

Strategic Policing and Crime Board

Date of meeting

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 (PCC) Police and Crime Plan section entitled 'Standing Up for Young People'.
 - 1.1 The report will reflect on the impact of the Youth Commission since its inception in 2014
 - 1.2 The report will be co-presented with several Youth Commissioners who will give a personal account of an aspect of the role they have carried out during 2019/20.
 - 1.3 An Appendix to the report will provide some current news of former Youth Commissioners to evidence and reflect on the outstanding young citizens the Youth Commission has supported.
 - 1.4 The report will outline the short term planning for Youth Commissioners in 2020; to further increase the ways in which they represent and act as leaders in their own communities and on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner of the West Midlands.
 - 1.5 The report is for information only.

Background

- 2.0 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 Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPU). Following changes in the number of Birmingham NPU's the current Youth Commission is made up of 16 Youth Commissioners.
- 2.1 Youth Commissioners (YCs) 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. The WMP lead Officer joins APCC Bertie and a Communications Manager to deliver the Youth Commissioner's 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.

- 2.2 Contact details for Youth Commissioners are shared with WMP NPU Commanders, Young Persons Officers, Statutory Youth Services and Heads of Community Safety Partnerships and vice versa.
- 2.3 In 2018, the OPCC commissioned Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) to carry out this high profile election process in the seven local authority areas.
- 2.4 Thirty-five candidates were attracted to stand for election, and over 5,000 young people voted in the elections.
- 2.6 The Induction process for the new candidates in November 2018 incorporated a stronger emphasis on the Youth Commissioners responsibility for raising their own profiles and that of the role on social media.
- 2.7 A by election was necessary in Wolverhampton during 2019 when both Youth Commissioners chose to step down, but two new representatives Melvin Riley and Syed Hussain have assimilated quickly into their role and the group.

Present cohort of Youth Commissioners

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	Vacant since Dec 2019	
Solihull	Thomas Gilleran	16
Solihull	Becky Brown	17
Walsall	Mariam Sohail	18
Walsall	Harvind Grewal	17
Wolverhampton	Melvin Riley	17
Wolverhampton	Syed Naqui	17

- 3.0 The Youth Commission has attracted young leaders who are already part of the Midlands Youth Parliament (UKYP), Cadets, Positive Youth Foundation, Birmingham's Aspiring Youth Forum, the Young Combined Authority, Commonwealth Games Ambassadors and Birmingham Beatfreeks, creating a wider network of youth focused organisations, and their staff.
- 3.2 This complements ongoing engagement by the Partnerships and Engagement Officer (PEO) with other existing youth forums on relevant policy areas: youth employment, reducing youth violence and exploitation, business mentoring, knife crime, social enterprise, Stop and Search, cyber safety, mental health services and fairness in policing. The PEO maintains a

network of contacts with creative arts programmes and early intervention providers that engage young people, and supports discussions with other agencies such as Early Help, Talent Match, Sports Birmingham, Youth Promise Plus, Princes Trust, Envision, and Leaders Unlocked to discuss co-design models involving young people to inform future external funding applications.

- 3.3 The Members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board may be familiar with the Terms of Reference for Youth Commissioners but a copy is placed at Appendix B for information.
- 3.4 The role of a Youth Commissioner offers the opportunity to young people to contribute to and scrutinise the policies within the Police and Crime Plan, and similarly, to hold West Midlands Police to account for how they deliver services to young people.

What has been the impact of the Youth Commissioners since their inception?

- 4.0 Firstly, Youth Commissioners are given the role of representing the concerns and issues of young people in the West Midlands and therefore it has been important that the Youth Commission are given every opportunity to provide the opinions of young people into the work of the Force and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 4.1 From the outset, Youth Commissioners have been able to represent the views of young people in their area to the most senior decision makers in West Midlands Police and to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioner or his deputy are present at all their meetings.

