

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT YOUTH COMMISSION



2020/2021

Youth Commission Members 2020

Alex Anderson
Alex Hobbins
Amelia Payne
Amy Jones
Amy Taylor
Angel Newman
Anna Bodman
Ariana Leader
Ashley Payne
Becky Wise
Ben Frankland
Beth Chapman

Bronilda Hoxha
Caitlin O'Farrell
Caitlin Smedley
Eliot Peck
Elizabeth Bridges
Ellie Lovett
Ewan Ebbs
Faith Adams-Wright
James Bowman
Jasmine Wall
Jasmine Young
Jay Jones

Jordan Fewings
Josh Baker
Julia Angeles
Krishna Ramrakhani
Kyle Wright
Leon Stratten
Madeleine Davis
Mihaela Gherda
Mimi Millerchip
Owen Castelli
Sarah Arnold
Sarah Rahal

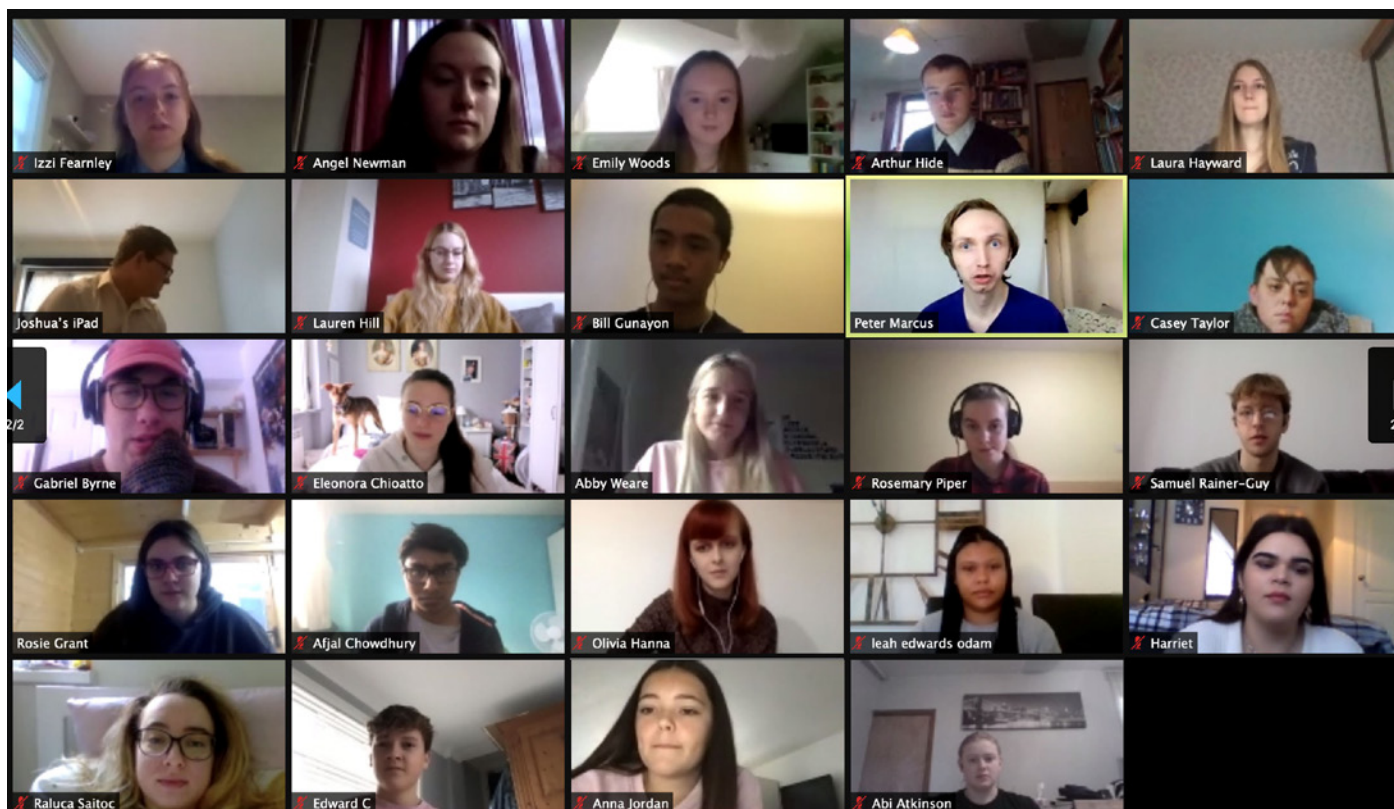
Youth Commission Members 2021

Abi Atkinson
Afjal Chowdhury
Anna Jordan
Arthur Hide
Bill Gunayon
Edward Carroll
Eleonora Chioatto
Emily Woods

Harriet Rollison
Holly Kitcat
Izzi Fearnley
Jessica Bird
Laura Hayward
Lauren Hill
Leah Edwards-Odam
Olivia Hanna

Peter Marcus
Raluca Saitoc
Rosemary Piper
Rosie Grant
Samuel Rainer-Guy

And OPCC volunteer Casey Taylor



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Foreword by Donna Jones

I would like to thank all the young people who have contributed to the development of these recommendations; the members of my Youth Commission who have given up their free time to consult with their peers, and those young people who have shared their ideas and experiences.

