

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday, 25th July 2023

Police and Crime Plan Priority: where appropriate
Presented by: Mary Jacobs, Tony Alexander and Wasi Arshad.
Report: Youth Commissioners

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.
2. The report will be co-presented with Youth Commissioners who will give a personal account of an aspect of the role they have carried out during 2022/23. This is the last report from the current cohort of Youth Commissioners.
3. The report will outline the intention to mark the tenth year of the Youth Commission in 2024, celebrating its contribution in shaping active leaders and police officers making a positive contribution to the west midlands and beyond.
4. The report contains recommendations for the organisation of the 2023 Youth Summit.

Background

5. 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 Local Policing Area (LPA). Following changes in the number of Birmingham LPA's, we have still retained 4 Youth Commissioner posts for Birmingham, so the current Youth Commission is made up of 16 Youth Commissioners.
6. Youth Commissioners (YCs) serve a term of 2 years. The Youth Commission is supported by the Commissioner and Assistant PCC Wasim Ali together with the Engagement and Partnership Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioners Office. West Midlands Police (WMP) appoint a senior officer to be the consistent lead officer and the Dudley Commander Anthony Tagg currently holds this portfolio. 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.

7. 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.
8. The OPCC webpage about Youth Commissioners can be found here: [Youth Commissioners - West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.youthcommissioners-westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)

Summary of Youth Commissioner activity since last report

9. Each year, the working meetings of the Youth Commission combine the following: information requested by Youth Commissioners on policing and crime operational subjects, consultation and discussion on changes to policing procedure and policy, the Police and Crime Plan, and forward planning for events that Youth Commissioners directly influence. The meetings also provide a standing item for Youth Commissioners to share local community safety concerns or report back on external events where they have represented the PCC, or youth voice more generally.
10. Since the last report, the information items have included: Stop and Search, reducing violence against women and girls, trauma informed practice, the Casey Review, WMP tactical priorities, SVRO's, the new operating model for WMP, the IOPC Youth Report 2023, the conviction of David Carrick and WMP conduct, new guidance on juvenile strip searches, the work of the economic crime unit, volunteering in policing, money mules, Question time with the Commissioner, PRAP, engagement with the WMCA Race Action Taskforce, and WMP neighbourhood data profiles. Training sessions provided have been on raising their social media profiles, sharing relevant content with their peers and how to podcast.
11. Also during 2022/2023, Youth Commissioners have volunteered to engage in a range of activities: Helping Communities Fund community panels, participation in WMP CIRV community engagement events in Wolverhampton and Coventry, Co-designing two Youth Summits, various social action in their local communities, Facilitators at the Faith Alliance summit, took part in the stakeholder youth panel to recruit the new Chief Constable, and a number of ACC's, and contributed to VRP and Birmingham Youth City Boards Youth surveys. Those over 18 years are able to be members of the Counter Terrorism advisory group. Youth Commissioners in Black Country areas have been leaders within pilot Stop and Search youth scrutiny panels, securing grant funding to promote them and assist recruitment. All Youth Commissioners are encouraged to be observers of the Stop & Search Commission.
12. Individually, Youth Commissioners have actively used the role as a platform onto other related youth voice activity locally, regionally and nationally. Tony Alexander (Dudley) joined CS Tagg on his regular radio slot on Black Country radio to talk about his role. Andre Russell (Coventry) spoke on preventing youth violence at a Westminster Legal Policy Forum Conference entitled 'next Steps for Youth Justice', is part of the CIRV Steering Board in Coventry and a WM member of the IOPC Youth Panel. Mohammed Al Hasan gave a speech as a Youth Parliamentarian in the House of Commons on reducing violence against women and girls and the importance of Upstanders. Amelia Beet (Wolverhampton) and Wasi Arshad (Birmingham East) participated in a commissioning scrutiny panel for the PCC's second year of CWG Legacy funding.

