

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Commission



2022

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

DONNA JONES

**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT



Youth Commission Members 2022

Afjal Chowdhury	Dom Jackson	Julia Dygas
Arthur Hide	Eleonora Chioatto	Kita Melnyk
Amber Manning	Eliot Peck	Krishna Ramrakhani
Amelia Payne	Elizabeth Bridges	Leah Edwards-Odam
Amelia Sorby	Emelie Molin	Lucy Hewitt
Ben Frankland	Emily Woods	Luke Venner
Benita Raphaels	Eztlin Binoy	Mihaela Gherda
Bill Gunayon	Francesca Harris	Olivia Baker
Bradley Phillips	Holly Kitkat	Raluca Saitoc
Bryony Tarrant	Ibrahim Ali	Sarah Arnold
Caitlin Smedley	Isaac Wahltuch	Tia Peace
Caitlin O'Farrell	Jack Dilly	Xander Peace

And OPCC volunteer Casey Taylor-Holloway



Contents

Foreword by Donna Jones	Introduction	The BIG Conversation
04	05	05
Summary	BIG Voices	The Big Challenge
06	08	09
BIG Stats	Priority 1: Safe on the Streets	Priority 2: Hate and Hostility
10	11	14
Priority 3: Substance Misuse	Priority 4: Something Else	Moving Forward
17	20	21
Our Partners	Contact Us	
22	23	

Foreword by Donna Jones

I would like to thank everyone involved in the development of the annual Youth Commission recommendations. Tens of hours have been spent consulting with other young people enabling them to share their ideas and experiences helping to shape the future of policing and how we deal with crime.

As crime increases across the country, more young people are becoming victims of crime. As Police Commissioner, my job is to represent the 2 million people living across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, this includes 650,000 children and young people. Supporting young people, especially those who have additional vulnerabilities, is a top priority for me and for Hampshire Constabulary. Preventing crimes being committed means protecting young people from becoming victims of crime or preventing them from being drawn into criminal behaviours. I want to support young people to make the right choices; to stay safe.

At their induction last year, the Youth Commission chose three issues to focus on for the year ahead as part of their Big Conversation: Safe on the streets; Substance misuse and Hate and hostility.

Experiencing hate and hostility can affect a person's sense of identity and belonging in society. Bullying and targeted harassment are issues facing children in schools across the country. Raising awareness, providing support and guidance and encouraging a challenge ethos to call out bad behaviours is something that will help to bring about the culture change required.

Awareness around drug and alcohol abuse is fundamental to the future of young people's mental health. We know that drugs and alcohol are not only health risks but can make young people vulnerable to crime and exploitation. Drink spiking hit record highs last year adding to fears of public safety. That's why I am working with street pastors, charities, community wardens and local authorities.

These recommendations will be shared with partners across both counties to ensure young people's voices are heard to support lasting change.

I want to thank the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Commission for their hard work and commitment in formulating these recommendations.



Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner



D O N N A J O N E S

POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

H A M P S H I R E & I S L E O F W I G H T

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. For 2022, we recruited and inducted 16 young people aged between 14 and 24 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.

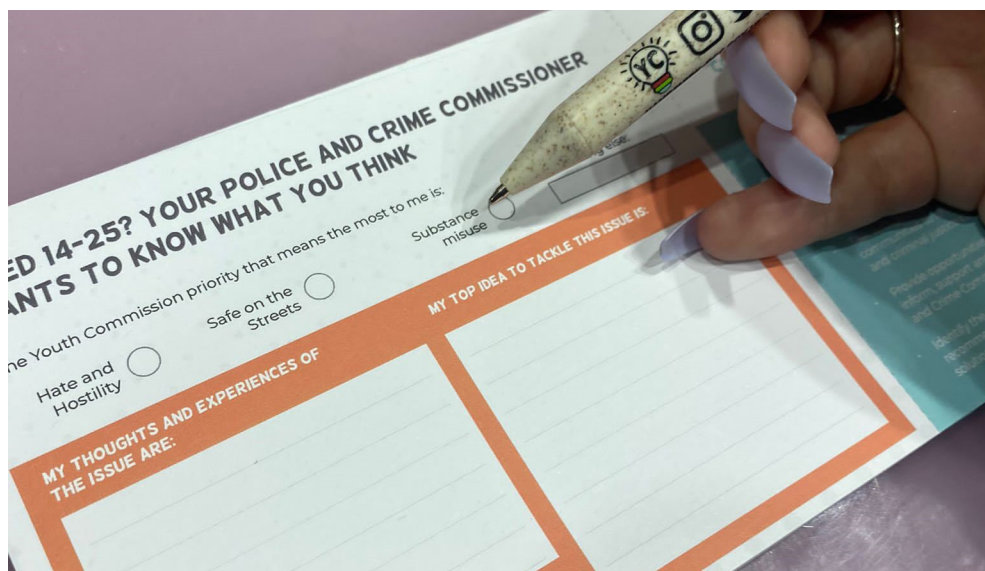
Members are from Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton and from diverse backgrounds, including some who may have direct experience of the police and justice systems. We actively encourage applications from young people with lived experiences.

