



SURREY YOUTH COMMISSION:

FINAL REPORT TO THE OFFICE OF THE
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SURREY

**LEADERS
UNLOCKED**



OFFICE OF THE POLICE &
CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR
SURREY



Contents



| | |
|--|----|
| Foreword from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner | 4 |
| Introduction | 5 |
| Priority 1: Substance misuse and exploitation | 9 |
| Priority 2: Violence against women and girls | 11 |
| Priority 3: Cybercrime | 14 |
| Priority 4: Mental health | 16 |
| Priority 5: Improving relationships with the police | 18 |
| Conclusion | 20 |
| Testimonials | 21 |
| Contact us | 22 |



Foreword from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey



Myself and the Commissioner decided last year that a forum was needed for young people in Surrey. Both the Commissioner, Lisa Townsend, and I believe that our children and young people have as much of a stake in policing as adults do – but their voices so often go unheard. As a result, we commissioned the services of Leaders Unlocked to deliver the county's first-ever Youth Commission.

I had no doubt that our Youth Commission would offer thought provoking and important insight and feedback, but their work over the past few months has not only met my high expectations but exceeded them by far. Their efforts to consult with more than 1,600 of their peers has revealed a list of truly insightful and illuminating priorities, chosen because of the impact they have on young people across our county.

We are so proud of every single Youth Commissioner for their work, which will help us to shape policing in Surrey in the years to come. On a personal note, the dedication and generosity shown by members as they brought their own experiences into the room proves to me that we should feel hugely positive about this generation of young people as they begin to change the world.

Ellie Vesey-Thompson
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey



Read me online

For more information, visit surrey-pcc.gov.uk/funding/surrey-youth-commission



Introduction

The Surrey Youth Commission (SYC) was established in 2022 with funding from the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey. The SYC enables young people aged 14-25 years old to inform decisions about policing and crime prevention in Surrey, working in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Surrey Police.

About the Surrey Youth Commission

SYC gives young people across Surrey a voice on issues of crime and policing. The SYC supports, challenges, and informs the work of the Office of the Commissioner and Surrey Police.

A key part of the SYC's role is to gather the views of other young people through peer-to-peer research in the form of a 'Big Conversation'. This peer-led research process provides a safe environment for young people to talk to their peers about relevant issues. The views gathered from young people were then analysed by the SYC in order to create a final set of key findings and recommendations to report back to the Office of the Commissioner, Surrey Police, and partners.

The SYC is facilitated by Leaders Unlocked, a social enterprise that enables young people to have a stronger voice and influence on the decisions that affect their lives. Leaders Unlocked has established Youth Commissions in 18 regions across England and Wales and continues to grow.

For more information about Leaders Unlocked please see www.leaders-unlocked.org



About this report

This report is grounded in extensive peer-to-peer research and engagement with over 1,600 young people across Surrey between January and June 2023. These conversations were conducted through interactive workshops, one-to-one interviews, surveys and outreach stands.

The report is structured into five key priorities that outline the SYC's five areas of peer-led citizen research. Each section features a comprehensive analysis of young people's responses, direct quotes from individual participants, and recommendations for change that have been put forward by the SYC members as a result of their findings.

This report is intended to act as an honest and independent record of what young people have told us through the 'Big Conversation' process. It is also intended to be a basis for further action on the part of the Office of the Commissioner, Surrey Police, and partners.



Key priorities and aims

At their inaugural meeting, the SYC members worked together to select their key priorities that most affect the lives of young people in Surrey. The group then developed a set of aims to underpin the priorities and help guide the project, providing a focus for the 'Big Conversation'.

The key priorities chosen were:



Substance misuse and exploitation



Violence against women and girls



Cybercrime



Mental health



Improving relationships with the police

Youth Commission resources

SYC members were actively involved in creating the tools that they would use for their peer-led research. They co-designed interactive workshops to address each of their five priorities, which included presentations, quizzes, and discussions.

To capture young people's responses, they developed a postcard depicting the five priorities and providing young people with a structure to record their views and suggested solutions anonymously.

The 'Big Conversation'

To tackle the five priorities, SYC members delivered a range of peer-led workshops and outreach stands and surveys with young people across Surrey. This 'Big Conversation' was taken to a wide range of local voluntary organisations, educational institutions, and statutory partners across the region.

