

## **Students Speak – 3 December 2008**

### **Community and Safety workshop feedback**

The Wakefield Together Partnership is committed to engaging and building relationships with young people. The partnership will now consider all the ideas raised on the day and keep you informed of the outcomes.

In the Community and Safety workshop, students were asked to discuss and come up with ideas and ways to improve relationships between young people and the police/ways to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Here are some of the ideas and suggestions from the students who attended on the day.

- A day in the life of a Police Officer – how much work is involved
- Mock arrest – visit to custody area showing young people what it would be like to be arrested and processed through the justice system
- Bringing in real victims and parents of victims to show young people the effects of crime
- Create re-constructions
- Event to show young people that police are human and not just uniforms eg fun and hobbies
- Fun events away from normal working environment
- Charity football matches, young people v police – towards good causes in community
- Police don't listen to young people – respect is two way
- Police and other partners should do more work in schools/Police to spend more time in schools to get to know students and what they want
- Police over react to minor behaviour
- Workshops for young people and police to understand what police have to do
- Workshops with young people and police and other partners to discuss anti-social behaviour
- Police to have more empathy
- Improve response times for victims
- Police to hold open days/invite young people into their offices and stations – young people invite police into their environment so they should be invited into police environment
- Uniforms are intimidating
- Schools for young people who have been excluded from previous schools
- Police should find out what is really going on before jumping to conclusions
- Police can appear unapproachable and scary
- Police can appear threatening when communicating with young people
- Need more activities and parks so that young people have things to do
- Police and young peoples club where any problems could be discussed
- More community and Police meetings

- Workshops – reversal of roles/role reversal day
- Students/young people to go out with neighbourhood police officers on patrol
- Police liaison officers and community police officers come into schools and lessons
- Police to participate in more young people and community activities
- After school and youth clubs with police present
- Schemes to help young people find out more about what the police do/careers information
- Police liaison officer to provide positive feedback to students about the community
- Peer mentors in school
- Prejudice against young people – police need to stop stereotyping young people – not all young people are bad
- Young people should not be judged by their clothing for example hoodies – some people are asked to take hoods off even if they are not doing anything wrong
- Community projects involving police, young people and older people
- Joint celebration events
- Some young peoples opinions and views about the police are influenced by their parents
- If police saw 10 OAP's drinking coffee on the street they would not move them on therefore why do they move young people on that are doing the same
- Police to wear 'normal' clothes when participating in activities with young people
- Police should dress more casually on school visits so they are more approachable
- Young people to visit a prison/youth offending centre to see what it is like
- Work experience opportunities with the police
- Poster competition highlighting knife crime and the impact on both offenders and victims
- Produce a short film about being arrested and ASBO's
- Hold an anti-social behaviour week with police facilitating workshops
- Educate older people about what young people think – get young and old people working together
- Adults forget they were once young – more tolerance needed
- Peer pressure/bullying sometimes cause young people to commit anti social behaviour
- Police to participate in school lessons and attend assembly
- Young people need to respect the police
- Set up an 'ABC' Anti-bullying Council in schools – young people trained to offer support and help to other young people. Students would be able to approach the trained students in confidence if they have any problems. The trained students could wear ties and badges so that they can be easily recognised.

- More positive media about young people – only a small minority behave anti-socially
- More police in the area can lead to perception that there is more criminal activity in the area
- Community police officers around before and after school
- Police around 'hot spots' where young people go after school
- Teachers do not help to stop bullying

### **Key findings**

- A role reversal or job shadowing day would be beneficial to improve relationships and awareness of roles between the police and partner agencies and young people. Police open days and opportunities to find out more about the role of a police officer and possible career opportunities would also be of interest
- A mock arrest and a visit to a custody area or youth detention centre would be of interest to young people to help them to experience what it would feel like to go through the criminal justice system
- Real victims visiting schools to talk about their experience and how it has affected their lives would help young people to understand the implications and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Events and sporting activities involving the police and young people would help to create better relationships and make the police seem more approachable
- More police presence in schools would help to create better relationships. A workshop with the police and young people in schools to discuss ways to reduce antisocial behaviour and an ASB (Anti social behaviour) Week to raise awareness of the impact of antisocial behaviour and discuss how to resolve it
- Young people would like the police to wear more casual clothing in schools to make them appear more approachable and less intimidating
- More community meetings with the police and local people of all ages to discuss local issues and problems. This would help both young and old to understand each other's interests and concerns and help to promote intergenerational harmony. Organise events to bring all ages of the community together. Set up police and young people club to bring both together and discuss local issue