



Nottinghamshire Youth Commission:

Final Report to the Police and Crime Commissioner

July 2020

**LEADERS
UNLOCKED**



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Introduction



The Nottinghamshire Youth Commission (Notts YC) was established in 2015 by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Paddy Tipping.

The Notts YC is a peer-led project that is made up of **33 active members aged 14-25 from a range of diverse backgrounds and experiences**. The Commission enables young people living in Nottinghamshire to have a voice on urgent issues around policing and crime. Over the last 5 years, Notts YC members have engaged with over **7,600 young people** on a variety of different priorities. Our work has also included two very successful roadshows on **Stop and Search and Knife Crime**.

The key objectives of the Commission this year were as follows:

- **Recruit a new cohort of young people** from a diverse range of backgrounds and life experiences and equip them with the **practical skills training** required for the role.
- Develop the current **programme of engagement** to link with newly identified priorities for 2019/20.
- Have **2,000 conversations** with young people from across Nottinghamshire during the Notts YC roadshow.
- **Present our findings and recommendations** at the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission 'Big Conversation' conference to the PCC, Police and partner agencies.
- **Work closely to Nottinghamshire Police** to provide Notts YC members opportunities to influence police strategies and decision making.

The Nottinghamshire Youth Commission is facilitated by **Leaders Unlocked**, a social enterprise which aims to allow young people across the UK to have a stronger voice in their communities and has successfully delivered Youth Commission models across 9 other PCC regions in England and Wales with plans to expand further. You can find out more by visiting **www.leaders-unlocked.org**

About This Report

This report is based on conversations with **over 2,400 young people** from across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire between 2019-2020. The youth-led process used by Notts YC members gather views of young people is called the 'Big Conversation'. The members designed interactive workshops that focus on the conversation and develop materials to capture the views, opinions and solution of the participants. The materials used include postcards, on-line surveys, and workshops feedback notes to gather the responses.

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 recommendation 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 Notts YC 'Big Conversation' process. The report is intended to support any future actions by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Police and relevant partner agencies.

About the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission

The Notts YC focuses on giving young people a stronger voice on policing and crime issues within their local communities. The Notts YC works closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to **challenge and inform** the work of the PCC and Nottinghamshire Police. The Notts YC engages with young people through **peer-led workshops** that provide young people with a space to speak comfortably and confidently to other young people. All the responses gathered during the roadshow are analysed by the Notts YC members to create the key findings and recommendations. This is then presented to the PCC, the Police and local partners in this report.

What We Did

Recruitment

In Summer 2019, Leaders Unlocked carried out a 2-stage recruitment process, which was made possible by working proactively with local organisations from education settings, youth organisations and the voluntary sector. Our aim is to ensure that the Notts YC members are true representatives of their communities.

Since the start of the 2019 phase, we have recruited an additional 13 young people who joined the existing team, making the total number of 33 Notts YC members. Of the current members:

- 54% identify as female, 46% identify as male
- 6% identified as having a disability
- 42% identified as from BAME communities
- 18% identified as LGBTQ+

Identifying Priority Issues

In September 2019 the Notts YC hosted their inaugural meeting, which focused on **key issues and research ideas** for the next phase of the project. Notts YC members decided to focus on the following key priorities:

1) Knife Crime

2) Stop and Search

3) Exploitation and Abuse

Creating the Tools for the Nottingham Youth Commission

During the members meetings, **Notts YC members co-designed workshops** and took an active lead in running activities on the day. This comprised of **hosting quizzes, workshop demonstrations and presenting their plans**. The Notts YC members have **received training for their role** and have developed their **active listening techniques, facilitation and leadership skills** throughout the project.

For the purpose of data collection, the Notts YC members created **postcards** to collate the relevant information for their research. The postcard shows each priority that the Notts YC was collecting responses on, allowing young people to provide their opinions of all priorities regardless of the workshop they were attending. The postcards have highlighted young people's real-life opinions and experiences which they may have felt uncomfortable discussing in public. The postcards are designed so that the **response cannot be attributed to a specific person** as the name of the individual is not requested.