13. 2023 has been a very successful year for Youth Commissioners winning awards. In April, at the Midlands Inspiring Young People Awards, Andre Russell (Coventry) was winner of Outstanding Contribution to the Community award, Mohammed Al Hasan (Sandwell) won the Young Leader of the Year award and Amman Ahmed (Dudley) won the Inclusivity award. In June, the PCC's Outstanding Young Citizen was won by Mohammed Al Hasan. Then finally in July 2023 – a West Midlands High Sheriff Inspiring Others Award was won by Amman Ahmed.
14. Widely shared Social media from all these events assist in raising the profile of these hardworking young leaders and provide positive media about young leaders making a difference in the communities of the West Midlands. It also positively promotes a role in which young people are able to break down the barriers between young people and the police, which is vital to improve trust and confidence in WMP and hopefully assists in attracting a similar calibre of applicants in the youth elections.

Online review of Youth Commissioner role.

15. Stakeholders; including current Youth Commissioners, regional youth workers, and WMP Young Persons Officers (YPOs) and Engagement and Consultation Officers (ECOs) are currently being surveyed as part of a review of the role of Youth Commissioners. 2024 will be the tenth year since the formation of the elected roles and it is appropriate that stakeholders' feedback is sourced to inform the terms of reference for future cohorts.

Youth Elections 2023

16. The timeline for the election of the next cohort of Youth Commissioners for 2023-2025 is as follows Applications open: July 5th 2023
[Young people urged to become region's next Youth Commissioners - West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/news/young-people-urged-to-become-region-s-next-youth-commissioners)
Closing date for applications: Tuesday July 28th.
Shortlisting of applications: 31st July – 4th August. A Series of zoom/teams sessions over 4 evenings
On – line voting period 11th August to 29th August on a voting site hosted by Mi-Voice
New Youth Commissioners announced Friday 1st September
Induction Youth Commission Meeting Tuesday September 12th at Lloyd House.

Youth Summit

17. Early planning meetings with the Youth Commissioners identified that their desire to address racial injustice topics coincided with the OPCC intention to carry out community engagement on the Force Fairness and Belonging Strategy. The existing regional work between the OPCC with CJS partners to reduce disproportionality and the community scrutiny of WMP's conduct in relation to Stop and Searches & Use of Force were both subjects that the Youth Commissioners wished to share with a wider youth audience. There was therefore an opportunity to test the cognisance and reception from a youth audience around some challenging subjects that could inform the wider community engagement planned by the OPCC during 2023.
18. Representatives from WMP recruitment outreach staff, WMP Black and Asian Police staff association, OPCC Stop and Search Education coordinators and VRP

Faith Alliance officers provided a 'marketplace' of information for delegates and the opportunity to ask ethnic minority police officers about working for WMP.

19. The event in December 2022 welcomed the new Chief Constable, Craig Guildford, and the national chair of the Youth Justice Board, Keith Fraser as a key note speaker. Chief Inspector Daryl Lyons promoted the Communities Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) that has now begun in Wolverhampton and Coventry. Chief Superintendent Richard North presented on 'Using our police powers fairly' for WMP and ACC Claire Bell outlined the Home Office pilot of Serious Violence Reduction Orders.
20. These weighty subjects were followed by the PCC Simon Foster speaking about his expectations that WMP become a representative force, an anti-racist, culturally competent and trauma informed workforce that would be attractive to the youth audience as a career pathway.
21. In-between items on the programme, which was hosted by Youth Commissioners Eniola Adekunle, Tony Alexander and Taiyanna Stewart, the delegates were invited to use the digital platform Menti, to answer questions on police legitimacy and pose questions to any of the speakers. This was a trial departure in approach to audience interaction from the usual round table group discussions between youth representatives and neighbourhood police officers. The audience could also leave post it comments on a message board in the room. Youth Commissioners felt that it was important to provide an anonymous way for young people to express themselves because of the challenging subjects of racism and policing, and the perceived power imbalance between young people and the police.
22. On the night, both questions submitted on Menti, and live questions from the audience were facilitated by the Youth Commissioner hosts and responded to by the speakers and the Chief Constable. The evening rounded off with the inspiring Faith Alliance film, 'A Declaration of Hope', and an inspiring young entrepreneur (formally a Wolverhampton Youth Commissioner) Melvin Riley.
23. As a result of mixed verbal feedback, and 2 safeguarding incidents on the evening, a 360 degrees review of the event was conducted by the OPCC Partnership and Engagement Officer with members of the Youth Commission, Cadet managers, a sample of youth workers and Police Officers who attended, together with any comments submitted on Menti.

