














Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Youth Commission
Recommendations Report
March 2015 – January 2016



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Foreword

I am delighted that my Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Commission have, for a second year, consulted over 1,700 of their peers through open and honest conversations, in a range of community settings. This report details the results of their extensive work around the six areas they identified as the most important issues for young people, together with their recommendations for effective change. The Youth Commission's findings are of great importance to me. I appreciate their candid and sincere opinions that both challenge and support my work. Their approach is refreshing, giving me a valuable insight

I am very pleased Hampshire Constabulary has taken on board many of their suggestions, and most notably written a Youth Strategy providing a catalyst for cultural changes and direction within the Force. I am most encouraged that the Youth Commission has presented at a board meeting

and has been regularly consulted on policing matters. I trust this joint approach will continue and build on the improvements made to date.

I'd like to acknowledge the contribution made by the wider group of young people who have participated in the Big Conversation. They have helped shape the future approach to policing across our communities. Also, I'm grateful to partners for their valuable support in facilitating the work of the Youth Commission, without which the detailed outcomes would not have been possible.

My sincere thanks and admiration goes to the members of my Youth Commission themselves, who have impressively committed several hundred hours of their own time to volunteer for this work, enabling the young people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to have their voice heard on matter relating to policing and criminality. They are indeed a very impressive and committed group.

Amy McManus	Edward Dennis	Rebecca Dunn
Brandon Newman	Gabrielle Day	Ruby Leaity
Chantelle Smith	Harley Durham	Sophie Gardiner
Charlie Crumpton	Jenny Buckley	Stephanie Nottage
Christie Norris	Joanna Hines-Randle	Toby Oakley
Cody Dean	Louis Faith	Willoughby Matthews
Conor Thornton	Melody Clouder	
Danielle Spurrell	Meredith Draper	

Finally I'd like to express my gratitude to the mentors, who have played a crucial role within the Youth Commission's work and for their endless passion:

Callum Nicolson	Dalian Lacey	Laura Denton
Casey Taylor	Emalene Hickman	



Simon Hayes
Police and Crime Commissioner
for Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Introduction

Following its creation in 2013, the Youth Commission has gone from strength to strength. New members have been recruited; some members from the first phase have stayed on as mentors and strong links have been built with many partners.

Over the last year the Commission has got involved in a wider variety of activities whilst retaining a focus on embedding and implementing the recommendations from the pilot.

The past year has seen the management of the Youth Commission move in-house at the OPCC, with the welcome support of the team at Leaders Unlocked (formally part of the SMH Foundation) still freely available.

The change resulted in the launch of a fresh and exciting identity, which complements the work of the Youth Commission and its 'Be Part of the Solution' campaign, which was an outcome from the pilot.

From March 2015 to January 2016, the Youth Commission undertook its Big Conversation, hearing from over 1,700 young people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on its six priorities.

Summary

Relationships with the Police - Findings

The majority of young people felt that police presence was lacking and would welcome a *"beat bobby"* who went in to schools and community events and *"knew people in the area"*. There is still a need for mutual respect and more work to be done to improve the relationship.

Recommendations

- Improve the image of the police with young people
- More police engagement in young people's settings
- Young people's input in to Force Independent Advisory groups and Youth Strategy Board

Legal Highs - Findings

Young people felt that legal highs are an increasing issue that needs tackling. They suggested tougher consequences and more education is needed.

Recommendations

- Broaden the 'Lethal Highs' awareness campaign
- Produce a resource pack for schools and parents
- Share the experiences of those that have taken Legal Highs

Supporting Young Victims and Offenders - Findings

There was a general feeling that there are not services available to support either victims or offenders or if there were, that young people did not know where to access them.

Recommendations

- The expansion of the Community Court
- An increase in positive interventions
- Raise awareness of resources and support groups
- Promotion and expansion of the *'keep calm and know your rights campaign'*

Abusive Relationships - Findings

Young people highlighted that their peers are having relationships younger, and with large age gaps between partners.

Others said that some young people don't want to talk about abuse, think it is normal or do not know how to get out of it. Young people were keen to recognise different types of abuse, especially abuse of men and on the internet.

There should be more emphasis on this subject, education on the signs of abuse and support for those experiencing it.

Recommendations

- More focus on healthy relationships
- Promotion of existing local and national keeping safe campaigns
- Raise awareness of resources and support groups for victims and offenders, recognising the links with mental health issues
- Schools to give a particular focus to teenage relationships
- Increase and raise awareness of support for men and people from same sex relationships
- Anonymous/untraceable and widely publicised reporting mechanisms
- Explore provision for under 21s and take steps to fill any gaps identified

Anti-Social Behaviour - Findings

Young people gave many examples of anti-social behaviour (ASB) they have witnessed, and expressed concern about the amount of graffiti and littering, and generally felt that more activities for young people would help reduce the amount of ASB.

