

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Commission



2024

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

DONNA JONES

**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT

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This year has represented a significant step forward in our collective efforts to address the issues most affecting young people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The work of the Youth Commission has once again demonstrated the importance and impact of embedding youth voice at the heart of decision-making.

The Commission’s focus on substance misuse, dangerous driving and perceptions of young people was thoughtful, informed, and courageous providing clear insight into what needs to change and how professionals and partners can support that change.

Encouragingly, we are beginning to see reductions in youth crime across our communities. This progress is the result of coordinated efforts across many sectors, but it is important to recognise the meaningful role played by the Youth Commission in achieving this. Through their work, they have helped to inform strategy, shape service responses, and build trust between young people and those in positions of authority.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I remain committed to ensuring that the voices of young people are heard, respected, and acted upon. The recommendations put forward by the Youth Commission will continue to be shared with partners at both local and national levels and will play an important role in shaping our ongoing response to these critical issues.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every member of the Youth Commission for their commitment, insight, and leadership over the past year. Their work is making a difference and our communities are stronger because of it.

Donna Jones.

Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner



Our Members

Aimie Hart	Corey Blackstone	Lloyd Sheath
Alexander Lane	Dana Hubbuck	Lorna Woodward
Amal Saleem	Ellie Woods	Lucy Hewitt
Amelia Jones	Emily Woods	Princess Alagbala
Arthur Hide	Eve Taylor	Ryan Hall
Ben Frankland	Isaac Wahlutuch	Sophie Down
Benita Raphaels	Japnoor Kaur	Tillie Lewry
Carolyn Kihamire	Jen McHugh	Xander Peace
Chanel McGlynn	Julia Dygas	
Chloe Headland	Leo Burnet	

And OPCC volunteer Jack Dilly



Introduction



The Youth Commission acts essentially as an advisory body to the Police and Crime Commissioner. We share our findings on the issues that concern young people, today.



The Youth Commission is made up of young people from the ages of 14 to 25. All our members, like many young people, have a real interest in social change. We hope to be an effective outlet for young people to share their opinions. But above all else we want to make a difference to both young people and the strands of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s work and engagement.



We do this through:

- 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 come from diverse backgrounds, including some who have had direct experience of the police and justice systems. We actively encourage applications from young people with these life experiences and our diversity is expanding.

1,100+
Hours
volunteered

30
Youth
Commission
members

41
Partners

39
Meetings
attended
with
partners

3,500+
Young
people
spoken to

154
Social
media
posts

The group identified the following priorities that they wanted to consult young people on this year:

- Dangerous Driving
- Perceptions of Young People
- Substance Use
- And we continued the option for young people to tell us about anything else they think is important.



From March to December 2024, the Youth Commission undertook its Big Conversation on the chosen priorities.

This year, our Big Conversation Survey received over 1354 responses. We collect this data through various avenues – online or face to face events and workshops.

We asked young people to tell us what priority, out of Perceptions of Young People, Dangerous Driving and Substance Use, was most important to them.

27% said Perceptions of young people

15% chose Dangerous Driving and

41% decided that Substance Use was the one that mattered to them most

18% chose something else, 55% of these responses were for Relationships With The Police

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 in partnership meetings and events throughout the year.

All feedback has been collated into the following recommendations.

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Dangerous Driving

What stood out?

1. "I don't think people take the risk seriously."
2. "People speeding all the time, my friends that have started to drive often say that everyone speeds. Also normalized caffeine addiction within society leads to very tired drivers. Honestly it would be safer if more people could use public transport."

What should we do?

29% said more education needed e.g. around safe driving
20% said more police presence or powers
17% mentioned alternative options including more speed cameras
8% suggested more black boxes
34% gave no suggestion



Perceptions of Young People

What stood out?

1. "Perceptions of young people are important to me because they shape the way society views and treats us. If we are treated positively, this can lead to greater opportunities, more support available and understand whereas negative stereotypes can lead to issues such as discrimination and unfair treatment."
2. "Young people are stereotyped as bad. If you are wearing a hoodie you are immediately assumed as a druggie or as carrying."
3. "Show what good stuff young people are doing."

What should we do?

30.0% felt adults/professionals should get to know us, don't judge, don't stereotype
18.0% felt there should be campaigns or promotions
15.0% mentioned showing the good or positive work that young people are doing
17.0% felt adults should receive education e.g. training for police, specifically how to interact with young people
20% gave no suggestion



What stood out?

