



# Compact Engagement Award

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## Sussex Youth Commission

### Overview

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Katy Bourne, has set up a Sussex Youth Commission (SYC) to enable young people from across Sussex to have a voice on policing and crime. The SYC works in partnership with the PCC, police and partner agencies to turn their research and recommendations into meaningful and realistic outcomes.

The SYC is made up of a group of young people from differing background from across Sussex including victims of crime and young offenders. They are drawn from schools, universities and voluntary organisations who work with marginalized young people in our community. They have undertaken research this year by having conversations with their peers and with some groups of young people who often find it difficult to engage with the police. We also link with a significant number of voluntary organisations to access many marginalised groups of young people in our community to get as many different perspectives as possible on policing in Sussex.

The views are gathered by partnering with voluntary organisations who facilitate workshops with those of various faith groups, ethnicities and the LGBT community. These views are then used by the SYC to create recommendations to present back to the PCC, the police and key partners and to turn these into meaningful outcomes. It's a great opportunity to ensure young people's voices are heard when considering police priorities in Sussex. The recommendations cover chosen priority areas; Drug and alcohol abuse, Hate crime, Relationship with the Police, Supporting Young offenders, Cyber-bullying and online harassment.

The current cohort of Youth Commission members are due to make recommendations to the PCC, Sussex Police and various partner agencies. They will be presented on the 23 September at a conference of 170 attendees. Once recommendations are presented, attendees will discuss how as partners, they can help implement a meaningful outcome. We have already made connections with the 'Prevent' team who work on radicalisation. The SYC will be working with them to discuss how radicalisation can be prevented in Sussex from a young person's perspective.

## Impact

One recommendation that has been implemented, following the SYC pilot project last year, is the establishment up of the Independent Advisory Group. The role of this group is to support, challenge and inform the work of the PCC and the police. The group does this through peer research and engagement, scrutiny and observation, and by putting forward practical recommendations for change. This was set up with the intention of creating an arena in which young people and Sussex Police can have honest and frank discussions to inform future policing, such as Stop and Search and of night time economy policing. Feedback to senior officers on night time economy policing has informed officer deployment tactics and interaction with young people.

The SYC is also working with Victim's Services in Sussex on a Hate Crime App which is currently in development. This app will provide an accessible portal for victims of hate crime, particularly young people to report hate incidents and crime as these are so often unreported. This is particularly crucial for the large LGBT community in Brighton and Hove, who are often reluctant to report this to police.

This project has not only had a large impact on policing and community safety in Sussex, but has developed the young people who have been a part of it to become vehicles for change in their community. We are very proud that two young people have been so inspired by the work of the group that they have become Special Constables.



Pictured: Olivia, a Youth Commission member, working with a group of homeless young people at Chichester Foyer.