Joint Work with Nottinghamshire Police

During 2019 - 2020, the Notts YC were asked to assist with the **Police 'People's Panels'** and bring a **young person's perspective to the recruitment process** for policing roles. The Notts YC and Nottinghamshire Police partnership continues to grow and Notts YC look forward to further collaborative work. The Notts YC have worked with Nottinghamshire Police on the recruitment of police officers and Schools and Early Intervention officers. Additionally, the Notts YC members have taken part in **scrutiny meetings for Stop and Search** and represent the **Independent Advisory Group (IAG)** as youth advisors.

Awards, Achievements and Partnerships

We have been successful in winning the **Police and Crime Commissioner's Partnership award** at the Annual Nottinghamshire Police awards event in November 2019. In March 2020 the Notts YC received a commendation from the **National Crimebeat Awards** presented by the High Sheriff of Nottingham for their exceptional film and workshop on **Knife Crime**. The Knife Crime film can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/EyOyPmiRCt8>

We have continued to support and work with local community organisations and schemes as well as being part of the **'Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Crime Prevention Advisory Groups'**, the **'Police and Crime partnership strategic meeting'** and **'Fearless'** Nottinghamshire Knife Crime media campaign.

Number of young people's responses:

Knife Crime	1,785
Stop and Search	15
Abuse and Exploitation	646
Total	2,446

Our Partners

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

Brunts Academy	Minver Youth Club	R.E.A.L education, Sneinton
Billborough College	Nottingham Trent University	Seleston Youth Club
Djanogly Academy	Nottingham College	Stapleford Young Peoples centre
Equation	Portland College	Youth Offending Team (City and County)
Holgate Academy	Princes Trust	YMCA
Inspire Skills for Employment	Queen Elizabeth School	
Kimberley School	Rushcliffe School	

A special thanks to the individual Youth Commissioners who have put their time and efforts into making this project a success:

Amy Shergill, Amba Sharma, Blessed Shaba, Colin Lawson, Chloe Atlas, Ester Nunez-Lopez, Edward Vickers, Hannah Fabiyi, Joshua Readers, Joshua Whitcombe, Jessie Bostock, Jack Heald, Kirk Caunt, Kelese Hyacinth, Kathrine Tremayne, Katherine Gregorgy, Kurtis Logan Hawkins, Karamveer Singh Johal, Leonardo Hall, Megan Hately, Muna Omar, Marisa Onarati, Mustapha Oyerinde Adio Oyeleke, Naty Moore, Owen Brindley, Samuel Halliday, Sorreyl Kendall, Shubourna Akhtar, Shivali Sharma, Zion Morgan.

A final thank you to this year's co-ordinator, Gabrielle Jones, who was instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

Priority 1: Knife Crime



Following on from the previous success of the Notts YC roadshow and **Knife Crime** film last year, our members **developed the recommendations from the previous conference and updated their aims.**

The Notts YC set out to raise awareness of the seriousness of Knife Crime and the consequences, through their film and highly interactive workshops. We were able to hear from young people with lived experiences of Knife Crime and explore what changes they would like to see in their communities. The workshops contained a **quiz on Knife Crime**, with questions around Knife Crime laws, local and national Knife Crime statistics, and information on support services.

Our Knife Crime film was created by the Youth Commission members and features the **experiences of 2 local young people regarding Knife Crime** and its impact on their lives. The second part of the film focuses on the **law and specifically on Joint Enterprise**, explaining how being associated with a group that carries knives can make you also criminally responsible.

In total the Youth Commission successfully engaged with **1,785** young people across Nottinghamshire on the Knife Crime priority.

