



Consultation
with Young
People

Want to see the real picture?



At the National Youth Agency
we can help you find
the missing pieces.

For organisations working in the criminal justice field, finding out what young people really think about crime, anti-social behaviour, the police and the criminal justice system can be a puzzle. The National Youth Agency can help you see the real picture, and discover the views of young people in the communities you serve.


We have a long history of working with police authorities and forces to help them consult with young people about their experiences of crime, anti-social behaviour, the police and criminal justice system. We work closely with our clients to ensure that the consultation is tailored to the organisation, the area, and to the needs of the young people taking part.

What we do

We offer a bespoke consultation process to make sure we meet the needs of individual police authorities and police forces and community safety partnerships. We can deliver large scale and high profile youth crime consultation events or small in-depth focus groups.

Our consultations include young people drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds and reflect the key local Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic Groups, as well as young people with disabilities and those deemed 'hard to reach', including victims of crime, offenders and those who have had the most interaction with the police and criminal justice system.

Our consultations are overseen by enhanced CRB checked and trained National Youth Agency facilitators, with extensive experience in undertaking this work. They are led by young people, and use interactive and innovative consultation techniques to allow young people to express their views and talk candidly about their experiences and perceptions about policing and community safety themes, including:

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- Contact with the police force
 - Policing priorities
 - Neighbourhood policing; including PCSOs and safer school officers
 - Perceptions and experiences of anti-social behaviour and crime
 - Community safety; quality of life and fear of crime
 - Stop and search
 - Gang activities and street violence
 - Victimisation and bullying.

As part of the service, the National Youth Agency will produce a comprehensive report with executive summary, as well as a separate summary report for young people.



Our approach

The National Youth Agency is the market leader in this field with a unique and proven record in youth crime consultation. The benefits of our approach include:

- Provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships and consultation with young people, particularly those that are hard to reach.
- Helps police authorities and community safety partnerships meet the requirement to consult annually on strategic planning processes.
- Helps prevent crime committed by young people and addresses the mainstreaming requirements of section 17, 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.
- Adaptable across the police service sector, both at a strategic level and also neighbourhood level.
- It provides support to Police and Community Safety Partnership staff, to integrate this activity into existing job roles.
- Helps provide excellent contacts with local youth organisations.



Case study

In 2007, the National Youth Agency was commissioned by West Midlands Police Authority to work with them over a three year period, to consult with young people about their perceptions and experiences of crime, anti-social behaviour, the police and criminal justice system.

The National Youth Agency developed an innovative and effective approach for engaging the young people, and introduced a robust process to gain the views of many marginalised young people in the West Midlands.

We held ten focus groups across the West Midlands region and consulted with a total of 150 young people about crime and policing. The results from this consultation were published in a report: "The Police: Your Views".

The following year, the National Youth Agency organised a successful regional youth crime conference with over 200 delegates, on behalf of the West Midlands Police Authority, the local Criminal Justice Board and the West Midlands Police Force. The results from this event were published in the report "Listening to young people".

In 2009, the West Midlands Police Authority commissioned the Agency to explore some of the specific issues raised by young people at the regional youth crime conference, relating to gangs and violent extremism. In late 2009, the NYA hosted three focus groups with hard-to-reach young people, who had direct involvement, experience and knowledge of gangs and violent extremism. The findings from this research, "Youth Crime Consultation" have recently been published.



Consultancy support

The National Youth Agency is one of few organisations that can offer both a national and local perspective. We are able to reach the genuine voice of young people who are marginalised in their communities, and have had the most interaction with the police and criminal justice system. Run by experts in the field, our consultations are proven to gain the trust of hard-to-reach young people, and enable their views to be heard.

Our consultations can range from small workshops and focus groups to larger conferences enabling us to explore wider issues, as well as those that are more specific to particular communities and geographic areas. For more information please contact us on 0116 242 7350.

About the National Youth Agency

At the National Youth Agency, we are passionate about young people, and believe that they should have a voice in everything that affects them, and the performance of services will be improved by taking proper account of that voice. We believe that young people have the energy and potential to improve their own lives and those of the community, now and as they grow up.

We are an independent charity, and the partner of choice for local government, local authorities and third sector organisations, delivering with them, and advising and supporting them in the development of programmes and policies for young people. Increasingly, we also work in partnership with the private sector.

For more information about the National Youth Agency, visit:

www.nya.org.uk



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