West Midlands Police designate a Chief Superintendent as the lead officer to attend and support the YC's endeavours, providing feedback to NPU Commanders. These have included officers from neighbourhood policing, PPU, counter terrorism and ROCU, and this role is presently held by CS Rich Baker. The Induction of new Youth Commissioners introduces them to their role, and what they may expect from named contacts in the OPCC, their NPU and Local Authority.

- 4.2 To date this engagement with Y.Cs has progressed to them being invited on WMP senior officer recruitment stakeholder panels, scrutiny panels for NPU Active Citizens Fund allocation, all WMP Independent Advisory Groups' including counter terrorism and mental health and Stop and Search Scrutiny Panels.

The benefits to policing can be evidenced; for example Operation Guardian with its focus on reducing youth violence found dialogue with the Youth Commission very useful, to quote Operation Guardian officer Adam Austin *"I was quite taken aback by the professionalism, diligence and supportiveness of all of the YC's, they all seem to have an 'old head on young shoulders. I would not hesitate to utilise them again if required and they are an extremely useful sounding board, for ideas and consultation due to their credible links into young people force wide."*

- 4.3 Community Safety Partnerships in each of the seven Local Authority areas vary in the times that they hold their Board Meetings, most do not hold these at a time that is compatible with attendance by Youth Commissioners. Contact by CSP teams to Youth Commissioners is therefore generally facilitated outside their Partnership Board meetings.

- 4.4 Additionally, at present, most engagement or communication of information relating to policing services provided by WMP to the Youth Commission is reactive to requests from its members (see para 5.1 and 5.2) and the OPCC lead officer. There is the need for more proactive engagement like Operation Guardian and the Youth Commission to be more routinely updated on force wide and NPU local priority setting. WMPNow is the system of alerts to the

general population but is not tailored to a youth audience. Youth Commissioners are an available resource to co-design how this is accomplished.

- 4.5 Secondly, the role includes consultation and conducting research on specified topics, legislation, or service provision, representing young people's views. The impact of this is for policy officers to be able to better understand barriers to accessing services, how to build trust and confidence and respond to perceptions of a service from a young person's viewpoint. The inclusion of Youth Commissioners deliver service user insights to influence statutory providers has always been impactful. To date, Youth Commissioners have been tasked with a number of research projects and have influenced service development; from mental health services for young people, domestic violence legislation, access to and the quality of victims support services and pre arrest diversions.
- 4.6 With the introduction of a Leadership course in 2016, Youth Commissioners have been provided with training to create and deliver a social action campaign, increasing their skills and experience of identifying an issue that they can have an impact on. These campaigns have raised young people's awareness on safer travel, sexting and addiction to pornography, CSE, resisting peer pressure and drugs, and mental health and substance misuse to name a few. The existence of the Youth Commissioners has therefore played an additional and essential way to create and deliver messages to prevent young people becoming victims of crime.
- 4.7 Thirdly, the PCC's Office supports and encourage young people to learn about the work of the police and the ways they can use them to help build stronger communities. Para 5.1 illustrates how each intake of Youth Commissioners identifies their wish list of information. The Induction for Youth Commissioners emphasises how WMP wishes to work with them and contact information is shared between NPU Commanders and YPO's and Youth Commissioners.
- 4.7 An excellent demonstration of where Youth Commissioners have used the support of the police to build a stronger community is the anti-knife campaign, 'Sharpen Minds not knives' designed and delivered by Dudley Youth Commissioners Emerson Hanslip and Georgia Whitehouse. Feedback has been very positive, relating this to the innovative combination of presenters; a young person, a police officer and a person with lived experience of knife crime. The message has been received by young people with far greater attention to the police message because of the approach.
- 4.8 At the January 2020 Youth Commission meeting there was an informal 'health check' on these local relationships. In the majority of locations, YCs reported there is a good connection between the Youth Commissioners and their neighbourhood policing teams. It is notable that this is not the case in the busier Birmingham NPU's and in particular where the constant turnover of Commanders has been a further negative factor in relationships being forged.
- 4.9 The OPCC continues to commission a wealth of interventions for disadvantaged and disengaged young people at risk. West Midlands Police Cadets operates a model where 25% of Cadets are young people referred for support to improve behaviour and life choices, with access to positive role models.

