



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH COMMISSION

**'BIG CONVERSATION'
REPORT 2024 FOR THE PCC**



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

**LEADERS
UNLOCKED**

Statement from Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Gary Godden

“The Youth Commission are a diverse group of young individuals drawn from the city and county that have been highly successful in engaging peers and the police on issues that matter most to them.

“They have shown great commitment and enthusiasm in doing so and are making a genuine impact in helping to shape decisions relating to crime and policing in Nottinghamshire.

“As a Police and Crime Commissioner, one of my primary objectives is to bolster trust and confidence in the police and ensure that everyone feels safe and secure in their own neighbourhood. The Youth Commission is an important part of this process.

“The Youth Commission is an important part of this process. Their voices are a driving force for meaningful and impactful change in our communities. They are not only leaders of the future – but are helping to lead change today.”



ABOUT THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH COMMISSION

The Nottinghamshire Youth Commission (Notts YC) gives young people a stronger voice to raise police and crime issues. The Notts YC worked with the Police and Crime Commissioner to hear the opinions, thoughts and feelings of young people which can in turn inform their future working practices.

The Notts YC members engage with young people through peer-led workshops that provides a safe space to comfortably share and speak confidently to peers. All the responses gathered during the Big Conversation are analysed by the Youth Commission members to create the key findings and recommendations outlined in this report. The Notts YC presented their key findings and recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner, senior police officers and key delegates from the community.

A key element of the Youth Commissions role is to gather the views of young people through peer-to-peer engagement. This is a strength of the project, as it provides young people with a safe environment to talk to their peers about issues in their communities relating to policing and crime.

The Youth Commission members have received training for their role and have developed their active listening techniques, facilitation, and leadership skills throughout the project.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is based on evidence that has been collected through peer-to-peer research. The Notts YC has reached over 1,500 young people from across Nottinghamshire in the last year. The responses have been gathered in youth-led engagement events and stalls, workshops, and targeted surveys.

The report allocates each priority its own section, which consists of a comprehensive analysis of young people's opinions using exact quotes from individual participants, and the key recommendations based on the findings of the Youth Commission.

This report is intended to be a genuine, independent record of what young people have told us through the Youth Commissions 'Big Conversation'. It is hoped that the work of the Notts YC will be the basis for future actions by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

WHAT WE DID

RECRUITMENT

In 2023, Leaders Unlocked carried out a 2-stage recruitment process. This included distributing an easy-to-access recruitment pack which included an application form and information relating to the role. The second stage was to conduct telephone interviews with applicants. This process has been made possible by working proactively with local organisations from education settings, youth organisations and the voluntary sector. Our aim is to ensure that the members are true representatives of their communities by location, background, and life experience.

Our current members:

- 69% Identify as Female
- 31% Identify as Male
- 7% have a disability
- 30% are under 18 years of age
- 73% are in education within their local communities
- 3% are looked after children
- 53% are from ethnically diverse backgrounds
- 3% have attended an alternative provision

IDENTIFYING PRIORITY ISSUES

At the Notts YC inaugural meeting members worked together to identify the issues most important to young people. They decided to focus on the following four priorities:

1. Night-time Safety- Violence Against Women and Girls
2. Knife Crime
3. Anti-Social Behaviour
4. Trust and Confidence with the police

CREATING TOOLS FOR THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH COMMISSION

During the members meeting, the Notts YC co-designed four interactive peer-led workshops and actively demonstrated how these workshops would run. The members also took part in team-building exercises, interactive workshops and presented their plans to the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

These meetings gave the members the opportunity to:

- Design engaging workshops
- Develop resources and materials for the workshops
- Practice presentation skills
- Identify key organisations where the Big Conversation can take place
- Learn new leadership skills
- Become a cohesive team of young leaders

In addition to the interactive peer-led workshops the members also created four surveys, one for each priority which would help to further gather young people's voices. The citizen peer-led research included group discussions and opportunities for peer-to-peer conversations with young people and shared their personal views and experiences.