Recommendations

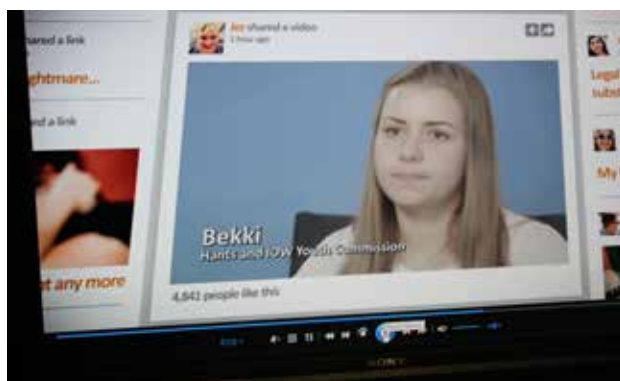
- More police on foot patrols; observe routes home from school and later at night
- Clearer definitions of ASB
- Youth workers to have a radio so that they can be contacted directly by police if there have been reports of ASB
- An online version of 101 where you can report ASB by area
- Perpetrators of ASB to witness and understand the impact of their actions

Gangs and Youth Violence - Findings

The perception of gangs is mixed; some young people link formal and known gangs (i.e. with a gang name and territory) to violence, ASB and drug taking. They felt gangs should be held accountable for their behaviour but also that members should be diverted to positive activities through role models.

Recommendations

- Utilise people whose lives have been ruined by gangs and youth violence to talk to young people
- Survey public perception of gangs
- Raise awareness of what a gang is



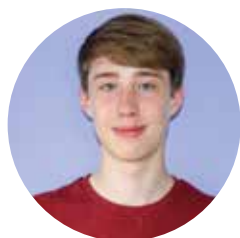
Background and Context

In July 2013, Simon Hayes, the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, became one of the first Commissioners nationally to set up a Youth Commission on Police and Crime.

The Youth Commission is an innovative project that enables young people to become change leaders creating solutions to crime in their area, rather than being seen as part of the problem.

It enables the Commissioner to work in partnership with a diverse group of young people, to develop strategies to address urgent issues in their areas and allows young people to support and challenge his work.

The project supports the Commissioner's aim for social action, which links to his priorities of preventing crime, reducing re-offending and protecting the vulnerable. The Commissioner believes that Police and Crime Commissioners are uniquely placed to work in partnership with others to achieve these goals.



About the Youth Commission

Has 27 young people aged between 14 and 25 who:

- Talk with young people in their communities to understand their policing and criminal justice concerns, via The Big Conversation
- Provide opportunities for young people to inform, support and challenge the Police and Crime Commissioner's work
- Identify the root causes of problems, make recommendations for change and work on solutions

Following on from the success of the pilot, a new cohort of members were recruited from

Southampton, Isle of Wight and Winchester. The new group were asked to work on three priorities identified from the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and to identify three priorities of their own to tackle.

Therefore the six priorities set were:

- Relationships with the police
- Legal highs
- Supporting young victims and offenders
- Abusive relationships
- Anti-social behaviour
- Gangs and youth violence



What we did

The Big Conversation:

Between March 2015 and January 2016 the Youth Commission used a range of tools to gather, and record the views of other young people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Skills training:



Views were collected through:

Postcards	Surveys
Workshops	Walkabouts
Websites	Social media

The group members went out to gather the views of young people at:

Schools	Public events
Universities	Youth and community groups

Other things we've done:

Being in the Youth Commission has opened doors to other opportunities, such as:

- Being invited by the High Sheriff of Hampshire to her Choral Matins at Winchester Cathedral
- Presenting to the Youth Justice Board Chair, Lord McNally, and other board members, during their visit to Hampshire
- Inputting into the new Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan
- Asking questions at the Commissioner's Performance, Accountability, Scrutiny and Strategy (COMPASS) meetings
- Presenting to Hampshire Constabulary's Youth Strategy Governance Board (the formation of this strategy was a recommendation the Commissioner requested of the Chief Constable after the Youth Commission pilot)
- Being consulted by staff and police officers at Hampshire Constabulary regularly
- Sitting on the judging panel for a college film competition set by Prevent

- Contributing to the digital investigations teams work on missing young people
- Advising on the involvement of young people in the Force Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

Members have also relished working alongside the Commissioner at a number of events such as; Access All Areas, Southampton Police football tournament and at the Commissioner's Anti-Social Behaviour conference, to name but a few. His genuine interest in improving outcomes for young people is evident and appreciated by all members.



Who we reached

Between March 2015 and January 2016 the Youth Commission reached over 1,700 young people from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Youth Commission carried out a range of workshops, held a number of events and undertook two campaigns.



Going digital

The Youth Commission has increased its reach through social media accounts and websites.

On top of the existing Twitter account @HantsYC, audiences can now engage in a dialogue with, and follow the activity of, the Youth Commission, through newly created Instagram and Vine accounts @HantsYC, as well as a new public page on Facebook /hantsyouthcommission.

Their page on the OPCCs site www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/YouthCommission and section on the UK Youth Commission's site www.youthcommission.co.uk has the ability to collect young people's views online.



Priority 1

Relationships with the Police

We wanted to build a more positive relationship between police and young people

Our aims were to:

- Find out about young people's experiences with the police
- Work with Hampshire Constabulary to help improve the relationship
- Go into schools and youth groups and enable young people to be ambassadors

"As a member of the Youth Commission, I felt that the youth of today's relationship with the police is very important, particularly as most views tend to be negative ones. Our goal was to find ways to show younger people that the police are there to help and make the community a safer place."

Christie Norris, 21

Actions

1) Supported and worked with Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPTs) in Hampshire, providing support, advice and guidance on how to give young people the opportunity to have their voices heard e.g. Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings.

2) Encouraged and supported young people and Hampshire Constabulary to work together and improve relationships through interactive events e.g. football tournaments, Takeover Day, police cadets.

3) Supported Hampshire Constabulary to circulate surveys, Hampshire Alert, and contributed to the force youth newsletter, as well as participating in youth initiatives, such as judging the Prevent film competition.