Outcome and recommendations for future Youth Summits

24. *Positives:* The event attracted interest from the largest number of youth organisations we have ever had and 210 delegates were present. The event also included both a wider range of non-statutory youth organisations as well as a planned increase in the number of Police Cadets present.
25. The event provided a place for young people to be better informed about the facts related to disproportionality in policing and the criminal justice system. The amount of questions submitted (see Appendix 1 for the full list) demonstrates some of the young people (and youth workers/cadet leaders) wanted to know even more about how WMP is reducing disproportionality and more transparent around use of force and strip searches of juveniles.
26. The information provided on 'how to get involved' (see appendix 2) and an update from the March 2022 Youth Summit (see appendix 3) were well received by youth

workers and Citizens in Policing Managers, and it is the intention to repeat similar information for adult engagement.

27. The feedback also provided lessons on not assuming a prior knowledge or general interest amongst young people as a whole in policing, racial justice or preventing crime. It was clear from the feedback that some young people who attended required content that was more basic, included more explanation of the subject, was age appropriate and delivered in shorter items. This might equally be applied for engagement with adult lay persons.
28. *Negatives:* A higher proportion of the youth delegates at this event were unused to a formal programme, found the content lengthy, and to be aimed at an adult level, they also did not prefer the digital interaction - because it did not provide the ability to check comprehension in a group. A minority also expressed that the theme of racial justice did not have any interest for them. Because of this mixture of factors, a number said they were bored.
29. The theme of this Summit necessarily meant that subject leads were predominantly police officers, and the explanations in presentations were full of data around complex processes or trends. Whilst the subject matter was always going to be challenging, greater efforts to make presentations accessible to younger audiences is required to ensure the information is received and engaged with.
30. The increase in numbers also put additional pressure on the hour set aside for supper and some tables were therefore not ready for the start of the main agenda.

Recommendations for improvement.

31. Members are requested to consider the following recommendations for implementation with the next cohort of Youth Commissioners elected this summer:
 - Youth Commissioners will consult and collaborate with other local youth organisations at the planning and design stages to reach consensus on a theme(s)
 - Agenda items to always be predominantly delivered by young people in order to prioritise youth voice and lived experience
 - A return to group discussion items on locality-based tables involving youth representatives and police officers and staff. (LPA Commanders to be encouraged to ensure representation at the event)
 - The Youth Commission are supported to produce/provide a set of guidance notes for all speakers to improve the style, language and duration of presentations that are age appropriate for this audience.
 - Delegate numbers to be determined following negotiations with the venue to ensure that food can be consumed within the first hour.
 - Consideration of music, more video and/or theatrical performance to convey more impactful messages
 - In consideration of neuro diversity and attention spans in the audience, provision of fidget toys, inclusion of some short activity bursts.
 - Production of briefing sheets on the Summit theme(s) being sent to youth organisations in advance of the Youth Summit, in order that youth workers can prepare their young people.
 - Ensure the event is held in term time to enable educational staff to support the attendance of youth representatives.

Financial Implications

32 None apparent

Legal Implications

33 None apparent

Equality Implications

34 Youth Commissioners are elected to represent the views of young people to the PCC and his Strategic Police and Crime Board

Next Steps

35 The Board is asked to note the contents of this report and endorse the recommendations made to improve the 2023 Youth Summit.

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Appendix 1



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Youth Summit Menti Meter questions and comments for speakers.

Disproportionality in the YJS – Keith Fraser.

How do you say disproportionality?

What are the key issues on disproportionality for young people in the west midlands?

Why do you think young people enter a life of crime?