For the purpose of data collection, the Notts YC members created postcards to collate information for their research. The postcard shows each priority that the Notts YC was collecting responses on, allowing young people to provide their opinions on all priorities regardless of the workshop they were attending. The postcards have highlighted real-life opinions and experiences that young people have faced but may feel uncomfortable discussing. The postcards are designed so that participants remain anonymous, with the name of the individual not requested. However, we do ask participants to write their age and postcode on the postcard which helps to collect general demographics and identify which areas may need further work and support with the issues they experience in their areas.

The Notts YC members have also had the great opportunity of attending numerous training days at the police Headquarters where they were able to observe the intense training officers and PCSO's in Nottingham undergo. Members were also invited to the interview panel for the new Chief Superintendent and new Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire police. They were able to ask candidates questions and waver in the decision making of the candidates.

YOUTH INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP (YIAG)

Notts YC members chair the Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) with the OPCC, to discuss various topics related to Notts YC priorities. Each meeting was held over zoom and officers with specific insights into areas including Anti-Social Behaviour, Use of Force and Stop and Search are invited to participate in sharing their knowledge and experiences within these topics.

The YIAGs provide a forum for officers and young people to exchange ideas and opinions. These include key messages going out to young people and discussing ways to improve police relationships with young people.

The Notts YC members shared that they found these meetings to be insightful and engaging, one member said:

"The YIAG has really helped me to widen my perspective of the police, by asking questions and furthering my understanding about how officers get involved in our community. The YIAG also has helped me to voice concerns about problems that are active in our community which we have discussed, hopefully helping them in working towards solutions. Some of these concerns were regarding matters such as use of force and anti social behaviour. Through the YIAG, I have been educated on issues and our discussions have helped me to keep an open mind, regarding how much effort the police put into our society"

Lianna

WHO WE HAVE REACHED

The Notts YC has actively engaged with over 1500 young people across Nottinghamshire. In total, the Notts YC has delivered over 40 workshops in a wide range of youth settings across the city and county. This year the Notts YC focused on delivering targeted workshops to engage with young people from alternative education, young people with experience of the criminal justice system and young people with disabilities.

Priority	Responses
Night time safety- VAWG	350
Knife Crime	475
Anti-Social Behaviour	310
Trust and Confidence in the police	383

OUR PARTNERS

Notts YC members are very grateful to everyone who has supported us by allowing the members into their organisations. We would like to say a very big thank you to the following organisations:

Nottingham College
 Nottinghamshire police
 Bilborough Sixth Form College
 Nottinghamshire Youth Service
 Base 51
 Pass Move Grin
 Inspire College
 Nottinghamshire police
 National Justice Museum
 Beeston Youth and Community Centre

Stapleford Young People Centre
 Chayah project
 Determination Motivation Success
 Nottinghamshire Youth Service
 Vision West Nottinghamshire College
 Outwood Valley Academy
 Derrymount School
 Eastwood Youth Centre
 YMCA Newark and Sherwood

OUR MEMBERS

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

Alice Cross	Beckham Ali
Claudia Nkomo	Amarveer Singh Johal
Joanie Stevens	Romilly James
Josephine Fordjour	Angel Akopvi
Lianna Khadoo	Ayesha Ali
Ronia Iheama	Aaliyah Stanley
Tegan Bradley	Demba Kah
Vanessa Omo-Ogbewi	Immanuel Ani
Kathrine Tremayne	Rickheim Tannis
Owen Brindley	Zion Alagbala
Ambaa Sharma	Thomas Hipkiss
Shivali Sharma	Stefanija Aboltina
Lizzy Gardiner	
Callum Parr	

A Special thank you also goes to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Nottinghamshire police, who have worked closely with the Notts YC throughout this project.

A final thanks to this year's Project Manager Kelese Hyacinth and Project Assistant Coordinator Marisa Onorati who were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.