4) Contributed to the Constabulary's Youth Charter, digital investigations consultation and the 'Cop Car' kit car project.

5) Attended the Commissioner's COMPASS meetings where the Commissioner publicly holds the Chief Constable to account.

Big Conversation Findings

15 percent of young people we spoke to said this was their top priority.

The majority of young people felt that police presence was lacking and would welcome a "beat bobby" who went in to schools and community events and "knew people in the area". There is still a need for mutual respect and to raise confidence in policing; some mentioned that the police were "scary" or "intimidating" but others felt the police were misjudged and there to help and keep us safe. They felt their views were formed by family members and their interactions with the police.

Views and experiences

"In my area the police are very good and work well but to some people the police can be quite threatening"

"They think all youths are bad"

"I think there's the idea that the police should only have a relationship with young people if they have done something wrong, making having a relationship with the police seem like a negative thing, instead of them having a general relationship with the community as a whole - acting as support as well as law enforcement"

Solutions from young people

"Teach young people the importance of police and that they are there to help and support"

"Say hello and have conversations. Look happy"
"Be polite and smile!"

"Meetings between groups of young people and senior police officers would be a good way to bridge the gaps"

"Don't wear full uniform all the time, when visiting schools and such visits, don't come in uniform to show that they are normal people too"



The Relationship With The Police

Youth Commission Recommendations

- Improve the image of the police with young people, humanising them through initiatives such as 'officer of the month' showing them as an individual (i.e. in and outside of work)
- More police engagement in schools, youth centres and community events that young people attend
- Hampshire Constabulary to keep working on its relationship with young people in line with the National Police Chiefs' Councils Children and Young People's policy; PCSO training to include interactions with young people - including vulnerable teenagers, particularly body language (for example avoiding crossed arms and looking down at young people), focusing on mutual respect and not judging young people but treating as individuals
- Hampshire Constabulary's IAG district leads to ensure young people's input is sought in their areas of business
- Young people's regular input to the Hampshire Constabulary Youth Strategy Governance Board



Youth Commission member Louis on a panel with Inspector Doug Ashman



“ Meetings between groups of young people and senior police officers would be a good way to bridge the gaps ”



Priority 2

Legal Highs

We wanted to improve education and awareness about legal highs among young people

Our aims were to:

- Raise young people's awareness of legal highs and their consequences
- Understand the root causes and patterns of use
- Create campaigns and interactive events to engage young people

"I chose legal highs as a priority because I didn't think young people knew or understood the dangers around them; because they are legal we seem to think they're okay, when the reality is they're dangerous chemicals that aren't made for human consumption. I have watched two of my friends suffer under these drugs and become completely unrecognisable. They can't talk properly, lost their jobs and one is now even on the streets. But I guess he's the lucky one... he's still alive. So I guess I chose 'legal' highs = LETHAL highs! because I care about young people and they need to know that just because something is legal doesn't make it safe, and just because you didn't die last time doesn't mean you won't this time, and just because you think it won't happen to you, doesn't mean it won't! It breaks my heart watching young people and my friends playing the lottery with their lives..."

Stephanie Nottage, 23

Actions

The Youth Commission joined with the OPCC and Hampshire Constabulary to launch a 'Lethal Highs' campaign, starting with an awareness week commencing October 16 2015. The campaign aimed to show that although these drugs are legal, it does not mean they are safe, as well as highlighting that we do not know what they actually contain. This campaign was supported by many partners from health, local authority and third sector organisations.

Four short films were produced, 1,000 posters and 3,000 leaflets printed and distributed, three workshops undertaken, an online survey published and great coverage gained in the media, most notably being the lead story on South Today on December 31 2015.

After seeing an article in the paper on the campaign, Oxfordshire Trading Standards Service contacted the ex-user who spoke in our workshop, who has agreed to give a statement outlining his bad experience and potentially attending court to give evidence.

The highly successful campaign was also mentioned in Steve Brine MP's speech in Parliament as part of the Psychoactive Substances Bill, and supported in the local papers by MPs Caroline Dinenage and Suella Fernandes. For more information see hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/Campaigns/lethalhighs.aspx

Big Conversation Findings

23 percent of young people we spoke to said this was their top priority

Young people felt that legal highs are an increasing issue that needs tackling, and stated they were easy to get hold of, cheaper than illegal drugs, considered not as dangerous as illegal drugs, and that young people are dealing in some cases. They suggested tougher consequences and more education is needed.

Views and experiences

"Legal highs are more dangerous than illegal drugs. My friend's heart stopped from using them"

"Many of my friends have taken legal highs and have had bad reactions and had to go to hospital"

"My brother nearly died of Spice. He was shaking and passed out, thought he was going to die. Spice is more dangerous than normal weed"

"At school this is common among some students. They've come in high at school"



Solutions from young people

"Fine parents for kids using. Put it on their criminal record"

“ Close the shops that sell them ”

"Legal Highs should have to say exactly what they contain"

"Make legal highs illegal so they cannot get access so easily. That way, less people would lose their lives"

"Put posters around the uni and halls to explain the dangers"

Youth Commission Recommendations

- Broaden the 'Lethal Highs' awareness campaign, heightening at key points throughout the year e.g. festival season, New Year, end of term
- A resource pack to be produced for use in schools, colleges, universities and youth groups to raise awareness of the differences between legal and illegal drugs, their effects and consequences. Using the Lethal Highs campaign materials, including films, to promote awareness of the dangers of new psychoactive substances
- Make sure this resource pack (or other) is used by schools to highlight the dangers of using legal highs
- Target parents with a similar information pack in order for them to educate their children
- For professionals, such as the police and health care workers, to refer those using these substances that they come into contact with to agencies like Catch 22 for help
- Have those that have used legal highs give talks on their experience and give real messages to young people



Ex-Lethal Highs user Toby who spoke at the Leigh Park workshop

Case study

Bekki Dunn, 17

I'm Bekki and I currently attend Peter Symonds College in Winchester.



