

Cumbria Police Authority

Communities, Equality and Diversity Committee

14 April 2010

Agenda Item No. 6a

Report by the Acting Chief Executive

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 25 MARCH 2010

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the recent joint engagement activity held at Furness Academy on 25 March 2010.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Members note this report

DETAIL:

The Community Engagement Strategy approved in September 2009, outlines the statutory duty to engage with members of the public, there are however, two key areas, that engagement activity will focus on for the financial year 2010/11 – raising public confidence and which crime and anti-social behaviour issues most affect people in their local area.

Regulation 2A of the Police act 1996 (a) outlines the arrangements for obtaining the views of the community on policing, outlining the requirement to ensure the Authority obtains the views of those who are aged under 21.

The Authority has recognized the importance of doing more to obtain young people's views about policing and crime in their area, and as such are looking for innovative opportunities to work with young people adopting a coordinated approach.

On the 25th March 2010, the Police Authority members attended Furness Academy, Barrow to take part in a joint engagement and consultation exercise with young people, the exercise provided the opportunity to engage with a total of one hundred year eight pupils, concentrating on the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that most affect young people in the Barrow area.

Results

The young people were asked to complete a questionnaire, which would provide the Police Authority with information on the most important anti-social behaviour issues for young people within the Barrow area.

A total of 52 young people indicated that drug related crime was the single biggest issue for young people, followed by speeding vehicles (16), Drunk and Rowdy behaviour (14), Teenagers hanging around the streets (10), and Bullying (8).

23% of the young people did not feel that the police treated young people with respect, whilst 30% of young people did not have confidence with police in their area.

When asked what the police should be doing to tackle these issues, the main suggestion was, increased police visibility, and resources targeted to the problem areas such as the town centre.

Appendix 1 – results

The Next Steps

It is essential that we provide feedback to the people who contribute towards engagement activity, as such, this information will be included within the community engagement section on the Authority web Site, and a written report provided to Furness Academy. In order to gain a better understand of the issues that most affect young people, a programme of activity will be undertaken to roll this exercise out to other areas within the Borough in order to gain a comparison.

Stuart Edwards
Acting Chief Executive

30 March 2010

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS:

This report has no direct human rights implications

RACE EQUALITY / DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

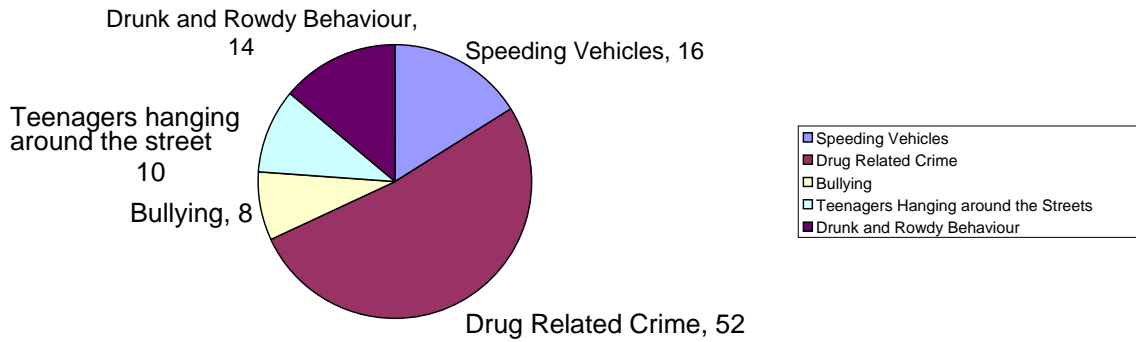
Obtaining public views about policing and those decisions about policing which the Authority is required to make from the community at large and diverse minority groups within the community is a legal requirement as well as sound practice.

**Contact Details: Joanne Thornborrow, Community Engagement Officer, 01768 217416
or email: joanne.thornborrow@cumbria.police.uk**

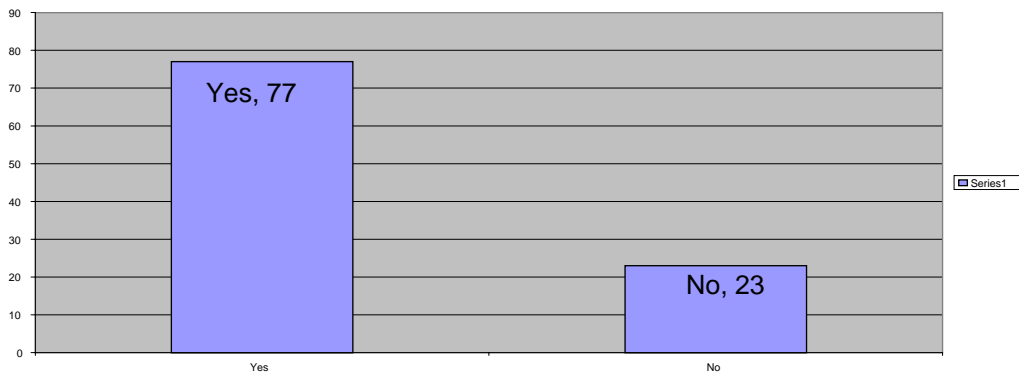
Appendix 1 – results:

Issues which worry young people most in the Furness Area - March 2010

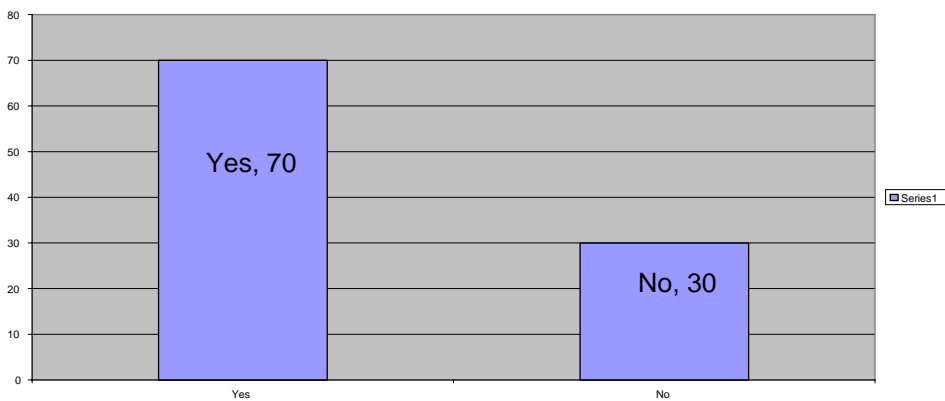
The ASB issues which are most concern to young people



Do you feel that the police treat young people with respect?



Do you have confidence with police in your area?



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Communities, equality and Diversity Committee

**14 April 2010
Agenda Item No. 6**

Report by the Acting Chief executive

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 23 MARCH 2010

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the recent joint engagement activity held in Workington on the 23rd May 2010.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Members note this report

Approve the suggested system for sharing of information

DETAIL:

The Community Engagement Strategy approved in September 2009, outlines the statutory duty to engage with members of the public, there are however, two key areas, that engagement activity will focus on for the financial year 2010/11 – raising public confidence, and which crime and anti-social behaviour issues most affect people in their local area.

On the 23rd March, Police Authority members were involved in a community face-to-face engagement session, held within Morrison's Superstore Workington, and Debenham's Workington. This exercise provided an opportunity to find out the views of local people on anti-social behaviour issues that most affect them in their area. A total of 228 people completed questionnaires, where possible, the exercise aimed to gather post code information, in order to relate specific issues to demographic areas. This is a new approach in terms of community engagement, and the plan is to roll this exercise out into other areas.

The results indicated that youth related anti-social behaviour, was the main area of concern, followed by vandalism, then drug related crime. It is reassuring to find out, that 77 of the people when questioned, had no issues with anti-social behaviour. When asked how they thought the Constabulary should target resources to tackle anti-social behaviour, 56 members of the public suggested increased Police visibility, this was followed closely with the suggestion to provide more facilities for young people, working with local

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Council's to provide these, alongside a recommendation that youth engagement should be sufficiently resourced.

Appendix 1 Results

Next Steps

It is essential that systems are in place that will ensure the outcomes from engagement activity are fed into the Constabulary, in particular to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, as this would assist with the development of the Neighbourhood Policing Team profiles, a suggested route would be via the BCU Chief Inspectors.

It is recommended that an information sharing agreement is in place to ensure effective use of information, this action should be included within the remit of the Community Engagement Officers duties.

The CED Committee will take on the responsibility of monitoring the Constabulary's response to the issues identified, to ensure feedback can be given to communities within an acceptable timeframe.

Stuart Edwards
Acting Chief Executive

30 March 2010

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS:

This report has no direct human rights implications

RACE EQUALITY / DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

Obtaining public views about policing and those decisions about policing which the Authority is required to make from the community at large and diverse minority groups within the community is a legal requirement as well as sound practice.

Contact Details: Joanne Thornborrow, Community Engagement Officer, 01768217416
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Appendix 1

Results

The following results are based on information obtained from 228 people within Workington during a 3 hour period on 23 March 2010, please note that not all respondents provided us with post code details.

	Yes	No
Do you consider anti-social behaviour to be an issue in your are	73 (32%)	155 (68%)

What do you consider to be the main areas of anti social behaviour?

Nuisance Neighbours	14 (6.14%)
Drug Related Crime	26 (11.4%)
Youth Nuisance	64 (28%)
Vandalism	37 (16.2%)
Other	10 (4.4%)
No issue identified	77 (51%)

Only 55 respondents provided postcode information, and as the consultation exercise was conducted within Workington, you would expect low response rates from people outside of this immediate area.

Analysis of main issues of anti-social behaviour by NPT area