What is being done to enable more people of colour progressing to positions/jobs of influence in the criminal justice system

Why isn't there enough focus on white British kids

Could you explain how disproportionality in the YJS relates to the Adultification of black children. Treating them as if they are older than or perceiving them as such

You mentioned we have power, so how can I use that power in my community

Why did we discuss predominantly national figures when this is a west mids youth summit?

Figures for local areas please. It feels like it is pitched at police officers rather than young people

Which universities are involved in gathering the research for Keith Fraser

Using our policing powers fairly – Richard North WMP

What elements of disproportionality have you focussed on in particular.

Is there a plan to train magistrates and judges on these topics?

What is going to be done to tackle these statistics

What do you think are the reasons that ethnic minorities are facing such disproportionality?

What can be done to minimise subjectivity and what other factors contribute to disproportionality? (like training etc)

What is the best thing that we can do to stop disproportionality in our local area

How come is disproportionality really ingrained in the justice system including the police is it institutional?

Is it because there is something called Canteen culture which is a form of institutional bias that allows sexist, homophobic and racist media/other forms to be shared amongst police officers.

To decrease the effect of disproportionality is funding going towards youth centres to enhance enrichment and to decrease crimes?

Does Stop and Search work? It's just adding to the discrimination that communities face

How do police officers decide how to choose the people to stop and search?

The stats on stop and search have been the same for over 20 years, what is being done differently as current strategies aren't working

Why is police brutality not being dealt with sufficiently?

How does the police work alongside magistrates to help change disproportionality?

How will I stop disproportionality?

Why are minorities more likely to be targeted and stereotyped of crimes

What is the reason for over representation of some minorities continuing to commit more crimes than other minorities and how can this be tackled

What happened to child Q and what were the outcomes of it. How many times has this or similar things happened.

Is a child allowed to deny a strip search?

Why don't we use an airport type x-ray scanner for contraband then strip search?

How are strip searches carried out with individuals who may cover themselves for religious reasons

Who conducts strip searches for young people

Do you feel there needs to be more focus on rehabilitation for young criminals?

Can young people be more involved in delivering this event. The language and tone present barriers to engagement

If a young person commits a crime such as carrying 10 grams of cannabis or carrying a knife, do you think they should be imprisoned or should they go to a re-education camp

There are no answers but questions. Why is there disproportionality – this obvious contrast makes certain communities more nervous around the police than others. There is no point in saying there are differences when no way of improving this is given.

Why is stop and search disproportionality so much higher in low crime, low diversity areas

Why is there a reason for you to explain you doing your job?

Is there a way to share these messages across for younger people from the age of 10?

Why is there not enough publication of scrutiny boards?

Will the CPS be able to contribute to reducing the disproportionality stats with their new policies?

Policing fairly: how do we know any suspicions were not based on discrimination?

What support is being offered to those young people who were strip searched. Such a search on a child as young as 15 will likely stay with them for life.

Why did you skip the question about drug dealers getting more time than rapists?

Why do only 5 % of sexual assault cases that are taken to court charged with the offence?

When personnel from law enforcement has committed a crime what is done to ensure that they are punished correctly and not just given a suspension? This shows that no one is above the law and it can minimise some stigmas/barriers of communication that exist between marginalised groups in society and the police?

Stop and Search and Serious Violence Reduction Orders– Richard North & Kim Madill

Stop and Search – do you think this tactic is working

The disproportionality seen in the YJS – can it be linked geographically to areas of deprivation

What are we doing in Dudley & the west midlands to stop disproportionality in stop and searches. What if an officer is being biased

29% positives outcomes – that's a low percentage. Why is this not higher, even though you say it will not be 100%

I want to question the effectiveness of stop and searches because the data stated that it had 30% positive outcome?

Why is WMP not looking at knife crime as a public health issue. And why do we still think stop and search is the best option with young people where young people feel violated

Why don't we have discussions in schools concerning Stop and Search with scrutiny of Body Worn camera footage. Showing the footage from another area and scrutinised in a school with a chosen set of students. Good feedback opportunity.

What is with the other 3.7%

How do we reduce this ourselves?

How do you determine suspicion?

