



MOVING FORWARD

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Introduction

The Force Forward campaign set out to engage young voters in the lead-up to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections.

Moving Forward is the culmination of this campaign. It is the result of a new way of working with young people. It has been created in partnership with young people. It contains their messages, voices, and priorities for the future.

MOVING FORWARD

Not many people voted in the PCC elections in November 2012. Fewer than 15% of voters turned out in the 41 English and Welsh police areas, which was the lowest turnout recorded in peacetime Britain.

Despite the low turnout, when we talked to young people and listened to their concerns, we found that they were very engaged in the issues. Their views challenged the stereotypes of young people that we see in the media. They were incredibly consistent about the changes they wanted to see.

Moving Forward provides a clear picture of their priorities for change, and what it will take to get them engaged in the next PCC elections in 2016. We hope it will inspire decision-makers to reflect, ask questions, and enter into further conversations with young people about the issues and the possible solutions.

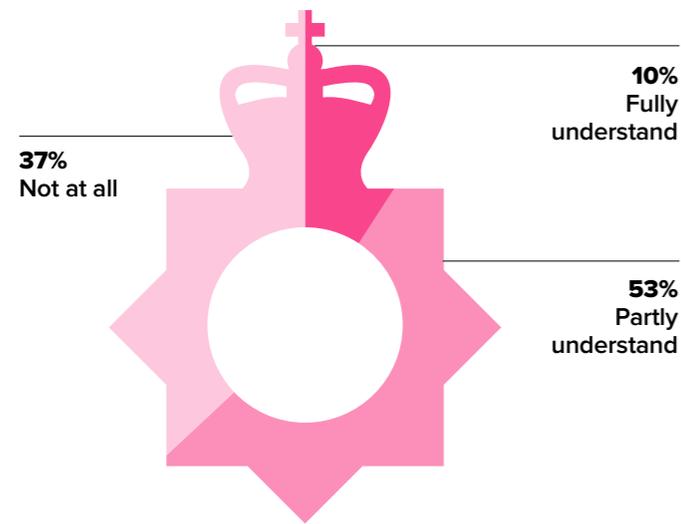
The Force Forward campaign was a project of the SHM Foundation with financial support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

THE SHM FOUNDATION aims to provide communities and individuals with the tools they need to develop innovative solutions to the challenges they face. The Foundation believes in taking risks and addressing issues which not been addressed by others. The SHM Foundation use its resources and financing to forge new alliances which, in turn, attract the resources and financing of other organisations.

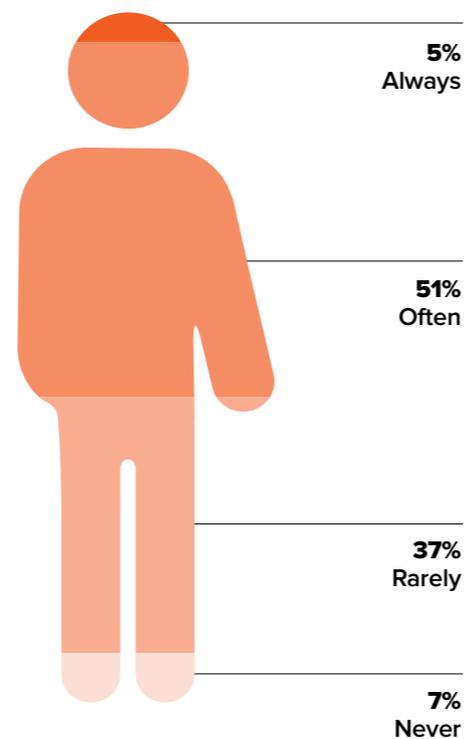
THE JOSEPH ROWNTREE CHARITABLE TRUST is a Quaker trust which seeks to transform the world by supporting people who address the root causes of conflict and injustice.