PRIORITY 1: NIGHT-TIME SAFETY - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Notts YC spoke to 350 young people about this priority, in areas including: Baseford, Mansfield, Eastwood, Hucknall, Bestwood, Nottingham City centre, Newark-on-Trent, Stapleford and Worksop. When we spoke to young people, they spoke about feeling unsafe at night in Nottingham, due to a lack of understanding about where safe spaces are and how to access them. They also expressed that they wouldn't report catcalling or harassment to the police, because they don't feel like they do anything to support victims. This included not updating young people on their cases or making them feel heard.

Through our peer lead conversations in our workshops and our anonymous online surveys, the Notts YC was able to gather feedback from young people about their lived experiences and the recommendations they would like to see in their communities.

WHAT WE FOUND

When we spoke to young people, they expressed that the lack of transport in their communities make it hard to feel safe at night. In some suburban and most rural areas transport is unreliable and it is not sufficient to make young people feel safe.

"Where I live sometimes the buses don't turn up, sometimes they run late and don't stop at all the bus stops so you have to wait an hour or so for the next one to turn up. It's not safe as it gets dark due to no street lights and can be really scary"- Newark and Sherwood

Young people also shared that they feel the police don't take them seriously when reporting harassment, they feel as though they are not listened to by the police, and this deters them from reporting in the future.

"When I have reported to the police nothing happened. They never take us seriously, so it makes me not want to report it"- Radford

Young people stated the behaviour of others within Nottingham makes them anxious and they feel it is not safe within the county because of this. Young people shared their experiences of this with us:

"I was assaulted waiting outside Mcdonalds in Nottingham waiting for my friends who were using the bathroom. I was stood alone and a delivery driver started talking to me then he came up to me and hugged me tightly so I could not move, he laid his head across my chest and the other delivery drivers laughed. I have also been catcalled numerous times." - Carlton

"It's not safe for a young girl at night alone in the streets, we should be able to walk around and not have to be worried all the time but there are too many weird men approaching young girls"- Bakersfield

Young people discussed that they feel there is not enough recognition from the police on this issue and how it can make young people feel. They would like to see more female officers, and a higher police presence in the evenings. Some young people shared their personal experiences with us and how this made them feel. They explained that when they have tried to report previously, they do not receive the correct support and are made to feel very alone during this awful time. Young people explained to us that negative media stories about the police has made them apprehensive to use the public service. Young people would like to see more streetlights and better CCTV in operation to make them feel safer.

"With all the bad press in the media about police and it is very hard to trust them and feel comfortable to speak to them, you don't know what they are capable of and their intentions. NG7"

"It would be good if there was a non-emergency number to call just for VAWG"

"I have been sexually assaulted before and I went to the police to report it, the case went to court and then nothing happened, after the case I didn't receive any support or help I was just left to deal with everything myself."

"Town can be really sketchy at Night-time with dark and unmonitored areas." Newark

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NIGHT-TIME SAFETY (VAWG)

FOR THE POLICE:

Raise awareness on how to report crimes, especially anonymously and share with young people where they can get support if they have been a victim.

Take reporting from young people more seriously and treat all cases with a higher urgency. Provide updates to victims of their cases keeping them up to date.

Increase engagement in the community with young people raising awareness of how to stay safe at night and where to go to for support if they feel vulnerable.

Have more diversity in the Nottinghamshire police force, such as, race, sexuality and gender and have more PCSOs in the community engaging with young people, especially at night

FOR THE PCC

Increase public safety by providing funding for better quality CCTV, street lights and cameras around public transport stops and alleyways and side streets.

Work with local organisations to promote a new campaign educating young people and adults on what catcalling, and harassment is and how they can help prevent violence against women and girls.

Raise more awareness of how the PCC and partners can work together to provide safer streets for young people in Nottinghamshire, particularly during the night-time.

