



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

November 2018

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.

Following successful pilots in Leicestershire, Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Sussex, the Youth Commission was successfully rolled-out in all 3 of these areas. It has since been taken up by PCCs in North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire.

Since 2013, we have recruited and trained over **570** young people aged 14-25 as Youth Commissioners. The membership includes those from under-served groups including: migrants, looked-after-children, care-leavers, young people with disabilities, ex-offenders, young unemployed people and young people from the traveler community. 15% of Youth Commissioners have personal experience of the CJS and 25% are from BAME backgrounds. 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 Commission members have so far carried out 'Big Conversations' with over **29,000** of their peers to gather constructive views on key priority topics including: Child Sexual Exploitation, Hate Crime, Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Relationships with the Police, Youth Offending, Knife and Gang Crime and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Youth Commission members have delivered over **660** peer consultation events including interactive workshops, outreach stands, small group and individual interviews. These Big Conversations have reached a wide demographic - including over 10% from harder-to-reach groups including young homeless people, young LGBT people, care-leavers, young people who have been victims of abuse, young offenders, and prisoners.

Youth Commissioners have presented their findings and key recommendations at **17** Big Conversation conferences to high-profile audiences including PCCs, Chief Constables, MPs, and over 1400 decision-makers and professionals from the police and partner agencies.

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The Youth Commission has been involved in creating a wide range of actions for change:

- **'Youth Police Advisory Groups'** have been established in Cheshire and Staffordshire to advise and challenge the police at a senior level.
- Youth Commissioners have been **actively involved** in the training of police officers and PCSOs in several regions.
- Youth Commissioners have helped to **recruit Chief Constables, Assistant Constables, and Deputy Chief Constables.**
- In Nottinghamshire and Cheshire, Youth Commissioners have been **lay observers of Stop and Search** and key policing operations.
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Youth Commissioners delivered youth-led **campaigns on Legal Highs and Cyber-safety.**
- Nottinghamshire Youth Commissioners **produced a Stop and Search film and roadshow** to educate young people about their rights.
- Staffordshire Youth Commissioners produced a **Hate Crime film and roadshow** to raise awareness of the issue.
- Staffordshire Youth Commissioners have delivered workshops on Knife and Gang crime **using young adults with lived experience as credible speakers.**

Being part of the Youth Commission has changed young people's lives. Youth Commissioners have gained valuable skills for life and work, including public speaking, research and engagement skills. They have gained hands-on experience of policing and commissioning. Approximately 8% of Youth Commissioners have progressed on to become Special Constables, PCSOs or other roles such as Independent Custody Visitors and Community Court members. Two young men have even become a police officers. For those Youth Commissioners who were unemployed and/or had been former offenders, the experience has resulted in them gaining new training and employment opportunities.

The Cheshire Youth Commission on Police & Crime have allowed me to enhance my understanding of the police force whilst providing me with a renewed sense of social responsibility. As a result of my involvement, I have an elevated level of self-confidence which has had a notable impact on my career prospects. Those I have met throughout this experience possess a sense of duty that has ultimately inspired me to take an active role both within my community and my personal life, I hope future projects are as beneficial as this one
Molly Humphries, Cheshire Youth Commissioner

Listening to the views of young people and engaging with them is immensely important to us as a public service. Who can be better placed to have those conversations and obtain genuinely felt answers than young people themselves, peer to peer. The North Yorkshire Youth Commission has provided NYP with the opportunity to have those conversations, with the young commissioners identifying key issue areas and going out to speak face to face with young people across the county. It has resulted in probably the most comprehensive consultation ever undertaken with young people about policing in North Yorkshire.

Tim Madgwick, Deputy Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police.

Between the members and the 1000 plus young people who have given their views we have been able to identify ways in which we can really improve the relationship between young people and the police. And we will. We will seek to improve communications, learn from their experiences with the police and understand their priorities. Over the coming months I am looking forward to seeing some of the Youth Commission's recommendations being taken forward, not only by the police but also by our partners and other organisations whose work with young people is closely linked to the force and my own office.

Paddy Tipping, Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner



The Youth Commission is run by a specialist social enterprise, Leaders Unlocked, which helps organisations to engage effectively with young people and underrepresented groups.

We're interested in hearing from new partners. To find more please get in touch with Kaytea@leaders-unlocked.org



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