In order to gather vital insights from those who are most affected by the priority topics, the SYC

put particular effort and energy into engaging with under-represented and more marginalised groups of young people. The SYC carried out workshops and consultations with those with first-hand experience of the criminal justice system, those in non-mainstream education and young people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

In total, they engaged in peer research with 1,655 young people across 21 consultation events.

Joint work with Surrey Police

To prioritise joint working with Surrey Police, the SYC established a Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) to ensure young people's voices were heard directly. This was an opportunity for the SYC members to meet directly with the police and discuss areas for improvement. Since March 2023, the SYC has facilitated three YIAG meetings with Surrey Police. Our topics of discussion have included indecent image sharing between young people, Stop and Search, and improving relationships between young people and the police.

Joint work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The SYC has worked closely with the Office of the Commissioner throughout the project, including acting as a sounding board by reviewing and providing feedback on a violence against women and girls (VAWG) survey aimed at young people in Surrey to reduce harmful behaviours towards women and girls.



Priority 1: Substance misuse and exploitation



Acknowledgements



We are grateful for the support of a wide range of local partners who have allowed the SYC to consult with the young people in their organisations and supported the work of the SYC. Thanks go to:

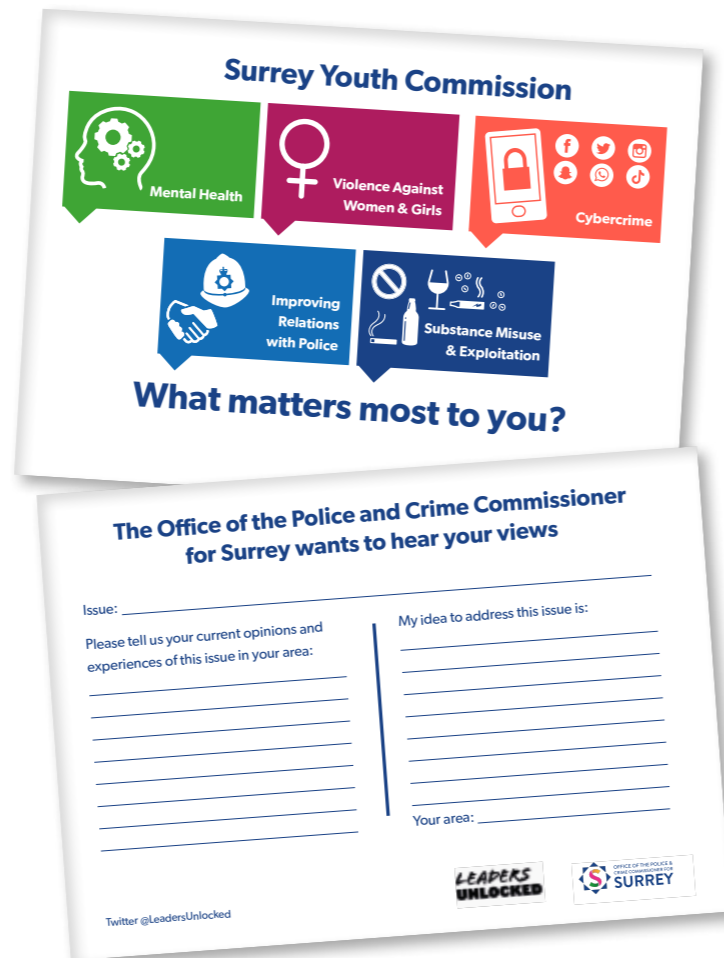
- Activate Learning
- Royal Holloway University
- Surrey User Voice and Participation (Surrey Consulting Youth Advisors, Surrey Young Carers)
- Surrey Cadets
- Surrey Fire and Rescue (Youth Engagement Scheme)
- Active Surrey (Friday Night Project)
- Fearless Crimestoppers
- YMCA East Surrey
- Surrey Youth Justice Service
- Broadwater School
- Christ's College Guildford
- Merrist Wood College
- Surrey Police
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

A special thanks to the individual Youth Commission Members* who have offered their time and efforts to make this project a success:

- Amanah Hoque
- Charlie Francis
- Daniel Boyd
- Elijah Jacobs
- Elle Thompson
- Eloise Devane
- Emma Treggia
- Georgia Watkins
- Haya Shouman
- Jacob Murray
- Laura Valle Bolano
- Maddy Wyatt
- Niamh Baker
- Rowen Baker
- Sophia Lodhi

*Please note that we are unable to publish a number SYC members for safeguarding reasons.