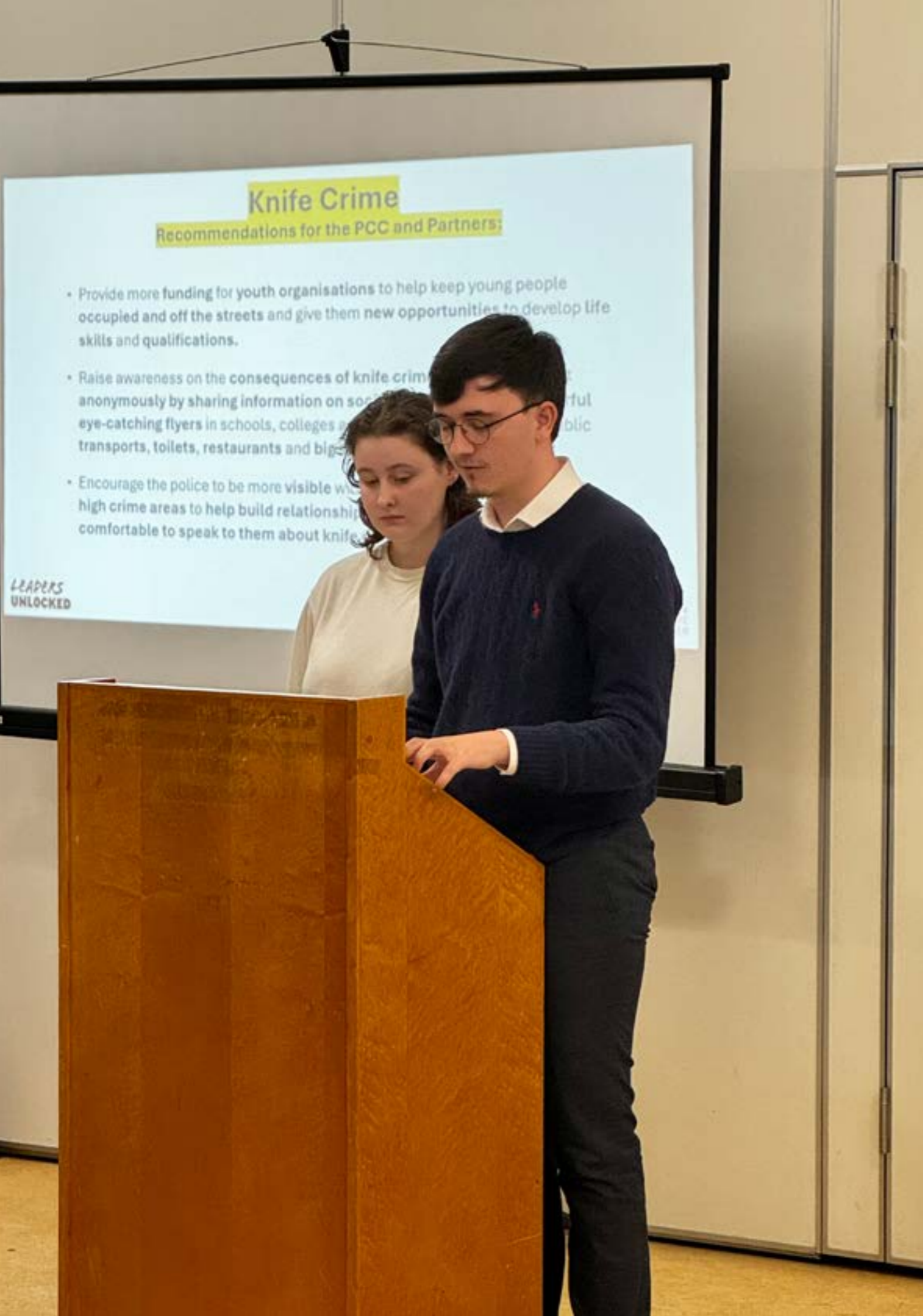
FOR THE YOUTH COMMISSION:

Continue to provide a platform for young people to have a safe space to speak about Night-time safety and violence against women and girls, especially those from the ethnic minority groups, young people with disabilities and those from the LGBTQ+ communities.

Work closely with the police and partners to promote important messages on violence against women and girls and how to stay safe during the night.