The group identified the following priorities to address:

- **Safe on the Streets**
- **Hate and Hostility**
- **Substance Misuse**

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

The Big Conversation



From January to September 2022, the Youth Commission undertook its Big Conversation on their chosen priorities. Reaching young people face to face in their own space, and also online, 1,614 responses were received.

These conversations gave us up-to-date 'on the ground' opinions, meaning we could collate responses from the Big Conversation on a quarterly basis. Members used the feedback to influence the thinking of professionals via presentations to boards and meetings throughout the year.

All feedback 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

Safe on the Streets

1. Education

Teaching about support services and how to spot and report inappropriate behaviours. Education in schools and youth groups to ensure everyone is given the same support and information.

2. More Funding For Safety Resources And Initiatives

More police presence and/or lighting to increase the security in local streets and deter perpetrators. More training in workplaces and schools to ensure safety.

3. Harsher Sanctions

Tougher punishments for those who commit these crimes and better awareness of these consequences as a method of deterrence.



Substance Misuse

1. Education

Educating young people on the dangers of substance misuse, as well as the victims of substance misuse.

2. Raising Awareness

Creating campaigns, for example advertising the negative effects of drug use, vaping and alcohol.

3. Supporting Those With Addictions

More support for victims, and safer spaces for young people to be able to talk about substance misuse without judgement.



Hate and Hostility

1. Build A Culture Of Respect

Through a year-long Hampshire wide campaign involving media, school culture days and using bold statements, we can build a culture of respect and cohesion to replace the hate and hostility that currently thrives in Hampshire.

2. Be An Upstander

By making young people aware of the importance of being an upstander instead of a bystander, we can reduce hate and hostility that is seen throughout schools. A campaign targeting young people in schools is vital to blocking future generations experiencing hate crimes.

3. Education

Through information packs and activities provided to schools, we can increase the understanding of what hate crimes are, how they occur and their implications on victims and society.

WHAT IS HATE CRIME?

"ANY CRIMINAL OFFENCE WHICH IS PERCEIVED, BY THE VICTIM OR ANY OTHER PERSON, TO BE MOTIVATED BY HOSTILITY OR PREJUDICE TOWARDS SOMEONE BASED ON A PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC."

SOURCE: GOV.UK



Something Else

1. Mental Health

More help networks and more youth provision to support and help more young people with their mental health.

2. Domestic Violence

Having focus groups and safe spaces for young people to go and talk if they witness domestic abuse or violence.

3. Rebuilding Trust With The Police

Police taking the time to listen to young people and having positive interactions with young people will help rebuild trust between them and the police.

Please see page 20 for findings.



BIG Voices

The Youth Commission is the voice for young people. Members not only influence locally, regionally and nationally but this year have gone international (see Spotlight on Albania on page 13).

Consultation

Additionally we have:

- Contributed to the **Children's Society** exploitation principles for professionals.
- Collaborated with **Hampshire County Councils Children's Services** on an **adolescents toolkit**, and a **new online directory** of all services and support available to children and young people in Hampshire, and one for the Isle Of Wight on emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Worked with **Southampton City Council** on their **Child Friendly City** plans.
- Supported the **Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC)** survey on young people and the police.
- Joined the **Hampshire Constabulary** police standards transparency board.
- Attended a **participatory budgeting project** planning meeting to reduce anti-social behaviour in Old Portsmouth.