FORCE FORWARD SURVEY: WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

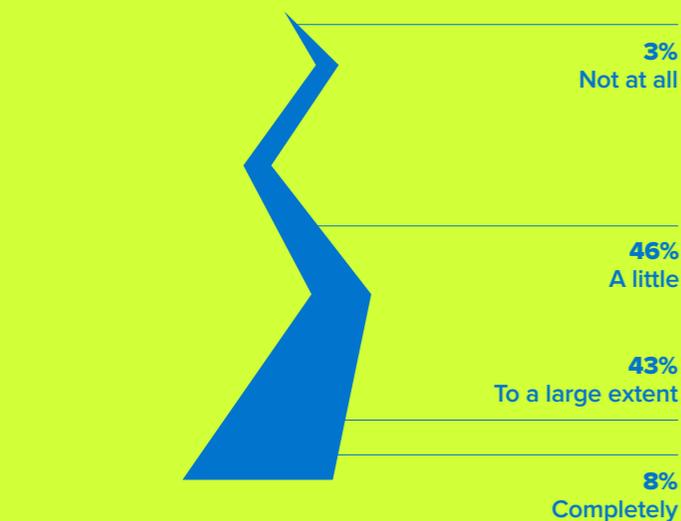
% WHO UNDERSTAND WHAT A POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER WILL DO.



% WHO THINK THE POLICE TREAT YOUNG PEOPLE FAIRLY.



% WHO BELIEVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND YOUNG PEOPLE IS BROKEN.



“I don't know who my local police officer is – we need to change that.”
— 19 years old, Somerset

“They need to integrate with the community more. Maybe have community days with officers. More police need to be on the streets.”
— 17 years old, Weston

% WHO THINK THAT THE POLICE RESPOND WELL TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

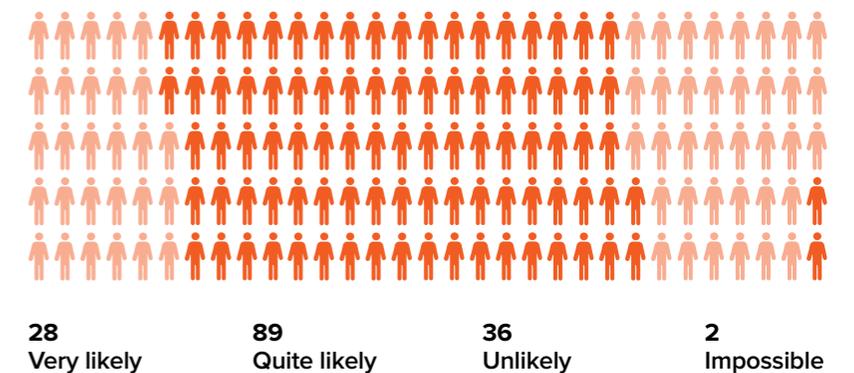


“I have experienced good and bad with the police. They have helped me personally but I have experienced them using force that I would consider too much on other people.”
— 20 years old, Bristol