Huge thanks to the Project Coordinators Maria Gallagher and Hafizah Khan.



The SYC engaged with a total of 329 young people about this topic.

Priority aims:

1. Listen to young people's views and examine what are the root causes of substance misuse and its effect on mental health.
2. Investigate the impact that living with someone with substance misuse has on young people.
3. Ensure young people recognise the signs of exploitation and how to access support.
4. Increase awareness and confidence in accessing support services and the different ways of reporting.

What we found

Substance misuse is widespread and often highly normalised. Most young people we spoke to had been exposed to substance misuse in some form. This ranged from seeing and smelling drugs or alcohol in public spaces to knowing friends and family involved with substances, to having used themselves.

"There are a lot of drunk people and drug dealers outside which can scare young people."

"Lots of young people vaping and taking illegal drugs in Surrey. Drugs are easily accessible to everyone."

"There is a lot of weed in my area. I don't like the smell."

"Loads of people are on different stuff and it is really easy to get involved in it if you wanted to. Also, vapes are a big problem."

"It has become normalised for people even at the age 13 to be vaping, drinking and sometimes even taking drugs."

Young people identified poor mental health and poverty as factors which may contribute to an individual's substance misuse, many describing substance misuse as a 'coping mechanism'.

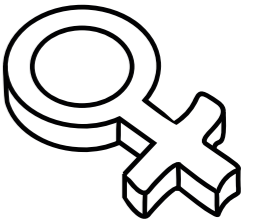
We were told that drugs and alcohol are easily accessible to young people in Surrey. In particular, vaping has become increasingly popular amongst people as young as year 7.

"Although I do not agree with using substances as a way to cope with poor mental health, I also understand that people use substances as a way to manage feelings and as a way of coping. I also know that those who struggle aren't necessarily the most visible and tend to hide or not leave their homes."

"Everyone in secondary school is vaping (even year 7). Nobody smokes cigarettes in this generation anymore."

"It is very normalised and common amongst young people."

Priority 2: Violence against women and girls



"In my area due to poverty levels, there are lots of people selling and taking drugs."

"Young people who are suffering from poor mental health may turn to substance misuse to cope."

Many young people had received some education around substance misuse however this was often described as scaremongering and un-engaging. We were told there is a need for informative resources that educate young people on harm reduction and the risks involved.

"Educate people on the risks of vaping – make it more fun and interactive in ways that aren't boring – you need to design those alongside young people so they aren't cringey."

"Being educated about drugs and alcohol in school makes me scared and is scaremongering young people. I remember being shown a video about someone who ended up in prison and had to have scary surgeries due to the physical impact of injecting drugs."

"Provide non-stigmatising education on safe drug use."



Our recommendations

For Surrey Police:

- Provide training to ensure officers understand substance misuse as a 'coping mechanism' for poor mental health and are equipped to handle these situations appropriately.
- Restrict the accessibility of drugs, alcohol, and vapes to young people by monitoring businesses, enforcing greater restrictions and targeting 'hot spot' areas.
- Ensure a harm reduction approach is taken when delivering engagements on both substance misuse and county lines.

For the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and partners:

- Work with SYC members and partners to develop age-appropriate educational resources that inform young people about drug and alcohol use and the risks involved. This should include a focus on the risks of vaping, due to its increased popularity.
- Work with the Youth Commission to raise awareness of county lines and the early warning signs young people should look out for.

For the SYC:

- Utilise Big Conversation workshops to educate young people on county lines and early warning signs of child criminal exploitation.
- Advocate for fact-based harm reduction education on substance misuse for young people.
- Conduct peer research to better understand why young people vape, and what can be done to combat this.

The SYC engaged with a total of 298 young people about this topic.

Priority aims:

1. Explore the impact of online misogyny, including both social media influencers and individual experiences online, such as revenge porn and hate comments.
2. Listen to young people's views on how to reduce gender-based violence and where to go for support.
3. Discuss what are the harmful attitudes and behaviours that need changing in society towards women and girls and raise awareness of how to be an active bystander.
4. Investigate how Surrey Police can improve trust and confidence between male officers and female victims of violence against women and girls, including throughout the reporting process.