We hear more and more about young people as victims, but also as those committing offences. I want to support young people to reduce their vulnerability, and prevent them from becoming victims or being drawn into criminal behaviours. To support young people to make the right choices in life and to stay safe, we need to really listen to them and take on board what they have to say.



In hate crime, exploitation, and serious violence, the Youth Commission chose three issues that have a huge impact on the lives of young people to focus on this past year. I am pleased that they selected these topics for their Big Conversation, because we need to be seeking ways to prevent the devastation they can cause, not only for the young people involved, but for their families, friends and communities.

Crimes that target someone for who they are or what they believe can really affect a person's sense of identity and belonging to society, they cut to the absolute core, and should not be tolerated in today's society. People need to be aware of what a hate crime is, and feel confident to report it.

Exploitation comes in many forms: it can include being groomed online; it can be sexual, financial, emotional or criminal, such as through County Lines. Gangs dealing drugs is not a new issue, but the extent to which criminal exploitation of children, as well as increasing use of violence, has become an inherent part of county lines makes it especially damaging.

The level of violence we see and hear about, and the increase of young people carrying knives, is incredibly worrying. Tackling this issue must rest with everyone: parents, schools, the police, and young people themselves. Knives kill, and educating young people about the risks and harm, and the likely prison sentence if caught carrying a knife, is something I completely agree is key to tackling this growing crime.

The sharing of these recommendations alongside the roles members of my Youth Commission have on strategic groups, such as the Child Exploitation Board and the Violence Reduction Unit, will ensure that the voice of young people is not only heard by decision makers and those delivering services but actually helps to shape the work that police, councils, victim support services, health, youth offending teams, education, and many more do to keep young people safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Jones." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donna Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner

Introduction

The Youth Commission allows young people to act as a conduit between their peer group and the Police and Crime Commissioner, exploring real experiences on policing and crime, coupled with finding solutions for those issues.

Each year a new cohort of members are recruited, trained, and volunteer to make their communities a safer place to live. In 2020 and 2021 we recruited and inducted 39 young people aged between 14 and 25 who were tasked with:

- Talking with young people in their communities to understand their policing and criminal justice concerns, via The Big Conversation.
- Providing opportunities for young people to inform, support and challenge the Police and Crime Commissioner's work.
- Identifying the root causes of problems, making recommendations for change and working on solutions.

Members are from Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton and from diverse backgrounds, including some who may have direct experience of the police and justice systems. We actively encourage applications from young people with these life experiences.

The group identified the following priorities to address:

- **serious violence**
- **exploitation**
- **hate crime**

And continued the option for young people to tell us about anything else they think is important.

The BIG Conversation



From January 2020 to September 2021, the Youth Commission undertook its Big Conversation on their chosen priorities. Initially reaching young people in their own space, the focus soon moved to the online world as the pandemic hit. This had a big impact on the number of young people members would normally reach, with 2,042 responses received.

Youth Commission members worked alongside staff from the Commissioner's Performance and Information team to gain a qualitative understanding of the Big Conversation by coding the data and exploring emerging themes across each of the priorities on a quarterly basis.

These conversations gave us up to date 'on the ground' opinions, meaning that we could respond to the needs as and when they arose. Additionally the members used the feedback from the Big Conversation to influence the thinking of professionals and educated their peers.

The information gained has been collated into the following recommendations.

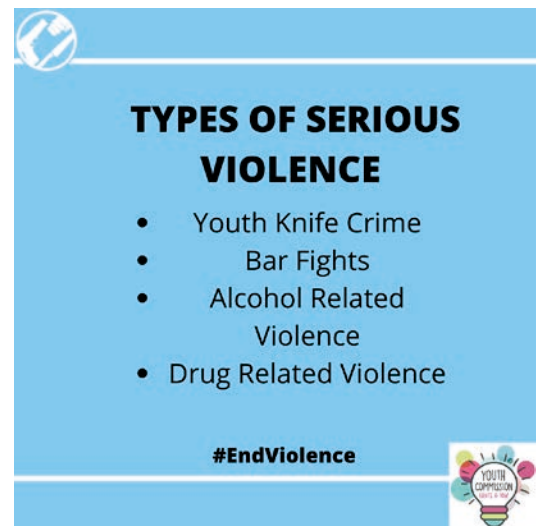
Summary

All recommendations are based on solutions given by young people in the Big Conversation.

