

Strategic Policing and Crime Board

Date of meeting: 19 March 2019

Police and Crime Plan Priority: Standing Up for Young People

Title: Youth Commission

Presented by: Mary Jacobs, Partnerships and Engagement Officer

Purpose of paper

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 under the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan section entitled 'Standing Up for Young People'.
2. The report is for discussion.

Background

3. The Youth Commission was established in 2014 and is made up of two elected representatives between the ages of 13 and 18 years from each of the 8 Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) Areas. The NPUs align with the 7 local authority areas with Birmingham further split into two NPUs.
4. Youth Commissioners serve a term of 2 years. The Youth Commission is serviced by the Engagement and Partnership Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioners Office. West Midlands Police (WMP) appoint a senior officer to be the Children and Young People lead

officer to attend the Youth Commission meetings. In 2018, this role was passed from CS Claire Bell to CS Rich Baker. The WMP lead Officer joins APCC Bertie and a Comms Manager to take part in the Youth Commissioner Induction. Throughout the year The WMP lead officer is the strategic and proactive communication link between the Youth Commission and other divisions of the Force, especially neighbourhood policing teams.

5. Contact details of Youth Commissioners are shared with WMP NPU Commanders, Young Persons Officers as well as Heads of Community Safety Partnerships and vice versa.
6. In 2014, the model relied on a negotiated level of support from Local Authority Youth Services. Since 2014, Youth Service resources have radically reduced and it was therefore decided in 2018 to seek expressions of interest with the outcome of commissioning one provider to organise the recruitment and peer elections of Youth Commissioners across the region for the period 2019/2020 during the summer and autumn of 2018.
7. The OPCC commissioned Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) to carry out this high profile election process in the seven local authority areas. There was oversight of the project to ensure key statutory youth service contacts were engaged constructively, duplication of effort was kept to a minimum, whilst the opportunity for partnering with a wider network of voluntary sector youth organisations was encouraged. A communication strategy was agreed to maximise awareness amongst youth organisations in the public and voluntary sectors.
8. The debrief and feedback from PYF at the end of the process did identify the need for greater marketing of the role to raise awareness, and the Induction process for the new candidates in November therefore incorporated a stronger emphasis on the Youth Commissioners responsibility for raising their own profiles and that of the role on social media.
9. The outcome of the elections in seven local authority areas was publically announced by the PCC in October 2018.

Key points

10. Thirty-five candidates were attracted to stand for election, and over 5,000 young people voted in the elections. Candidates were instructed to produce a video clip as their mini biography and as part of their election campaign. Some candidates found this a barrier to applying so this was encouraged but not used as a reason for non –selection.

Present cohort

NPU area	Name	Age
Birmingham East	Anaya Pala	15
Birmingham East	Hunza Hussain	13
Birmingham West	Navera Parwez	15
Birmingham West	Daniel Ayodeji	18
Coventry	Husnaa Mota	17
Coventry	Deepti Sapkota	17
Dudley	Emerson Hanslip	16
Dudley	Georgia Whitehouse	16
Sandwell	Kareena Ratti	15
Sandwell	Hammad Khalid	16
Solihull	Thomas Gilleran	16
Solihull	Becky Brown	17
Walsall	Mariam Sohail	18
Walsall	Harvind Grewal	17
Wolverhampton	Khatira Hakimi	17
Wolverhampton	Brandi Thompson	17

11. The Youth Commission has attracted candidates from Youth Parliament (UKYP), Cadets, Positive Youth Foundation, Aspiring Youth Forum and Birmingham Beatfreeks, providing a closer link with a wider network of youth focused organisations, and their staff. An invitation to the 2018 Youth Summit was extended to this wider group of organisations.
12. This complements ongoing engagement with other existing youth forums around all relevant policy areas: youth employment, youth violence and exploitation, business mentoring, knife crime, social enterprise, Stop and Search, cyber safety. The Youth lead officer maintains links with creative arts programmes and providers that engage young people, and supports

discussions with other agencies such as Early Help, Talent Match, and Leaders Unlocked to discuss co-design models involving young people to inform future external funding applications.