Work with the police and partners to help promote reporting services young people can access





PRIORITY 2: KNIFE CRIME

The Notts YC spoke to 475 young people about this priority. This included young people from areas such as: Baseford, Bestwood, Bilborough, Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham City, Hucknall, Mansfield, Stapleford and worksop. There were many discussions with the young people of Nottingham, they explained there was a glorification of knife crime through gang culture and the way this is perceived within the media. They also expressed concerns that knives are too easily accessible to young people and more safety measures need to be put in place.

Through our peer lead conversations in our workshops and our anonymous online surveys, the Notts YC was able to gather feedback from young people about their lived experiences and the recommendations they would like to see in their communities.

WHAT WE FOUND

There is a large number of young people within the community who have a lot of personal experience within this priority. Many young people shared with us they have lost friends and family members due to knife crime.

"People busted through a house and stabbed the man, then stabbed someone on the park whilst me and my friends were playing basketball" Aged 15, NG6

"My friend was involved in an accident, a group tried to take his bike and he was stabbed in the head, and he nearly lost his life" Aged 17, NG7

"Someone got stabbed outside the college" Aged 16, City Hub College

"My friend got into a fight when we were in school and got stabbed" Aged 16, NG18

"Knife crime is a big issue in my area, it happens too often" Aged 16, NG19

"It's awful, a few years ago my cousin got killed by knife crime for the colour of his skin. He was only 21" NG24

"My older brother was stabbed and lost his life, its horrible what goes on" Aged 17, NG6

Young people feel as though knives are too easily accessible, they would like to see them be harder to purchase by putting in more age restriction checks in place. Also, they expressed that the consequences are not strong enough for the crime. They would like to see more done to prevent knife crime from happening, as opposed to it happening once the attack has occurred.

"I don't think people are scared of the law or getting arrested"

"Really bad issue, more action needs to be taken for anyone who carries a knife"

"There are websites you can go on and order knives, some are disguised as combs and even knuckle dusters with blades on, something needs to be done to stop young people being able to go on these websites and buy these so easily"

Young people have expressed their concerns with glorification of gang culture in the media. This is through music and the increasing rise of influencer culture amongst early years teens. Through listening to a specific genre of music and following the lifestyle of these artists; they feel it is promoting and encouraging teenagers and younger youths to carry weapons.

"I think young men who don't have good role models at home look up to rappers in the media and see they are making easy and good money through drugs and knife crime goes with that"- NG5

"It affects real people in the community, and I think that is forgotten"

"I think it's bad, I also think it is the way people are brought up that leads to it"

"Too much gang culture and roadmen in the media" NG19

"Not enough awareness, I hadn't heard of a knife bin until this workshop"

"Too many young people being groomed into gang life"

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE POLICE:

Young people want the police to be a lot more involved and visible in the community, particularly in areas where knife crime is an issue to help provide better relationships and more safety for young people.

Demonstrate and raise awareness on how they are going to tackle knife crime and where young people can access support for knife crime if they are a victim or if they feel vulnerable.

Raise awareness by going into education settings, educating young people on the dangers of carrying a knife and the consequences and impact knife crime has on individuals and the community.

FOR THE PCC:

Provide more funding for youth organisations to help keep young people occupied and off the streets and give them new opportunities to develop life skills and qualifications.

Raise awareness on the consequences of knife crime and how to report anonymously by sharing information on social media, providing colourful eye-catching flyers in schools, colleges and in public places such as public transports, toilets, restaurants and big shopping centres.

Encourage the police to be more visible within the community especially in high crime areas to help build relationships with young people so they are comfortable to speak to them about knife crime.

FOR THE YOUTH COMMISSION:

Continue to work closely with the PCC and police to educate young people on the consequences of knife crime and where young people can access support services.

Continue to create a safe space for young people to express their experiences of knife crime so we can share these with the PCC and partners to help make a positive change in Nottinghamshire.

Work with young people on how they would like the police to tackle knife crime within Nottinghamshire and provide more awareness of the work they are doing in the community about knife crime.