THE **BIG** “CONVERSATION”

Serious Violence Recommendations

1. Education, preventing people getting involved in the first place and teaching young people how to deal with situations related to serious violence
2. Improving safety and police visibility through greater police presence, as well as more CCTV in public
3. Stricter laws and better support for both perpetrators and victims to get the support they need.



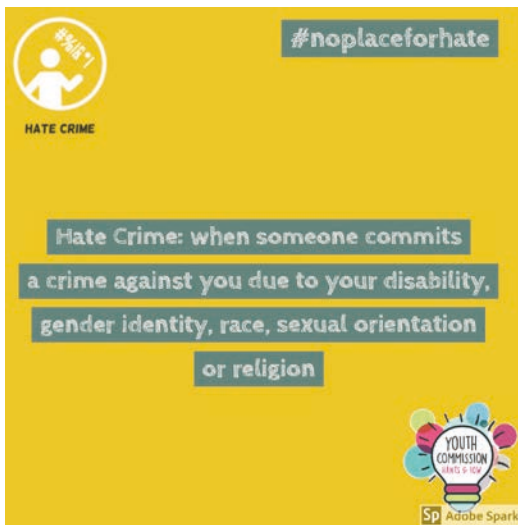
Exploitation Recommendations

1. Increased awareness of, and signposting to, services which support victims of exploitation
2. Education establishments should ensure that young people are aware that exploitation is a real issue and are able spot the signs of exploitation, in their own lives and their peers
3. Educate trusted adults, such as parents, carers, teachers and youth workers, about exploitation and how to have conversations, addressing the issue, with young people.



Hate Crime Recommendations

1. Equality, diversity and inclusion training and unconscious bias training should be introduced as a compulsory part of police training, the school curriculum, and workplaces generally
2. Increased awareness and ease of reporting a hate crime and signposting to support services
3. A zero-tolerance policy should be implemented by social media companies for tackling online hate crime



Something Else...

The three main themes young people also raised were:

1. Substance misuse
2. Mental health
3. Sexual Violence and Female Safety

Please see pages 22-23 for findings.



BIG Voices

The Youth Commission's aim is to be the 'go to' body for young people's voices, informing other demographics, cultures and communities, influencing locally, regionally and nationally.

Scrutiny

The Youth Commission submit a question to the Commissioner each time they hold a scrutiny session with the Chief Constable.

Consultation

We have contributed to the Children's Society Good Childhood Report 2020 and worked with a wider set of criminal justice partners including the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

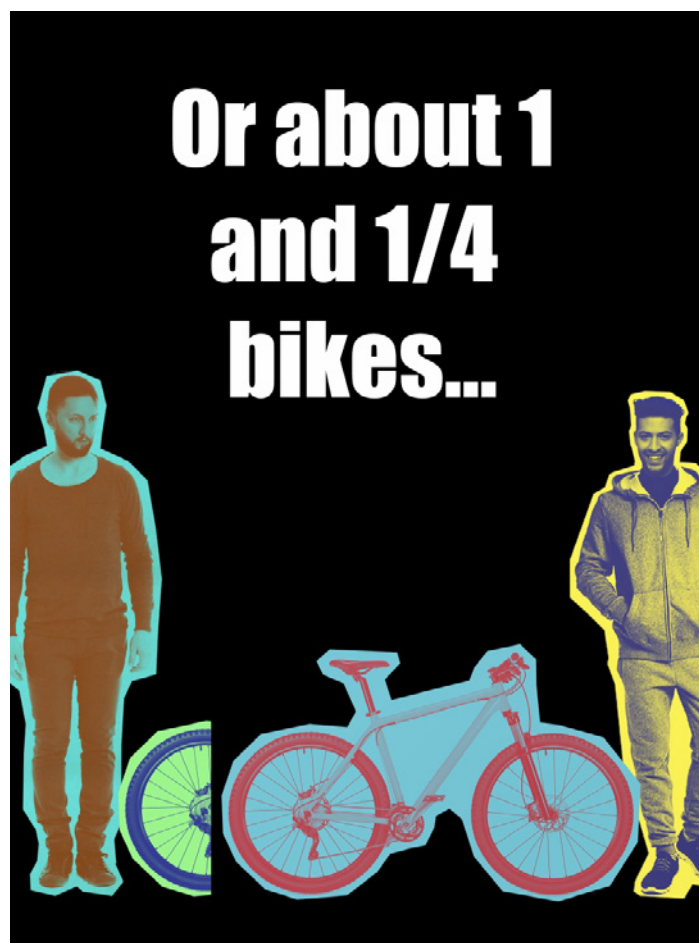


The pandemic provided us with an opportunity to be the voice of young people in other ways.

Pandemic Messaging

In May 2020 Hampshire County Council contacted us for our advice on the coronavirus social media animations targeted at teenagers.

Members also shared photos of what they were doing during lockdown to encourage others to stay at home, as well as inspirational quotes and signposting to mental health support.