In contrast, whilst the Youth Commission also attracts candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds and cultures, the young people commonly tend to be already engaged in positive activity and have self-identified that the voices of young people need to be heard more by adult decision makers. The Youth Commission has been a critical platform for these individuals, to support and develop the leadership qualities of these volunteers - which are

also transferrable skills for further education and employment. It has therefore been important to increase their profile as role models.

The main ways this is supported are:

- The bi annual Leadership course referred to in para 4.5 and par 7.2
- An increased use of Youth Commissioners by the OPCC Communications s team in press releases, visits with the Commissioner reported on social media, Social media training provided to Youth Commissioners, proactive promotion of their availability for interviews with the media, and on-going support to Youth Commissioners with press interviews. Youth Commissioners are now appearing in national newspaper articles. The OPCC also highlights reports on where Youth Commissioners have accessed additional significant external roles on the back of this higher profile. These include presenting to the European Youth Commission (Sandwell), representing the region on a project in David Cameron's Press Office, (Sandwell) films with ITN Fixers on CSE and knife crime (Sandwell and Walsall), and participants to a multi-agency public health approach to youth violence (Coventry).
- OPCC Policy Officers are encouraged to incorporate Youth Commissioners into their stakeholder engagement strategy and to consider them as presenters at external events. For example: Youth Commissioners will present an award at this year's Outstanding Citizens Awards and at the EIFY 'What Works event in March. Coventry Youth Commissioners Deepti Sapkota and Husnaa Mota gave a presentation on the EIFY projects and summer provision delivered by Positive Youth Foundation at the PCC's January's Business Summit.
- Youth Commissioners host the annual Youth Summit. The degree to which Youth Commissioners are part of the planning and delivery of the Youth Summit has been incrementally increased since 2014, and they now play a full part in providing an outstanding role model to other youth representatives across the West Midlands at this event. At last year's Youth Summit they also helped lead group discussions amongst young people from their area on ideas for youth led projects funded by the Guardian Youth Opportunity Fund.

4.10 This investment in the range of opportunities offered to Youth Commissioner has definitely influenced the level of confidence with which former volunteers have gone onto future careers. Evidence is provided at Appendix A with information on where some former Youth Commissioners are now, an alumni of the Youth Commission.

Activity by the Youth Commission during 2019/2020

- 5.0 2019 represented the first year out of the 2 year term for the 2019/2020 cohort of Youth Commissioners, and has been the period in which they concentrate more time on raising their profile as a Youth Commissioners, engaging with other young people in their community, forging a relationship with their local policing team and identifying the key policing and crime concerns for young people in their area.
- 5.1 At the beginning of 2019, Youth Commissioners identified subjects that were of concern to young people they represented, and that they wanted to be better informed about .With young people more likely to be victims of crimes, the views of these elected youth representatives is vital in highlighting which significant issues concern young people in the West Midlands. Unsurprisingly, knife crime was the most asked about subject. During 2019, West Midlands Police have also responded with presentations and engagement on Police recruitment, counter terrorism, an update on digital ways to report crime, County Lines, the role of our Regional Organised Crime Unit , pre-arrest diversions, Knife bins, Operation Guardian and substance misuse. The OPCC have contributed sessions on Big Data and the

ethics of policing, a regional report into crime in prisons, PCC's Stop and Search schools programme and Hate Crime on public transport.

