



De Cymru
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau
Police and Crime Commissioner
South Wales



REGIONAL FORUM

Wednesday 30th June

5 - 6.30pm

BRIEFING PACK

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YOUNG VOICES PANEL MEMBERS

The role of our Young Voices Panel Members is to listen to the feedback provided by young people, provide their reflections and consider how feedback and suggestions can contribute towards positive change. Here is a brief introduction to our panel members:



Alun Michael
South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Alun has been elected by the public to ensure South Wales Police is running effectively. His aim is to cut crime and maintain an efficient police service. Alun is committed to bringing a public voice to policing in South Wales. Meeting people and listening to them are important to Alun so that he can understand policing and community safety issues across South Wales.



Assistant Chief Constable Jenny Gilmer
South Wales Police

Jenny joined South Wales Police in 2018 after working with British Transport Police in Scotland and London for 19 years. Jenny has responsibility for leading the teams which provide response, neighbourhood and investigative services to the people of South Wales. She is passionate about developing people and enjoys going out on patrol with response and neighbourhood police officers.



Emma Wools
South Wales Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Emma is responsible for supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner in all aspects of his role. Emma has a background working with young people in the Prison and Probation service and currently leads on several collaborative project areas which include, vulnerability, violence against women & girls, equality and diversity.



Jon Drake
Director of the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU)

Jon leads the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) in Wales. The VPU is a partnership of passionate people from various organisations working together to prevent all forms of violence across Wales. The VPU work with partners and service providers to deliver projects that ensure violence prevention activity in Wales is effective.



Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner for Wales

Sally Holland is the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Her job is to tell people why children's rights are so important, and to look at how the decisions made by public bodies in Wales, including Welsh Government, affect children's rights.

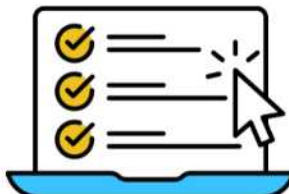
LOCAL YOUNG VOICES CONVERSATIONS

Between May and June 2021, South Wales Police officers, PCSOs and staff from the Police & Crime Commissioner’s team held 27 local conversations across the force area with young people between the ages of 11 – 25 years.

Over 800 young people engaged in our Young Voices Conversation during this period:



522
young people took part
in local conversations



312
young people shared their
feedback with us via our
digital questionnaire

The following groups and organisations were involved:

Youth Engagement and Participation Service
Rhondda Cynon Taf



Holy Family School



Radyr Comprehensive School



YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG PLASMAWR



CORPUS CHRISTI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Merthyr Tydfil Youth Cabinet



Pentrehafod School
Ysgol Pentrehafod



H-S-L
HOWELL'S SCHOOL
Llandaff
YSGOL HOWELL
Llandaff
A GDST SCHOOL



COLEG CYMUNEDOL
Y DDERWEN



MARY IMMACULATE
HIGH SCHOOL



Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Y Bont Faen

ISSUES CONCERNING YOUNG PEOPLE

To help us understand the issues affecting young people, we asked them what they were worried about where they lived. The top 5 re-occurring issues of concern raised by young people across the force area included:

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Most young people raised concerns about the number of people who publicly used drugs where they live. This often took place in areas where young people congregated, such as parks.



“ I am always aware of the fact many young people abuse illegal substances around me and my area as well as being unsure who may or may not be in possession of a knife at that moment in time ”

“ Drugs being sold on estates and it seems everyone can get their hands on drugs ”

“ I see many people that do drugs and alcohol and my brothers don't feel safe going outside alone ”

KNIFE CRIME

Many young people were concerned about knife crime, as they were aware that the number of cases were on the rise in their community. Some young people felt they had to carry a knife to protect themselves.



“ At the moment I'm worried about people carrying knives. This is an issue that I feel is relevant to my local community ”

“ I'm concerned about how violent people are becoming because of the stories on the news. Especially the rise in knife crime ”

“ Knife crime amongst young people. Violence/physical attacks on people in the community ”

CAT CALLING AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Many young people raised concerns about cat calling and other intimidating behaviours whilst out walking or running.