Policing the Pandemic

Between May and June 2020 we joined with other Youth Commissions and youth organisations from across England and Wales to provide a snapshot of young people's views and experiences of policing during lockdown. The project gathered views from 3,491 young people.

The report can be found at www.leaders-unlocked.org/policing-the-pandemic

POLICING THE PANDEMIC:

Exploring young people's experiences and recommendations

This new youth-led project is working across England and Wales to:

- Examine young people's **experiences of policing** during the COVID-19 crisis
- Involve young people in **developing solutions** to improve the policing approach, now and in the future.

We are asking **13-25 year olds** to tell us what they think via a simple questionnaire:
tinyurl.com/ybkqyxhl

Deadline 5 June.

Responses will be used to produce national recommendations for change for police forces, PCCs and partner agencies.



@LeadersUnlocked
#PolicingthePandemic

LEADERS
UNLOCKED

Safer Together Apart

Throughout July 2020, we joined the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners' Safer Together Apart event, a virtual event that provided crime prevention advice and signposting to vital support services.

In the first week, a [summary video](#) of our work, and content that we'd made for each of our priorities was shared. Week 2 saw safety information from our Cyber Ambassadors and our [fractured film](#) raising awareness of coercion and control in unhealthy relationships was launched in week 3. Finally in week 4, our hate crime mentors went on [Unity 101 radio](#) to talk to Kelly and players from Unity 101 FC, as well as celebrating various members of the community through a series of posts on Instagram.



Members also:

- worked with Hampshire CAMHS to devise questions for their Boys Survey and give their views on the loneliness project, as well as a mental health triage leaflet
- facilitated community workshops for Mutual Gain
- sat on the Hampshire Adolescent Strategy Group
- took part in a focus group for the Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan refresh



Embedding the work of the Youth Commission with the Commissioner and their office

The Youth Commission are a valued part of the OPCC and as such work closely together. Members regularly take part in focus groups for the OPCC. This included giving feedback on stop and search materials, youth diversion grants and speaking with young people at a pupil referral unit in Eastleigh to gather views on how relations between businesses and young people could be improved.

The Commissioner regularly joins members at their catch ups to hear and share in celebrating the progress that is being made.



Introduction of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group

The Youth Commission are committed to making sure their work and engagements with other young people supports and promotes Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The group, consisting of members from each priority group, have been taking steps to learn and widen understanding on various aspects of EDI and engaging with young people with lived experiences.

To support this work, members have received training on unconscious bias, and on equality, diversity and inclusion.

A brief oversight of their inclusive work includes utilising social media channels to engage on EDI calendar events; exploring the diversity wheel to learn more about the correct use of language surrounding ethnic backgrounds and disability; and identifying ways to make the Big Conversation accessible to all young people. The group has also promoted inclusivity through educating and encouraging members to use correct pronouns with peers and other young people they engage with.



BIG Stats

Results of the BIG Conversation

2,042 BIG Conversation Responses



Breakdown of young people by age

All Specified Ages	→	1,922
>13	→	41
13-14	→	652
15-16	→	678
17-18	→	296
19-20	→	111
20+	→	144
Not specified	→	120

A [complete breakdown](#) of the Big Conversation by age, district and priority is available.

Facts About the Youth Commission

1,000+ Hours
Volunteered

56 Youth Commission
Members

55 Partners

51 Meetings Attended
with Partners

20 Events

20 Workshops
with Young People



Priority 1 - Serious Violence

Our Aims Were To:

- Help to prevent young people getting involved in gangs, drugs and serious violence
- Help keep young people safe through engaging education
- Enabling young people to easily reach support networks



Did you know?

- That self defence is not a reliable excuse for carrying a weapon
- Also carrying a knife for someone else is not an excuse
- Both of these can lead to you being arrested and prosecuted

#EndViolence



“Serious violence is important to address because it affects a lot of young people, their futures and their families. Our team is making a difference by giving educational sessions to young people about knife crime and also creating social media content on our pages about resources and websites that are available for help like ‘no knives better lives’.”

Actions:

- Work with the Violence Reduction Units (VRUs)
- Develop a project for young people to raise awareness of the consequences of knife crime and promote positive activities for young people
- Promote organisations that can help

Members:

- Attended the launch and subsequent meetings of the Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Southampton VRUs
- Made an infographic, kahoot and series of social media posts
- Were part of the Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit grants panel
- Ran workshops with groups of young people on knife crime and violence
- Worked with a range of partners to produce a peace project that was piloted and launched in Basingstoke

“Serious Violence can change the lives (for the worse) of both victims and perpetrators, and what can start with something as simple as carrying a knife for your own protection, could lead to serious harm coming to yourself or committing a really serious crime that you never originally intended to.”

Eliot Peck, 17



Views and Experiences:

"I think knife crime is really dangerous and as someone who has been threatened with knives it is a scary thing to go through."