Do some groups struggle more than others to find opportunities and employment within the community after incidents with the police

How do you deter youth violence?

Why do you ask for feedback?

Would an SVRO cover instances of domestic violence

The SVRO may seem like they will amplify disproportionality... how do you intend to deal with the social media response about these orders

Carrying a knife makes young people feel safe. What is WMP doing to make young people feel safe. Why are young people feeling unsafe in the first place?

What are the police doing differently in terms of engagement with young people from minority ethnic groups?

Why are child strip searches increasing rather than decreasing?

How would you get these messages across to SEND people?
If only 29% of stop and searches has a positive outcome, how is the relationship between the general public and police being maintained in a positive way

A representative police force – West Midlands PCC Simon Foster.

Diversity

What are the main barriers to diversity in West Midlands Police Force? What are you doing to tackle this issue?

What needs doing to tackle unequal police treatment of the public in the West Midlands? And at a political level?

What are you doing to protect people from the LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority backgrounds? Are you confident enough is being done to protect those communities?

Youth Violence

Do resources like free school meals and youth clubs play an important part in reducing youth violence? What other changes will you put in place to help reduce youth violence?

Why do you believe it is important to champion diversity and racial equality? How will you empower young people to be aware of their rights related to this?

Which is more important – to achieve equal outcomes in criminal justice or equal opportunities in wider society?

CIRV - Community interventions in reducing violence – Daryl Lyon

Where will you signpost, anyone trying to access CIRV not in Wolverhampton or Coventry. The initiatives to tackle youth crime were amazing! Loved the ideas and level of understanding! What is being done to prove the reliability of these ideas? For example, will there be a trial about what places have these measures implemented and how effective they were?

How will you prevent disproportionality in the implementation of SVRO's and CIRV?

Could you tell us more about the timetable for CIRV?

You did not mention the youth element of CIRV. How are you going to get young people involved especially those with more than one ACE?

CIRV portrays there is a community focus but there is no real focus? Wouldn't the funding be better focussed on prevention through faith/youth groups, schools and more? Is it better to have more police officers working in these places

Is CIRV value for money. It seems you are just throwing money at the problem

How will you involve the community and how will you ensure the community supports the scheme?

Miscellaneous questions and comments – OPCC Mary Jacobs

This event is poorly managed and I cannot concentrate with all these distractions.

Should EMA (educational maintenance Loans) be reinstated

Has anyone considered the voice, tone and style in this summit. It is not aimed at young people. It's all police speak and stats.



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APPENDIX 2:

How to get involved, find out more about policing, use your voice.

Faith Alliance – providing meaningful opportunities for young people, faith groups, residents and businesses, with a shared ambition to reduce violence, to come together and shape the work of the Violence reduction Partnership. Go to: <https://westmidlands-vrp.org/faith-alliance/>

Scrutinise what Stop and Search or Use of Force incidents have taken place locally, view body worn video, get a better understanding of your Rights and responsibility around Stop and Search at a community scrutiny panel. For more details on **Scrutiny Panels** please contact: Natalie Cox natalie.cox@westmidlands.police.uk for Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull. Shehzadi Malik shehzadi.malik@westmidlands.police.uk for the Black Country.

Youth Stop and search scrutiny panels are now being piloted in Dudley, and more are likely in the Black Country. For more details contact: Shehzadi Malik shehzadi.malik@westmidlands.police.uk

Youth independent advisory groups (IAG): self-governing groups in local communities proving advice to neighbourhood policing. There are more IAG's that combine adult and youth members together, than there are youth only IAG's. To find out what your neighbourhood policing area has available, or to talk about how you can assist in recruiting a Youth IAG, contact your local Partnerships team:

