



From: Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Impact of the Youth Commissioner
Item & Date: Item B1, 4 November, 2014

Executive Summary:

The Youth Commissioner commenced her year-long role in March 2014. The role was envisaged to engage with young people across the county to better understand their policing needs, opinions and advise the Police and Crime Commissioner on young people's issues.

During her placement, the Youth Commissioner has engaged with a number of young people seeking their views on policing and staying safe. This has included, researching youth provision across the county, speaking with partners about youth services and partaking in youth programmes - leading and mentoring young people.

The Youth Commissioner will be producing some recommendations at the end of her time working for the Commissioner. Emerging themes may touch on training, police presence and making policing related information more accessible to young people. The Police and Crime Commissioner will carefully consider the Youth Commissioner's recommendations for possible inclusion in her the 2015/16 Police and Crime Plan refresh.

Introduction:

1. This paper explains the work of the Youth Commissioner and discusses some of her initial findings.

Background:

2. Kent's Youth Commissioner, Kerry Boyd, was appointed in December 2013 and commenced work following the completion of her studies in March 2014. The role was envisaged to undertake the following broad functions:
 - Being a knowledgeable link to the Police and Crime Commissioner in all matters related to young people and their involvement with Kent Police.
 - Engage with young people across the county to better understand their policing needs, issues and deter young people from committing crime.
 - Produce briefings and reports on key youth related issues, evidencing the work they have undertaken, providing information to be taken into account in the formulation of the Police and Crime Plan.
 - Being the countywide youth lead for being safe online.
 - To work closely with Kent Police personnel on the delivery of education packages for young people.
 - Work with local charities and local authorities on youth intervention issues.
 - Undertake a range of additional duties and responsibilities commensurate with the development nature of this role.

3. As part of the induction programme, the Youth Commissioner spent six weeks seeing how various aspects of Kent Police worked, as well as visiting and speaking to partner agencies and undertaking training to prepare her for the role. In early April 2014, she commenced the role formally as Youth Commissioner, attending various youth related engagements and force functions.
4. In early June, following an unexpected matter arising, the Police and Crime Commissioner took the decision to re-focus the role. While the aims and objectives – broadly to advise the Police and Crime Commissioner on matters affecting young people in Kent remained the same, the Commissioner wanted to safeguard the Youth Commissioner by temporarily removing her from public engagement and finding another means for her to undertake her work in a safe and secure environment.
5. As part of the re-focus for the role, the Youth Commissioner undertook a three month secondment at CXK. CXK is an Ashford based charity that supports young people in the South East to develop their skills, raise their aspirations and encourage them to reach their full potential. CXK were chosen as they ran a number of programmes with a variety of young people, from a range of backgrounds. The secondment would allow the Youth Commissioner to undertake a dual role of gaining views on policing priorities from young people, along with collating feedback from those who use the CATs (Community Activity Team) service and generating a recommendations report for CXK.

Summary of engagement and research work

6. The following provides a snapshot of the engagement and research work the Youth Commissioner has undertaken since taking on the Youth Commissioner role:
 - **National Citizenship Programme** - The NCS Programme is aimed at 15-17 year olds. They come from a variety of backgrounds, and during the programme, they take part in social action projects and build skills for work and life. The Youth Commissioner was a team assistant over the summer programme and attended two residential courses, leading, coaching and mentoring young people. In the final two weeks of the programme the young people planned, prepared and delivered 30 hours of social action within their local community, under the guidance of team leaders. As an intensive four week programme, the Youth Commissioner gained a rich and qualitative insight of the different cultures that the diverse team of young people inhabited. By building a rapport with the young people over an extended period she could challenge their views, understanding and opinions of society and modern life. This further aided the Youth Commissioner to making informed recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
 - **One-off engagement events** – The Youth Commissioner has attended a variety of one off engagement events. These include:
 - Status events – Status are a partnership who run events for young people with a focus on enjoying themselves and staying staff. The Youth Commissioner engaged with young people attending Status evenings in Thanet and advised on the planning and design of future events to the Partnership Board.
 - During induction, the Youth Commissioner attended two YAG (Youth Advisory Group meetings) in Shepway and Ashford to learn about how the youth provision provider share good practice.
 - On joint engagements with the Police and Crime Commissioner –