PRIORITY 3: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Notts YC spoke to 310 about this priority. This included the following areas: Mansfield, Stapleford, Newark-on-Trent, Hucknall, Nottingham City, Eastwood and Bestwood. When discussing this priority with the young people, they highlighted several barriers. Some young people didn't understand the definition of Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), they shared that public transport is a large issue and provided solutions on how the police can help tackle this problem.

Through our peer-led conversations in our workshops and our anonymous online surveys, the Notts YC was able to gather feedback from young people about their lived experiences and what they would like to see be done in their communities to resolve this issue.

WHAT WE FOUND

There was a lot of discussion around the need for more education for ASB. As young people feel they are being blamed for the actions of other people within society. Some young people didn't understand the correct definition of ASB and thought this meant being anti-social, depressed or not wanting to talk to people. They feel it needs to be emphasised what ASB is and teaching this from a young age to help prevent it.

"There needs to be so much more done in schools. I'm in college and thought this meant when you are depressed and have anxiety!" - City Hub College

"So many of my friends have been a victim of ASB and I didn't even know this until learning the different types of ASB from this workshop. So I think there needs to be a lot more of these types of workshops especially for younger people."

"It is really bad in some areas where I live, you cant go to certain areas with out getting abuse shouted at you. There needs to be more people going into schools and teaching young people about ASB the affect and the consequences." Newark

"My mum is an alcoholic and always blasts music and I feel bad for my neighbours but don't know what to do."

Young people explained that a lot of ASB occurs on public transport because they are not monitored efficiently, especially the trams. They suggested more inspectors would help decrease this issues.

"I think it would be a good idea to but some money into having more inspectors on trams, not ticket inspectors more like security, they could be undercover which would probably be better." NG11

"it is mainly from teenagers who cause problems. Not particularly my experience but it is poorly addressed as it is hard to monitor."

Young people also shared that ASB is so prevalent because young people have nothing else to do to keep them entertained. They feel like there are limited opportunities for them to be productive and it results in a high volume of ASB.

"I think there needs to be more support for younger teens, more clubs for them to join so they are not just out and then start to get into trouble." NG9

"We have nowhere to go, especially if the weather isn't good" NG18

Anti-Social Behaviour Recommendations the for PCC and Partners:

- Provide funding towards public transport across Nottinghamshire allowing transport to run later and more frequently, while also providing better quality CCTV, and cameras on public transport and also across Nottinghamshire
 - Provide funding for youth groups, sports events and activities to provide young people with new opportunities
 - Work with partners to fund community events and activities to provide young people with new opportunities
- definition of ASB and how young people experience this could be themed around a sports event and activities.

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"Need more things for older teenagers. We are too young for adult spaces and too old for kid spaces. More clubs or spaces for us to hang out"

They also feel that reporting this crime is unproductive, as young people stated, they feel as though they are not listened to by the police. They believe it is not taken seriously and that is why the issue within the community continues to escalate.

"Not enough things done when ASB is reported."

"Police need to take people more seriously and take better action when ASB is reported."

"No one does anything about ASB they just tell them to go home, then the same thing happens again the next day. There needs to be more consequences so to prevent people from reoffending."

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE POLICE:

Police to raise more awareness and education around the definition of ASB by doing community events for young people.

Police and PCSOs to be more engaging and visible in Nottinghamshire, particularly in areas that experience a large amount of ASB and provide preventative measures across public transport to help reduce ASB.

Police to take young people seriously when reporting ASB and raise awareness and develop a clear structure on how to report ASB and highlight where young people can access different support services.

FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND PARTNERS:

Provide funding towards public transport across Nottinghamshire allowing transport to run later and more frequently, while also providing better quality CCTV, and cameras on public transport and also across Nottinghamshire

Provide funding for youth groups, sports events and life skills courses to provide young people with new opportunities and qualifications.

Work with partners to fund community events to raise awareness of the definition of ASB and how young people can access support services, this could be themed around a sports event day, music or cultural activities.