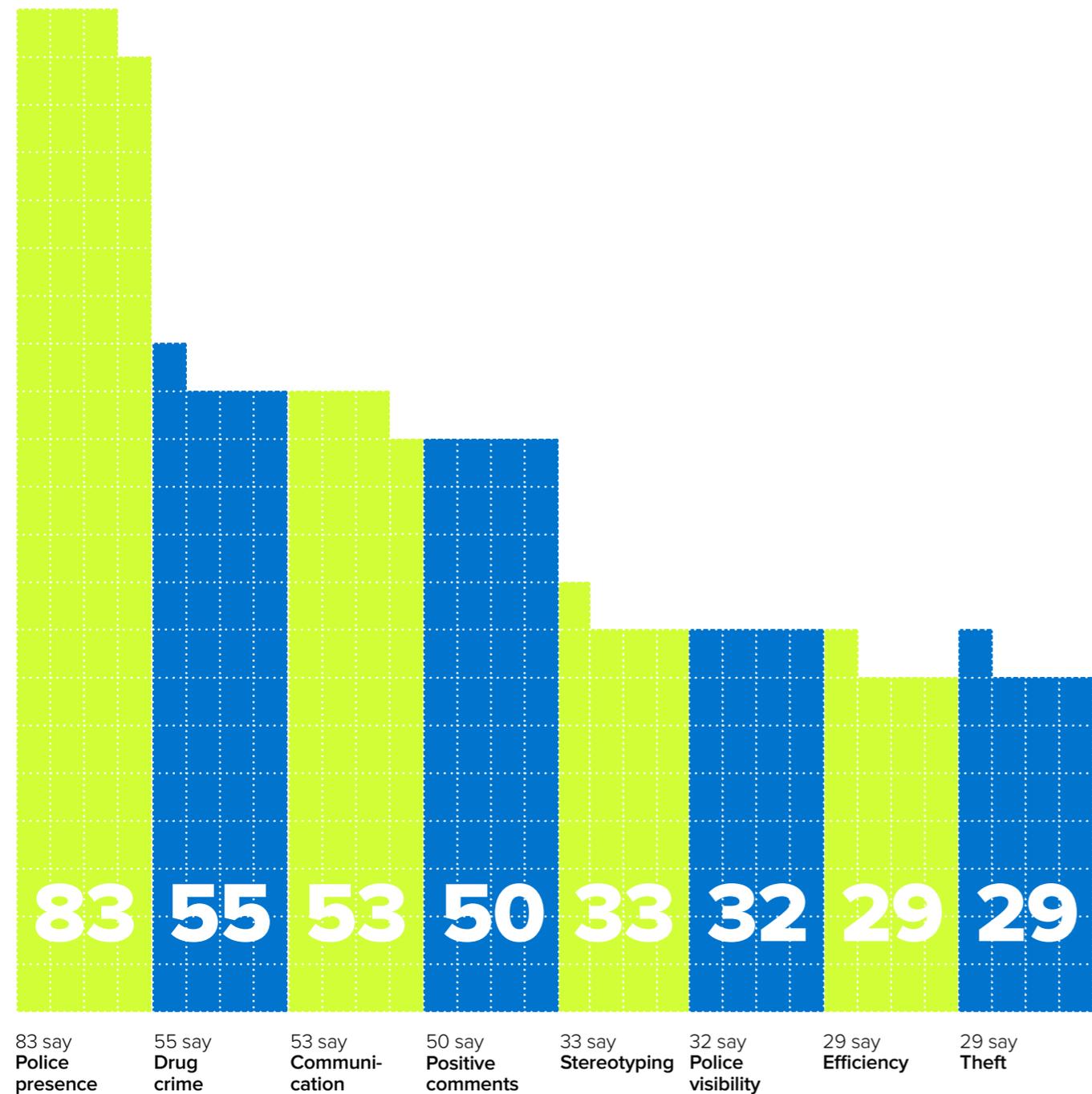
% WHO THINK THAT THE POLICE ACT DIFFERENTLY TOWARDS PEOPLE DEPENDING ON THEIR APPEARANCE.



NO. OF PEOPLE OUT OF 155 WHO THINK THERE WILL BE MORE RIOTS IF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND YOUNG PEOPLE DOESN'T CHANGE.