- 1. "I had an alcoholic parent. Addiction ruins lives."
- 2. "It has become the "norm" to vape and smoke weed, if you take part in these activities with peers you become targeted for not being normal."
- 3. "I know people who have mental health issues that use drugs as a way of coping. They should be able to get better help."

What should we do?

- 22.% responses mentioned laws or banning items
- 21.% said more education is needed
- 14% said more support needed for mental health
- 14.4% mentioned increasing the age to buy products like vapes
- 9.% said more spot checks on shops selling vapes to those underage
- 20% gave no suggestion



Some young people told us that ASB, Knife crime and Sexual assault were important to them but over 55% of these recommendations, told us that Relationships with the Police was the most important area to tackle.

Their recommendations for Relationships With the Police were:

What stood out?

- 1. "We used to call our PCSO 'Mum'."
- 2. "Police always talk down to me."
- 3. "We want better relationships."

What should we do?

- Drop the Ego
- Spend more time with us in OUR spaces
- We are more vulnerable to crime so help us TRUST you
- Show compassion
- Have better training on the issues that affect us
- Better training on Neurodiversity

This year, on our Big Conversation survey, we asked young people if they had experienced an interaction with the police;

- 32.4% Said YES
- 28.5% Said NO
- 39% Did not answer the question



Working with Partners

Fearless	Hampshire County Council
Unloc	Uni of Winchester
Uni of Southampton	Yellow Door
Basingstoke College of Technology	Hants & IOW Community Trust
Hampshire Children’s Safeguarding Partnership	Scouts
Southampton’s Children’s Safeguarding Partnership	Uni of Portsmouth
CPS	The IOW College
Child Centred Policing Team	Southampton Solent Uni
Childline	Kings College Winchester
Integrated Care Partnership	VRU
Winchester City Council	Basingstoke & Dean Council
Youth Parliament	Princes Trust
Havant Borough Council	Hampshire & IOW Constabulary
Southampton City Council	The Childrens Society
YourPolice.uk	Leaders Unlocked
IOPC	Gosport Borough Council
Motiv8	Music Fusion
Y-Services	Willow Exploitation Team
Military Mentors	NHS
Beewell	NPCC
Winchester Cathedral	
Fareham Borough Council	
PoliceUK	

Taking a closer look

PROJECTS:

Youth PACT (Police & Communities Together)

Created by the Violence Reduction Unit
Youth PACT Meeting: Police and Community Together
The Youth Commission have been part of the pilot for these in Southampton.
These meetings give young people in the community a voice and a platform to talk about what matters most to them, locally.

The VRU has worked hard to develop a guide to support others to set up these forums and the Youth Commission will now be taking the lead on this and working closely with the constabulary’s Education Partnership Team and Local Bobbies to bring this to other areas.

Op BOB

Last year young people told us that they wanted to see the person behind the uniform AND see ways that the police are making our streets safer for young people so we created a video project called Op Bob where we interviewed the Local Bobbies to build relationships between young people and the police. These will be promoted on our social media and amongst our partners.

ICP

We had involvement with the Integrated Care Partnership’s Young Persons’ Assembly and delivered a presentation in front of over 100 senior leaders on what successful youth participation looks like within an organisation.

Leo said:

“The ICP Young Persons’ Assembly was a fantastic opportunity to present the work of the Youth Commission to influential practitioners and professionals involved in the care and welfare of young people, across a broad spectrum of industry. It was wonderful to hear - and see - such positive strides being taken to place young people at

the forefront of workstreams, and to be part of a conference aimed at putting young people at the heart of the decisions made about them.”

Let Our Voices Be Heard

We delivered a session for the Southampton Safeguarding Partnership to over 300 professionals working within this sector, on the importance of Youth Participation and being a Positive Role Model to children and young people.
Corey shared his own personal experience which was extremely impactful:

‘It felt empowering to present in front of the over 300 professionals at the Let Our Voices be Heard event.

I could tell by the reactions & the responses from them that everybody in that room was paying attention and listening to what we had to say. I hope our presentation helped inspire them to continue making the steps necessary to improve our systems, especially in regards to how young people are treated across the board.”

Feedback was:

“I felt it was really powerful and very brave of Leo, Scarlett, Corey and Ellie. They were an inspiration and should feel very proud of how they represented themselves, but also the voice of young people. Undoubtedly people were listening and let’s hope it inspires more ways to innovate and capture children’s voices.”