Coventry Partnerships Team coventry_partnership@westmidlands.police.uk

Birmingham Partnerships Team cp_bhampartnerships@westmidlands.police.uk

Dudley Partnerships Team dy_partnerships_team@westmidlands.police.uk

Solihull Partnerships Team SH_Partnerships@westmidlands.police.uk

Sandwell Partnerships Team sandwell_partnerships@westmidlands.police.uk

Walsall Partnerships Team ws_partnerships@westmidlands.police.uk

Wolverhampton Partnerships Team wv_partnerships@westmidlands.police.uk

PCC's Strategic Police and Crime Board. You are able to come and observe these meetings in person or by a live webcast. They occur every two months and are where the PCC holds the Force to account. For more information go to: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-and-crime-board/>

Custody Visitors (age 18+): The Custody Visitor scheme involves volunteers visiting police custody suites and checking the correct procedures are being followed. The scheme offers protection to detainees and reassurance to the wider community. For more information go to: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-and-crime-board/>

Streetwatch – a community led active crime prevention activity. Go to: <https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/get-involved>

Neighbourhood Watch -one of the UK's largest community crime prevention initiatives. Go to: <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/get-involved>

WMNow - find out what's happening in your local community via email or social media, sign up to get updates about local crime, Police and community meetings, safety advice and road closures. You can choose the updates that are most interesting and useful to you. www.wmnow.co.uk

Social Media. West Midlands Police and the Office of the PCC are active on social media . You will find Twitter, Instagram and Tiktok posts for the organisation and individual officers. If you have liked the presenters or Officers in the room this evening, follow [them](#)

[@WMPolice](#) ,  @WestMidsPCC, @westmidlandspolice,  @westmidspcc

Helping Communities Fund -If you have an idea to actively reduce crime and violence in your area, you may wish to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to put it into action. For more information go to: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/helping-communities-fund/>

WMP Cadets – our Cadets are aged between 13-17years old and must live in the West Midlands Police Force Area. Any young person that meets these conditions can apply to join us regardless of their socio-economic, religious, ethnic or family background. We encourage these young people to become active citizens within their communities, whilst also learning new skills to allow them to achieve and push through any boundaries to reach their full potential. To apply to become a Cadet within West Midlands Police, please email cadets@westmidlands.police.uk and we will send you an application form.

WMP Cadet Leaders - We are looking for adults who can be positive role models for our Cadets; someone who can help to guide and support them to be the best that they can be, and help them become Active Citizens with a voice. Our Cadet Leaders are adult volunteers who can listen, support, encourage, motivate, and inspire. For more information and details on how to apply, email cadets@westmidlands.police.uk

Youth Commissioners. These are the young people that were elected to represent your issues and concerns on policing and crime to the PCC and who host tonight's Youth Summit. For more information see here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/youth-commissioners/> The next full elections for the role will be in the summer of 2023. We currently have a temporary vacancy for Birmingham East and two for Walsall. If you are interested please contact mary.jacobs@westmidlands.police.uk

And let's not forget all the excellent youth workers and youth led organisations that already have made it possible for you to be here at the Youth Summit, and encourage you all through the year to use your youth voice and find your talents.

We would encourage you to now to play a positive part by openly talking about police services that can or would have your trust and confidence. And get involved!

Please take this Sheet home for future reference.

APPENDIX 3 – Update from March 2022 to December 2022 Youth Summit

Safer Travel Update

Since the Youth Summit in March I have spoken to over 23,000+ young people regarding antisocial behaviour, responsible behaviour when travelling, how to keep safe and report incident and unwanted sexual behaviour. Many young people aren't aware of what unwanted sexual behaviour means and a lot of our work is educating young people on what behaviours are unacceptable, how to report any issues and letting them know all the different ways we keep them safe on the public transport network - such as high definition CCTV with microphones, police patrols of the network and also our dedicated text line 81018 for them to report any issues. I also go through all the barriers and myths around reporting to ensure that victims know that they are never to blame and time of night, alcohol, the way they are dressed are never judged – we are here to support the victim no matter what has happened. I have held assemblies, workshops, events and visited many schools, colleges, universities and businesses to speak to all genders as it is important to also get across the message that we are not expecting women and girls to change their behaviours but we are encouraging them to report. We are also working with boys/men to challenge their behaviours and to encourage upstanding for anyone who is a victim around them. The sessions with boys/men have evolved following lots of discussions with boys to find the best way to engage and get them to think about their own and their peers behaviours using the Home Office Enough campaign materials and also talking through scenarios to have honest discussions on what they might do in those situations.