"I'm very concerned by knife crime in this country. My friend was murdered last year at the age of 22 just walking home from work. I now work at a hospital and it concerns me how regularly stab victims are admitted to A&E and other victims of assault."

"The police are not visible, there are not (any) foot patrols or cycle police".

"I have experienced an unprovoked violent attack which led to me having to go to hospital for my injuries, this is something I never expected to experience as a child."

Findings:

30% of young people we spoke to told us this was their top priority.

All recommendations are based on solutions given by young people in the Big Conversation.

Youth Commission Recommendations

1. Education

Many of the young people we spoke to thought that education around serious violence would help to reduce its impact on people their age. There are two key routes to focus on when it comes to education around serious violence. The first should concentrate on preventing people getting involved in the first place, by teaching about the consequences and how to avoid peer pressure, for example using the Youth Commission's Peace Sculpture Project.

The other should be teaching young people how to deal with situations related to serious violence, such as if someone you know is involved in serious violence (i.e. how to report it anonymously) or how to help someone who has been stabbed until an ambulance arrives. Delivering workshops to schools with this information would likely be the best way to educate young people.

2. Improving Safety and Police Visibility

Many young people also experience anxiety produced by the fear of serious violence. Young people felt that there were little to no police patrols on the streets, and that a greater police presence as well as more CCTV in public places would help to alleviate their anxiety and make them feel much safer in public. It is also important to have more interaction between the police and young people, to improve trust, and to help further with feeling safe in public.

3. Stricter Laws and Better Support

It is extremely important that both perpetrators and victims get the support they need to cope with their respective situations. Support should also be readily available for those indirectly affected; the impact on friends and family can be devastating. There were many comments from young people on how laws, particularly around knives, should be made stricter, which will also help with our previous recommendation with making young people feel safer.

"Make people aware of what is going on and why certain things people think will protect them (e.g. knives) are unsafe. Also, promoting a change of mind-set among the community in regard to respecting others, violence not being the answer and stigma against people who are perceived to be different"

"I feel we need to promote ways of young people to protect themselves without knives such as self-defence classes like kickboxing, martial arts and combat training"

Spotlight – The Basingstoke Peace Project

In July and August 2020 the Youth Commission and Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) worked in partnership to raise awareness of knife crime and promote positive activities for young people.

The Youth Commission has been working closely with the Violence Reduction Unit to both identify the drivers of violence, and interventions that could help prevent young people taking a path that leads to violence. Hearing concerns from the community, this project was led by local resident and serious violence team mentor for the Youth Commission, James Bowman.

The Basingstoke Peace Project aims to raise awareness of the consequences of knife crime and promote positive activities for young people. HCT developed a series of positive, creative sessions with the aim to give young people a safe space for discussion, as well as opportunities to learn new skills and value their voice and contribution within the final artwork.

Young people from Ashwood Academy, referred by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and YMCA Basingstoke, worked with artist Jono Retallick to learn new sculptural skills. Through this creative process, they explored and shared personal reflections about knife crime. They then moved on to focus on personal strengths and messages to inspire other young people.

The individual artworks of 144 tiles contributed to a sculpture which can tour various locations, including schools, and act as a discussion piece as a positive focus for young people.



See the full project report on our website: <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/peace-project>



Priority 2 - Exploitation

Our Aims Were To:

- Educate young people about the signs of exploitation
- Signpost to support



Actions:

- Give a youth voice to the Child Exploitation Board

Members:

- Co-chaired the Child Exploitation Board meeting on voice of the child impact and strategic intent
- Attended Harmful Practices Strategic and Operational groups
- Ran workshops with groups of young people
- Created an infographic and series of educational social media posts

"Having been a member of the Youth Commission for 3 years now, I have had experience of working in sub-groups on various priorities, and I feel exploitation has been one of the most rewarding to learn about and raise awareness of so far.

The most difficult characteristic about exploitation is that it often seems 'invisible', it happens in all manner of ways from peer pressuring to sexual exploitation, and so it is often overlooked as an issue to be prioritised by the police and more generally in society.

I can say with some certainty that our sub-group has made positive steps around the issue, and despite the pandemic we've educated many young people about what behaviours to look out for in their friends, and how to do their best to avoid being exploited themselves. In a challenging time, it's been a real privilege to help the Youth Commission!"

Ben Frankland, 18

Views and Experiences:

"It (exploitation) is dangerous because the victim often doesn't know until it is too late."

"On multiple occasions, someone I know has been sent unwanted sexual messages and received comments when walking along the street"

"I didn't feel safe to tell anyone, I felt shame"

Findings:

23% of young people we spoke to told us this was their top priority.