What We Found

During the 'Big Conversation', young people told us that there **isn't enough awareness of the laws and consequences** surrounding Knife Crime. Young people said they found it difficult to understand what the law is and what the consequences were for carrying a knife. Young people identified that loopholes relating to blade lengths create confusion about what is permitted:

"Young people need to know more about the impact and consequences of Knife Crime"

"More support and education about Knife Crime related issues"

Another important aspect of raising awareness is to **share more information on where young people can go for help**. They stressed there should be **more knife amnesties** with the Police, and the message that there will be **no legal repercussions for people taking knives to a knife amnesty bins** should be reiterated:

"More availability of knife amnesty time and awareness of them"

"More advertising on social media about knife crime & the support offered for young people"

Young people want to see a **greater presence of advertisements in public places** and on social media relating to knife amnesties and disengagement from knife crime. They want more to be done to reach out to young people and **make them aware of the dangerous consequences** of knife crime, as well as the support that is out there:

"Adverts on public transport – buses, trams, trains. Also, at the bus & tram stop & inside the train stations"

"More aftercare support for offenders to reduce risk of reoffending"

"Social media adverts – promoting support services"

Young people said that support services need to **reach younger people at an early age**. They said they may not need support today, but they may need to access support later in life. Young people also want to see an increase in recreational activities to reduce the likelihood of them just hanging around on the streets:

"More support at an earlier age to prevent knife crime"

"Offer free sports programs throughout the year, not just in half terms"

"More free transportation to and from events for young people"

Young people should have a space where they are comfortable and feel engaged. These 'safe spaces' should be welcoming and contain **information on where to go to access further support** if needed. Linked with recreational activities, safe spaces should be affordable and easy to access for young people to encourage cohesion of people from various backgrounds:

"More community events for young people to be involved in"

"More free sports activities for young people to engage in"

"We need more youth clubs, parks and other facilities to get people out of crime amenities"

Young people have raised the need for **more effective aftercare and rehabilitation for ex-offenders to reduce the risk of re-offending**. This includes having services that cater to the needs of young people who may have mental health issues and the provision of more opportunities to develop skills for when they leave prison and to build trust with these individuals:

"Support with PTSD"

"More mental health support"

"I think that more agencies should firstly build trust so that we can really trust them"

Young people feel that one of the **main reasons they re-offend** or get into serious crime is because of the **lack of opportunities** for them. There needs to be more **accessible jobs, education and training opportunities**. Young people told us that when they leave school/college, they no longer feel supported, with limited opportunities for them to earn a good wage. There is a need for **services to be available for young people who have little or no qualifications**, including ex-offenders:

"More employment opportunities for young ex-offenders"

"More job opportunities for young people to access"

"More education options for young people with little qualifications"

Young people suggest that there needs to be **more targeted talks within educational settings**. They said young people are at a higher risk of being victims or perpetrator of knife crime. There needs to be more events to raise awareness of the **impacts and the consequences of knife crime** to reduce the risk of them getting involved:

"Events / workshops in schools to educate everyone on knife crime & the laws"

"Have assemblies at school to educate young people about this"

Young people told us they felt it was **particularly important to have guest speakers** who have **lived experiences of knife crime**, as hearing about how their life has been impacted by knife crime would have a greater impact than a traditional school lesson:

"More talks from people who have experienced knife crime or been a victim"

"Listening to young people with lived experience of knife crime is 'heart breaking' there should be more workshops & talks like this and free support services available to young people"

"Explain the long-term effects having a criminal record could have – phone contracts, mortgage, bad credit, lack of education, job loss, difficulty finding a job"

Young people raised the issue of the high rate of school exclusions. The feeling of failure caused by exclusions has been suggested by young people as an aggravating factor towards the likelihood of someone to offend. Exclusion should be a last resort when all other alternatives have been exhausted, which would require a greater level of support from the educators:

"Schools to offer more help/ support when young person is in trouble"

"There should be less exclusions in school, teachers should try support these children more and not be quick to kick them out of school, it makes the situation worse"

"Schools need to stop excluding kids, and support them in school, they always say they are here to help but when we get in trouble, they then kick us out, which makes the situation worse"

Young people want **more police visibility**, both in terms of **street presence** and on **social media**. Young people told us that it is necessary for the police to increase their visibility at local levels, to help **build relationships between the police and young people**:

"More police officers on the streets, not just at night to help young people feel safe"

"Community to know who their local police officers are"

"More police presence & better police services"

Following on from this, young people identified that the police should **advertise more information and advice for young people** using social media platforms. It would also be beneficial for the police to deliver workshops alongside the Youth Commission within educational settings, **focusing on the law and the consequences** of knife crime. Young people said they were **unaware of the work the police are doing to keep them safe**, or what to do if ever faced with difficult situation. **Reporting is a very grey area for many young people** as they stated how they didn't know where they can safely report an incident:

