



Youth Commission Initial findings of serious violence responses to the Big Conversation

VRU summary

In quarter one, January – March 2020, 193 young people have chosen serious violence as their top priority in the Big Conversation, which is 33.7% of the overall responses.

Age	No of respondents
12	21
13	21
14	23
15	14
16	28
17	33
18	10
19	8
20	5
21	4
22	2
23	4
24	1
25	7
Not given	12
Total	193

Area	No of respondents
Basingstoke and Deane	20
East Hants	11
Eastleigh	4
Fareham	26
Gosport	16
Hart	21
Havant	7
Isle of Wight	11
New Forest	4
Portsmouth	8
Rushmoor	2
Southampton	21
Test Valley	8
Winchester	5
Not specified	23
Out of county	6
Total	193

After reading through all our responses on serious violence it is clear to see how it's making our youth's feel, which is scared, worried, always on edge and it's also effecting their mental health as they are always in flight or fight mode.

The part of our Big Conversation where it asks thoughts or experiences has actually opened my eyes as they keep saying:

"Too many people are at risk when going about their daily lives. No one now a-days feels completely safe when going out to and even or into town knowing there is a potential threat of being stabbed for example"

Out of all the Big Conversation cards we have read, one stood out the most because of what the young person wrote in the experiences box which was:

"I've lost many people to this from them being killed or ending up in prison due to bad actions."

This is a response from someone as it stood out the most as it hits the message home on how they are feeling day to day.



The main part of our Big Conversation is asking for ideas on how to stop or improve the situation.

Young people have outlined,

- stricter knife laws
- more education (both for teachers and students)
- more places for them to go where they feel safe like community centres
- they want to learn and understand the effects and consequences
- but what they really want, which is surprising, is they want more police and more stop and search powers

Young people have also stated that they feel panicked when out in public due to fear of getting hurt, also a lot of people have seen someone stabbed.

Below are some quotes of what young people have said they want for their solution on how to tackle serious violence.

“ Education on how violence can affect people their whole lives, stricter rules on violence from the first offence.”

“I think it has to start with education from a young age as well as harsher laws and sentences on carrying offensive weapons etc. Also, I think the police should always have stop and search rights in areas where serious violence is occurring.”



Even though these are the main things young people are asking for there are so many other ideas we have heard and here are a few of these so you can see what young people are coming up with to stop serious violence as they have had enough of it and want it to stop.

“ There needs to be plans put in place for parenting and how kids are brought up and who surrounds them”

“ Community clubs to target children at young ages to stop them from following bad influences and committing crimes and violence. Teach them to be better and help them grow.”

“ We need alternatives for particularly young people who are vulnerable to radical ideas which can result in violence. Perhaps if young people (around the age bracket for this) had places to go and do something productive they wouldn't grow into violent criminals”



Here are the themes we coded from the responses to our Big Conversation:

Phrase/theme	Code
Support group	SG
Gender specific support	GSS
Awareness raising	AR
Someone to talk to (trusted person)	STT
Education	ED
Understanding effects and consequences	UEC
Speak out	SO
Mental health support	MHS
Community events/spaces	CES
Counselling/Check in sessions	CIS
Workshops	WS
More cctv	MC
More police	MP
Stricter police	SP
More event personal searches	MEPS
Reporting	R
Stricter knife laws	SNL
More security	MS
Stop and search	SS
Listen	L
Stricter laws	SL
No answer	NA
Medical attention	MA
Knife Crime	KC
Drug Crime	DC
Death	D
Injuries	I
Issue	IS
Gender Specific	GS
Alcohol Crime	AC
Gaming	GA
Police Issues	PI
Social Media	SM
ID's	ID
Call Police	CP
Alternative options	AO
HATE CRIME	HC

Additionally, we have spoken to young people at the Bridge Education Centre in Eastleigh who stated they have had personal experience of knife crime through a family member, and that people



don't realise that it doesn't just affect the people involved but also the families of both. All the young people stated people carry knives to fit in.

A couple of young people who we met at the Prince's Trust group in Gosport said they have carried knives, and some still do for safety - not to use on someone as they have had friends stabbed for 'no reason'.

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