Scrutiny

Members also:

- Sat on the interview panel for the independent chair of the **pan-Hampshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership**.
- Worked with the **Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)**.
- Submitted a question to the PCC at the **COPS session** with the Chief Constable.
- Fed back their thoughts on **youth diversion grants** to the OPCC Commissioning and Partnerships team.



The BIG Challenge

For many years, young people have given us their experiences and solutions in the Big Conversation. We have used their ideas to form recommendations which have been presented to decision makers and partners at our annual conference.

Attendees have been asked to pledge to implement those recommendations. Some have been very successful, however others have not been followed through.

To overcome that, this year we are launching the Big Challenge, a mechanism that the Youth Commission will use to hold decision makers and partners to account regarding the implementation of the recommendations.

When members attend boards, groups and task forces, their slot on the agenda will not only cover an update on current Big Conversation findings, but will also include a section on the Big Challenge, receiving progress reports from those around the table on the implementation of previous recommendations.

The Big Challenge aims to keep the recommendations alive and ensure that young people can be confident that their voices have been heard and are being acted upon.



BIG Stats

Results of the BIG Conversation

1,614 BIG Conversation Responses



Breakdown of young people by age

All Specified Ages	→	1,532
13-14	→	231
15-16	→	453
17-18	→	553
19-20	→	172
20+	→	123
Not specified	→	82
Total	→	1,614

A complete breakdown of the Big Conversation by age, district and priority is available:
[Tableau | Big Conversation 2022 Dashboard](#)

Facts About the Youth Commission

- 1,000+** Hours Volunteered
- 29** Youth Commission Members
- 44** Partners
- 35** Meetings Attended With Partners
- 18** Events
- 20** Workshops With Young People

Social Media Followers Stats





Priority 1 - Safe on the Streets

Our Aims Were To:

- Focus on people's safety when out, be it walking home from school or on a night out.
- Raise awareness of ways for bystanders to help.
- Work with partners.
- Collaborate with our Police and Crime Commissioner on her Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) taskforce.
- Open up discussions around the topic to bring more awareness to the subject.
- Signpost ways to get advice and help if you experience sexual assault/harassment.
- Spread the message online using our hashtags #TheyWereJustWalking #MyRightToSafety and #WalkWithConfidence.

"Everyone has a right to feel safe wherever they are and should not be made to feel uncomfortable. As young people, we need to be the ones to make the change now, so the next generation will not have to worry about walking home."

Emily Woods, 16

"Being able to walk on the streets and in your local community feeling comfortable and unafraid is not possible for many young people. This has to change. Safety on the streets should be a major priority for the police and any organisations locally."

Elizabeth Bridges, 19

Members:

- Presented to the **Commissioner's VAWG taskforce** and joined VAWG subgroups to give young people's feedback.
- Were members of the **pan-Hampshire Child Exploitation board** to share young person's perspectives.
- Regularly met with the **Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)** leads and presented to the VRU core group. This included talking to professionals and representatives from different sectors, such as healthcare and education. They were keen to have a view of our Big Conversation and start implementing meaningful change that reflects the needs of young people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. We will continue to meet with them and push for them to work on our recommendations to hopefully see them come back to us with changes they have made to improve the lives of young people.
- Created **social media posts** to raise awareness of stalking, sexual harassment and promote street safety.
- **Collaborated with partners** on what they can do to educate young people on being safe when out and about.
- Attended stalking and harassment workshop with the **CPS**.
- Handed out **personal safety alarms and torches** at events when collecting Big Conversation cards.



Views and Experiences:

"I used to live in Portsmouth, it was very rough and I feared for my life a lot."

"Myself and my friends have been harassed multiple times on the streets by men. This could be them shouting sexual things, wolf whistling or following us."

"Walking home back to accommodation, especially during the winter months when it gets dark fast and early in the day, can be intimidating."

Findings:

62% of young people we spoke to told us this was their top priority.

Youth Commission Recommendations

1. Education

Most responses showed that young people thought that educating people would be an effective deterrent to convince people to think before they act. They believed the education towards certain offences - such as sexual assault, harassment and stalking - needs to be mandatory for everyone, and include impacts on victims to let people know the effects of their actions and to also inform people that there are consequences for their actions. A common suggestion was to have posters up in public bathrooms and to make this education mandatory in primary and secondary schools in order to teach children right and wrong from an early age.

"We need to educate **EVERYONE** on how to make **EVERYONE** walking home feel safe and understand people's experiences."