FOR THE YOUTH COMMISSION:

Continue to engage with young people from hard-to-reach communities and educate them on what ASB means and sign post them to organisations they can access for support or further information.

Work with the police and young people to provide ways they can tackle anti-social behaviour in Nottinghamshire by doing community events targeted for young people.

Use our social media platforms to share the definition of ASB and the work the police are doing in the community to reduce ASB.





PRIORITY 4: TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE

The Notts YC spoke to 383 young people about this priority. Areas in which we had these discussions include: Bestwood, Hucknall, Baseford, Eastwood and Worksop. Young people discussed with us ways in which the trust and confidence of the police could be improved. This is through the police making a conscious effort to improve their relationship with young people, including their body language and the way they approach young people. They would also like to see an improvement in how police respond to young people reporting crimes. Young people also discussed Stop and Search and how they feel these are not always lawful but do not know their rights surrounding this and how to make a complaint.

Through our peer lead conversations in our workshops and our anonymous online surveys, the Notts YC was able to gather feedback from young people about their lived experiences and the recommendations they would like to see in their communities.

WHAT WE FOUND

Young people shared with us that they are not taken seriously when they report to the police. Young people also feel that because they have a negative presumption of the police, it affects their likeliness to report any crimes. Young people have had several lived experiences where the police have not been supportive, or they feel as though they have not been taken seriously.

"Some women would rather not seek advice from the police" NG8

"In my area there are lots of issues, particularly about car damage and theft. When we contacted the police, they were not helpful" Aged 16, NG9

"Police don't care when we report things, they don't take crimes that happen to young people seriously" NG19

"My bike got stolen and the police did nothing to help. It happens all the time in my area and the police just don't care" NG5

Many young people feel that the police have a poor attitude towards them. They feel police do not treat them with respect and that they should be more friendly. They would like to see the Police working on their relationship with young people. This could be through more talks and higher police presence to boost positive interactions. Young people also shared; they would like more plain clothed officers attending youth groups to help build a positive rapport.

"Don't like police attitude towards the public and their mannerisms around victims of crime. Police don't take them seriously or treat them with respect" Aged 17, Nottingham City

"I wouldn't speak to officers in uniform. But if they came in and was normal with us and played football and wore normal clothes, we could get to know them, and I would feel more comfortable." NG6

Young people also expressed that they do not always feel Stop and Search is a positive experience and that they are not productive. They would like to see the police being more respectful and ensure that Stop and Searches are lawful and within reason. They would also like the police to carry out conversations with them to explain why the Stop and Search was necessary and what they are being stopped and searched for. They feel as though communication from the Police needs improvement overall.

"Police are too aggressive when conducting Stop and Search. It makes people not want to comply" Aged 16, NG5

"I had a stop and search carried out when I was 15, I was quite short, and baby faced, and they threw me and my friend to the ground and was really aggressive with us" NG6

"Police need to be sure who they are looking for. It hurts when they assume" Aged 17, NG7

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE POLICE:

Police need to raise more awareness on how they are going to take young people reporting more seriously and provide them with updates of their cases.

Police to be more friendly and approachable and do more community engagement with young people, especially those in low deprived areas to help build better trust and confidence with young people.

Police to raise awareness on how they are going to be tackling effective positive stop and searches in the community and not be judgemental towards young people because of the colour of their skin or the clothes they are wearing.

Police to encourage more young people from a diverse background to join the police force to help better trust and confidence with young people and to reflect the community it serves.

FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND PARTNERS:

Fund more community events to reach more young people to bring awareness to the work the police are doing in the community and to increase trust and confidence within the police. This could be themed around sports, music and food.

Raise more awareness of organisations young people can access for support and work with youth organisations on ways the police can build better trust with young people.

Provide thorough training for officers on mental health and how to approach young people from the LGBTQ+ community, ethnic minority groups and young people with a disability.

Run a campaign that supports and encourages more young people from diverse background to join the police force.

