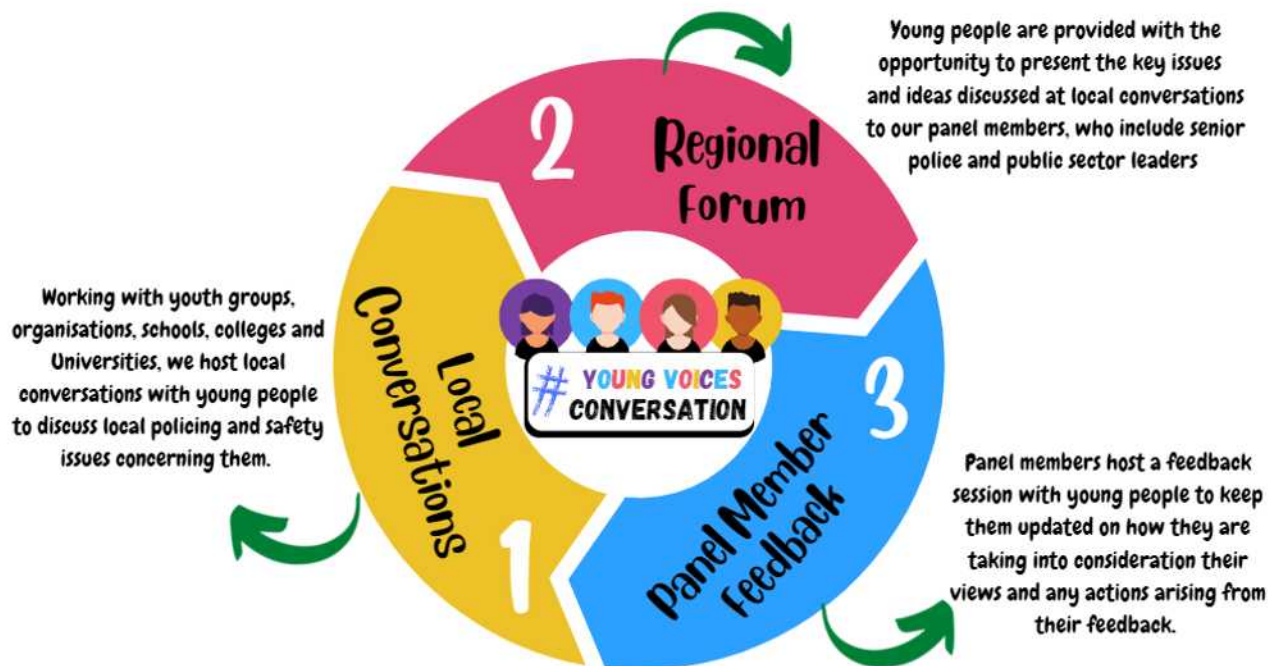




Panel Members Feedback Session

On Tuesday 7th September 2021, we held our Young Voices feedback session. The aim of this session was for our panel members to personally provide updates to young people, about how they were taking into consideration the feedback shared with them from local conversations and the Regional Forum.

Our Young Voices Conversation cycle is illustrated below:



This document provides a summary of the updates shared by our panel members at the feedback session, in response to some of the points raised by young people at local conversations and the Regional Forum.



"There is a lot of anxiety about reporting.....we prefer the idea of a separate reporting option to make the police aware of information"

“ Panel Member Feedback ”



The Police and Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael, acknowledged the difficulties of communicating with the police, particularly during the pandemic. Alun explained the challenges that the pandemic had presented in terms of rises in demand to the police and the impact this had on neighbourhood policing. Alun informed the group that he had since met with leaders in South Wales Police to discuss methods of communicating with the police and how the force could make it easier for people to contact them digitally. Alun recognised how important it was for young people to have a specific method of communicating with the police, so that they had the opportunity to put across the challenges they faced. Alun was grateful for this feedback, as it had been immensely valuable to support his discussions with the Chief Constable. Hearing from those that represented young people across South Wales via the Young Voices Conversation, had been enormously appreciated and would continue to be, as these were important issues that needed to be worked out over time with continuous involvement and discussion with young people. Alun thanked everyone for their involvement and contribution.



"We feel police officers should take a nicer approach and be calm and non-aggressive when speaking to young people"

“ Panel Member Feedback ”



Assistant Chief Constable, Jenny Gilmer, advised that the Chief Constable's team and the Commissioner's team had been working hard to turn the points raised by young people into things that were actionable. It was clear from the points raised from local conversations and the Regional Forum that officer interaction with young people and the training officers received was key in building good relationships. Jenny advised that in response to this feedback, they were looking to work with their Learning and Development team to look at what additional support could be provided to police officers to improve their awareness. Jenny was keen to continuously improve their understanding of what good and bad looked like, and ongoing conversations with young people to further understand this, was key to ensure feedback and experiences could shape and develop this training.



We like the idea of developing a young person's app, that would include a chat/messaging reporting function"

Jenny informed the group that her team and the Commissioner's team had started work with the Digital Services Department to explore the development of a platform for communicating with and sharing information with young people. This mechanism would enable South Wales Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner to share information with young people, whilst also providing a way for young people to share information with the police in a friendly and straightforward way.



