentations also included compelling life stories told by two young people who had survived either mental illness or other adverse childhood experiences to go on and achieve and thrive in life.
21. The Youth Commissioners gave their own presentation on their recent research into providers of support services for young people who are victims of crime, noting which providers were accessible for young victims as well as those who were poor in their response. They led a short group exercise, directing questions to the audience on: who they would approach if they were a victim of crime, where they would go to for

information of specialised victim support services, and for those who had sought help, whether they were satisfied with the service provided. The research and findings will inform the Victims Commission and the PCC in their review of the Victims Strategy.

22. APCC Ashley Bertie led an interactive piece on young people's Top Ten Tips for the Police borrowed from the Childrens Society's 'Big up the Bill' campaign. Youth representatives gave plenty of heartfelt feedback on how they wish police officers to be respectful, knowledgeable, calm under pressure and friendly in a professional way.
23. Stands with information on the WMP Cadets Service, careers in the police, body worn cameras, CSE ambassadors and spit guards also lined the room. APCC Ashley Bertie presented Certificates to Youth Commissioners at the end of their two years' service, with new candidates for 2018/19 given a warm welcome.
24. The event continues to be a popular event with the young people attending, and provides an opportunity for the Commissioner and West Midlands Police neighbourhood teams to engage directly with a cross section of young people across the west midlands. It also creates a transparency of the work of the Youth Commission, as well as playing a part in the development of the individual Youth Commissioners. Pleasingly, each cohort of Youth Commissioners has been willing to take an increasing amount of responsibility for the design and hosting of the event.

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