2. More Funding for Safety Resources and Initiatives

Many responses focused on improving street safety during the evenings/night. This can be implemented by increasing street lighting in rural and community areas, as an example. Furthermore, security and police presence at these times was found to be important to improve street safety and act as a deterrent. Ask Angela schemes, mandatory training for staff, working with landlords to increase reporting, and street buses running later at night could also be implemented with more funding to support and improve street safety. In addition to this, young people thought that providing safer areas for activities, such as skateboarding or youth groups, would be a positive change they would like to see as it would help people "stay out of mischief".

"Add in more street lighting and have better walking routes where people can get help at regular time i.e. telephone."

3. Harsher Sanctions

Many responses focused on the aspect of using harsher sanctions to tackle safe on the street issues. School aged females in particular, felt that their concerns and reports were not being listened to because of the worry from the officials and schools that the accusation could "ruin the boys future" without realising the implications that the dismissal of the report has on the victim. In addition, they felt that when a sanction was put in place it was very 'slap on the wrist' style and was not going to actively reform or deter the offender from committing the same offences against someone else. Some reports also focused on the lack of punishments towards females, causing their victims to not come forward. The majority of responses included some form of personal experience on harassment and how they felt it was not worth reporting and has unfortunately become normalised in society. Ways in which to enforce harsher sanctions is by having less people being let off on warnings and to make people more aware of the sanctions of committing the crimes before they act.

"Stricter punishments, more police presence at night, helping people come forward by removing stigma."

Spotlight – Mentoring Youth Councils in Albania

Reconnecting Albanian Youth & Society (RAYS) is a UK Home Office funded project through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) funding arrangements. This aims to build a whole-of-government approach to find creative solutions to meet the most complex national security challenges and promote international peace and stability.

Sustainable Criminal Justice Solutions (SCJS) has responsibility for one of the three project objectives, namely to enhance partnership working and support a preventative approach to divert young people away from a life in organised crime.

SCJS contacted the Youth Commission as an exemplar of good practice in youth participation and briefed Youth Commission members on the project, which includes mentoring members of three local Youth Councils in Albania.

To begin, Youth Commission members fed back about the Youth Councils Manual of Guidance. Members then met members of the Albanian Youth Councils virtually.

Following the first two virtual sessions, the Albanian Youth Councils have decided to introduce three elements from the Youth Commission:

1. **Running an annual conference to share their work**
2. **Implementing a code of conduct for members**
3. **Introducing a Big Conversation style survey in their communities**

The second phase of the project brought Albanian officials to Hampshire, where members presented the Youth Commission model. Officials were highly impressed, pledging to ensure that Albanian Youth Council members can join their meetings, not only at a local, but a national level too.

We are looking forward to developing the relationship over the coming years.





Priority 2 - Hate and Hostility

Our Aims Were To:

- Tackle discriminatory attitudes, where an individual or group uses aggressive behaviours against another to cause or strengthen a divide. This could be in speech or action.

"I chose hate crime because so much of today's crime originates from hateful and hostile mind-sets. I believe a person with a healthy mind, and healthy values, are less likely to wish harm upon others. Let's therefore work towards diversity and inclusion, not hostility and isolation."

Emelie Molin, 24

"From racial and homophobic abuse online to physical violence, hate and hostility is prevalent in all communities and an important issue that we felt should be addressed and stopped in order for young people to have the best possible life experiences."

Isaac Wahltuch, 17

Actions:

- **Raise awareness** through social media posts to provide early intervention to help to mend the social divide by stopping hate at the source - i.e. prevent malicious intent to avoid any harm done.

Views and Experiences:

"Lack of conversations cause discrimination and hateful looks too."

"There's a lot of hate and hostility directed towards me because I'm a lesbian, especially online.....it's hurtful and I'm bored of it."

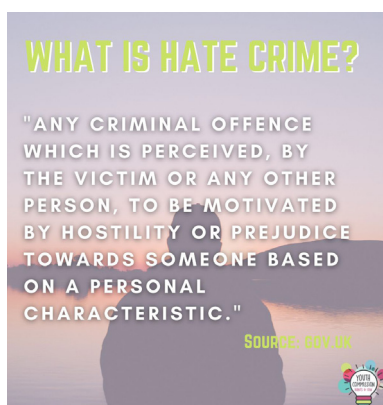
"The fact people can sit behind a keyboard and abuse people without anyone knowing who they are."