"Police to attend more community events to support young people"

"Police need to be a lot more understanding and less accusing and aggressive towards young people"

Young people have asked for **more advice from the police on how to anonymously and safely report knife crime** without getting into trouble. When we asked young people what prevents them from reporting crime the most common response was being **fearful of the repercussions**. Young people do not know where they can be supported by the police or other organisations. The police should look at new ways to **encourage young people to report knife crime** and should increase the visibility of organisations **where young people can go to get support**:

"Police should be more kind to people in gangs who need help – this will help people come forward (won't be scared)"

"There needs to be more advice on how to report it, and not get in trouble"

"Provide services with a safe environment where people can talk"

"More information about Knife Amnesties"

Our Recommendations

Notts Police:

- **Deliver sessions on the law** alongside the Youth Commission in a clear and concise way to increase young people's understanding. Talk to young people in **educational settings** who are facing different situations.
- **Positively engage with young people** in educational settings, on the streets and online.
- **Be more understanding and empathetic** towards young people.
- Hold workshops for young people with the Youth Commission in educational settings and **raise awareness of the laws and consequences** of knife crime, including the **impact of knife crime on individuals and families** within the community.

PCC & Partners:

- **Increase awareness of available support services** via social media presence and advertising campaigns to make young people more aware of where they access support services. **Offer support and opportunities to younger ages** to help reduce their chances of getting involved in crime.
- **Commission advertisements** that explain key messages about the dangers of knife crime, both online and in the community.
- **Provide funding for safe spaces** within local areas for young people to access when in need, for example in youth clubs, gyms, empty rooms in buildings and educational settings
- **Increase rehabilitation opportunities for ex-offenders** and support them to have access to opportunities to change their lives and to reduce their chances of reoffending.
- **Inform young people of how they can safely report crimes**, with a focus on reducing the fear of repercussions.

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- **Encourage schools and educational facilities to invite guest speakers** who have had direct life experiences of knife crime into workshops to speak about how their life and their families have been affected.
- **Provide regular input** on the opportunities that are accessible to young people.
- Continue to assist agencies with **peer to peer education** and inform young people about the latest information on knife crime.

Priority 2: Stop and Search (Know Your Rights)



What We Did

In 2017, the Notts YC members **created an educational film around stop and search rights for young people**. The film was used as part of a roadshow with an accompanying workshop developed by the Notts YC to focus on **providing a clearer understanding** of what your rights are during a stop and search. This film allowed us to **engage with young people with direct experiences** of stop and search to gather their views. We were also able to **raise awareness of the complaints procedure** and how people can complain if they felt their Stop and Search was unnecessary, whilst **showing the different perspectives** from both police officers and young people.

The Notts YC 'Know Your Rights' workshop aimed to educate young people on their rights, so if they were ever **stopped and searched by the police**, they would know what was happening and **feel confident about their rights**. In the workshop we used quizzes, interactive activities and the Notts YC 'Know Your Rights' film to get this message across to the participants. **The 'Know Your Rights' film** can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/QwBOR4a1dWE>

In total the Youth Commission successfully engaged with 15 young people across Nottinghamshire with direct experiences of the Stop and Search process.

What We Found

Young people said they think **respect was one of the biggest issues** they faced when they engaged with the police. Young people told us that they felt the **police didn't respect them when talking to them**, which causes the situation to be more hostile. Young people who had direct experience with stop and search said the police **didn't let them know why they are being searched** and didn't know which law they are being searched under.