- 5.2 In November 2019, the Youth Commission held its own 'Question Time' with the most asked questions by young people in each area posed to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable, or occasionally, both! The transcript of the questions posed are at Appendix C. The event provided further insight to policing and crime concerns at a neighbourhood level through to national issues, and how in their role, they held the Commissioner and Chief Constable to account for how or what was being done to reduce crime and improve community safety.
- 5.3 Youth Commissioners were requested to visit a Gangs and Violence Fund(GVF) or Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF) activity and to talk about the experience on social media so that information on activity to reduce youth violence reached a wider youth audience. The impact was that Youth Commissioners were able to have a direct experience of mentoring, or diversionary activity, or 'teachable moments' in A & E departments and the value of community sports and youth clubs. The messaging through Youth Commissioners social media and through re-telling friends, family and other youth representatives about the experience, has contributed to positive messaging about the use of EIYF and VRU funded programmes reaching a wider, younger audience. Youth Commissioners will also introduce a short film made about participants of EIYF project activity at a 'What Works' event on March 20th. Coventry Youth Commissioners contributed to the PCC's Business Summit that had a theme of business and social action, highlighting the inclusive activities for their age group delivered by Positive Youth Foundation with case studies of its positive impact.
- 5.4 In Dudley, Youth Commissioners Emerson Hanslip and Georgia Whitehouse made the most of being connected by the NPU Commander and Head of Community Safety to local services to design an anti-knife campaign. They tested the concept to an audience at Dudley College. Feedback has been very positive, relating this to the innovative combination of presenters combining a young person, a police officer and a person with lived experience of knife crime and there are now plans to deliver more sessions. Emerson and Georgia also presented on the campaign so far at the 2019 Youth Summit last December, coping with interruptions of applause several times!
- 5.5 Solihull Youth Commissioners Tom Gilleran and Becky Brown have worked with youth workers and police staff to create a survey of the concerns and needs of young people across Solihull. They assisted in its delivery to 5,000 young people locally. The results are being used by the local authority and the NPU.
- 5.6 In Wolverhampton, Melvin Riley and Syed Hussain are working with WMP and the local authority to organise a month of anti-knife crime activities to coincide with the presence of the Knife Angel in their City. They hope to use funding from the Guardian Youth Opportunity Fund to achieve this.

Youth Summit 2019

- 6.0 Hollywood came to Tally Ho in December, with Paramount Pictures and Director of Blue Story Rapman sending a personalised message to the youth, police and cadet audience of approximately 200 at this year's Youth Summit. Whilst the film maker had been keen to disassociate himself from the ugly scenes at Star City weeks earlier, Rapman was keen to contribute his learned experience about the stupidity of postcode violence. Youth representatives from across the west midlands listened intently to his message; really appreciating it had been sent.

- 6.1. The item led onto a creative discussion activity led by the Princes Trust- to spark ideas for violence reduction activity proposals in every local area against the Guardian Youth Opportunities Fund. The volume and buzz in the room reached a peak as representatives from different areas pitched their ideas to their peers and everyone voted for their favourite concept. By the end of the evening, the Princes Trust officers and ambassadors had scanned the proposals and fed back with their analysis with which were the three strongest contenders for the £10,000 earmarked for the Youth Summit.
- 6.2 A market place of stalls covered information on Police recruitment, sexual health, a project to disrupt serious and organised crime in Birmingham, a Virtual Reality film on life choices around gang membership from Round Midnight, EuroPeers UK and the Princes Trust.
- 6.3 The event was hosted at every stage by Youth Commissioners who ran the registration desk, introduced agenda items and speakers and helped facilitate the group discussions. Youth Commissioners from Dudley showcased their anti-knife crime campaign which they created and are delivering in combination with their NPU and Hezron Brown. It was an outstanding example of the contribution of the PCC's Youth Commissioners as they are empowered in community safety strategies by the OPCC, West Midlands Police and a Local Authority.