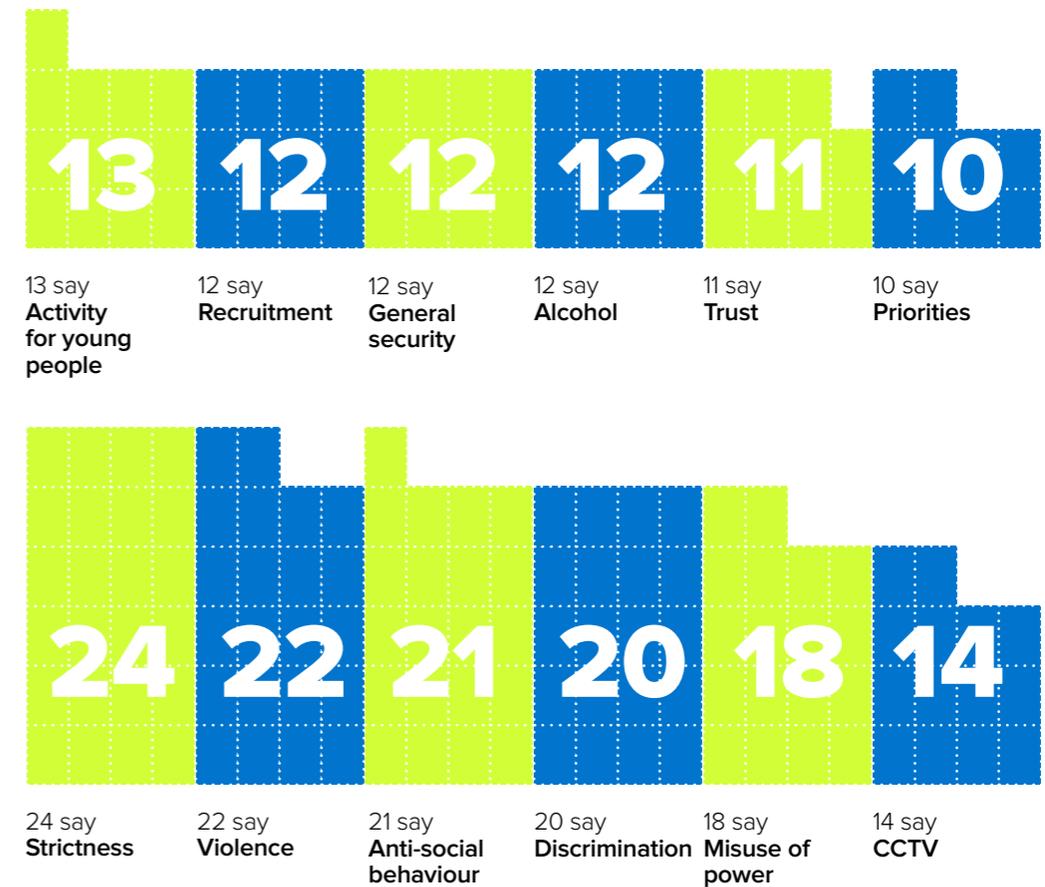


FORCE FORWARD POSTCARDS: TOP ISSUES RAISED



During the Force Forward campaign, postcards were used as a tool for listening to, and recording, young people's views about police and crime in their areas.

These postcards enabled the young campaigners to have constructive conversations with young people in their areas. This chart shows, at a glance, the issues that were most frequently mentioned on the postcards.



INSIGHT 1: WE ARE JUST AS CONCERNED AS OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITIES

We are victims of crime and we are affected by it. As young people, we are exposed to crime even more than other people, because we are more likely to be out on the streets with nowhere to go.

DRUG CRIME

This is our biggest concern. We want an end to the drug dealing, production and addiction we see in our communities. It ruins lives and leads to violence, instability and fear.

THEFT

As young people, we are often victims of muggings and burglaries. This is due to poor security and vigilance in student areas, and the fact that we are more likely than older people to be out at night.

VIOLENCE

We see a lot of conflict and violence on the streets, in our homes and in our peer groups. A lot of this is alcohol and drug-related.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We see vandalism, graffiti, noise and intimidating behaviour in our areas. This gives our neighbourhoods a bad name and makes us feel unsafe.

“Crime rates are fairly high in my area. A lot of stolen vehicles and drug hatred that result in violence.”
— 19 years old, Bradford

INSIGHT 2: WE SEE THE ROOT CAUSES MORE CLEARLY THAN THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE DECISIONS

We are very conscious of the root causes of crime in our communities, but we don't think that decision-makers always understand why things are happening in our communities. We can provide PCCs and other decision-makers with a different perspective on the causes of crime which will help to create better responses.



Some crime roots from social class/ status/ material deprivation – tackle these issues to prevent future criminals.

— 19 years old, Bradford



“I think police need to think about society and politics because of the fact that families fall apart and the children think they need to help because of money.”

— 14 years old, Leicester

POVERTY AND ECONOMIC NEED

Desperation, debt, and a lack of opportunity is leading people around us into crime. It needs to be recognised that sometimes people commit crime out of necessity.

UNSTABLE FAMILIES

Conflict in homes and family breakdown is becoming more frequent as a result of economic hardship. This can lead to violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and it can cause children to commit crime.

LACK OF POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We are more likely to get involved with crime when they do not have positive activities to engage with. The cuts to youth services have made this more of a problem.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION

This is at the root of a lot of the other crimes in our community. We want to see a greater focus on rehabilitation and cracking down on the most serious drug crime.

INSIGHT 3: CONTRARY TO POPULAR STEREOTYPES, WE WANT A STRONGER POLICE PRESENCE

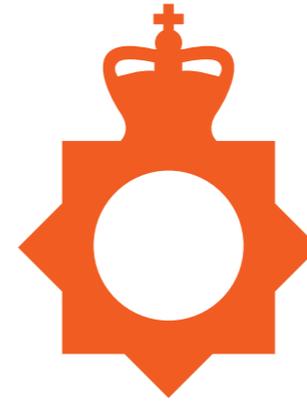
Contrary to the stereotypes in the media, we have a lot of positive things to say about police. Actually, the main change we want to see is a stronger police presence on our streets. Many of us feel unsafe where we live and we feel that serious issues are being overlooked by the police.