"When I originally heard that the Youth Commission were recruiting, I was intrigued as to what the Youth Commission was about and what was involved. "The Youth Commission enables young people to become a part of the solution, rather than being seen as part of the problem." This was the statement that stood out to me most when reading about the project.

In today's society some people see youths as being troublesome, unhelpful and lazy, and think that young people do not know right from wrong. Although this is true for a very small minority of young people, for the majority it is the contrary, as many youths do not want to be seen as a burden on society, rather as proactive and cooperative members of the community.

As cliché as it may sound, I applied to join the Youth Commission because I wanted to try and make a difference to other people's lives and to also try and change the general public perception of my age group. I know that one small group of young people are not going to change the world, however I feel that if we can inspire others to make a positive contribution, then a real change can be made around us.

I am so pleased that I joined the Youth Commission, as it has been a brilliant opportunity, which I have enjoyed every minute of. It has been great to meet people from many different

backgrounds and listen to their opinions and ideas. Because there are such a variety of experiences, the Youth Commission has been able to come up with many good ideas on how to approach the work on the six main priorities.

Through the Lethal Highs campaign, I have featured in the series of films on the implications of taking legal highs (otherwise known as new psychoactive substances or lethal highs), helped to lead workshops to educate youths on the issue and even been interviewed for BBC South Today!

Over my time with the Youth Commission I have developed various skills and personal qualities. I have improved my presentation skills through assisting at the workshops and also developed my communication skills because of attending numerous Big Conversation events and speaking to young people. The Youth Commission has also helped me to develop my confidence, particularly in more challenging environments.

Whether it has been managing to stop somebody from trying lethal highs or even giving somebody the confidence to 'make a noise about bullying', hopefully the Youth Commission has been able to make some differences and will continue to do so, particularly with the recommendations in this report. Next year I am eager to continue to work with the Youth Commission and I am hoping that we can help reach out to more young people and encourage others to Be Part of the Solution."



Priority 3

Supporting Young Victims and Offenders

We wanted to improve support for young victims and help young offenders to move away from crime

Our aims were to:

- Find out about young people's experiences as victims and offenders
- Ensure young offenders are aware of the consequences of offending
- Explore what long-term support is most needed

"I chose young victims and offenders as my priority for the main reason that I think it's extremely important to acknowledge that many people who turn to crime have been victims themselves, and if we can address this while they are still young it might be possible to stop the cycle of offending. I also think that many victims and offenders get discriminated against due to the crimes they've been party to and I believe that it's of paramount importance to ensure everyone is aware of their worth despite what's happened to them or what they have done - they are still a valuable human being. During my time as a member of the Youth Commission I have been able to take part in numerous experiences, many of which I have enjoyed. I particularly liked being able to observe cases being held at Hampshire Community Court, a system I am passionate about being introduced on a wider scale".

Ruby Leaity, 19

Actions

1) Commissioned Fixers who explored a case study to produce a film regarding life as an offender. The film can be seen on the Fixers website.



Supporting Young Victims and Offenders

2) Visited services that support young victims and offenders to gain an understanding of the help on offer

3) Undertook a **#Knowyourworth** campaign on social media



HAMPSHIRE
Community Court

A mentor from the Youth Commission now sits on the Hampshire Community Court, which puts victims at the heart of the criminal justice process and aims to reduce re-offending. Through taking part, young, first-time offenders, increase their chance of rehabilitation instead of entering into a cycle of reoffending. It uses peer pressure, one of the main identified reasons for young people offending, to reverse their attitude to crime and anti-social behaviour. The Youth Commission fully supports this project.

Big Conversation Findings

4 percent of young people we spoke to said this was their top priority

There was a general feeling that there are not services available to support either victims or offenders or if there were, that young people did not know where to access them. Raising awareness of the support groups that are available for victims, and for programmes that help offenders to move away from crime, was a common theme.

Views and experiences

"My friend has been a victim of serious crime and because of this she has anxiety and hasn't been helped"

"Offenders do their time and serve their time inside but are let back out to where they got in trouble in the first place"

"I believe some people are stuck in a cycle and need good role models and a safe place. Understand how it affects their futures"

"Personally I feel prison time for young offenders with minor crimes cause further offences and a gateway to crime as well as an increased suicide rate. Also 'gangs' should be treated as individuals and discover the route of the issue (poverty, abuse etc.)"