"We feel there are missed opportunities in the content delivered by the school's police liaison programme and should also be receiving inputs on other important issues that affect us"

“ Panel Member Feedback ”

Jenny acknowledged the observations raised, that the schools programme could be more bespoke and tailored towards what young people wanted to hear about. The schools programme represented a considerable investment of resources, and Jenny was keen that the programme was as good as it could possibly be and that it delivered messaging and inputs that young people benefited from. This feedback had been very helpful and would continue to assist in ongoing discussions about the redesign of the school's programme.



"many young women feel scared when walking alone in the night...and young women who experience sexual harassment don't know where to go for help and worry that they won't be taken seriously"

“ Panel Member Feedback ”



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Emma Wools, expressed how valuable she had found the Regional Forum and how impactful the way young people had presented their issues to the panel members.

Emma informed the group that in response to the concerns raised about women's safety in public spaces, the Commissioner's team along with partner agencies had put together a bid to support funding in Swansea for the implementation of a range of initiatives that would contribute towards young women feeling safer in night-time

economy and associated public spaces. If they were successful in receiving this funding, lessons learned from this work would be shared across the local authorities.

The bid proposed putting in place training in the night-time economy for taxi marshals and other voluntary services and looked at identifying safe spaces which could be accessed 24/7 for people to refer to and receive support from individuals who were appropriately trained. They had also proposed allocating specialist investigators who would respond to victims who bravely came forward. The bid also incorporated a campaign element, which aimed to address the wider societal attitudes and educate people about how it was everyone's responsibility to safely challenge this behaviour and the consequences for perpetrators.

Emma also referred to how some young people had mentioned that racism had featured in their local conversations. Emma advised that she was leading on various elements of tackling racism and race equality, in Cardiff, South Wales, and on an all-Wales level. She was keen to engage at local conversations to understand in more detail the experiences of those facing racial issues and discrimination.



"Knife crime and the frequency of incidents involving stabbings, or people seen with knives is becoming more concerning since lockdown has been lifted.

“ Panel Member Feedback ”



Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) Director, Jon Drake, expressed how incredibly helpful he found the points raised by young people at the Regional Forum. Jon referred to the concerns voiced by young people about knife crime and serious violence in their communities. It was important that the VPU heard these concerns, as it reassured them that the work driven by the VPU was focussed on addressing and tackling

issues that were of most concern. As a result of the conversations in the Regional Forum, a Young Voices attendee had approached the VPU and expressed an interest in spending time with the unit. Jon advised that if anyone else was interested in spending time with them to learn more about the VPU and wanted to contribute to their work, they were welcome to get in touch with Jon to discuss this.



"Most young people use Instagram and Snap chat as their preferred social media channel"

“ Panel Member Feedback ”

Jon acknowledged that the VPU had previously relied too heavily on social media channels such as Twitter, to communicate messaging. As a direct result of the session, the VPU took feedback about the way that young people use social media and as a result have utilised Snapchat and Instagram more to get out key prevention messages.

Jon also referred to the VPU's recent campaign, which focussed on sexual violence and harassment in night-time economy. Following young people's feedback, the unit wanted to move quickly to run a campaign during the summer, which was mainly aimed at young people from the age of 16. The campaign reached 392,000 people in Cardiff and Swansea, with most public reaction between the ages of 18-24. Key messaging focussed on the role of the bystander and how you could safely intervene if you witnessed this inappropriate behaviour.

Jon also informed the group that the VPU would be hosting an engagement event on violence prevention later in the year and would be keen to involve Young Voices attendees, to ensure they remained engaged in conversations about serious violence and knife crime.



"It's important we understand our rights"

“ Panel Member Feedback ”



The Children's Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland, expressed that the last meeting had been really stimulating and thought provoking for her. Sally was pleased to see that senior police figures were accountable to young people and were providing ongoing feedback about how their views were being used.

Sally informed the group that she had taken the information shared by young people and discussed this in several forums, such as her Youth Advisory Panel and the six-monthly child sexual abuse and exploitation roundtable with senior police officers, Local Authorities, health, and other

partner organisations. Sally had also met with the Education Minister to specifically discuss how concerned young people were about sexual harassment in their communities, schools, and college settings. Sally had pressed the importance with the Education Minister that future reforms involving the education of sex equality, gender equality and tackling sexual harassment, didn't just focus on what young people learned in the classroom, but looked at the whole experience of how those issues were responded to and the importance of teachers being aware of what children and young people were experiencing outside of the school setting. The Education Minister was really interested in this feedback.

Sally continued to work with police forces and the youth justice system to discuss how they were putting into place children's rights. Sally would be hosting a seminar in 2022 about this and was keen to ensure young people fed into the planning of this event.

Sally advised that she had enabled a group of young people engaged with her team to respond to a formal consultation about how relationships and sexuality education should be taught in school. This was a young person led response and the feedback received was similar to the concerns raised in the Young Voices Conversation forum.

Sally and her team continued to support the 'blue-print', which were plans in Wales to make sure that children who were sentenced to custody, were remanded in Wales, and were based in a child centred educational therapeutic centre, and not a prison. She was also working with children's providers, foster carers and the police, to avoid children who lived in care settings from getting charged with offences that they wouldn't have been charged with if they lived in their family home.

Sally thanked everyone for their feedback and provided reassurance that views shared were taken seriously and she had been able to take some action on the points raised.



If you would like to get involved in our Young Voices Conversation, contact us on:
engagement@south-wales.police.uk