“Mugging, stealing, drugs, car crime and knife crime – nothing seems to happen to the people committing these crimes.”

— 23 years old, Leicester

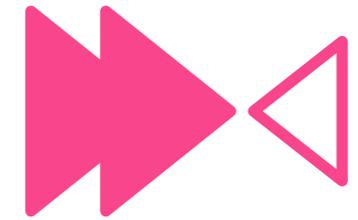
“I haven’t had the best upbringing, my family have been involved with the police a few times, however, despite all these times, the police force have always helped me. Thank you.”

— 14 years old, Leicester



STRONGER PRESENCE

We want to see more police and PCSOs in trouble spots and at night. There are still areas that are widely seen to be ‘no-go’ areas because they are too dangerous. We don’t think there should be any ‘no-go’ areas in our neighbourhoods.



FASTER RESPONSE & FOLLOW-UP

It can take too long for police to respond, or they won’t respond until the matter has escalated. It is hard to track what’s happened after you have reported an incident. This leads to a lack of faith and can make people take matters into their own hands.



FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS

We feel that sometimes the police are wasting time on the wrong things, and not being focussed enough on the serious issues that we are concerned about. For instance, police waste time questioning young people unnecessarily when they are doing nothing wrong.



CCTV AND TECHNOLOGY

We know that it’s not possible to have police officers in all places at all times. Many of us would feel safer if there was more effective use of CCTV in places where we feel vulnerable.

INSIGHT 4: POLICING WILL NEVER BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS WE FIX THE BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

A major priority for us is to fix the relationship between the police and the community. At the moment there is a 'wall of silence' between us and the police. Many of us feel that we are unfairly stereotyped by officers in our areas. When we see, or hear about, police being corrupt or misusing their power, this damages our trust in the institution.

TACKLE STEREOTYPING

We often feel unfairly targeted by police officers on the basis of our age, appearance and what they wear. This is not a minority issue, but is experienced by young people on a wide scale.

CRACK DOWN ON DISCRIMINATION

There are still instances of discrimination and misuse of power against certain minority groups. We need to see that this will not be tolerated and visible action must be taken.

CREATE POSITIVE REASONS TO INTERACT

We want to have more positive interactions with the police in our neighbourhoods, to be familiar with our local police officers, and to be able to approach them without fear.

GIVE THE COMMUNITY A CHANNEL FOR FEEDBACK

There is a real need to give young people and the wider community a clear channel to give feedback about police behaviour and get that feedback heard.

EDUCATION ABOUT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We want to see more education to enable young people to understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to the police force, what they can expect, and what they may have a right to report as mistreatment.



The police are good overall. It's just some officers don't think the law applies to them, they also intimidate you if you want to complain.

— 22 years old, Bradford

"Police can be very intimidating. Working on a friendlier image would help people feel comfortable approaching them."

— 18 years old, Leicester

THE BIG PICTURE: 9 PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE

The Force Forward campaign invited young people to identify key priorities for change in relation to crime and policing in their areas. Across all three police areas, the top 9 priorities for change were:

1

STRENGTHEN POLICE PRESENCE, PARTICULARLY IN TROUBLE SPOTS AND 'NO GO' AREAS



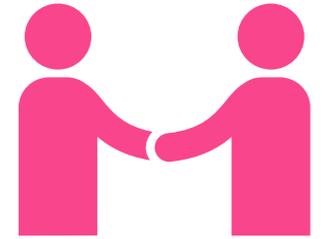
2

ADDRESS SERIOUS DRUG CRIME, WHICH IS DESTROYING OUR COMMUNITIES



3

FIX THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY



4

IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS. WE FEEL THAT POLICE DON'T ALWAYS FOCUS ON THE RIGHT THINGS



5

TACKLE STEREOTYPING. WE FEEL UNFAIRLY TARGETED BY POLICE



6

ADDRESS THEFT, PARTICULARLY IN STUDENT COMMUNITIES



7

CRACK DOWN ON DISCRIMINATION AND MISUSE OF POWER, WHICH IS STILL EXPERIENCED BY CERTAIN GROUPS AND DESTROYS TRUST IN THE FORCE