What we found

It was evident that violence against women and girls is extremely common and affects young women and girls from all backgrounds. Almost all girls and young women we spoke to had been a victim, with experiences ranging from catcalling and verbal harassment to more serious crimes.

"Girls have to experience being regularly shouted at by young boys and men. I have been sworn at by men in cars and shouted at."

Young women and girls told us about their experiences of being affected by gender-based violence in their everyday lives. For example, altering their clothing and general appearance out of fear of being harassed.

"Women and girls get harassed on a daily basis... this makes women feel unsafe when outside."

"It's 2023, my mum and I shouldn't be scared to walk alone at 10pm at night."

"Women could be dressed in jeans and a crop top and be asked to cover up. But if they are in joggers and a hoodie they get searched for no reason."

"You should not judge the way women dress. This will make them feel uncomfortable and question how they dress every day."

Young women were often reluctant to report instances of violence against women and girls. We heard that a fear of not being taken seriously, fear of victim blaming and a feeling that little action would be taken were all key reasons for this.

"I was sexually assaulted, and I was not believed. They just brushed over it even though I reported it."

"I believe the action against sexual harassment and abuse is okay but loads of girls are scared to speak out and they need more support to be able to safely speak about their experiences."

"I've seen the police push aside domestic abuse and not take it seriously."



A significant proportion of young women and girls told us they were more fearful of their safety at night-time. In some cases, this was a result of a lack of safety precautions such as street lighting and police presence.

"I have been touched up on multiple occasions when I am on nights out."

"I am not allowed outside at certain times because there is no street lights."

"More needs to be done at night. I've been followed before, and it was horrible."

It was reported that violence against women and girls crimes are repeatedly taking place online, with too many young women and girls having experience of image-based sexual abuse. The impact of this on young people's mental health was highlighted, due to threats, stigma, and peer pressure.

"Snapchat is being used to ask young girls for inappropriate photos and harassing them."

"I believe that the most violent acts done towards women and girls are online. Many women and girls are just told to block and report but they don't understand the pressure that can be caused due to threats such as 'I'll leak the photos'."

"I believe that cybercrime is a big issue, especially for women being harassed and bullied."

Our recommendations



For Surrey Police:

- Improve the police response to violence against women and girls by ensuring officers are trained to properly support the victim and the perpetrator with empathy, compassion and sensitivity.
- Increase police presence in areas of the night-time economy where women may be most at-risk.
- Promote in the community, including within educational settings, the law surrounding image-based sexual abuse, and highlight victims' rights to involve police.

For the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and partners:

- Take a preventative approach to tackling violence against women and girls by educating young people on consent, gender stereotypes and healthy relationships, including education for young men and boys.
- Promote and advertise violence against women and girls-specific support services and ensure support is accessible to all victims easily and safely.
- Work closely with Surrey Police and SYC to raise awareness of the law on image-based sexual abuse, ensuring non-victim blaming messages and highlighting the rights of victims to involved police.

For the SYC:

- Raise awareness amongst young people of how to report violence against women and girls, including via alternative reporting mechanisms such as online. Focus particularly on awareness within secondary schools, colleges and universities.
- Advocate for a stronger response to image-based sexual abuse, both from authorities and educational organisations.
- Work with the police through the YIAGs and review officers' violence against women and girls training.



Priority 3: Cybercrime

The SYC engaged with a total of 353 young people about this topic.



Priority aims:

1. Research how online spaces and social media affect young people's views of police and crime issues.
2. Explore how parents / carers and professionals can be made more aware of the cybercrime issues that most affect young people.
3. Educate young people on the dangers of social media and how they can protect themselves online.
4. Explore how young people can support their peers and prevent online abuse from escalating, including ways of reporting.

What we found

We found that cybercrime is extremely common and affects young people in Surrey from all backgrounds. Young people had experienced a wide range of crimes including online harassment, cyberbullying, stalking, abuse from fake accounts, hacking, and sharing of videos without consent.

"Cybercrime is bad and very common now as social media is very popular amongst young people."

Young people told us that cybercrime has a severe impact on mental health, resulting in anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts. TikTok and Snapchat were most often named as particularly harmful platforms for mental health.

"I keep getting prank called and I thought I was getting stalked."

"I was bullied online by people I thought I could trust. This really affected my anxiety and gave me trust issues."