“ I would say that as a female I avoid going jogging at night or generally going out alone when it's dark ”

“ Females everywhere feel like they are constantly being followed ”

“ Walking past groups of people alone and when vans catcall you and try following you ”

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A lot of young people raised concerns about gangs congregating in parks, near shops, and underage drinking and smoking, leading to anti-social behaviour.



“ I am very concerned about anti-social behaviour in my area and that's concerning ”

“ People drinking and smoking in the local park, just going out in general, people speeding down our street in the middle of the night ”

“ Teenagers 13 to 16 in big groups, smoking, swearing and blasting music in public areas in bus stops and outside shops ”

BURGLARIES

Many young people feared their homes being broken into.



“ I am mostly concerned about people breaking into the house or using an opportunity to get in ”

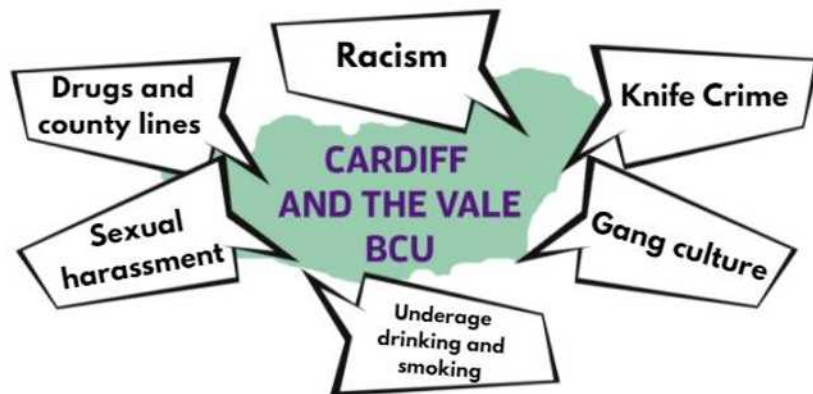
“ I see fights outside my house, see news about robberies and news about dogs being stolen ”

“ I am afraid that someone might break in and steal all of our belongings and our dog. When I go out I am afraid that someone may follow me home ”

CONCERNS RAISED IN EACH 'BASIC COMMAND UNIT' (BCU)

The South Wales Police force area is split into three geographical areas – these are called 'Basic Command Units (BCUs).

To help us understand the similarities and differences in concerns raised by young people across different geographical areas of the force, we've illustrated the concerns raised by each BCU area.



WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THE POLICE CAN DO TO HELP

To help us improve our understanding of how we can continuously improve the service we provide to young people, we asked young people what they felt the police could do to *help them feel safer, more confident to report and improve relationships with young people*

The top themes raised by young people across the force area included:

ENGAGE MORE REGULARLY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



- Many young people felt there should be more engagement from officers at schools, youth clubs etc.
- Many young people felt that greater engagement would help “build positive relationships”, “improve the respect from young people towards the police” and help young people feel confident to approach and report to the police.

PROMOTE METHODS OF REPORTING



- Many young people told us that they were not aware of all the reporting options available, such as 101 and online reporting.
- Many told us that reporting to the police was “scary” and was likely to be one of the main reasons young people didn’t report.
- Young people welcomed alternative reporting options, such as texting or messaging. The idea of speaking to someone by phone or in person was daunting.

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING



- A lot of young people told us that they were unlikely to report ‘low level’ offences, as they didn’t think they would be taken seriously.
- Young people felt that positive interactions with the police should be promoted more often to emphasise the importance of reporting and encourage others to report.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATION STYLE AND BODY LANGUAGE



- Many young people told us that they felt nervous when they saw police officers as they looked “intimidating”. They felt that officers should take a “nicer approach” and be “calm” and “non-aggressive” when speaking to young people.
- Young people felt that more positive interactions from officers could “improve relationships”, such as asking young people how they were, or having a “friendly chat”, rather than asking young people if they were up to no good.

INCREASED POLICE VISIBILITY



- Many young people told us they rarely see police officers or PCSOs patrol their area.
- Young people felt that more street police patrols would help with reducing crime and would make them feel “safer”.