We heard from young people that there is a **continued lack of trust** between themselves and the police and this made it **difficult for them to build a positive relationship** with the police. They felt the **police should engage**

and speak to young people more when they are not on response calls. This would **help to build stronger relationship within the younger community** in Nottinghamshire:

"Police to build a relationship with young people"

"Talk more to young people"

"Police need to be patient and calm themselves down"

Young people said they felt **trust was being jeopardised by believing the police just want to lock them up**. There needs to be an **open-minded and more understanding approach toward young people** as they may have difficult situations going on in their lives:

"More open minded, not always punishments based"

"The police don't care about us; they just want to lock us up"

Another area young people felt passionate about was the **lack of police presence on social media**. They believe the police need to have more **campaigns that inform young people about the laws and their rights**, young people want a better understanding:

"More campaigns and for someone to come and talk to them"

"Community support officers in schools"

Our Recommendations

Notts Police:

- **Be more involved in the community** to build a stronger relationship with young people, especially those who are harder to engage with in the community. By increasing the trust of the police in young people, young people will not feel disrespected.
- **Be more active on social media** and share campaigns and information around the law and your rights.
- **Have more officers within educational settings to deliver sessions** and talks to young people and help increase knowledge and awareness of their rights.

PCC and Partners:

- **Work with communities** to provide increased awareness to young people of their stop and search rights, this can include community officers involvement
- **To help raise awareness** of stop and search rights by creating campaigns to share with young people via social media platforms.

Youth Commission:

- **Continue to inform young people of their rights** with the 'Know Your Rights' workshop and film.

Priority 3: Exploitation and Abuse



What We Did

The Notts YC members selected a new priority 'Exploitation and Abuse' from a long list of potential key issues they wanted to address. We were keen on young people being part of the solution and discussed how best they could do this. We were shown a workshop from the North Yorkshire Youth Commission called 'Keeping Your Mates Safe' – KYMSGAME, which is interactive game of risk.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we were unable to deliver Notts YC KYMSGAME as planned. The Notts YC members developed a new and creative direction using social media platforms. Members discussed the ideas of having two surveys based on the questions from the KYMSGAME workshops.

The surveys were created using Google Forms which provided easy and accessible links to the surveys.

The members each were given a task to engage with 10 friends to help complete the surveys by holding discussions highlighting the importance of the surveys. We also shared the link with a number of our partner organisations. On top of this the Notts YC produced a media campaign and created their own digital resources to help promote the importance of the surveys.

Exploitation Survey Results

Our Key Findings

Our Exploitation survey was shared with Notts YC friends and organisations connected to young people across Nottinghamshire. The survey was live for a 2-week period, during which we collected **277 responses**.



Exploitation Survey Results We asked young people what they thought were the **main definitions or terms for exploitation were**. Over **41%** selected all of the above as definitions of exploitation including: **Force Labour, Sexual Exploitation, Enforced Criminality, Forced Marriage and Domestic Servitude**. Young people did tick different terms, and the lowest number selected were Domestic Servitude followed by Force Marriage. This could mean that there needs to be more awareness around Domestic Servitude and Forced Marriage to make young people aware of these types of exploitation.

We asked young people to pick a definition which best matches the term of **county lines**. **56% of responses correctly selected** the following statement:

‘county lines and drug gangs from larger cities beginning to expand their operations to more county locations to deal drugs by recruiting and using young people to sell drugs for them’.

Young people identified **social media** as the most common way that recruiters engage with young people as they frequently use various social media platforms, and due to their age they are more susceptible targets.

We asked young people whether they believed Nottinghamshire has a **problem** with exploitation. **42.2%** of young people believe there is problem with exploitation in

Nottinghamshire and **9.2%** saying no. Interestingly **49.5%** of young people said they were not sure, which could suggest a lack of education on the subject.

We asked young people who they thought were the most likely to be identified as **victims of exploitation**. **59% said that 14-16 year olds** are most likely to be exploited. This falls in line with Nottinghamshire police recorded crime statistics of 2019.

44% young people said if they or someone you knew was being exploited, **they would tell a trusted adult** and

Report to the Police?	Wouldn't Report to the Police
<i>"The police can actually do something about it"</i>	<i>"Don't trust them"</i>
<i>"They may be able to give alternative methods that will be more effective"</i>	<i>"Worried/ scared about the repercussions"</i>
<i>"If anything is wrong, or going on in your life, the police should know, and they can help"</i>	<i>"The police don't take anything seriously"</i>
<i>"I would report to stop them from going through this and to be able to feel safe"</i>	<i>"I'd be concerned of the mental well-being of the person who is being exploited and wouldn't want to harm them anymore by involving the police."</i>

28% said they would go to the police. Only 15% said they would go to a support service. We then specified **reporting exploitation to the police. 84.1%** of our sample then stated they would report to the police. We felt that they needed to understand this response further as it was apparent that the police were not considered as a first option. The table provides young people's explanations for their choice.

