

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday, 21st December 2021

Report: Youth Commission

Presented by: Mary Jacobs, Partnership and Engagement Officer

Purpose of paper

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an introduction to the role and identity of the Youth Commissioners elected in July 2021. The report will be co-presented with Youth Commissioners 2021.
2. The report will provide a brief outline of activity that Youth Commissioners in the current cohort have been involved in since their induction.
3. The report is for information only.

Background

4. The Youth Commission was established in 2014 and is made up of two elected representatives between the ages of 13 and 18 years from each Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPU). Following changes in the number of Birmingham NPU's the current Youth Commission is made up of 16 Youth Commissioners.
5. Youth Commissioners (YCs) serve a term of 2 years. The working meetings of the Youth Commission take place at 6 week intervals (whilst avoiding peak examination periods) and are attended by the Commissioner and his two Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners.
6. The Youth Commissioners are supported and connected to Violence Reduction Unit expertise and the activity of other strategic partnerships and Youth Voice organisations by the OPCC Engagement and Partnership Officer. Many external organisations wish to consult our young people; integrity is needed when assessing every request for a genuine intention to be inclusive of youth voice and to demonstrate changes made as a result.
7. West Midlands Police (WMP) are required to work with the Youth Commission when consulting young people on service development, and appoint a senior officer to be the Children and Young People lead officer to facilitate this relationship. At the present time this role is filled by Supt Claire Caddick from Walsall NPU. The WMP lead Officer joined the Commissioner, both Assistant PCC's, the media Manager and myself to deliver the Youth Commissioner's Induction in August this year.
8. Throughout the year the WMP lead officer is the strategic and proactive communication link between the Youth Commission and other divisions of the Force, especially neighbourhood policing teams.
9. Contact details for Youth Commissioners are shared with WMP NPU Commanders, WMP Young Persons Officers, Statutory Youth Services and Heads of Community Safety Partnerships and vice versa. It is to everyone's benefit if the elected Youth Commissioners are actively welcomed and connected to their local community safety organisations and community scrutiny panels.

10. Present cohort of Youth Commissioners

Youth Commissioners 2021-2023 AREA	NAME	STATED GENDER	AGE
Birmingham West	Aleesha Sahara Majid	F	14
Birmingham West	Subhan Shan	M	17
Birmingham East	Taiyanna Stewart	F	17
Birmingham East	Wasi Arshad	M	15
Walsall	Silvia Jaswal	F	17
Walsall	Renee Samra	F	17
Sandwell	Rhea Rani Ratti	F	16
Sandwell	Mohammed Al Hasan	M	16
Dudley	Anthony Alexander	M	15
Dudley	Amman Ahmed	M	18
Wolverhampton	Jaspinder Kaur	F	17
Wolverhampton	Amelia Beet	F	16
Coventry	Andre Russell	M	18
Coventry	Eniola Mary Adekunle	F	15
Solihull	Zara Dowler	F	13
Solihull	Rabia Khan	F	16

11. [Youth Commissioners - West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)
12. The election took place over a two week period in July with 2365 thousand votes cast in an online ballot of young people across the region.
13. Over 80 young people applied for the advertised role. Shortlisting was undertaken in zoom interviews conducted by a panel of 2 OPCC officers and four youth representatives. The youth representatives included a former Wolverhampton Youth Commissioner, a serving WMP Officer (also a former YC) and two Birmingham podcasters for Birmingham's OnPoint Thrive Casters.
14. The shortlisting process ensured that candidates on the ballot were those who were best able to demonstrate that some leadership experience, or knowledge and experience of social action, combined with an interest in policing and crime.

Key points

15. Since their induction in August, the Youth Commissioners have itemised topics from their mandates in a list of issues they wish to learn more about and have an influence on. They have had the opportunity to contribute to the general and youth focused consultation on the new Police and Crime Plan (PCP). In two meetings to they have had presentations on trauma informed practice and a workshop on stop and search.

16. Youth Commissioners have endorsed the consultation feedback from young people in the region and used these to shape which themes were to be included at the 2021 Youth Summit.

Youth Summit

17. It was with great regret that the Youth Summit for last week was postponed in the face of public health concerns related to the Omicron variant. Each year more than 100 youth representatives from youth-led across the force area are invited to an event hosted by the Commissioner and his Youth Commissioners. The event, hosted by the Youth Commissioners celebrates youth voice and provides the platform for debate and exchange on police and crime issues affecting young people.
18. Every effort will be made to re-schedule a face to face event in the spring of 2022 as a first choice, or possibly an online event with the expertise of young entrepreneurs that organised large online youth events during previous Covid restrictions.
19. It is likely that the postponed Youth Summit will be held before Youth Commissioners next report to the SPCB and therefore an outline of the event is still included here for information:
20. The three themes chosen by the Youth Commissioners this year were community policing, safer travel and reducing violence to women and girls.
21. The event will utilise digital maps provided by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) for delegates to pinpoint locations where they fear crime and have been victims of crime in their neighbourhoods, on foot and on public transport.
22. The outcomes of the event are intended to include the following:
 - The event will provide additional data for West Midlands Police on where visible community policing and policing of travel routes would provide most reassurance to young people
 - A wide dissemination of information about resources available from the VRU and their impact to an audience of young people and youth workers in the west midlands
 - Explanation of community policing, a core element of the Police and Crime Plan to youth representatives
 - A direct speech from the Chief Constable on policing violence against women and girls to build trust and confidence.
 - The opportunity for the Commissioner and West Midlands Police to hear youth voice solutions for society and its leaders to address misogyny and violence against women and girls.

Forward Plan for Youth Commissioners 2022.

23. Government Covid restrictions are likely to impact on the way that Youth Commissioners are able to interact face to face, but the OPCC and WMP have existing experience of maintaining Youth Commission meetings online in 2020/21.
24. At this stage it is difficult to determine if any of the planned activities for January – March may need to be postponed, but every effort will be made to maintain the flow of information, support and interactions. The list includes: Stop and Search patrols with Operation Guardian, training on social media and podcasting, researching selected NPU outcomes against the Police and Crime Plan, learning about the Ethics Committee and career opportunities in the West Midlands Police.
25. The Youth Commission will also have the opportunity to have influence in the work of partner organisations, for instance the Commonwealth Games, the formation of a

regional Youth Assembly, increasing trauma informed practice in policing & the criminal justice system, the VRU Faith Alliance and the Mentoring in Violence Prevention programme.

Financial Implications

None apparent

Legal Implications

None apparent

Equality Implications

Youth Commissioners are elected to represent the views of young people to the PCC and his Strategic Police and Crime Board

Next Steps

26. The board is asked to note the contents of this report.

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Appendix 1

Terms of Reference for Youth Commissioners.

YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Elected Youth Commissioners will represent young people in your city or town and sit on a Youth Commission. They will serve a term of 2 years.

The Youth Commission will:

- Lead on the Commissioners consultation with young people on the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, monitoring of priorities and police responses to young people
- Engage and consult with other young people in their local communities and listen to their views to make sure they represent the views of young people in their area.
- Be the voice of young people. Commission members will have the opportunity to speak directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner, police officers and decision makers.
- Be able to question, challenge and inform policy.