

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE  
AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

026/2013

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Title: **West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner - Youth Consultation Structures**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has responsibility for gaining the views of the public, with specific mention of victims of crime, in the policing area about matters concerning policing and crime. These requirements are set out in the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Other statutory consultation duties of relevance are those which require public consultation on the Commissioner's police and crime plan.

**DECISION**

I approve the establishment of the Youth Consultation structure set out in the Annex to this decision which establishes the approach that I will take to consult with young people across the West Midlands.

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**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....Bob Jones.....

Date.....3 July 2013.....

## **NON – CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has responsibility to gain the views of the public, with specific mention of victims of crime, in the policing area about matters concerning policing and crime. These requirements are set out in the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Other statutory consultation duties of relevance are those which require public consultation on the Commissioner's police and crime plan.

This process takes account of the discussions and recommendations made by the Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of all consultation activities is included in the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime budget for 2013-14.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has responsibility to gain the views of the public, with specific mention of victims of crime, in the policing area about matters concerning policing and crime. These requirements are set out in the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Other statutory consultation duties of relevance are those which require public consultation on the Commissioner's police and crime plan.

### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Commissioner will ensure that the operation of this process ensures that consideration is given to all equality implications.

### **Schedule of Background Papers**

There are no background papers for this decision making report.

### **Public Access to Information**

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.

## **West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

### **Youth Consultation**

#### **Introduction**

1. This paper sets out the approach to be taken by the Commissioner for youth consultation across the West Midlands. It is designed to ensure that consultation and engagement is led and informed by young people and is an important strand of the Commissioner's consultation and engagement strategy. The main purpose of the Commissioner's first Youth Summit held on the 26 January 2013, was to give young people the opportunity to influence the development of on-going consultation and engagement mechanisms.

#### **Background**

2. 180 young people attended the Commissioner's Youth Summit. It included representatives from the seven Youth Offending Teams and Youth Parliaments across the West Midlands. In addition, there was representation from a number of other groups including the Princes Trust and other smaller youth groups.
3. Young people were asked to consider the relative merits of a number of options for the development of on-going consultation structures, which included Youth Commissioners, a Youth Forum, a Youth Commission, an independent advisory group or the use of social media. Feedback included support for the use of existing structures to avoid duplication. There was no overall consensus on the suggested future structures. However there were a number of options that were considered by as a possible way forward. These options have been explored in developing the preferred consultation structure to be used in future.
4. West Midlands Police has already established a Youth Independent Advisory Group and the Office for Policing and Crime is working with the Force to develop this body into a Youth Commission. The Youth Advisory Group consists of 20 members. The Commissioner will make use of the existing membership of this Group with the addition of two Youth Commissioners from each local authority area. A further 4-6 members, will be added to ensure representation from special interest areas.

#### **Youth Commission's Terms of Reference**

5. The Youth Commission will:
  - lead on the Commissioner's consultation with young people on the Police and Crime Plan, monitoring of priorities and police responses to young people.
  - be the voice of young people and 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 they represent the views of the young people in their area.
  - engage and consult with other young people in their local communities and listen to their views

- be able to express and represent the views of young people from their locality
- 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 within the community in a positive way.

### **The structure**

6. There will be two Youth Commissioners from each local authority area (14 in total). In the interim they will be chosen by the Youth Council. In 2014-15 they will be elected through the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) structures. The Office is currently looking at how the election process will work.
7. The Youth Commissioners will join the Force Youth Independent Advisory Group to form the Commissioner's Youth Commission. This Commission will assess their make-up to determine any under-representation and select up to a further 4-6 young people to ensure that the Commission is representative of the West Midlands.
8. There will be an annual youth summit, led by the Youth Commission where they will report back on the work that has been done for that year and consider their work for the forthcoming year. In the interim the 2<sup>nd</sup> youth summit will launch the structures that are set out in this paper
9. Alongside the Youth Commission, the Commissioner's office will work with young people to develop social media as a means for engagement to extend the Commissioner's reach across this constituency of people.