Solutions from young people

"If under 25, then they should still be treated as a young adult. He [my brother] was scared and should have had more access to different support while in custody"

"Restorative Justice - meet in a safe place. Show the impact and it makes it real"

"To set up more points of contact for young offenders, for example a website which can provide advice for those who need it and also a place for them to find any information such as hotlines"

"An increase in abuse and mental health support workers"

"Not to give up on young people. Show them the consequences of crime in the long term. One mistake can change a life"

Youth Commission Recommendations

- The expansion of the Community Court. More awareness regarding the outcomes of its work
- An increase in positive interventions, both pre and post offending, such as motivational workshops to build self esteem, youth diversionary activities and courses, both educational and spiritual
- Raise awareness of resources and support groups for victims and offenders, recognising the links with mental health issues. Training for custody staff and monitoring of detainees with these conditions and linking with the Victim Care Service
- Promotion and expansion of the 'keep calm and know your rights' campaign



Case Study Gabrielle Day, 20

I joined the Youth Commission because I wanted to make a difference within the community; mainly so that future generations will be able to feel safe, especially in regards to their views and relationship with the police but also to promote equality and diversity.

The perception of young people, I've found from personal experience, is somewhat tarnished and misunderstood, so I felt passionate about changing those views in a positive manner. I wasn't aware of many services that were available to young people and being part of the Youth Commission has enabled me to find out information regarding these whilst promoting them to others as well.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Youth Commission as it gives me a better insight into the work that the authorities are doing with young people, gaining the views of young people on what they would like to be improved. In particular I enjoyed going to the various hostels and giving presentations to the young people living there; mainly on the subject of Legal, or Lethal Highs. It was interesting to have a discussion with a mixture of people from all sorts of different backgrounds. I also enjoyed sitting in on workshops that other agencies were presenting to young people. For example, Southern Domestic Abuse Service gave a presentation at a school, and it was great to be able to have the opportunity to gain insight on what approach those particular professionals took when addressing young people on such a sensitive subject of domestic abuse. However, it did also highlight the gap in provision when it comes to this subject and others that are similar within the young communities.

I hope that in the near future I will gain more valuable insight on these particular subjects and be able to carry on the positive work that the Youth Commission enables, whilst promoting the relevant services that young people may otherwise not be aware of. I hope to be involved with the Youth Commission for as long as possible, as well as also encouraging more young people to strive to be involved. The Youth Commission is a credit to the OPCC, all those who work alongside them, the communities and young people.



Priority 4 Abusive Relationships

We wanted to raise awareness of abusive relationships and improve support for young people

Our aims were to:

- Raise awareness of all forms of abusive relationships and the consequences
- Help young people to identify abuse
- Find out what young people already know, and what more education they need

"I wanted to explore how aware youths are about abusive relationships, not only physically but sexually, financially and psychologically. How they felt it impacted them and their friends; learning about different types and signs to be aware of. To remind them help is available and where they can find it. I just wanted to help create awareness of abuse of all different forms to help at least someone understand it further".

Meredith Draper, 20

Actions

- 1) Ran workshops to explore views and experiences of unhealthy relationships
- 2) Supported the anti-bullying week campaign 'Make a Noise about Bullying'
- 3) Met with SafeDATE to undertake their unhealthy relationships workshop for secondary school students and look at how the Youth Commission can support its work
- 4) Built links with North East Hampshire domestic abuse forum regarding work with young people in this area

Big Conversation Findings

25 percent of young people we spoke to said this was their top priority

Young people highlighted that their peers are having relationships younger, and with large age gaps between partners. Others said that some young people don't want to talk about abuse, think it is normal or do not know how to get out of it. Young people were keen to recognise different types of abuse, especially abuse of men and on the internet. The consensus was there should be more emphasis on this subject, education on the signs of abuse and support for those experiencing it. Use of TV adverts was thought to be an effective way of communicating these messages.

Views and experiences

"I have friends who are in abusive relationships, it's quite common"

"I feel a lot of young people don't know about consent or how to stop"

"Once you're in an abusive relationship it's hard to get out, you feel trapped"

"Not knowing where to go if it is not a 999 emergency"

"People don't understand, they think it's just 'friendship issues' It gives me anxiety and I'm doing home school because of it"

Solutions suggested by young people

"Have stands in schools and colleges monthly, to hopefully encourage people to feel more comfortable"

"Have a couple of lessons a year about rape, abuse and relationships"

"Being able to speak out as most abuse victims are scared to tell anyone. Also for police to take mental abuse more seriously"

"Easier ways to get help without worrying about being found out"

"Subtly asking every student at schools things about it by different methods"

"Provide drop in sessions for young people on abusive relationships. Have people who have overcome these experiences, talk to the young people"

Youth Commission Recommendations

- More focus on healthy relationships, both overt (campaigns, assemblies) and covert (subtle and discreet with an individual). Promote respect of consent and raise awareness of the types of abusive relationships. Support young people to identify signs of abuse; including modern forms such as cyber sex, revenge porn, use of social media etc
- Promotion of existing local and national keeping safe campaigns such as; ICE (In Case of Emergency) wristbands, the 'companion' app, Take a Mate, consent is everything and white ribbon day
- Schools to give a particular focus to teenage relationships, utilising resources such as Chelsea's Choice a drama about grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Error404 (film about cyber bullying)
- Increase and raise awareness of support for men and people from same sex relationships
- Anonymous/untraceable and widely publicised reporting mechanisms
- Explore provision for under 21's and take steps to fill any gaps identified





Anti-social Behaviour

Priority 5 Anti-Social Behaviour

We wanted to make sure young people are part of the solution to anti-social behaviour

Our aims were to:

- Find out young people's perceptions of ASB and how these differ from older people
- Create a film for schools and youth clubs to help young people take positive action
- Carry out events to unite young people and older people in tackling this issue

"ASB has so many forms and is such a grey area, what is seen as ASB can be different for different people; from playing football in a park to wearing a hoodie. Everyone has their own definition; this is why this priority is important to me and why it is important to you! We have run many workshops on this topic, all creating different reactions and outcomes". **Callum Nicolson, 20**

Actions

- 1) Participated in the Police and Crime Commissioner's ASB Conference. Presented, led workshops and were panel members
- 2) Ran workshops with peers to explore their views of what constitutes ASB
- 3) Attended diversionary activities such as 'Access All Areas' to consult with peers
- 4) Gave written evidence to the Police and Crime Panel regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner's response to ASB
- 5) Commissioned a film on ASB

Big Conversation Findings

17 percent of young people we spoke to said this was their top priority

Young people gave many examples of ASB they have witnessed, and are concerned about the amount of graffiti and littering, including broken glass, and generally felt that more activities for young people would reduce the amount of ASB.