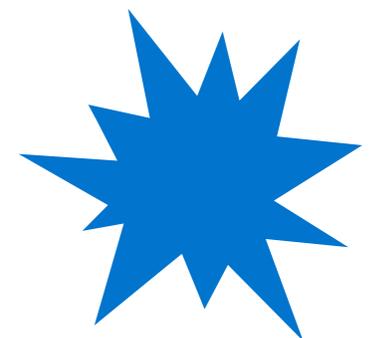
8

ADDRESS THE VIOLENCE AROUND US, WHICH WE SEE ON OUR STREETS, IN OUR HOMES AND PEER GROUPS



9

RESPOND TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, WHICH DRAGS OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS DOWN AND MAKES US FEEL INTIMIDATED



WHAT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS HAVE SAID

Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for West Yorkshire:

“Both during the election campaign and importantly since I have been elected, the SHM Foundation has provided invaluable opportunities to facilitate dialogue between myself and young people. This has provided a much greater understanding of our issues and concerns, and important insight to develop our thinking around attitudes to policing and crime prevention in regards to young people. I look forward to continued engagement of this kind.”

Sir Clive Loader
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Leicestershire:

“This process gave me an invaluable insight into the views and perceptions regarding policing of this important group. The feedback received has been provided to the Chief Constable for him to address the issues raised it has also informed my Police and Crime Plan.

I am fully supportive of SHM Foundation’s plan to set up a Youth Commission and I look forward to greater involvement and engagement with young people through this approach during my term of office.”

Sue Mountstevens
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Avon & Somerset:

“This is why I became Police and Crime Commissioner and the process has been truly inspiring. The hope is very much that this work can be built on, that more young people and more youth organisations can share in this new way of working and communicating between young people, the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.”

CALL TO ACTION

We urge Police and Crime Commissioners and decision-makers to use **Moving Forward** as a tool for reflection, challenge and further dialogue. These questions may be a useful guide:

HOW WELL DO YOUR PLANS AND POLICIES FOR POLICE AND CRIME ADDRESS THE PRIORITIES SET OUT HERE?

WHERE ARE THE GAPS IN WHAT YOU ARE ALREADY DOING AND WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO GO EVEN FURTHER?

HOW CAN YOU USE MOVING FORWARD AS THE BASIS FOR A FULLER DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE ISSUES AND THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS IN YOUR AREA?

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SHAPING PRIORITIES FOR POLICING AND CRIME IN YOUR AREAS?

HOW CAN YOU ENSURE THAT THERE IS A CLEAR CHANNEL THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN USE TO GIVE THEIR FEEDBACK ABOUT POLICING AND CRIME GOING FORWARD?

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE POLICE?

If you are using Moving Forward we would love to know! Please get in touch at info@shmfoundation.org to tell us about your progress.

ESTABLISHING A YOUTH COMMISSION ON POLICE AND CRIME

The Force Forward campaign showed us the power of a new way of working with young people. The SHM Foundation wants to take this further.

We now plan to develop a 'Youth Commission on Police and Crime' and pilot this in a number of local areas. A number of PCCs have already agreed to take the first step and join us in this pilot.

The core purpose will be to enable young people to **support, challenge and inform** the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner in their local area.

The key objectives will be to:

1

MAKE SURE YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW WHO THEIR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER IS AND WHAT THEY ARE THERE TO DO