Activity by the Youth Commission during 2018

13. 2018 represented the second year out of the term for the previous cohort of Youth Commissioners, and as such is the period in which the Youth Commission concentrates more time on a Leadership course, designed to impart skills and experience in researching, designing and delivering a campaign. Campaign subjects are chosen from crime issues affecting young people and they have to demonstrate they have tested the campaign concept and it has the practical potential to influence crime prevention or reduce young people from becoming victims of harm from crime. UpRising (Birmingham) were once again the organisation chosen to run the Leadership course.

14. This year, the Youth Commissioners chose the Commissioner's Drugs Policy as their campaign topic, creating their messaging and interventions for a youth audience. Ben Twomey facilitated a session on the evolving OPCC Drugs Policy. Birmingham Changing Futures provided two 'Experts by Experience' in order that Youth Commissioners could gain a better understanding of how substance misuse, alcohol abuse, undiagnosed mental health conditions, peer pressure and bullying had affected their life choices, and to ask what interventions might have been timely and effective. The climax of the course was a 'Dragons Den' event in August, held at the Princes Trust HQ in Digbeth. The winning team demonstrated a mobile App to enable a young person to excuse themselves out of vulnerable situations and a pilot workshop for youth groups or schools to the Panel of experts. Parents and mentors were also invited to witness the culmination of the campaigns and meet APCC Ashley Bertie.

15. During the year, Youth Commissioners were also involved in the following:
 - Presentation to SPCB on research into victims services for young people in the west midlands.
 - Media interviews together with the PCC on youth violence and its root causes
 - Stakeholder panels to recruit senior police officers
 - Consultations on new domestic abuse legislation
 - Active Citizen Fund scrutiny panels
 - Borough wide surveys in Coventry and Birmingham on issues affecting young people
 - WMP Force Comms team consultation on knife crime campaign footage

- WMP Force Contact public contact strategy and citizens satisfaction consultations
- Participation in Chief Constable roadshows
- Participation in events to launch the Cadets Service.
- Local lobbying activity around the closure of police stations
- Local activity in conjunction with refugee and migrant centres
- Hosting the 2018 Youth Summit.

Youth Summit 2018

16. Last year's Youth Summit was held on December 11th and attracted approximately 150 delegates including Youth Commissioners, Youth Parliamentarians, Youth Councils, Dudley Cadets, NPU Officers, Force Contact representatives and youth organisations, including the Princes Trust, Coventry Positive Youth Foundation, Birmingham's Aspiring Youth Forum, Mentors in Violence Prevention, ITN Fixers, Youth of Walsall, Wolverhampton's Headstart, and Birmingham's Beatfreaks.
17. Youth Commissioners have been supported to take an increasing role in the Summit, from the co-design of the agenda to hosting and presenting on the night. Three Youth Commissioners, Luke McDermott, Raihannah Kulthoom and Alex Russell took the leading roles in an evening with two key themes of knife crime and safety on-line.
18. The agenda was designed to provide a platform for young presenters who were passionate about making young people and decision makers do more to prevent knife crime; conveying the personal impact and impact on whole families of losing friends to knife crime. The premiere of a short film made by Youth of Walsall with ITN Fixers at the event was a very effective way of communicating this message. CS Ian Parnell and Crime Prevention Officer Richard Plumb conducted an interactive straw poll of the delegates, asking some key questions around motivations to knife carrying and which adults they most trusted to turn to when a victim of knife crime. Lastly, it gave the audience the opportunity to comment. The Summit was successful in its outcomes, and created subsequent contact from the media and schools. The Youth Commissioners will also be actively engaged in the planning of the PCC's Knife Crime Summit aimed at young people, which will be held later in 2019.