Views and experiences

"There's not much things for young people to do. When we go to the park people accuse us of anti-social behaviour when we are playing football"

"People having no fear. No awareness of how a criminal record will affect their future lives e.g. travelling (America) or future jobs"

"A teenager and his brother smoke and drink in the park next to my house then later a boy smashed the car window"

Solutions suggested by young people

"Let kids have graffiti walls to express themselves and it would stop mindless tagging"

“ Encourage street art events to monitor graffiti but allow people to do it ”

"Use the police cadets more and more coppers on the streets"

Youth Commission Recommendations

- More police on foot patrols; observe routes home from school and later at night
- Clearer definitions of what ASB is, rethink the ethos behind it e.g. what is and is not acceptable and that it may vary between groups of people

- Youth workers to have a radio that they can be contacted on by police if there have been reports of ASB, and the police believe a response from officers is not the most effective option, but where a youth worker attending the area to generate youth work may be a better solution - this has worked in Dartford and Lordshill
- An online version of 101 where you can report ASB by area
- Young people who commit ASB to go on 'ride-alongs' and meet victims to understand the impact of their behaviour. This could include a reconstruction of the ASB they'd committed to show them the impact it has

Case study Louis Faith, 22



Eight years ago I was out of education, committing anti-social behaviour, getting into petty crime and drug taking. Through my engagement with Pompey in the Community I turned my life around, trained as a youth worker and various sports qualifications I was able to give back to the community that helped me so much as I was growing up through my adolescence.

In 2012 I became an ambassador for Beyond Sport. This gave me a platform to speak to people from all around the world! Audiences of over 800 people at events in London and New York. At the Beyond Sport Summit & Awards 2012 I was fortunate enough to be nominated for the Beyond Sport - Muhammad Ali Award, the first of its kind. Unfortunately I didn't win the award but lost to a worthy winner. From this I got to meet Muhammad and Lonnie Ali, David Beckham, Michael Johnson, John Ameichi and many more.



I joined the Youth Commission in February 2015. I attended the anti-social behaviour conference and have spoken with Simon about how sport can play a vital role when the Hampshire Constabulary want to make positive relationships with young people from the community.

I was invited to the House of Lords for the Barclays and Football Foundation Parliamentary Reception. I was on the panel representing PITC, talking about how sport changed my life and the pioneering programme that is Spaces for Sport.



I was really pleased to be named in the Beyond Sport Inspirational Top 50. The shortlist recognises people from across the world, involved in all different sports, who have made a difference to their community or future generations.

The top 50 includes sporting stars like David Beckham and Muhammad Ali and other famous people like Michelle Obama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Prince Harry.





Priority 6 Gangs and Youth Violence

We wanted to address gangs and youth violence in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Our aims were to:

- Understand the root causes and young people's experiences
- Talk to those with personal experience wherever possible
- Involve young people in creating solutions to these issues

Actions

1) Attended a talk arranged by Big World Impact from Paul Hannaford, ex-gang leader and drug addict who shared how his decisions had affected his life, and when he decided that his out of control lifestyle had to change.



2) Commissioned Fixers to create a film with someone who had personal experience in this area. The film can be seen on the Fixers website.

3) Had a dialogue with Hampshire Constabulary's youth related gang lead to explore where the Youth Commission could support the new Youth Gangs Strategy.

Big Conversation Findings

13 percent of young people we spoke to said this was their top priority

The perception of gangs is mixed; some consider a large group of friends intimidating, others believe that this is the norm. Young people link formal and known gangs (i.e. with a gang name and territory) to violence, ASB and drug taking.

They felt gangs should be held accountable for their behaviour but also that members should be diverted to positive activities through role models.

Views and experiences

"My friend has been in a gang and they go into abandoned houses to steal stuff. Always in trouble with the police."

"Not everyone that wears a hoodie is doing something wrong, but we still get judged for it"

"The increase of gangs and gang violence cause a variety of problems to occur throughout the community. This increase causes the community to rupture and become unsafe"

Solutions suggested by young people

"More police patrolling"

"Create things for youths to do"

"Highlight the benefits of education and how crime affects society and families, write a report over social media e.g. Facebook to review that history"

"Older adult figure to help and guide them"

"Police given the resources to interact with people at a young age as well as community volunteers to help dissuade young people from entering into crime"

Youth Commission Recommendations

- Have people whose lives have been ruined by gangs and youth violence talk to young people highlighting the risk of joining gangs and use creative mediums to examine real life in a gang e.g. interactive workshops and drama performances such as Terriers Tour
- Distribute a questionnaire to look at public perception, and fear of gangs and youth violence
- Raise awareness regarding what is a gang versus a group of youths on the street, or an organised criminal network

Conclusion

The Youth Commission has spoken to an array of young people and professionals over the past year whose input and ideas have created the recommendations in this report.