From our findings in the Big Conversation, the thoughts and experiences of young people, relating to exploitation, were consistent throughout all quarters. It appeared that the respondents were aware of different types of exploitation, mentioning gang exploitation, county lines, child sexual exploitation, and online grooming. Many responses noted that social media helped to facilitate these different types of exploitation; in particular some respondents stated that they had been asked, or persuaded, to send intimate images online.

As the pandemic progressed, responses highlighting social media and online exploitation appeared more frequently; this could be due to the increased amount of time that young people were spending online and therefore the increased exposure to online risks, such as grooming and requests for intimate images.

Additionally responses also addressed the negative effect of exploitation on victims' mental health, especially because many victims either do not know where to go, or feel too ashamed, to access help and support if they believe that they are being exploited.

Youth Commission Recommendations

1. Awareness

Increased awareness of, and signposting to, services which support victims of exploitation. The awareness could be achieved through campaigns, social media posts and posters in education establishments and public places.

2. Education in Schools

Education establishments should ensure that young people are aware that exploitation is a real issue and are able spot the signs of exploitation, in their own lives and their peers. Some young people did state that they would like to hear about real life experiences, either from police or victims, in order to raise awareness of the issue.

3. Educating trusted adults

Educate trusted adults, such as parents, carers, teachers and youth workers, about exploitation and how to have conversations, addressing the issue, with young people.



Spotlight – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The social media team prepared a series of social media posts to highlight and raise awareness throughout the year. Key national awareness events that were covered were:

Black History Month

Rosa Parks




#Blackhistorymonth

An American activist in the Civil Rights Movement. Campaigned against racial segregation on public transport in Alabama.

Black History South



Garrett Morgan



#Blackhistorymonth

Inventor of a 'safety hood' device for breathing around gas, improved the sewing machine and traffic signal.

Pride

MELANIE MURPHY



A bisexual YouTuber and author who openly discusses confidence, body image and sexuality in her videos.

HANTS YC ARE

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH!

Check out our stories and posts throughout June for Pride related content!

JAZZ JENNINGS



A young transgender female who is a public figure as a LGBT rights activist who has shared her journey online

LGBT History Month

she/her she/they he/him

they/them he/they

What are pronouns

Pronouns are the words we use to refer to one another. Examples include she/they/he.

A person's gender identity can be fluid and they use multiple pronouns. For example, they might use "she/her" one day and "he/him" another.

How can we normalise asking for pronouns

- When meeting someone ask "What is your name and your preferred pronouns?"
- Introduce yourself alongside your pronouns. eg Hi I am Lucy and my pronouns are she/they
- Put your preferred pronouns in your bio
- On zoom/teams, meetings put your pronouns after your name

Why should I ask for people's pronouns

- Important so that you don't misgender people
- Ensure that transgender people aren't singled out through being the only people who share their pronouns
- It's important not to assume that people's pronouns match how they look.

Bisexual Awareness Week

About #BiWeek

- The week includes **Celebrate Bisexuality Day** (September 23) and is observed by bisexual people and allies.
- It was co-founded by **GLAAD** and **BiNet USA** to educate people on the obstacles that bisexual people face.
- Being bisexual is most commonly defined as being sexually attracted not exclusively to people of one particular gender.
- The week is especially important, as bisexual people represent around **35% of the UK LGBTQ+ community** (ONS/Stonewall).
- The bisexual pride flag includes **pink** (same-sex attraction), **blue** (opposite-sex attraction) and **purple** (attraction to both sexes) stripes.

September 17 - September 24

2021

BISEXUAL AWARENESS WEEK

Challenges to bi people

- Biphobia:** Where people deny that bisexuality is a real sexual orientation (bi-erasure) and make prejudiced, discriminatory comments against bisexual people.
- Mental health:** 59% of bisexual people have experienced depression, compared to 46% of gay/lesbian people (Stonewall).
- Hate crime:** According to our Big Conversation, homophobic hate crime is one of the most prevalent types in Hampshire. Nationally, 31% of bisexual people have experienced a hate incident (Stonewall).
- Healthcare discrimination:** Bisexual people report their doctor treated them differently after knowing their sexuality during STI tests.



Priority 3 - Hate Crime

Our Aims Were To:

- Raise awareness of what a hate crime is
- Increase reporting
- Signpost young people to support



Actions:

- Educating people about the strands of hate crime and signposting help available
- Pushing online resources and websites alongside our social media platform (@hantsyc)
- Using our platform to reach out to other organisations to make accessing help easier

Members:

- Created an infographic, kahoot, presentation and content for social media
- Ran workshops with groups of young people
- Worked with Southampton Hate Crime Network on a toolkit

"Focusing on hate crime, we have delivered virtual presentations to teenagers and young adults in the hope that we can bring to light the mental health challenges and damage that can be caused, both long and short term, from actions associated with this topic.

I hope our work can encourage more people to report instances of hate crime and to speak out to others on their experiences, thus encouraging others to do the same.

I chose to work with the hate crime team because I wanted to learn more about why people commit these sorts of crimes and understand how those involved are both punished and supported through the legal system."