FOR THE YOUTH COMMISSION:

Work closely with the police and share on our social media and with young people the positive work the Nottinghamshire police force are doing within the community and how they would like to police to approach them to help increase their trust and confidence

Deliver workshops to young people about their rights on stop and search and how to make a complaint if they feel they have been unlawfully stopped and searched.

Encourage and invite officers to come to our workshops and speak with young people about the positive work they are doing in the community and about trust and confidence in the police. This will support young people to have a better relationship with officers.



CONCLUSION: TAKING THINGS FORWARD

We are extremely grateful to all our Notts YC members who have given their time and dedication to this project, and we look forward to continuing to work with them all.

We would also like to thank all the internal and external stakeholders who have been involved in making this piece of work successful.

Throughout 2023/2024 the Notts YC reached over 1,500 young people across Nottinghamshire, and engaged with a wide range of young people from various backgrounds. The Notts YC has made a huge effort to engage with young people from seldom heard groups whose voices are sometimes overlooked. This peer-to-peer process is of great value, as a piece of research and as an engagement exercise.

We are excited to continue our work throughout summer 2024, where we will make advancements on the recommendations outlined in this report by working closely with the Violence Reduction Partnership.

Our hope for the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission is that we will continue to explore in more detail the priorities and how we can work with the police, Police and Crime Commissioner and other organisations to help support young people within our communities. As shown throughout this project, the Notts YC has been played an important role in helping to bridge the gap between young people and the police throughout our youth engagement and we are keen to continue giving young people a safe space and platform to help shape decision making relating to policing and crime and to further increase the number of youth voices heard across Nottinghamshire. They also have an important role to play in the development and evaluation of the recommendations they have set out in this report.

We also look forward to the work we will be carrying out along side the Violence Reduction Partnership to help support more young people across Nottinghamshire.



TESTIMONIALS

"There are many things I've enjoyed within the youth commission. Firstly, being able to raise concerns to the police that we (the youth) have expressed and to be able to help them with their concerns and facilitate them. I have done this through being part of big projects, such as the stop and account animated video that I voiced in. The conferences have been some of my favourite experiences and are a pinnacle part of the Commission, as we get to report our findings back to influential members of the public and strengthen our collaboration. Overall, it's been really fun, and I've had some lovely experiences with the commission, and they have supported me and helped me to keep an open mind about the police."

Lianna Khadoo, 2024

"I joined the commission because I recognised the value and importance of my voice in advocating for meaningful change. Having witnessed loved ones fall victim to knife crime, I felt a responsibility to make a difference, ensuring that the children I babysit, and my little cousins do not face the same issues. Seeing antisocial behaviour in my community regularly, I am determined to contribute to creating a safer, more supportive environment. My experience on the youth commission so far has been empowering; I've been able to create policies, implement my own ideas, and speak to young people about how they feel in their neighbourhoods. It has taught me empathy, analytical skills, and helped me build on my creativity."

Angel Akpovi, 2024

"Working with the Youth Commission has been a rewarding experience. Now in my second year of collaboration, I remain impressed by the passion these young individuals exhibit in their quest to bring about substantial change in Nottinghamshire. They consistently provide insightful critiques and show eagerness in their cooperation with the Force to narrow the divide between the police and the youth. Their dedication and passion significantly contribute to the PCC's efforts to enhance trust and confidence within Nottinghamshire community and to engage with young people from a variety of backgrounds."

Giulia Roggio, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

"I am tremendously grateful for the invaluable insights and dedication shown by the members of our Youth Commission. Our collaboration has proven immensely beneficial in addressing policing issues across our diverse communities. Through open and constructive dialogue, we've gained a deeper understanding of local concerns and perspectives of our youth, enabling us to tailor our strategies to better serve our communities across and proportionately tackle issues that matter the most to young people. The commitment and time invested by each member of the Youth Commission have not only strengthened community relations but have also contributed significantly to making our county a safer and more inclusive place for everyone. Your efforts are truly commendable and greatly appreciated."

Chief Inspector Steven O'Neill -Prevention Hub, Nottinghamshire Police

CONTACT US

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