Although many young people respect the police, others did not or stated they felt intimidated by them, highlighting that there is still work to do regarding their relationship with young people. Young people are looking to interact with the police through the methods they use to communicate, predominantly privately online. The Youth Commission is committed to working with Hampshire Constabulary on this issue and will thread this objective throughout its work going forward.

The Youth Commission attended and heard about many diversionary activities and found they are a valued and effective way to reduce anti-social behaviour. However the cost of transport to organised activities are a barrier to young people and this needs further consideration. Additionally they felt that if their surroundings were not maintained e.g. broken windows, litter and graffiti that people would be more likely to cause more damage and were less likely to want to spend time there.

Whilst acknowledging that steps have been made to tackle abusive relationships, more can be done. As the top priority for young people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, we would strongly encourage partner organisations to make it their priority too.

Generally young people did not feel that gangs and youth violence were an issue locally. However, some had experienced groups of young people who displayed bullying behaviour and/or have been seen to participate in disruptive and criminal activity. Although suggested by most that more police is the answer, the Youth Commission suggests that trusted adults like youth workers, are the key to engaging and diverting these young people from the path they are on.

Restorative justice was quoted as an important method in supporting young victims and offenders. This process allows a conclusion for the victim and gives the offender an opportunity to acknowledge their actions and change their behaviour.

The Youth Commission would also like to see better advertising of, and more tailored support services for young victims.

Our Lethal Highs campaign made a good impact in creating a debate, raising awareness and educating people about New Psychoactive Substances. Feedback clearly indicated that this should continue and expand and the Youth Commission is extremely keen to support this to happen.

Young people strongly felt that using people that have directly experienced a situation would be the most effective way for messages to reach them. They also said their input is crucial into the planning and delivery of campaigns and strategies, as well as using the correct media to relay them to the right target audience.

The success of the Youth Commission is down to the willingness and support of Hampshire Constabulary, the backing and belief from the Police and Crime Commissioner and his office, the cooperation from partners, and the peer to peer work the members carry out. Thank you to all who have been involved.



The Youth Commission's next steps

- Recruitment of a new cohort pan Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- To focus on four priorities; each with a clear campaign or focal event
- Continue to input and support the implementation of the recommendations in this report
- Work closely with partners and stakeholders to engage more young people, especially in the Big Conversation
- To suggest that the Police and Crime Commissioner introduce a requirement that projects funded by his Office should support Youth Commission consultations, campaigns and activities
- To join with Hampshire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to commission a survey of young victims on their experiences and identify areas for improvement
- Support the mapping exercise of youth provision being undertaken by the Commissioner's office
- Continue support to initiatives such as Prevent, Police Apprentice, Hampshire Community Court, youth engagement events
- Work with Hampshire Constabulary's lead for youth gangs to complete a baseline assessment, and influence the direction of their gang strategy

Quotes from Youth Commission mentors

"I joined the Youth Commission in 2013 as I saw it as an opportunity to make a difference by taking action instead of just moaning about what needs to change. Over the last couple of years we've managed to speak to a whole array of young people and carry forward some great initiatives. Our 'Lethal Highs' campaign was particularly successful and something I am proud to have been a part of. This has been a very eye-opening experience for me as I have learnt a lot about the issues that affect other young people. It is easy to group 'young people' together and assume that the issues facing them are identical but actually it varies greatly depending on various things such as age, area and gender. I have gained a lot from the Youth Commission and I hope to remain in contact with the OPCC to hear about all the great things I'm sure they'll get up to in the future"

Emalene Hickman, 26

"I have been a member for over two years and I believe that the Youth Commission, together with Simon Hayes, has helped improve local communities and bring out creative new opportunities for young adults. As the total number of missing episodes has increased this past year, I'd like to see the Youth Commission help raise awareness in regards to individuals who are reported missing and to help work with local communities to prevent this or encourage people to come forward"

Dalian Lacey, 21

"I hope to build a career in the police one day, working with the Police and Crime Commissioner is a great insight and very rewarding. It is also a great way to meet new people with the same interests and passions as I have, together our co-operation and drive contributes to making Hampshire and Isle of Wight a safer place and giving a voice for today's youth"

Christie Norris, 21

"I stayed part of the Youth Commission to help the new members and offer my advice to them. I also wanted to continue to be part of the solution and show others that offenders can change and become positive members of the community"

Casey Taylor, 23

Our partners

We are grateful to the following organisations for their support enabling the Big Conversation to happen;

Access All Areas	North East Hants Domestic Abuse Forum
Big World Impact	Pompey in the Community
Butserfest	Prince's Trust, Redbridge
Cop's n Coffee	Southampton Solent University
Eastleigh Borough Council	Streetz Fest
Fit Fest	Totton & Eling Arts Festival
Hampshire Care Ambassadors	Volunteer Police Cadets
Hampshire UK Youth Parliament Members	Yateley School
Motiv8	YMCA
	YServices for young people

For support from;

Fixers	Solent University Student Union
Hampshire Constabulary	Portsmouth NHS Hospital Trust
Hampshire County Council (Public Health/DAAT and Scientific Service)	South Central Ambulance Service
Leaders Unlocked	Southampton University Student Union
Parent Support Link	Stacey Miller Consultancy

And appreciation to;