Forward planning

- 7.0 A mini manifesto project is planned in selected schools this spring. A short survey on crime issues affecting their school life and local community will be combined with an invitation to describe what solutions they would implement if they were the Police and Crime Commissioner for the day. The item will be shared with teachers via a WMP linked App, and participation encouraged by Youth Commissioners and OPCC school engagement officers amongst others. A short film clip by the Commissioner at the beginning will explain his role, with another at the end by some Youth Commissioners explaining their role.
- 7.1 Participants will be able to be anonymous or give their name and email address. Those identifying their contribution will receive a personalised response thanking them for their contribution on behalf of the Commissioner. The responses and insights will be shared within the OPCC Policy and Communication teams, the Youth Commission, WMP and education partners. They will also be shared in information provided to the incoming new Commissioner as evidence of the views of younger constituents.
- 7.2 A specification for the 2020 Leadership course has been advertised asking for Expressions of Interest from Training providers. The course to be delivered between April and September 2020 .
- 7.3 Another group of regionally elected youth representatives called the Young Combined Authority has been formed. One PCC Youth Commissioner has also been elected into this role. Regular communication between the support officers for all statutory and community youth organisations will continue to be part of the OPCC's inclusive approach to empowering young people in partnership with other organisations.

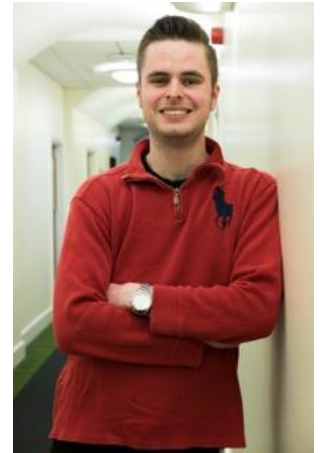
Author: Mary Jacobs

Job Title: Engagement and Partnerships Officer

Appendix 1: Where are they now?

This section is a sample of Youth Commission alumni.

Since becoming a Youth Commissioner in 2014 for my local area, Solihull, I have taken the valuable skills, networks and experiences of my year in office into my professional life. As a recent graduate from the University of Nottingham (LLB Hons, 2018), the ability to lead teams and collaborate with people from different walks of life which was enhanced by my period as Youth Commissioner enabled me to realise many of my ambitions at University and in life. For example, I enjoyed many positions of responsibility including pastoral roles at the University's Students' Union, to securing a professional legal job during my Year Abroad at the University of Copenhagen. As I look ahead to my future career in the law, the sense of duty and an ethos of service in public life which the Youth Commission instils are invaluable attributes to any career and undertaking. I cannot think of a better opportunity to grow personally and meet some inspirational people, committed to making life better and you never know, you may meet friends for life, make real change and have fun while doing it!



Frank Oxley now a Trainee Solicitor for Pinset Masons on Colmore Row, Birmingham



'Since my time as a Youth Commissioner, I have continued to engage with my local community on various issues. Particular interests include community engagement and health. I am about to begin my final year at university and look forward to completing my studies. I was recently elected as a councillor for the Smethwick ward in Sandwell. It is very encouraging to see the work of the Youth Commissioners continue. In particular having a young person holding the position of Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner. I am very much in favour of the WMP Cadet programme which re-enforces the Commissioner commitment to working with young people.'

Councillor Wasim Ali, Smethwick Ward, Sandwell Council

Namir Chowdhury attended Blue Coat Junior School before attending Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall. Age 18 he returned to his junior school to present a new debating award that had been named after him. He combined being an irrepressible Youth Commissioner for Walsall with being a member of Youth Parliament, and presented a speech in the Commons on the importance of mental health services. He went onto study law at Warwick University, where he took an active part in student associations and took part in Uprising's Leadership Programme.

Namir Chowdhury served as a Commonwealth UK Youth Ambassador as part of the British Youth Council for two and a half years, representing the UK at the global summit & speaking in the House of Lords about his frustration on the lack of humanitarian help for those in Yemen and meeting Prime Minister Theresa May to discuss youth policy in this role. **Namir has now started a career as an**

actuarial consultant for EMEIA Financial Services at Ernst and Young, but we will hear more from Namir as a social activist I am sure.