When we asked young people **what they would like to see the police do more of to help reduce exploitation**, 258 young people responded:

"Start advertising more to help"

"Listen to survivor's stories and work with them to try and identify the groups and help other people that are trapped"

"Tackle the root issues, teens who are being exploited feel like there is nothing wrong and this is the only way for them to feel important, cared and protected. They need to be able to trust the police force enough and this can be helped by"

When asked what local organisations can do to help raise awareness of exploitation and how to report it we heard lots of different suggestions including:

"Use larger social media platforms"

"Create more resources which are displayed in the public eye, such as posters and billboards"

"Talks in youth centres, leaflets, social media, advertisement on bus stops and awareness of helplines"

62% of young people said they were aware of Childline as one of the key places to go for people experiencing exploitation to get help. Although a large majority of young people highlighted Childline as the key place to access support, the next highest support services identified by young people was the **NSPCC 15%.**

We asked if young people **would consider contacting them if you or someone you knew was being exploited, over 60% said they would and another 15% said maybe.** In the next phase of the project Notts YC members said they would like to explore what are the potential barriers that are stopping young people from accessing support.

Abuse Survey Results

Our Key Findings

Over the same two-week period the Notts YC also distributed their survey on abuse which focuses on abusive relationships and spotting the signs, types of abuse and England and Wales statistics on abuse. We received **386 responses to the survey.**

We asked young people based on a multiple-choice question on which types of abuse are they most aware of over, **50%** said they were aware of the following types of abuse: **Domestic Abuse,**



Online Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Financial Abuse, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse. Online Abuse was the most commonly missed response with **7.7%** and Financial Abuse being the lowest response with only **0.5%**.

We asked young people about the barriers to why **reporting abuse**, especially with male victims. Common responses included **weakness, embarrassment, stigma/stereotypes, toxic masculinity and pride.**

"When a man is being abused, they are less likely to report abuse due to several different factors:

"Men do not want to seem weak, and many male victims believe that being abused is a sign of weakness"

"There is quite a lot of stigma around male abuse victims, with regards their masculinity, power, and emotional stability"

"Men are more likely to be ashamed of being abused, and view it as a personal failing (in terms of masculinity) rather than the abuser's failing"

"Society doesn't take men as serious as women, so men bottle their emotions up because they're afraid of looking weak or being told it's not that serious"

Young people believe that there are a number of ways in which men could be encouraged to report abuse against them – in an open question, we received the following suggestions amongst others:

"Increase education on where men can report abuse "

"Reduce using women as examples all the time on tv programmes where domestic abuse is shown, show it from a man's perspective"

"Reassure men that they are believed "

"Normalise it. Make all adverts/leaflets informing about domestic abuse target both sexes and genders. Include information for both genders, making sure they are both being equally focused on. Also, say for instance on TV ads, break the stereotype of man abusing woman and use a variety of different gendered situations to break that stereotype, e.g. woman abusing man, man abusing man, woman abusing woman. - I also understand there are separate hotlines for men and women for trauma reasons (which I agree is good) but I think if being promoted, they should both be promoted equally"

58% of young people said they would report abuse to the police. However, **38%** said they wouldn't go to the police and **4%** said they don't know. When we asked young people to expand on their answer young people said:

"It depends on how bad the abuse is. If it's breaking bones or being threatened with knife or any sharp objects, then yes but if for example a woman gave a man slap then no"

"Some cases don't have enough evidence and therefore it is denied which just puts you more at risk of being abused because they know you went to the police"

"My mum went through domestic abuse for 4 years and when she called the police, she was the one that got arrested because the police didn't think that she was a victim because she fought back"

When asked what they think should be done to help **reduce abuse experienced by young people**, the most common responses we received suggested the following: **Raise awareness; increase the number of support services; restorative justice initiatives; increased media coverage.**