Aurora New Dawn	Lady Louisa Portal, High Sheriff of Hampshire
Catch 22	Southern Domestic Abuse
Community First, Havant and East Hants	Staff at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

"The progress of the Youth Commission over the past year is very impressive. It's such an exciting and diverse project to work on, every day is different! It gives such a range of opportunities for members to gain skills and develop themselves, as well as benefiting the organisations that they advise and work with. I'd like to thank the members for all the time and effort they have put in, it is very much appreciated and I look forward to working with them on the next stage"

Lynne Meechan,
Youth Commission Project Officer





Testimonials

I first crossed paths with members of the Youth Commission at a ceremony acknowledging the achievements of the Gosport Cadets. The Commission members were seeking the views of the young people in attendance as part of their Big Conversation. I was intrigued by the work of the Commission and as such delighted to receive a presentation about their work during a visit to the OPCC. This informed me about all the wonderful work they do and left me truly impressed at what they have achieved so far. I was thrilled that three members came to my Law Sunday Choral Matins, where those involved in the justice system come together for a very special event. I am fully supportive of the work Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Commission and wish them continued success in their endeavours.

Lady Portal (Louisa) MBE DL High Sheriff of Hampshire

Youth Commission members have reinforced my view that the Board should speak directly to young people.

Lord McNally, Chair of the Youth Justice Board

Much of my work is to raise awareness of the consequences of drinking too much which greatly links in with the priorities of the Youth Commission, in particular about anti-social behaviour, abusive relationships and gangs and youth violence. Another integral part of my job is to give young people a voice on what matters to them, again of the same rationale as the Youth Commission.

A fantastic piece of work that stands out for me is when I organised a 'Relationships' youth conference. Lynne Meechan was able to sit on the planning group and was able to involve the Youth Commission on the delivery of the day and run a workshop to approx. 70 young people, kept it interactive and engaging which is not an easy task. I have also been fortunate to work with the Youth Commissioners through my freelance training role where I was very impressed with their creativity, commitment and enthusiasm for learning and wanting to make a great impact on their communities. Who best to educate young people than young people themselves! I fully support and endorse their work and I look forward to more joint working in the future.

Stacey Miller, Alcohol awareness project for Eastleigh Borough Council

Hampshire Constabulary were tasked at the end of 2014 to write a Youth Strategy by the PCC. One of the aims of the strategy has been to improve the relationship with young people and so working in partnership with the Youth Commission has really helped to inform the work that we do. The Youth Commissioners have given time to take part in police led workshops to inform on the best ways for the police to communicate with young people. They have supported the use of our Hampshire Youth Newsletter and have been an excellent sounding board to gain thoughts and opinions from, in order that we have that all important youth perspective on the work we do. It has also been pleasing to see this dedicated group of young people embracing the challenges set for them by the PCC and producing some excellent work on some important areas of business, such as their Lethal Highs campaign. They should be proud of their achievements.

Insp 325 Lisa Stevens, Strategic Partnerships, Hampshire Constabulary

Working with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Youth Commission this year has been an absolute pleasure. Our organisation helped to establish the Youth Commission, which was one of the first of its kind in England. Since then, we have witnessed the Youth Commission go from strength to strength, led by Lynne Meechan at the OPCC. I am hugely impressed with the dedication and commitment shown by the diverse members of the Commission, who have given so much of their voluntary time to the project. These young people are truly inspiring ambassadors and role models for others. Their 'Lethal Highs' campaign this year has taken a fresh and innovative approach to communicating with young people about the dangers of legal highs, and was designed and led by young people themselves. Congratulations on an inspiring year of work!

Rose Dowling Director, Leaders Unlocked

The Youth Commission offers a valuable opportunity for young people to speak in a supported and safe forum, raise concerns and issues close to them and put forward ideas for initiatives to help break down barriers for young people. Louis Faith, our Sports Youth Worker who started with PITC as young person on our programme eight years ago has supported Youth Commission since late 2014. We continue to support the Youth Commission as we believe the benefits for young people having a high profile forum with a direct link to the police is a valuable tool. For us, one huge gain has been that Louis raised the lack of presence from the police at our sessions. Simon Hayes responded directly to this and Louis met with Chief Inspector for Portsmouth in summer 2015. He was then put in touch with the officer in charge of youth engagement who has since successfully engaged his colleagues to attend our city wide sessions and have a presence where possible in a lot of our work and he himself regularly attends one of our weekly sessions building up good relationship with local young people. A great further example of this, is police participation in a football tournament of Your Street against Brighton & Reading Kicks held in December 2016 where the police staff refereed some of the matches and a police team played a match against the young people building positive relations.

Gemma Vale, Pompey in the Community


Since April 2014, Big World Impact (BWI) has operated in Leigh Park and there have been numerous events where the Youth Commission has supported and added value to the work carried out with young people here, including young people at risk of entering the Youth Justice System or involved in ASB and Out of Court Disposal and those already involved in Youth Offending. Over 200 young people directly engaged through this partnership and indirectly the impact of the Youth Commission has reached more than 2000 young people through;

- Supporting Leigh Park Youth Forum (offering advice and peer mentoring to Leigh Park young people. This support was practical and Youth Commission members really made an impression on the local young people who were taking their first steps within this type of forum
- Joint presenting of relevant Community Safety Workshops (legal highs) workshops to young people
- Members attending other BWI Safer Community Workshops (gangs, knife crime)
- Members supporting BWI high profile events including Football matches for young people

Julian Wadsworth MBE, Big World Impact



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