I have also been working with students who have English as a second language, many of whom have suffered extreme hardship to get to this country, are studying at college and completely alone here and through their previous experiences, have a lack of trust with the police. I have worked hard to show that the police can be trusted, we do show empathy and we are here to listen and support them in their journeys.

I am currently working with transport professionals (drivers, station staff etc) to ensure transport staff know how to respond if a passenger needs support, where to signpost people and practical help they can give to them.

In January 2023 I am starting sessions with police cadet groups.

[Paula Shortland WMP Safer Travel Education Officer.](#)

Reducing Violence against Women

In Sept 2022, the PCC launched a new alliance of agencies in the west midlands, who's aim is to work in a more focused and joined up way to reduce male violence against women and girls. The work will be overseen by the OPCC Victims Commissioner, Nicky Brennan @nickyebrennan. At tonight's Youth Summit, there will be a consultation on Menti meter, asking how you would like youth voices to be included – have your say.

A new [website](#), specifically for the West Midlands, has also been launched. This central hub provides guidance for victims of abuse of any kind, directing them towards vital information and the support services available in their area. It will continue to be updated regularly, with useful resources and further information about the No Excuse For Abuse campaigns, to help people across the region to explore ways of engaging with the important work being done.

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/victims-commissioner-theres-no-excuse-for-abuse-when-out-at-parties-this-december/>

Football World Cup: The troubling relationship between football and domestic violence is well-known. A [2014 study](#) found that reported cases of intimate partner violence increased by 38% when England lost and by 26% when they won or drew in the tournament. Further, the Euro 2020 tournament (held in 2021) saw a [spike in case referrals](#) to the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV).

While there have been positive strides made in football with well-received campaigns such as Her Game Too and EE's Hope United, there is plenty to be done to make watching football a safe and inclusive environment for all.

The West Midlands Victims' Commissioner said, "Anyone who knows me will know how much I love my football, and I'm really excited for the tournament. But we also know that there's a deep-rooted problem when it comes to watching football and sexual abuse so I'm calling on all fans, whoever you're supporting, to put an end to it."

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/victims-commissioner-takes-domestic-abuse-survey-to-parliament/>

A survey highlighting the desperate plight of female victims of domestic abuse in the West Midlands during the cost of living crisis has been taken to the corridors of power.

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/funding-boost-for-region-in-quest-to-end-male-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

The Police and Crime Commissioner has secured more than £1 million in additional funding to build on his successful education programmes and public-facing campaigns aimed at preventing male violence against women and girls.

Community policing

A new Chief Constable, Craig Guildford was appointed by the PCC in July. He said

“I am looking forward to working closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster, to help deliver his plan to rebuild neighbourhood policing. I also can’t wait to get to know the communities of the West Midlands and to help make them safer”

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/awards-for-super-streetwatch-members/>

West Midlands Police— joined by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster, honoured the teams and individuals who are making a difference as a visible presence to help deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/police-cadet-numbers-can-now-grow-to-750/>

West Midlands Police now has the capacity for 750 Police Cadets after a 25th unit opened recently in Walsall.

“I’m delighted that the Cadet scheme now has enough units to allow it to grow and accommodate 750 young people,” said West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Foster.

“What started out as a relatively small initiative in 2017 is now huge. It is building bridges with young people across the West Midlands who might previously have had reservations about working with the police.

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-commissioner-pledges-to-protect-pcsos/>

The PCC appreciates how valuable the PCSOs are when it comes to preventing and tackling crime and building trust and confidence in policing throughout the West Midlands.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Foster, said: “PCSOs were introduced 20 years ago and have made a fantastic contribution to keeping our region safe and secure.”

“They are a key part of neighbourhood policing and provide preventative, proactive, problem solving and visible policing for our communities across the West Midlands. I continue to do all I can to protect their numbers, despite the huge financial pressures the force has been under for the last 12 years.”

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