Scott, Independent Chair and scrutineer, Hampshire, IOW, Portsmouth & Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

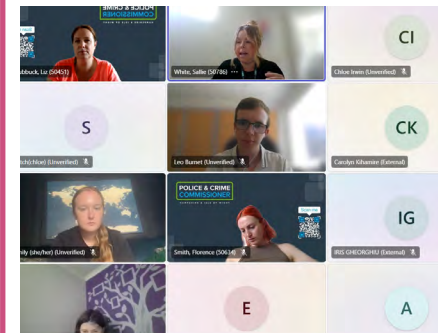
Outreach



- Spoke to over 3550 young people altogether, at educational visits, community events and workshops
- Delivered our Safe on The Streets workshop, designed from 2023 recommendations to 17 schools, colleges, universities and community groups - over 850 young people reached. These focused on being safe on the streets, how to report a concern or a crime anonymously, where to go for support, the Active Bystander model and ongoing conversations about young people's experience and perceptions of the police
- Sent lesson plans sent to over 100 schools and groups – introduction to the OPCC, Safe on the Streets and building trust and confidence in the police and reporting mechanisms
- Met with over seven youth and community groups, attended numerous events and safeguarding fairs, and spoke with over 200 young people who shared their personal experience of interactions with the police. It's really important that we also hear from those young people who have had lived experiences when it comes to the Youth Justice System and the police

Highlights from this year

With the support of our partners



- VRU collaborated with the Violence Reduction Unit on Op Sceptre awareness video and various campaigns
- Sat on the Winchester Law Week steering group
- Supported collaborations with Hampshire, IOW, Portsmouth & Southampton Children's Safeguarding Partnership
- Gave support to the National Police Chiefs' Council into Pathways into Policing for Science and Technology
- Reviewed the National Single Online Home process - for young people to report to the Police
- Taken part in a CAMHS Review
- Undertaken Active Bystander training
- Supported partnership work with the Constabulary's Education Partnership Team
- Received training on 'Reflection on Language' with The Childrens Society
- Presented at two Integrated Care Partnership Assemblies
- Presented to The Southampton Safeguarding Partnership training event to over 300 professionals

Moving into 2025

Some of our current projects are ongoing and additionally, we will be doing all we can to embed some of the 2024 recommendations into our work streams.

We have chosen three new priorities for The Big Conversation survey of 2025.

These are:

Youth Violence

VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)

Bullying & Discrimination

We hope to create some meaningful projects with our partners and show young people that we are listening – we hope many of you will support us with this.

Attendees at our Recommendations Conference in February 2025 were requested to make pledges for their support this year, in response to the recommendations they had heard from the Youth Commission and we aim to hold them to account and check in on them throughout the year to see how they are doing!



DEI in the Youth Commission

We are passionate about equity, diversity and inclusion and have a dedicated group of us who meet regularly.

Chloe quote:
“DEI matters to us because it helps us understand more about diversity and make everyone feel included.”

Our Mission Statement:

- Committed to fostering an inclusive culture.
- Better understand and support the needs of Children and Young People (CYP, aged 14-25).
- Create accessible spaces for CYP to share their voices and experiences related to crime and policing.

Our Purpose:

- Help raise awareness of disparities within the criminal justice system

- Improve understanding of diversity, equality, and inclusion
- Increasing accessibility within the YC and listening to all voices.
- Hold ourselves accountable for making sure the YC’s activities, events, and communications are inclusive.

Our Scope:

- Our work is shaped by YC members’ experiences and community feedback. We also address DEI issues in the media and recognise celebration days.

Our main goals are:

- Improving accessibility within the YC.
- Ensuring inclusivity at events and workshops.
- Raising awareness of DEI’s impact on crime and policing.

Ethnicity

7.7% Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

92.3% White British

Location

27.3% Winchester
27.3% Gosport
18.2% Southampton
18.2% Portsmouth
9.1% Fareham

Neurodiversity

76.9% of members told us they are neurodivergent

23.1% do not

100%

of members have said they have had interactions with professional services.

Including Police, CAMHS, Social Work, Education Welfare Officers, Counselling and Health Services

Carers

10% of our members told us they have caring responsibilities at home



2024

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Find out more at www.HantsYC.com



D O N N A J O N E S

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