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Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on children and young people in Wales

COV 103
Ymateb gan: Swyddfa Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Dyfed Powys

COV 103
Response from: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys regarding this consultation, and apologies for the delay in sending our response. The email has been passed on to me as I have responsibility for the Children and Young People policy area, and below are some notes for you detailing recent youth engagement activity.

The current Commissioner, Dafydd Llywelyn, is passionate about building strong relationships with young people, to better understand what leads some young people to crime and disorder and how they can be helped to make positive choices in life. Since taking office, he has engaged regularly with various groups of young people throughout the force area. In December 2018 the first ever Youth Forum for Dyfed-Powys Police was established.

Youth Forum members are known as Youth Ambassadors and represent the views of their peers in their youth group/society. As well as participating in discussions during Forum meetings, Youth Ambassadors consult with young people in the community on the Commissioner's behalf with regard to timely Police and Crime issues, and feed their views back.

Earlier this year Hafan Cymru was commissioned to work alongside our current Youth Ambassadors to enable us to identify ways of growing the forum in the future to maximize opportunities for the Commissioner to engage with young people across the force area.

As part of the work commissioned, Hafan Cymru organised a series of youth engagement activities across the region, building relationships with youth partners, and carried out this research on behalf of the Commissioner. Hywel Dda University Health Board has also joined us on the commissioned work, as we believe that many of the issues that young people face nowadays are relevant to both health and policing.

Some of the survey findings were discussed with a number of partners at a Youth Conference held in March 2020, and shortly after this the lockdown came into effect as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Since then, we have been holding Youth Forum meetings via Zoom.

- At the first meeting, the young people had the opportunity to discuss their feelings about the lockdown, and their reaction to the situation. We also spoke to the young people of Dyfed Powys about the survey findings, to get their views on some of the clear messages that have emerged from the survey.
- The second meeting discussed the possibility of making greater use of the youth ambassadors for scrutiny of the Commissioner and his Office, and as a result the Ambassadors were invited to a Policing Accountability Board meeting in May, where the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account on Policing matters.
- Policing Board Meeting - Six of the Youth Ambassadors joined the meeting via Skype, where they were able to ask questions and voice their opinions on policing issues, on behalf of other youth in the region. Most of the questions were about policing lockdown rules, and what the force's strategy was in terms of policing the changes that were on the horizon in terms of lifting some of the rules.
- Another meeting of the Ambassadors was held with the Commissioner to discuss the response of the Chief Constable and his staff. A further meeting of the Ambassadors has been arranged on 11 June, where they will be bringing one other young person with them, who has had previous contact with the Police, either as a victim of crime, or a criminal. We will ask them to give their views on how they were treated. The aim of this kind of feedback is that we as an Office will be able to assist the Police, if necessary, to improve their service and/or treatment of young people.