With regards to reporting abuse, the following suggestions were made:

"More online support, almost everyone is on social media but there's not enough awareness of it"

"Anonymous help and drop in's at places for them to go"

“Take cases of abuse more seriously”

“Less victim blaming /interrogation”

The survey provided insight into young people’s knowledge of laws that protected them in regard to abuse. **28% of young people said they were aware of the law** and identified Claire’s Law, a domestic violence disclosure scheme, revenge porn law and Sarah’s law. However over **72% of people said they did not know of any laws and were unable to identify them.**

The last part of the survey was designed to find out how aware young people are of support groups they could access. Within the data **over 60%** of young people identified **Barnardo’s and Women’s Aid** as organisations. Only **2% of young people said they were aware of Men’s Advice Line.**

Our Recommendations

Notts Police:

- **Go into different settings** in non-uniform to talk to young people about the different types of exploitation.
- **Share your current work on tackling abuse** including sharing cases they have successfully investigated and had a positive outcome
- **Be more present on social media to share updates and signpost to organisations** who can support young people who may be dealing with domestic abuse

PCC & Partners:

- **Work with educational settings** to deliver workshops specifically around the laws and consequences of abuse and to educate young people on the different types of abuse.
- **Invest money into increasing advertisement and campaigns** around services and information for potential victims.
- **Increase the amount of financial support for support services** so they can provide more awareness of their services and can advertise more.
- **Use social media to promote and deliver campaigns** that advertise the different types of exploitation.
- **Deliver online chat services** so young people don’t need to speak on the phone and can be kept anonymous.
- **Increase early intervention** make young people are aware of the support services on offer at a younger age.
- **Increase the visibility of resources for young people to access such as posters, leaflets and campaigns** at bus stops, and in city centres and youth clubs.

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- **Raise awareness** of exploitation and county lines through KYMSGAME workshops, highlighting the key signs of being exploited and taking a deeper look into toxic masculinity and reporting.
- **Work with the police within educational settings** and teach young people about exploitation and where to go for support.
- **Work on the findings within the survey** and raise awareness of abuse.

Conclusion: Taking Things Forward



The Notts YC members are dedicated to providing young people with a voice in key issues. We are extremely grateful to all of the local partners who have been involved making this piece of work a success.

Moving forward we will continue to ensure that all voices from young people are represented and are heard. We will deliver KYMSGAME on Exploitation and Abuse to organisations and will also work towards creating a digital version for online use. We will explore more in depth the responses collected from the Abuse and Exploitation surveys.

Our members will continue to work with both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Nottinghamshire Police to provide a channel for youth-led work by getting involved in Police People's Panels and continuing to support the work of the School and Early intervention officers.

Our members will also be a critical element in developing the recommendations that have been set out in this report.

Testimonials

Paddy Tipping - Police and Crime Commissioner

Once again, you have done yourselves, and all of us, proud. You have continued to produce really good work giving us valuable insights into different problems. I welcome every report and recommendation, which are considered seriously by the police and other partners, ensuring that young views are taken into account.

The last few months have been a difficult time for all of us, but I know that young people have been particularly affected. The Youth Commission has risen to the challenge, finding different ways to continue to engage with young people across the City and County.

Young people are our future. I'm delighted by your work to help build that new future. It will be hard but together we can do it.

Karen Dalby - Nottinghamshire Police, Schools and Early Intervention Officer Co-ordinator

Nottinghamshire Police, Schools and Early Intervention Officers (SEIOs) have again been working together with the Youth Commission this past year.

Members of the Youth Commission have once again been instrumental in supporting recruiting two further SEIOs by being part of the interview panel. Their knowledge and understanding of young people are a great asset to finding the right person for the roles.

The Youth Commission are a key partner in supporting the SEIO team with our presentations and educational packages. They give great insight to current trends for young people and help us make the presentations current using language young people will understand. They have supported reviewing and are very positive around ideas for making the packages younger person friendly to increase our engagement. We regularly attend meetings together with many partners including both the City and County councils.