My name is Emma Curran and I finished as a Youth Commissioner for Wolverhampton in 2017. I am currently studying Medicine at the University of Exeter where I am a member of the Symphony Orchestra, tennis club and First Aid Society. Furthermore, I am volunteering for Girl guiding as a peer educator to mentor young girls around issues such as mental health and am undergoing training to become a Brownie leader. I was also a member of British Youth Council's Youth Select Committee on the issue of young people and body image whose report received a government response.



Adam Shaikh completed the Leadership course during his time as a Youth Commissioner for Sandwell. Adam went onto attend the University of Birmingham. He has also been the Chair of SHAPE in Sandwell, has been awarded a PCC's Outstanding Citizens Award for his Clickwise campaign on CSE in local schools, which required him to come to terms with his own abuse as a child. In 2019 was awarded the British Youth Council Youth Voice Star Award for Young Campaigner of the year in 2019.

Jardell was the Youth Commissioner who researched how Cadets could return to WMP and then campaigned until he convinced his Commissioner and the Chief Constable to bring Cadets back. Jardell always had leadership qualities that shone out from his schooldays, and was Head Boy and a peer mentor. Becoming a Police Officer was always Jardell's ambition, and he has always been an active youth leader and Cadet Leader alongside WMP and WMFS in his local community. **Jardell Miller is now in uniform as a Special Constable**



Anil Karrera left school and pursued the apprenticeship route. He achieved his goal and is now a Solicitor Apprentice at Gowling WLG. Since 2017 he has been a finalist in the Birmingham Young Professional of the Year Awards, and the Asian Apprentice of the Year 2018. In his free time Anil has his own blog, speaking out against fascism and racist organisations and raising awareness on hidden crimes such as FGM.

Sohail Hussain is now a Trainee tax advisor at EY, having previously attended medical school.

Luke McDermott left the Youth Commission on a high, having led a campaign team to victory at the end of his Leadership Course in 2018. He is a Cadet leader in Walsall, and is currently undertaking a part time placement in Citizens in Policing in WMP whilst he is studying for a Policing degree at Birmingham University.

Olivia McFadden was a Coventry Youth Commissioner, and was at the forefront of young people's voices on CSE and how its regional governance needed shaping. She went on to work in the

participation team in Youth Services in Coventry, and has provided constant support to subsequent Coventry Youth Commissioners.

Connor Fowler, Youth Commissioner between 2016/18 was one of our most energetic Youth Commissioners for Birmingham. He was instrumental in establishing a Youth Forum for Birmingham, engaging youth organisations and young people alike. He was a confident communicator, appearing with the Commissioner on prime time TV. He completed work placements in the OPCC and Force Contact, making friends easily with his infectious enthusiasm. Connor went to University in Liverpool, doing a Policing degree as a stepping stone to his ambition to becoming a Police Officer. Connor is currently deciding on a police career options in the Met or WMP forces.

Tasnim Miah was a member of the Youth Parliament and a Youth Commissioner. A strong advocate that the national school curriculum did not sufficiently equip young people for life, she campaigned for Education 4 Life in the House of Commons and at the European Youth Commission in Strasberg. Tasnim spent time in America as part of her University studies in sociology and politics, and is now the Senior Management Accountant at Sandwell and Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust.

Samrita Basra was one of the first Youth commissioners to campaign for knife bins in her City of Wolverhampton, building support amongst young people and Elected Members. Samrita participated as a youth panellist for Talent Match as well as holding management positions in the retail sector. Samrita is currently a Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Officer in PPU, but leaves us shortly for Staffordshire Police.