Priority list of topics for Youth Commission working meetings in 2019

19. In the first year of their term, Youth Commissioners are consulted on the policing and crime issues that affect them and other young people in the areas that they represent. Equally, they will be alerted to subject areas that both the PCC and WMP wish to engage them on, or task them with research. Wherever possible, following the sharing of information, volunteering opportunities to take a part in operational activity in NPU's or in the OPCC are identified and

offered to Youth Commissioners. For example, two Youth Commissioners are now representatives on the CTU IAG, and many are attending local Stop and Search scrutiny panels.

20. Appended to this report is the priority list that was identified at the first working meeting of the new cohort in 2019. A schedule for the rest of the year to include the information sharing is being drafted.

Forward planning

21. Policy and Commissioning Team Managers and the Partnership and Engagement Officer are also in the process of identifying how all policy areas are better communicated to the Youth Commission to ensure that young people are represented in the development of policies and commissioning activities across the OPCC.
22. The present cohort of Youth Commissioners has a bigger profile on social media as a result of more emphasis on this at their induction. The content of the new OPCC website will also explain more about the YC role, who the current representatives are and what past 'alumni' have gone on to achieve. It is the intention that more press statements should include the voice of young people through greater use of the Youth Commissioners and the Stop and Search youth trainers.
23. Within specific policy areas of reducing youth violence and exploitation, and all the prevention and diversion activity there is the need to use peer influence in a positive way. The Youth Commissioners will have a leadership role in effectively communicating the positive actions that the Commissioner, WMP and Local Authorities are taking to a wide audience of their peers, and ensuring that they feedback the views of young people from the area they represent. Youth engagement through a 'tackling crime manifesto' from young people will be considered as one mechanism for young people to put forward their views directly to the PCC.
24. The Board is asked to note the active interest from young people in the role of Youth Commissioners and its increasing potential to inform policy as well as the development of future leaders in our communities. The PCC wishes to thank the Youth Commissioners for their continued contribution and active work in standing up for young people.

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Appendix 1

Youth Commission 2019/20 list of priority subjects.

Drugs:

- Sharing information for parents
- Street aware workshops on drugs and alcohol.
- Low level drug use, including laughing gas and weed.
- Informing younger children

Knife Crime:

- On the curriculum ,including at primary level
- More information on the impact on families, more information to families
- Young people reflecting on their self-identity.
- Reasons why there are more on the streets
- Knife Bins – a location map
- Knife crime and drugs

Violent crime;

- Prevention and diversion/ Early Intervention Youth Fund activity in local areas
- Gangs.
- Personal safety
- Crime prevention for 10-14 year olds
- Access and satisfaction with victim support services for young people
- Young witnesses of domestic violence

Mental health and crime

- Mental health services for young people

Young people involved in vandalising vehicles

Linking the Youth Commission with other youth organisations

Peer research and consultation

Stop and Search

- impact of Stop and Search on young people
- Understanding the stats.
- Evaluating the schools programme on S & S

CSE / County Lines/Drug trafficking

Hidden Crimes

Subjects proposed by WMP about its services and functions

- IAG's
- Use of force guidance
- Supporting Early Help and Troubled families
- Children First Strategy
- Police and School Panels
- Contacting the police – new ways of contacting, being a witness of crime, citizen satisfaction

OPCC proposed subjects

Cyber security and fraud scams

Victim support services for young people, service accessibility and user satisfaction

Crime statistics and data

- The ethics of Big Data use
- Understanding crime data, creating crime information for a younger audience.

OPCC led projects:

- Commonwealth Games and volunteering
- West Midlands Secure estate for young offenders
- Wrap around support for schoolchildren with complex needs.

- Community sports and reducing offending.

Overall, the Youth Commissioners were interested in how they could go onto explaining these subjects to groups of parents, that they wanted to learn in informal group sessions and they were keen to utilise people with Lived Experience in awareness raising.