



# The Youth Commission provides a platform for young people to influence policing and crime prevention in their area.

## April 2020

The Commission allows young people aged 14-25 to work in partnership with their Police and Crime Commissioners and police forces to tackle urgent issues such as reducing youth offending, relationships with the police and support for young victims and witnesses.

Since 2013, Leaders Unlocked has established Youth Commissions in partnership with the PCCs in 10 regions: Cheshire, Cumbria, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and North Wales.

Since 2013, we have recruited and trained over 800 young people aged 14-25 as Youth Commissioners. The membership includes those from under-represented groups including: looked-after-children, care-leavers, young people with personal experience of the criminal justice system, migrants and young people from the traveler community. As Youth Commissioners, these young people have received practical skills training in research and interview techniques, public speaking and engaging others.

With the right support and tools, Youth Commissioners have so far carried out 'Big Conversations' with over **42,000** of their peers, gathering constructive views on key priorities including: Child Sexual Exploitation, Hate Crime, Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Relationships with the Police, Youth Offending, Knife & Gang Crime, Exploitation & County Lines, and Drug & Alcohol Abuse.

Youth Commissioners have delivered over **760 peer consultation** events including interactive workshops, outreach stands, small group and individual interviews. These Big Conversations have reached a wide demographic - including those from harder-to-reach groups, young homeless people, young LGBT people, care-leavers, young victims of abuse, young offenders, and prisoners.

Youth Commissioners have presented their findings and key recommendations at **24 'Big Conversation'** conferences to high-profile audiences including PCCs, Chief Constables, MPs, and **over 2000** decision-makers and professionals from the police and partner agencies.

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Across England and Wales, Youth Commissioners have been involved in a wide range of **actions for change**. They have:

- **Established 'Youth Police Advisory Groups'** in several regions to advise and challenge the police at a senior level
- Been involved in the development and delivery of **training for police officers and PCSOs**
- Helped to **recruit senior police officers** including Chief Constables, Assistant Constables, and Deputy Chief Constables
- Acted as **lay observers of key policing operations** focused on the nighttime economy and anti-social behaviour
- **Educated young people about Stop and Search rights**, through the development of 'Know Your Rights' films and roadshows
- Created a **Knife Crime film and roadshow**, involving young adults with lived experience as credible speakers
- Worked in collaboration with a University to produce a **film** used to **train police officers** on mental health issues
- Created **KYMSGAME**, a youth-led immersive experience roadshow that enables young people to explore ways to 'Keep Your Mates Safe'

Being part of the Youth Commission has changed young people's lives. Members have gained valuable skills for life and work, including public speaking, peer research and engagement skills. They have gained hands-on experience of policing and commissioning. A number of Youth Commissioners have progressed on to become Police Officers, Special Constables, PCSOs or other roles such as Independent Custody Visitors. For those Youth Commissioners who were unemployed and/or had been former offenders, this experience has resulted in them gaining new training and employment opportunities.

*I applied to join the Youth Commission for the opportunity to have a voice in matters that affect my community. Coming from a council estate facing modern poverty I grew up surrounded by criminality and slowly I became heavily involved in crime alongside many of my friends and family as this was normality. This is a trail blazing project where for the first-time young people in Wales have had the opportunity have their say.*

**Louise Edwards,**  
North Wales Youth Commissioner

*I have been hugely impressed with the passion of the Youth Commission in providing a voice to the wider community of young people in Cheshire. The stop and search film they have written and produced is top quality and makes it really simple for young people to know what their rights are on this very difficult topic. It has been great to see individuals gain in confidence as they have worked on various projects and experienced different aspects of policing in Cheshire.*

**Supt Richard Rees,**  
Cheshire Constabulary



*I set up the Youth Commission to ensure the priorities of young people were better understood by the police. I am immensely proud of their work. The Commission has developed, involving literally thousands of young people, showing how important it is to listen and learn from their experiences and to share that learning widely. The most important thing about the Youth Commission's approach is that it is peer-to-peer.*

**Julia Mulligan,**  
North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Youth Commission is run by a specialist social enterprise, Leaders Unlocked. We are sector leaders in working with young people and underrepresented groups. In education, policing, health, justice and elsewhere, we help organisations to involve the people who matter and shape decision-making for the better. We're interested in hearing from new partners.

To find more please get in touch with

**Kaytea@leaders-unlocked.org**

**leaders-unlocked.org**



@leadersunlocked



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