"One time I was repeatedly harassed by someone who told me to kill myself."

"It's quite common and sometimes it leads to suicide if you don't know how to block them."

"Cybercrime can potentially cause someone to spiral down into a bad place."

The impacts of online crime were worsened by the perception that the police and authorities see in-person crime as more serious and can often underestimate the harm caused online. Young people told us they felt that online harassment, stalking, and abuse were seen as 'the norm' and to be expected on social media.

As a result, cybercrime was said to be severely under-reported, with many young people being unaware they could take such cases to the police. It was suggested that a greater visible police presence online would help to combat the issue.

"A lot of police don't think or do a lot about bullying online because it isn't in person."

"Social media, especially more recently, can be used by people to express different views. With these views, many young people have been influenced."

"Follow up on crimes that are committed online instead of ignoring them."

"Some people on social media over-exaggerate or twist the truth. There are too many opinions influencing what people think or do."

"Reports should be taken more seriously."

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of social media's ability to influence young people's views and opinions. Some were aware of the dangers of misinformation and 'fake news' online and were concerned about such influences on their peers.

"It allows people to express their own view on the topic and those views will influence others."

Our recommendations

For Surrey Police:

- Demonstrate to young people and the wider community, that online crime, particularly, harassment and abuse, will be treated with the same seriousness as in-person crime.
- Increase the presence of Surrey Police online and consider the introduction of Digital PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) to provide police support in instances of online crime.

For the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and partners:

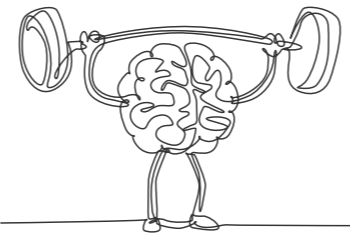
- Promote online support services, including online reporting and mental health support to help tackle the negative impacts of cybercrime.
- Work with the SYC members to develop educational resources for young people on consent, privacy, and being safe online. This could include speakers with lived experience of cybercrime sharing their personal stories.
- Support Surrey Police to increase its online presence to provide reassurance to online victims.

For the SYC:

- Utilise the 'Big Conversation' workshops to highlight to young people that cybercrime should be taken equally seriously as in-person crime and that young people have the right to report online abuse to the police.
- Promote different ways to report online crime and where to go to access support.
- Work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to co-produce educational resources on consent, privacy, and online safety for young people.



Priority 4: Mental health



The SYC engaged with a total of 346 young people about this topic.

Priority aims:

1. Promote wellbeing, and good mental health along with the key indicators of poor mental health.
2. Learn more about 'police mental health passports' and share this knowledge with others.
3. Listen to young people's concerns and experiences of disability stigma and discrimination.
4. Investigate how Surrey Police and partners can better meet young people's mental health needs.
5. Raise awareness of the impact that crime can have on mental health and signpost support services that are available to victims.

What we found

It was reported that mental health crises are often mistaken for criminal behaviour. Young people would like to see more effective signposting to appropriate support services rather than police intervention in these cases.

"Mental health is criminalised. I was treated like a criminal because I was unwell. I was a threat to nobody, and I was met with violence which made a bad situation worse."

"More education for police to be able to recognise people in a mental health crisis and methods to help before force and violent action is used."

It was recognised that the police have a role to play in responding to some mental health crises. The Surrey Police mental health passport scheme was considered a valuable tool; however, most young people with mental health needs were unaware of the initiative altogether. In addition, we found that knowledge amongst police officers is also inconsistent, meaning that young people with a mental health passport are not guaranteed the support needed.

"I have autism and had never heard of the mental health passport before. It would have been good to know about this when starting to travel on my own. This should be advertised more."

Many young people highlighted a range of barriers to accessing mental health support services. These included practical barriers such as long waiting lists and the need for referrals as well as personal and social barriers such as shame, embarrassment, and stigmatisation.

"More support and resources for young people's mental health. More staff and resources."

"I know a lot of people that suffer with mental health and try to go through the correct platforms but just get put on a waiting list and given pills and forgotten about. Too many young people are not being supported and there are too many young suicides."

"There is no help and waiting lists are so long."

Young people shared a range of mental health struggles with the SYC but highlighted that speaking out can be difficult due to shame, stigma, and sometimes dismissiveness by both parents and professionals. In addition, many wanted to support their peers but felt they did not have enough accessible information or the correct tools to do so.