"My reasoning is that hate and hostility often leads to violence and feeling unsafe everywhere you go. Feeling of paranoia and a decline in mental health are also an issue."

Findings:

20% of young people we spoke to told us this was their top priority.

From our findings in the Big Conversation, a key issue within hate and hostility is people just accepting and ignoring hate crimes/incidents so that they do not stick out, and risk a chance of also being subjected to the same hate.



Youth Commission Recommendations

1. Build a Culture of Respect

This would be a year-long round campaign from all in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to help spread awareness on why we need to help minority communities feel more included, instead of it being focused on one day/month per year. We recommend running local cultural events across Hampshire that immerse everyone in a chosen community in order to increase people's understanding of culture and the effect that having an ethnically diverse approach has on minority communities, in the hope that the level of hate and hostility within society can be reduced and replaced with a culture of respect and cohesion.

Ideas include a mixture of cultural specific displays, bold thought provoking statements/quotes and social media interviews/posts for each event. These aim to both change people's unconscious biases, by planting meaningful thoughts, and alter people's conscious hate and hostility (be it purposeful or not) by giving them an understanding of what it means for individuals to actually be in each community. This can be implemented through local authorities by sending campaign resources to schools, colleges, youth groups and workplaces, so that they can incorporate each theme into their day.

"Educating young children to grow up with the correct morals."

2. Be an Upstander

We need to make people aware of the impact being a bystander has and how stepping up or becoming an upstander can have a monumentally positive effect on people's attitudes. To ensure this happens, we need to remove as many of the barriers people find when reporting incidents and ensure that any bullying, hate crimes or hate incidents are dealt with in a severe and swift manner. This could all be incorporated in a year-long campaign too, by providing information to young people through their education settings in the hope that the negative stigma of upstanding can be reduced. Over time, this would result in fewer and fewer people getting away with saying/doing hateful behaviours.

Creating a new website or webpage to report any incidents would aid this by instilling confidence in people that by reporting what happens, things will be dealt with. Having this be reported to both the relevant school and police would ensure that things are taken seriously as a reason hate and hostility is a prevalent issue in schools is due to the lack of punishment or deterrence (which was highlighted through the Big Conversation). Involving authorities, where appropriate, would solve this.

"For people to actually start being called out by passers-by and officers."

3. Education

The most common suggestion from the Big Conversation was about education. Whether this is about online abuse or in-person hate crimes towards people, education is a key tool in reducing hate and hostility in Hampshire. A series of information packs and activities would allow schools to address the issues (racial, homophobia, disability in particular) that we found most people experienced. By educating people on the ways hate crimes/incidents occur, why they occur and the impacts they have allows young people to comprehend the moral and legal implications their actions have. The aim of the education would be to prevent future generations committing hate crimes as they grow up.

Engagement from younger members of the population is important as they shape the pathway to a more inclusive future, so the material needs to address the issue in a way that is appropriate for this. It is our belief that preventing these incidents and crimes from ever happening, as well as addressing the direct cause of them when they happen, is the key to solving this problem. This is why education must regularly be used over an extended period of time taking on various forms to keep everyone engaged throughout.

"Education and inclusivity events."

Spotlight – Swanwick Secure Unit

We had a very constructive and informative session speaking with four young people at Swanwick Lodge, gathering their opinions and thoughts on the three priorities of the Youth Commission this year. This ended up focussing on their general opinions and experiences of/with the police throughout their lives.

A summary of some of the points they raised is below, a full report is available on request.

Use of force

Unnecessary use of force can escalate a situation, especially in disputes with mentally ill or neuro-divergent individuals. Examples given included having their chest and neck knelt on during restraints, this in one case impacted a young person's breathing, causing them to lash out further and pass out. Officers should be trained to safely restrain, and of course, only once pacifist attempts to defuse and resolve situations have been exhausted.

Safe spaces

Being able to access safe spaces that are designated solely for the use of young people would be beneficial. Youth groups, quiet areas, support, and better lighting would all aid this. Gosport was highlighted as a problem area.

Education for vulnerable people

One student made the point that vulnerable people fall for 'traps' from others seeking to take advantage of them to do things like moving drugs for them, as they are not socially educated or aware enough to realise that this is not correct and they are being exploited: same root cause for many instances of substance misuse by vulnerable young people too. There is a need to discuss these topics more openly with children who could be targeted in this way.

