

Consultation
Pack for Officers
in the Safer
Schools
Partnership

Draft

This package contains:

1. Rational for the consultation.
2. Information for the questionnaire consultation
3. Questionnaire
4. Information for a focus group consultation.
5. Feedback form
6. Timescales
7. Conclusion

1. Why are we consulting?

At 1.65 million, young people under the age of 16 make up just under a quarter of all people living in London. Many of these young people's lives are touched by crime or fear of crime, either as a victim or as a perpetrator.

As part of the annual policing plan, the Metropolitan Police Service is required to consult with all communities across London before determining their policing priorities for the coming year. This pan London consultation process will focus on young people between the ages of 11 and 16, who are in a school environment.

There is an acknowledgment that young people who are more difficult to reach in consultation processes will be missed as a result of this approach. However, as the mechanism for consultation within the Metropolitan Police Service becomes more familiar and efficient, so will the selection of the young people involved in the process.

A consultation process will follow a cycle aimed at:

Stage I:

- Providing an effective way for the Metropolitan Police Service to understand the needs of young people, to facilitate problem solving.

Stage II:

- Providing effective ways for young people to influence the decisions and policies that affect them.

Stage III:

- Providing effective ways for young people to understand the decisions and policies that affect them.

2. Information on the questionnaire

Use of a questionnaire is the cheapest form of consultation, but its major downfall is a low return rate. They are, however, widely used to identify and influence priorities.

In order to maximise the return of the questionnaire, we ask that Safer Schools Partnership Officers, after consultation with the head teacher in the school, randomly select two young people in each age group (11-16) to complete the form. The completion of the questionnaire should take no longer than 10 minutes.

They should be assured that whatever information they write down would be confidential. We would only like their age, gender and ethnicity.

Once the questionnaires are completed, please send, by 30 of June, to:

Alison Collins
TPHQ
Room 1:15
Victoria Embankment

From here, we will compile the data from the questionnaires and focus group into a report to be sent out to Officers for the second stage of consultation.

Youth Consultation 2003/04 Questionnaire.

3.

1. What types of crimes do you know about in your area?

2. How do you know about these crimes?

3. Which of these crimes makes you feel unsafe?

4. Why do they make you feel unsafe?

5. Which crimes do you think the Police should concentrate on?

5. Do you have any ideas on what could be done to reduce crime?

6. How can young people be involved in making the area safer?

7. Is there anything else you think the police should know about?

Where do you live?	
How old are you?	
Are you a boy or girl?	
Ethnic origin.	

4. Focus group consultation

A focus group is a planned series of discussions designed to obtain perceptions on a defined area of interest in a permissive, non threatening environment.' (R.A. Kreuger et al, 2000)

The chances of succeeding with a focus group are good, however the purpose of the group must be determined. In this case, it is to find out from the young people what they think the police should concentrate on in the coming year. The questionnaire would facilitate obtaining such information

The characteristics of the focus group must be identified. This consultation is looking for young people between 11 – 16 years old. We would like you to hold two groups, one for ages 11-13 and the other 14 – 16. There should be no young people on the group who have been involved in the completion of the questionnaire, and the facilitator, if at all possible, should be someone neutral, perhaps a young person themselves.

You should not have more than 10 people who are randomly selected in the focus group.

The focus group should last no more than 15 minutes, with the results being written into the feedback pro forma.

Once the focus group has met and the results written up, please be send, by the 30 of June, via internal mail to:

Alison Collins
TPHQ
Room 1:15
Victoria Embankment

From here, we will compile the data from the questionnaires and focus group for into a report to be sent out to officers for the second stage of consultation.

5.

Youth Consultation 2003/2004 Focus Group

1. What types of crimes does the Focus group know about in the area?

2. Which of these crimes makes you feel unsafe?

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3. Why do they make you feel unsafe?

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4. Which crimes do you think the Police should concentrate on?

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5. Do you have any ideas on what could be done to reduce crime?

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6. How can young people be involved in making the area safer?

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Ethnic classification codes

White

White - British

White - Irish

Any other White background

Mixed

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed Background

Asian / Asian - British

Asian - Indian

Asian - Pakistani

Asian - Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background

Black / Black - British

Black - Caribbean

Black African

Any other Black background

Other

Chinese

Any other

6. Timescales

The questionnaire and focus group part of the consultation process needs to be concluded by the 30 of June 2003, with the collated forms sent back to TPHQ.

Between June and August 2003, the results will be collated in the Youth Policy Unit.

The feedback from the initial consultation will also be placed before the IAG on young people for their response, at the first meeting after the report is completed.

In September 2003, the results to the consultation will be fed back to the Safer Schools officers, with additional information to seek the views of the young people as to see if the young people feel that the information accurately reflects their views. If there are any such variations, establish which additional priorities they would like to see included in the policing plan.

In February 2004, the MPA will be in a position to approve the policing plan with the priorities. These priorities will then be taken back into the schools to explain why the priorities have been selected, and feedback the process to the young people.

7. Conclusion

The Safer Schools Partnership mechanism offers a good opportunity to access a significant cross section of young people in order to obtain their views for the policing priorities. Full cooperation between the MPS and local Head teachers is needed for this consultation to work.

Presently there are some 65 Safer Schools Officers working in 76 schools in 18 boroughs across London. This has the potential to access 12 young people for questionnaires per school and 20 for focus groups. Overall, this will access 936 children for questionnaires and 1560 in focus groups, a total of 2496 young people.

This would be the best-case scenario. Limited wastage and smaller focus groups would still provide a meaningful sample for the consultation process.

The lessons learned from this process will be reviewed and incorporated into the consultation process for the future.