IDEAS ON CREATING YOUTH-FRIENDLY CONTENT

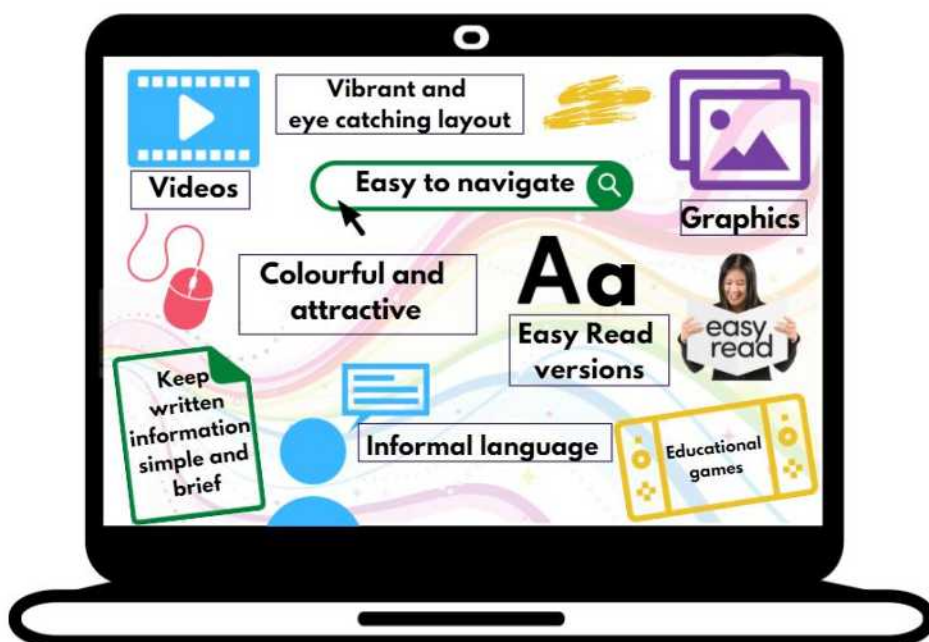
As part of South Wales Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner's commitment to providing accessible information to young people, we asked young people for their views on the development of a 'youth-friendly' section on our website.

We asked young people to share their ideas with us about the *information they would like to access*, the *formats they would prefer the information to be presented in*, and *general ideas about language and design*.

Examples of information young people told us they would like to access included:

				
Crime prevention advice	Advice about how to stay safe	Information about what to do if you see someone commit a crime	Job and volunteering opportunities	
				
Simple explanations of the law	How to contact the police	Definitions library	Crime rates in your area	Signposting to support agencies such as Childline, Fearless
				
Information about local officers and where stations are located	Information about your rights, including stop and search	Positive news stories where the police have helped young people	How and where to report	

Examples of the ideas young people shared with us about how we could present our information and how they would like the website to look is illustrated below:



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We are grateful to every young person who shared their open and honest feedback with us as part of our Young Voices Conversation. Conversations with young people have enabled us to reflect on the issues raised and look at how we can work towards implementing positive changes in the best interest of young people.

Our recommendations in response to the feedback from young people are illustrated below:

ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- Through the *Young Voices Conversation* initiative, South Wales Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner's team will seek to engage more regularly with young people in surroundings they feel comfortable with, such as youth settings and schools.
- We will utilise 'local conversations' to further understand what projects and initiatives young people would like to work with us on, and the methods they would prefer us to use.

REPORTING

- We will explore how we can offer different reporting options for young people. Once these options have been identified, we will use local conversations to further understand which of these reporting options young people would prefer us to progress.
- We will work to develop a campaign that promotes the existing methods of reporting and the importance of non-emergency reporting.
- We will work with local organisations to seek opportunities for raising awareness about how to report to South Wales Police.

CRIME PREVENTION AND SAFETY ADVICE

- Through ongoing local conversations with young people, we will seek to understand what crime prevention inputs or personal safety advice young people would welcome receiving, based on the localised concerns raised.
- As part of the development of our youth-friendly website or app, we will work to ensure we develop a suite of crime prevention and safety advice for young people.

OFFICER INTERACTION

- To help us develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours to improve how our officers and staff work with and respond to young people, we will seek to further understand via local conversations the key points young people feel are key to making a positive lasting impression. We will use this information to build on the training and inputs officers and staff receive.

WEBSITE

- We will progress the development of a youth-friendly website/app, taking on board the feedback and suggestions from young people.
- We will involve young people as part of the development process, to ensure designs and features are fit for purpose.