"Many people struggle with mental health but are too afraid or embarrassed to talk about their problems. For example, many men are too embarrassed to be seen as sensitive."

"There are not many places to openly speak about mental health. It is hard to speak to teachers in school about certain issues."

"My friend was having a hard time and was opening up to me. I didn't really know the best way to support her."



Our recommendations

For Surrey Police:

- Promote the mental health passport initiative amongst both officers and the public and work collaboratively with the SYC members to develop the scheme further.
- Provide stronger mental health training for police officers who are likely to encounter young people who are suffering. Ensure they are equipped to deal with a range of mental health issues.
- Reduce stigma by not treating young people with mental health difficulties as suspects or criminals. Instead, whenever possible, refer young people to appropriate support services.

For the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and partners:

- Work with Surrey Police and the SYC members to further develop the mental health passport scheme and promote its use amongst both police and the public (i.e., create a physical lanyard).
- Support mental health first aid training for under 18s so that young people are better equipped to support their peers.
- Promote the various mental health support services available to young people across Surrey and raise awareness of how to access these.

For the SYC:

- Work with the Commissioner's Office and Surrey Police to improve and further develop the mental health passport scheme and share the initiative with more young people.
- Work with educational settings to promote destigmatising conversations about mental health, self-care and well-being.
- Raise awareness of mental health support services throughout all future 'Big Conversation' workshops and events, regardless of the topic discussed.



Priority 5: Improving relationships with the police



The SYC engaged with a total of 329 young people about this topic.

Priority aims:

1. Investigate why young people feel stereotyped and misunderstood by the police and identify how to build trust and confidence and improve relationships.
2. Engage with a wide range of young people including under-represented groups, to understand how police can better meet the needs of a diverse community.
3. Investigate the impact social media has on young people's opinions of police and how this can be improved.
4. Educate young people on police interactions, including stop and search, how to report a crime, and what to do if pulled over by police.

What we found

Through the 'Big Conversation', we heard that police often prejudice young people and that many felt stereotyped because of their age. Some young people told us that they had gotten into trouble with the police for activities considered acceptable for adults, such as congregating in large groups. In addition, young people felt police can sometimes be prejudiced; this was referenced across a number of topics including age, mental health difficulties, and gender identity.

"Lots of policemen stereotype young people and search them because of this."

"My brother was in a shop and a police officer asked him to leave because he "looked threatening" and people were getting scared."

"Stop stereotyping people just by the way they look."

Young people developed their view of the police through real-life experiences but also the media and social media. Negative stories about the police globally contributed to mistrust and fear at a local level. It was felt that more 'good news' stories would help to combat this.

"Various media outlets are showing these awful incidents where cops have abused their power in order to harm others. This ruins trust and faith in them. However, I think it's important to remember that not all cops are like this, that oftentimes the media may only want to show the awful events as it will cause more controversy and get more clicks and views for their company."

"George Floyd opened my eyes and shocked and scared me."

"Everything about the police in the media is negative. The worst crimes get the most coverage. The police are always brought up in a negative light."

Conclusion

Stop and search plays a big role in young people's perceptions of police. A significant number of young people we spoke to had been or knew someone who had been stopped by the police, however, almost none were fully aware of their stop and search rights. Some believed their rights had not been followed, which increased mistrust.

"I was stopped and searched by police with no reasonable explanations and tapped down by the male officer which made me uncomfortable."

"I think that there is a lot of bias and unfairness in many activities such as stop and search."

We learned that young people would like more engagement with local police. This could include more visits to secondary schools and colleges as well as a greater presence in the community. Additionally, many young people told us they were unaware of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Commissioner's role but would like to learn more.

"More positive interactions with the police, rather than just enforcement."

"Go to schools and colleges more often so young people can see you are trying to improve relationships."

"Instead of acting aggressively and enforcing the law 100% of the time, I think the police should be part of the community."

Our recommendations

For Surrey Police:

- Increase engagement with young people through both visits to secondary schools and colleges as well as having a greater presence in local communities, where the only goal is to develop relationships and build trust.
- Enhance the presence of Surrey Police on social media through popular platforms such as Instagram and Tik Tok to build relationships with young people and highlight positive work.
- Work to tackle potential unconscious bias against young people, particularly those with additional intersectional factors, such as mental health conditions and their gender identity.