Joanna Samuels tells us “Since being on the YPCC board 2014-2016 I have completed sixth form college with 3 A-levels 1 AS and an EPQ and led the extra-curriculum drama group. Discovered a love for hiking & done so in England, Wales, Scotland, Sweden and Germany. Realised I really enjoy traveling, thus taken a year in international experience while doing my university course, studying German and Law. I have also reinvested in debating through being a volunteer at a yearly debating event called battle of ideas and through teaching children and young people how to debate through the debate-mate charitable organisation. As well as conducting studies into theology and philosophy. I have also been a singing waitress in the Leon West-End in London. Many turns but it is safe to say ... it's been a jive.” **Joanna Samuels is now studying German with international law at Birkbeck, University of London**

Appendix B. Terms of Reference for Youth Commissioners.

YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Youth Commissioners will represent young people in your city or town and sit on a Youth Commission.

The Youth Commission will:

- Lead on the Commissioners 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 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 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 4 meetings a year
- There will be an annual youth summit, led by the Youth Commission, where Youth Commissioners will report back on the work that has been done, and consider the issues that young people want to raise during the coming year.

Appendix C:

Question Time with Commissioner David Jamieson and Chief Constable Dave Thompson.

NPU area	Youth Commissioners	PCC Question	Chief Constable question
Sandwell	Kareena Ratti & Hammad Khalid	What does the PCC think is the most important issue in relation to policing?	What is the force currently/ planning to do to prevent youth from taking/involving themselves with low level drugs- if there are already measures in place how successful have they been and what age group do they target?
Birmingham East	Hunza Hussain & Anaya Pala	How will the current political situation of the UK (Brexit) affect policing and can young people expect any changes in regards to that?	How has the Chief Constable and the WMPCC improved policing in the Birmingham East area; and how should the youths of Birmingham East deal with situations or problems they might be facing to do with gang violence or any other social issues?
Birmingham West	Daniel Ayodeji & Navera Parwez	What has the PCC done in regards to knife crime?	The current Operation Guardian project has been mentioned to me multiple times by young people who are both sceptical and excited by it. Our question is around the sustainability of the successful elements of Project Guardian and whether they will be able to continue after the initial funding runs out. And if so, where will the long term funding come from?
Dudley	Georgia Whitehouse and Emerson Hanslip	Why do you have to be 18 and a half to do a policing apprenticeship? At a time when we need more officers, shouldn't it be available at a younger age for when pupils leave education?	What are you doing to prevent human trafficking?
Wolverhampton	Melvin Riley & Syed Naqui	What does a PCC do and what is the limit of your power?	Do you think crime will change in the future, and increase or decrease?
Coventry	Husnaa Mota & Deepti Sapkota	As everyone is focused on knife crime, what other issues like gang, gun, hate crime that are the rise what's done about them?	What are you doing to inspire younger people to join the force in the future?
Walsall	Mariam Sohail & Harvind Grewal	Many young people in Walsall have highlighted the problem with drugs and substance misuse. Currently we are seeing this problem	Joint question

		<p>creeping in with young people, with all sorts of substances being marketed and available to them. Various people I spoke to outlined illegal shisha bars, cannabis farms as starting to affect young people. We need a multi-agency approach with health and education awareness. So my question is: how have you and how are you and the police force trying to tackle this issue, if the problem worsens will the approach be similar to knife crime and early intervention programmes be introduced, and will the same approach be used for young people as adults?</p>	
Solihull	Becky Brown & Tom Gilleran	<p>Are there designated people in the local area that can be “mentors” to help promote any issues that come up or are specially trained to deal with issues that young people may be facing whether it is domestic or not?</p>	<p>In our recent survey which was distributed to all the secondary schools within the Solihull NPU, an overwhelming response was that there are simply not enough of a police presence (including; officer numbers, patrols and facilities) to cope with current levels of criminality involving young people. We ask, how can we reassure our young people that the police will continue to effectively protect all Silhillians? What will be done to both increase WMP’s presence across the borough and decrease its demise?</p>