Rebuilding trust

Positive interactions with police officers is vital to rebuilding trust. This needs to happen alongside changes in attitude and procedures during incidents. It was mentioned that there is a preference for plain-clothed officers talking to young people and taking the time to get to know their side of the story. By increasing communication and empathy for both sides, it will facilitate better interaction during incidents, helping to diffuse situations by understanding the triggers involved.

Overall, the major points we will be taking forward centre around better training and changing attitudes to mental health and neuro divergence, as well as greater access to support.





Priority 3 - Substance Misuse

Our Aims Were To:

- Highlight prevention methods to keep young people safe.
- Provide support through signposting to services.
- Raise awareness through the use of educative workshops, and social media posts.

"I joined the Substance Misuse group because it is a very relevant issue for my local area. It is great to see that the work we as a sub group are doing is helping to increase the safety of young people in my local area and across Hampshire."

Arthur Hide, 16

Members:

- Delivered workshops to **Prince's Trust** teams.
- Created **social media posts** on top tips for safety at festivals.
- **Signposted websites** to support the victims of or anyone involved with substance misuse.

Views and Experiences:

"My dad died because he overdosed on cocaine, and my brother uses weed and it made him violent and we had to stop contact with him and I don't want this for other families."

"I have often witnessed drug dealing take place where I live. I have also been attacked for just witnessing one. When I look out of my living room window I see four houses, I know for a fact that all four of them have an addict or dealer living there."

"Raised in pubs, drinking led to abusive behaviour, domestic violence and sexual harassment from a young age, and yet I was still was a heavy drinker until I got sober in second year of uni because it was so normal in my life and my tolerance was viewed as cool/interesting by my peers. I have friends that have been spiked, or assaulted whilst drunk, and have known people dealing coke and the bathrooms and car parks of pubs from age 16."



Findings:

15% of young people we spoke to told us this was their top priority.

Our findings have revealed that many respondents, who selected substance misuse, are saying that there needs to be more support for the victims, and a need for more safe spaces for young people without judgement to be able to talk about substance misuse without the fear of being prosecuted.

Youth Commission Recommendations

1. Education

Educating young people on the dangers of substance misuse in secondary school before they become victims is key, starting with young children. Holding workshops and providing material such as PowerPoints or short videos (perhaps cartoons) to ensure that it is as easy as possible for everyone to be educated. It is also recommended that those who work with victims are educated, as to help the victims in the best way possible.

"Having recovered from drug addiction, heroin crack and methadone I want to go and talk to young people wherever and relate my experience and trauma. In recovery, you realise the gradual development of addiction. I have created my own life wear brand to create funding to keep youth clubs open and intentions to build other much needed projects, shops, opportunities for all."

2. Raising Awareness

Creating relevant campaigns, for example advertising the negative effects of drug use, vaping and alcohol, setting up specific social media accounts for the campaign and targeted adverts. Getting people to speak in schools, colleges and universities about the campaign.

"Increase awareness, put up more posters in more venues to make both potential victims aware, and perpetrators feel less safe."

3. Supporting Those With Addictions

Instead of prosecuting young people, there needs to be support for those who are addicted to substances through self-help groups, to discuss their experiences with other individuals. This could also be applied to spiking, having specific support groups created for victims of this crime to discuss and support each other. Less punishment in schools, for example, and more support from staff to treat the problem rather than punish.

"Help for adults and teens with addiction as well as support for their loved ones, especially children or siblings of the addicts."



**SUBSTANCE
MISUSE**

Spotlight – Hate Crime Mock Trial

Youth Commission and Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) members attended Solent University’s Law School during Hate Crime Awareness Week, to witness a hate crime trial.

Members formed a jury and heard the case in the university’s mock courtroom, where law students put forward the defence and prosecution arguments, with support from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Members heard the victim, defendant and witnesses take the stand, piecing together the evidence of a disability hate crime that was alleged to have taken place.

After deliberation, the members found the defendant guilty. They received a 20 month suspended sentence, 250 hours unpaid community work and a £2,000 fine for costs and compensation. An uplift was applied as it was a hate crime. The evening was very educational, interactive and informative, enabling members to have a true understanding of how the criminal justice system works, and giving students an opportunity to put into practice the learning they have received.