There are always very positive and regular channels of communication between the Youth Commission and the SEIO team. We have supported requests for surveys to be sent to schools and the Youth Commission share their findings with us, so we can further improve our service.

Key priorities for the Youth Commission are shared with us as a member through members meetings and we have highlighted key issues for young people with educational settings across Nottinghamshire.

The positive collaborative work with the SEIOs and the Youth Commission has meant that young people will feel better listened to and in turn give better engagement with the Police.

I look forward to further engagements and working with the Youth Commission this next year.

Joanna Williams - Public Services, Nottingham College

I thought the knife crime workshops was a good educational experience for our students. With Knife crime having such a major impact on the particular age of our students it gave the opportunity for students to have a good understanding of the full impact of knife crime, the law surrounding knife crime and the devastation it has on all involved.

The workshops provided what support students can access should they fall victim and took a look at

awareness to knife crime culture in Nottingham. With our students being public service students, the workshop also looked at criminal records, police stop and search policies and ways to improve the knife crime situation we currently experience in Nottingham and the UK.

Ester Nunez-Lopez – Youth Commission member

I've been part of the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission since September 2019. Being a part of this diverse group has helped me massively with my understanding of others as we all work collectively. It has also helped me with my confidence as we talk openly to share different ideas. I thoroughly enjoyed every session we had, applying to be on board was one of the best choices I've made.

Blessed Shaba - Youth Commission member

I joined the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission in 2018. Before the Youth Commission, I was in two minds about what I would like to do once I finished university. Once joining, not only did I gain a lot of confidence, but the commission helped me see the kind of path I would like to take after university. The experiences I have gained so far with the Youth Commission has allowed me to learn and develop great life skills. Working with and learning so much about children and young people has been something I am passionate about, and the Youth Commission has continued to show me how important my passion is. Working to help young people once I complete my degree is something the Youth Commission helped solidify into my future.

Owen Brindley – Youth Commission member

I joined the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission in September 2019 after when I had a telephone interview with Gabby. During the years I really enjoying the experience as I also love supporting people doing some workshops at Colleges for the students. for example, I went to Nottingham Billborough College and Nottingham Basford College Campus to do a workshop with Gabby.

I really enjoy giving ideas to people and the team what we could do better in the community and how to share about Knife crime also Abuse and Exploitation as I love attending members meetings on Zooms. I am so excited to carry on doing this as it is building my experience and confident. I also love helping all the disability people and other people around the UK.

I have find some unusual things in past weeks and years as I have notice that I think we could work this together that Police are not realising how they speak or talk to disability as sometimes people who has got disability find it so scary to talk to the police. I really love supporting different people including disabilities Also telling people with disabilities that there is support and within the community too. I have been so much in my life due to my health conditions which I find it really scary. However, I am proud to say that I got nominated for Positive role model (Disability) from The National Diversity Award 2020. Without me doing this with the Nottingham Youth Commission I wouldn't get this far at all. This Nottingham Youth Commission has been the best experience I ever had done, and I am so excited to continue working with this amazing company and Gabby.

Karamveer Singh Johal - Youth Commission member

I joined Nottinghamshire Youth Commission in 2018 because I wanted my voice to be heard by policy makers on issues that affect young people, and I can honestly say that it has been a phenomenal experience because I have made friends and because my voice has been heard.

Having my voice heard by people like the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire, Paddy Tipping, and Nottinghamshire Police on issues such as knife crime has been a good experience in which I have developed a number of skills such as communication, which will prove useful in the future.

This year we have been focusing on researching the effect of abuse and exploitation on young people. I took advantage of the COVID-19 lockdown to help Gabby edit the survey and then promote to my peer group. The data that was collected from the surveys was then compiled into a report. Drafting thoughts on 'Support Services' was challenging, but really thought provoking. Through collecting the collect information on exploitation and abuse I have also been able to realise the importance of listening to others views and the use of statistics in order to collect accurate data which can later be used to help inform people of the problems a and then help create solutions. This collection of data is very important and is highlighted by what is happening with COVID-19.

All in all, I can say that my work with the Notts YC has been educational, challenging and enjoyable, and I have learnt a lot about research and its importance for policy makers.