For the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and partners:

- Raise awareness of the Office of the Commissioner and role of its staff amongst young people. This should include online and in-person engagement.
- Work alongside the SYC members to develop a campaign to promote stop and search rights to the community. Greater knowledge of the topic will increase confidence in the police.
- Hold Surrey Police to account in relation to unconscious bias and support anti-bias training and initiatives.

For the SYC:

- Develop a campaign to raise awareness of stop and search rights amongst young people and the wider community.
- Invite Surrey Police to attend future 'Big Conversation' workshops to engage with and hear directly from young people.
- Continue to act as a bridge between young people and Surrey Police to help improve trust and confidence on both sides of the relationship.

We are extremely grateful to all the members of the SYC, local partners, Surrey Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner that have been involved in making this piece of work a success.

The insights and recommendations contained within this report, together with the extensive joint work that has been done between the SYC, Commissioner's Office, Surrey Police and other partner organisations represent a very significant contribution to the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Surrey Police.

Through their 'Big Conversation' peer research with over 1,600 young people, the SYC has managed to reach and engage with a hugely diverse cross-section of the youth population across Surrey. They have made a particular effort to hear from those whose views are often overlooked. This peer-to-peer process is of enormous value, both as a piece of research and as an engagement exercise.

Our hope is that the SYC will be further developed as a channel for engaging young people in the work of both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Surrey Police. As shown through the project, the SYC can help bridge the gap between young people and policing, through ongoing engagement with the youth population. They can provide youth-centred advice on a range of policing and crime matters affecting young people. The SYC also have an important role to play in the development and evaluation of the recommendations they have set out in this report.



Testimonials

"My time with the Youth Commission has enabled me to further my interest in youth justice and allowed me to express my thoughts and expand my viewpoints. Working with so many other young people has been incredible; those who I've met in the commission, the police and my overall experience has greatly aided my interest in a future career working with young offenders and in public policy. To even make a small difference for the voices of youths has been an honour. It has been an eye opening, informative and unique opportunity I will always be grateful for."

Maddy Wyatt, Surrey Youth Commission Member

"Hearing the voice of young people across our county is essential as collective partners to understand their thoughts and views on key issues which affect them as a community, in particular hearing their voice on the police and crime issues that matter the most to them. The Surrey Youth Commission's Big Conversation heard from over 1,600 young people living in Surrey and it was a privilege to hear from some of them directly at the Big Conversation conference in July. What is important now is that it does not remain a 'conversation' but that the 5 priorities they identified are turned into tangible action. I am really excited by the potential opportunities that this work presents and it is important that we do this with the young people and not to them. Thank you to everyone involved."

Alison Barlow, T/Assistant Chief Constable for Surrey Police

"We are using a problem-solving approach to address indecent image sharing amongst children; so we can identify when harmful behaviours are occurring and safeguard those involved. The Surrey Youth Commission has been essential in the scanning and analysis of the problem so that we can take a targeted approach which meets the needs of young people. They were able to identify approaches to the problem which would have the greatest benefit and areas in which Police and Partners could improve. They were enthusiastic, engaged and offered continued support of the project. I highly recommend engaging with the Surrey Youth Commission to ensure the voices of young people are represented."

DCI Alick James, Surrey Police

"I really enjoyed the conference and found it so useful & interesting to hear the summary of findings. All of the young people presenting were really impressive too and it was really powerful to hear directly from them."

Anna Mullen, Youth Justice Service, Surrey County Council

"I am delighted to say that the Surrey Youth Commission has been brilliant. The students have really engaged with the workshops and have found the discussions around the priorities really worthwhile. The members have been an absolute pleasure to work with."

Jo Blanchfield, Broadwater School




Contact us








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-  surrey-pcc.gov.uk



For police news, crime prevention advice, help for victims of crime and ways to contact Surrey Police please visit surrey.police.uk

Always call **999** if you have a genuine emergency requiring the attendance of the police or if a crime is in progress. Call Surrey Police on **101** or use the online reporting system at surreypolice.uk/contact-us for non-emergency matters only.

If you are hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can textphone Surrey Police on **18001 101** (non-emergency) or **18000** (emergency) or text on **07967 987249** or **999** (register at emergencysms.org.uk)

To report crime anonymously - call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.



CONTACT US

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