Ewan Ebbs, 16

Findings:

40% of young people we spoke to told us this was their top priority.

Our findings have revealed that many respondents, who selected hate crime as their top priority, described experiences where either they, or someone they knew, had been discriminated against or experienced hostility or prejudice because of a protected characteristic.

The most frequently cited protected characteristic was race, followed by sexual orientation. Although respondents mentioned their personal experiences, there appeared to be a lack of understanding surrounding what constitutes a hate crime. Some respondents did not seem to understand the difference between a hate incident and a hate crime, or that sex does not fall under the agreed protected characteristics for hate incidents and crimes.

It should also be highlighted that, amid the pandemic, respondents saw a spike in hate incidents and crimes against east-Asians and also feared being subject to a hate crime due to their membership of a minority group. Additionally, numerous respondents noted the potential for hate incidents to escalate into hate crimes, particularly violent ones, as well as the impact that hate crimes can have on victims' mental health.

Youth Commission Recommendations

1. Training

Equality, diversity and inclusion training and unconscious bias training should be introduced as a compulsory part of police training, the school curriculum, and workplaces generally.

2. Awareness

Increased awareness and ease of reporting a hate crime and signposting to support services. Some respondents noted that they feared reporting hate incidents and crimes, because they were worried that it either wasn't serious enough or that they won't be taken seriously. Many victims and bystanders are unable to report hate crimes due to the convoluted nature of reporting systems.

3. Zero-Tolerance Policy

A zero-tolerance policy should be implemented by social media companies for tackling online hate crime. Social media platforms should take greater responsibility for their content and users who engage in harmful posts should be dealt with appropriately.



Spotlight: Hate Crime Investigation and Mock Trial

Youth Commission and Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) members attended the Police Investigation Centre in Portsmouth during Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021, to see a hate crime being reported to the police, and were taken through the investigation process, gathering of evidence and interviews with witnesses, and preparation of the case to put to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).



Members then attended the mock court room at Portsmouth University where they formed a jury and heard the case, with real prosecutors putting forward the defence and prosecution arguments, and the victim, defendant and witnesses taking the stand.

“After visiting the police station and participating in the procedure, I really want to pursue a career in law enforcement. I particularly enjoyed visiting the interview rooms and having some TV myths debunked.”

Eleanora Chioatto



Priority 4: Something Else

7% of young people told us something else was their top priority.

Findings:

As part of the Big Conversation, young people have had the chance to list something else other than the three stated Youth Commission priorities which are impacting on their lives.

Substance Misuse

Substance misuse featured highly in the other topics of concern raised under 'Something Else'. Responses have expressed:

- a worry in the increase of substance misuse, in particular drugs amongst young people. Direct and indirect impacts of drug involvement experienced by young people are ranging from dealing drugs; addiction; getting involved in criminal activity and the glamorised 'easy lifestyle'
- a general concern for the lack of awareness and education on the impact of drugs, such as involvement in county lines, violent crime, and addiction

The majority of ideas to tackle the issue are suggesting 'more police', although prevention, as was also suggested by many, requires education on risks:

- education on drug use needs to be targeted and delivered at a young age including de-normalising the behaviour
- more police presence and support in certain geographical areas
- the need for reforming drug legislation
- more support for people involved in gang crime
- the importance of rehabilitation, specifically mentioning the need for accessible housing/night shelters for those involved in drug crime, for example

"I believe that the world of drugs has become perceived as almost normal in society, especially within the teenage community. It is reflected as not as big of problem as it really is."

Improved Support and Awareness

Other worries highlighted by young people are:

- support and help available to victims of crime. This emphasises the need for reassurance of the availability and regular signposting for these services
- the need to raise awareness on 'grooming' and encouraging young people to speak up
- an urgent need for awareness on quick mental health services, information, help and support for young people. They have expressed experiencing long waiting times for professional support

"Mental Health: People in the UK are having to wait at least a year to seek professional help, with an example being my best friend is having to wait a year to be seen"

It is important people continue to receive education on recognising and spotting the signs of unhealthy relationships. This can happen in any form of relationship, family, friends or intimate, and reduce the stigma on raising a flag on unhealthy relationships.

Sexual Violence and Female Safety

With the tragic deaths of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa, it comes as no surprise that sexual violence and female safety were identified as a key “Something Else” issue.

Young people mentioned problems such as sexual assault and feeling unsafe, anxious and vulnerable on the streets when alone.

“The most pressing ‘Something Else’ issue is sexual assault. This involves feeling unsafe to wear what you want without people making comments or coming on to you, or being scared to go out later in the evening out of fear of being assaulted. It is quite sad that women (and men on occasions) have to live in constant fear of sexual assault whenever they go out... I look behind my back every time I go anywhere by myself.”