Priority 4: Something Else

3% 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.

1. Mental Health

- Responses have expressed that mental health was the most important to them. Young people told us that having **youth provision** and better resources was key.
- Having **targeted youth work** in the community by working with schools to help support those who are struggling with their mental health.
- Providing **more support groups and help networks** that young people can go to will help them get the support they need.

"If they're gonna kill themselves they're gonna kill themselves."
- instances of young people being thrown in a jail cell and called attention seeking as opposed to being given support during a mental health incident.

"I have anxiety that is often extreme."

2. Domestic Abuse

- Young people told us that having **safe spaces** to talk where they can feel listened to and taken seriously will help them.
- Having **focus groups** where they feel valued and learn different and new coping strategies to help them when they are living in fear, due to witnessing domestic abuse and violence.

"Witnessing domestic violence living in fear and no one really talks about the experiences."

3. Rebuilding Trust With The Police

- Positive interaction with police officers is vital to **rebuilding trust**. This needs to happen alongside changes in attitude and procedures during incidents.
- It was mentioned that there is a preference for **plain-clothed officers** talking to young people and taking the time to get to know their side of the story.
- **Increasing communication and empathy** for both sides will facilitate better interaction during incidents and help to diffuse situations by understanding the triggers involved.

"The use of language by arresting officers and in reports is extremely important to young people, being labelled as "naughty" or referred to as "retarded" is dehumanising and detrimental. This can erode any trust between the young person and the authority figure."



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.

Members of the Youth Commission have supported organisations locally, nationally, and now internationally with their support for Youth Councils in Albania. Closer to home, we are focused on the formation of a branch of the Youth Commission on the Isle of Wight to ensure that young people on the island have a voice in issues that affect them.

The launch of the Big Challenge will give young people the opportunity to hold those who can change services for young people to account. It is hoped that all those in positions that can set the strategic direction for their agency, will embed the voice of young people throughout their organisations and ensure their services truly put young people at the centre.

The Youth Commission will continue to advocate for young people, raise awareness with their peers on issues that they choose, and influence decision makers by gathering their peers' experiences and solutions to issues that they are facing.



Youth Commission Support Workers

“It has been good to see the members working together to cover a variety of different areas within the priorities. It has been really good to keep building our partnership working and having the opportunity to expand our work internationally.”

Casey Taylor-Holloway, OPCC Volunteer



“I hope that organisations are ready to take up The Big Challenge and take a child centred approach. This will truly ensure that the Youth Commissions 10 year anniversary next year evidences the huge impact that young people have on services and organisations when they are worked with, rather than delivered to. Many thanks to the members who have volunteered their time and been wonderful advocates for their peers.”

Lynne Meechan, Youth Engagement Manager

Our Partners 2022

- Afest
- Andover Young Carers
- Basingstoke College of Technology
- Basingstoke Voluntary Action
- Child Exploitation Board – pan Hampshire
- Children's Society
- City of Portsmouth College
- Community Action Isle of Wight
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Fareham College
- Fareham Borough Council
- Farnborough College of Technology
- Gosport's Big Adventure
- Harmful Practices strategic and operational groups
- Hampshire CAMHS
- Hampshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire County Council
- Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Hampshire Scout Association
- Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit
- Hampshire Youth Network
- Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC)
- Isle of Wight County Council
- Isle of Wight Violence Reduction Unit
- Isle of Wight Youth Council
- Leaders Unlocked
- Motiv8
- Mutual Gain
- Off the Record
- Portsmouth University
- Prince's Trust; Isle of Wight team
- Solent University
- Southampton Children's Safeguarding Board
- Southampton City Council
- Southampton Hate Crime Network
- Southampton Solent University
- Southampton Violence Reduction Unit
- Southern Criminal Justice Solutions
- Stacey Miller Consultancy
- Swanwick Lodge secure unit
- Unloc
- Winchester University
- Yellow Brick Road
- YServices for Young People

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



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



 @HantsYC

 HantsYouthCommission

 @HantsYC



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

The Long Barn, Dean Farm Estate
Wickham Road
Fareham
Hampshire
PO17 5BN





D O N N A J O N E S

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

H A M P S H I R E & I S L E O F W I G H T

Giving young people a voice, join the conversation!

www.hantsyc.com