- The Youth Commissioner supported the Soroptimist group in their Giftbox campaign in Chatham, to raise awareness of human trafficking in the South East,
 - Spoke to North West Kent College public service students and
 - Attended a youth conference by Youth Engage where she proactively engaged with the audience to hear their views on the local area and specific policing issues.
- Safety in Action Day- The Youth Commissioner saw how multiple agencies work together to deliver workshops to pupils in Year 6 so that they learn how to be safe and feel prepared for going into Secondary school.
- Youth councils/parliaments Kent Youth County Council - Ran a workshop whereby the young people were rotated to different 'thinking stops' to give their views on; impression/relationship with the Police, Information/Communicating with the Police and community safety. Afterwards all the members came together and the Youth Commissioner led discussion on the issues raised in the group work. At Medway Youth Parliament, the Youth Commissioner held a two-way question and answer discussion with the members to hear their views on Policing in Medway and to answer their questions about the Youth Commissioner role.
- **Youth provision across the county** – The Youth Commissioner has been researching the provision of youth services across Kent to better understand the 'map' of youth issues in the county. This includes:
 - Visiting Community Safety Units across the county to establish where there are gaps in provision on a local level within each district; such as areas of high crime, ASB and gain an understanding of the most common issues that affect young people both as perpetrators and victims in that district.
 - Site visits to see what facilities/areas are available that may not already be targeted by CXK.
 - Visiting Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services (KIASS) hubs to see where their static and detached provision is taking place and consider overlaps with existing youth services and what areas are potentially being missed.
 - Producing a report summarising key issues within districts as well as gaps for CXK to inform future service design.
 - As part of the visits, the Youth Commissioner has engaged with young people in schools, pupil referral units and youth centres to gain an understanding of how the young people felt about policing and the community they live in.
- **Visit CXK provisions in Aylesham and Dover** – The Youth Commissioner did an assessment of CXK youth provisions in Aylesham and Dover to inform future service design. This work included:
 - Visiting and speaking to staff and young people to see how the provisions are run and how the young people interact and engage.
 - Carry out an activity survey to find out what the young people liked and disliked about the current provision to inform CXK's programme of continuous improvement.
 - Data from the surveys was collated to provide information and produce findings within a recommendations report for CXK.

- **Social networking** – the Youth Commissioner has maintained an active social media presence throughout her placement on Twitter and blogs published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.
- **Training** – As part of her professional development, and to inform her research recommendations, the Youth Commissioner has undertaken the following training as part of her placement:
 - Attended the training/raising awareness session run by Karma Nivarna focussing on forced marriages and honour based violence.
 - Child abuse/exploitation - Attended a showing of "Hooray for Hollywood" puppet film in Gillingham.
 - E-safety training
 - A week long intensive initial teachers training course
 - Stalking & harassment awareness training.

Emerging recommendations

7. The Youth Commissioner has amassed a rich evidence base and will be making recommendations on policing and young people. Once complete, the Police and Crime Commissioner will consider the recommendations with a view to including some or all in her 2015/16 Police and Crime Plan which is currently being refreshed. The following provides a summary of the themes or areas she has been exploring:
 - **Training and engagement with young people** - The Youth Commissioner has been exploring whether there are opportunities for changes to be made to the training syllabus for police officers and PCSOs to expose them more to young people and break down any stereotypes they may have.
 - **Online policing information** – As part of the future refresh of the Kent Police Website, the Youth Commissioner has identified a number of enhancements that could be made to make the website more accessible and include content considered more relevant for young people.
 - **Access to policing services** – The Youth Commissioner has been discussing with young people around the county and how they access police services. As a result she is carefully considering how young people report crime and whether some additional awareness raising on this area may be required with young people.
 - **Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)** – The Youth Commissioner is interested to understand whether young people understand what types of behaviour are classed as ASB and what impact it has on the community. She is considering whether there are programmes that could be put in place for young people to better understand what constitutes ASB and be better informed of its impact on the community.
 - **Linking in with youth programmes in the county** – During her placement, the Youth Commissioner worked with the National Citizen Programme. She has been exploring whether there are opportunities for the police to become involved with this programme (and/or other similar programmes in the county) to raise awareness of policing and safety issues with young people.

Next steps

8. The Youth Commissioner has completed her secondment at CXK. She will be using the remainder of her placement to continue working on her report findings, speaking with young people and undertaking some public engagement.
9. The Police and Crime Commissioner will carefully consider the Youth Commissioner's recommendations for inclusion in her the 2015/16 Police and Crime Plan refresh.