Young people suggested solutions would be:

- more education on personal safety, respect to women and emphasis on the importance of consent
- higher police presence in harassment hotspots
- more funding towards helplines that provide support in a crisis



Moving Forward

This recommendations report should be used by the OPCC, Constabulary, criminal justice system, and partners to inform policy, strategy, practice and operational delivery.

The Youth Commission will continue to advocate for young people, raise awareness with their peers on issues that they choose, and influence decision makers.

The relationships built with new and existing partners will enhance the knowledge of members and reach of our work.

And finally, we wanted to update on a recommendation from our previous report. Young people had told us they wanted affordable activities where they could socialise and meet new people. We trialled the 'Summer's Sorted' campaign, promoting free and low cost activities on our social media.

To improve upon this in July 2021 we launched [OneEighty.live](https://www.oneeighty.live), a new website targeting 8-15 year olds, which houses a directory of free and low cost positive activities for young people to do in their free time. The website has been designed by members of the Youth Commission, and partner agencies have been busy adding information on the activities they are running.

ONE EIGHTY

A word of thanks:

"The past two years have been a challenging time for the Youth Commission due to COVID-19 but the members have adapted well to our new approach and have seen an increase of followers on our social media pages.

I'm looking forward to continuing to deliver workshops and reaching as many young people as possible"

Casey Taylor, OPCC Volunteer

"Members have shown astonishing resilience and strength, dealing not only with a pandemic, but with the loss of two much valued members. I continue to be impressed with the determination they showed to continue the legacy of James and Ruby and to ensure that young people are at the table influencing strategic and operational decisions that affect their lives"

Lynne Meechan, Youth Engagement Manager

Our Partners 2020-2021

- Afest
- Active Communities Network
- Ashwood Academy
- Basingstoke College of Technology
- Basingstoke Voluntary Action
- Basingstoke Youth Offending Team
- Child Exploitation Board (pan Hampshire)
- Children's Society
- Crimestoppers
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Fareham College
- Farnborough College of Technology
- Gosport Community Safety Partnership
- Harmful Practices strategic and operational groups
- Hampshire CAMHS
- Hampshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire County Council
- Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit
- Hampshire Youth Network
- Hampshire Youth Offending Team
- Hampshire Scout Association
- Hampshire UK Youth Parliament
- Havant Borough Council
- Highbury College
- Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC)
- Isle of Wight Safeguarding Partnership
- Isle of Wight Violence Reduction Unit
- Isle of Wight Youth Offending Team
- Leaders Unlocked
- Loud and Proud
- Motiv8
- Mutual Gain
- North East Hampshire Domestic abuse forum
- Portsmouth University
- Prince's Trust; Basingstoke, New Forest and Southampton teams
- Radio Awaaz
- South East Black history month
- Southampton Children's Safeguarding Partnership
- Southampton City College
- Southampton City Council
- Southampton Hate Crime Network
- Southampton Solent University
- Southampton University
- Southampton Violence Reduction Unit
- Stacey Miller Consultancy
- Unity 101
- Unity Youth
- Unloc
- Victim Support
- Winchester University
- Yellow Brick Road
- YMCA
- YServices for Young People

And appreciation to staff at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner



In Memory of James Bowman and Ruby Leaity



James had been a member of the Youth Commission for 3 years, and led the team of members working on serious violence. James fully embraced the role showing great skills both in terms of encouraging and developing members, through leading by example.

James's passion to change his peers lives for the better was always visible, and he constantly championed for young people from all backgrounds to have their say. He met with young offenders to listen to their views, as well as running numerous workshops.

James had applied to join Hampshire Constabulary and was due to take on a new role as a volunteer for the OPCC but sadly took his life in November 2020.

He actively worked on every aspect of the Basingstoke Peace Project and was very proud to see it unveiled. His family are keen to see the sculpture utilised in the way that it was intended, to educate young people about the effects of knife crime.

Ruby was a member of the Youth Commission from 2015-2018 and was a part of the victim and offenders subgroup before moving to be a mentor for the mental health priority.

Ruby had a huge drive to show young people that they had worth, that they were valued and important. She delivered workshops to young offenders and advocated young people's needs to partners such as the police.

She designed and worked with Hampshire CAMHS on a poster that signposted young people to support services, which were distributed to secondary schools across Hampshire.

Ruby moved onto work with young people at a youth charity but sadly took her life in July 2020.

Ruby's family have taken on her mantle and are working with the Youth Commission and Solent Mind to create a mentor project for young people with mental health problems to seek and keep employment.

This report is dedicated to them and the work that they achieved.

Contact Us

If you would like to know more about the Youth Commission or register your interest in becoming a member please contact:

Email: opcc.comms@hampshire.police.uk
Tel: 01962 871595



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HantsYouthCommission



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Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
for Hampshire and Isle of Wight

St. George's Chambers
St. George's Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8AJ





Giving young people a voice, join the conversation!

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