2

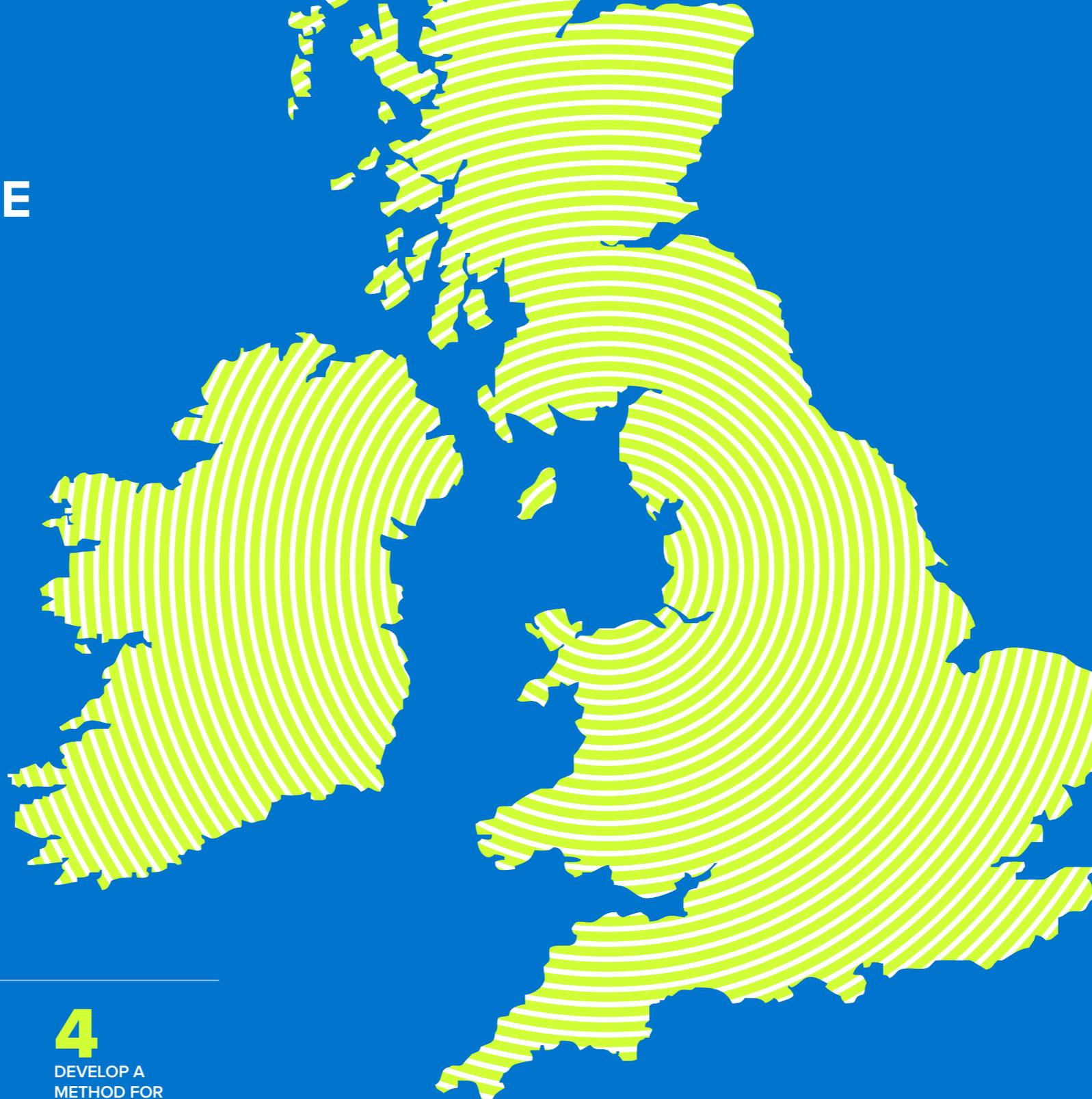
CREATE AN EFFECTIVE WAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH THEIR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

3

ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO INFLUENCE THE STRATEGY FOR CRIME AND POLICING AS PARTNERS TO THE PCC

4

DEVELOP A METHOD FOR DOING THIS THAT CAN BE REPLICATED IN OTHER AREAS



ABOUT FORCE FORWARD

The Force Forward campaign was created by the SHM Foundation Political Academy. Within the Political Academy, young people have the opportunity to create campaigns to address the social and political issues that concern them. In total, Force Forward engaged over 4000 young people, both online and face-to-face, raising their awareness of the elections and getting them involved in the debate about the future of crime and policing.

OUR APPROACH

- **Young people led the campaign:** 44 young volunteers aged 16-25 were recruited to work on the campaign and reach out to other young people in their local areas.
- **Force Forward debates:** We ran 11 Force Forward events at local colleges and universities which brought together young people with the candidates for PCC in their areas to debate the priorities for change.
- **Force Forward postcards:** We used postcards as a tool for asking young people about their priorities for crime and policing. We gathered a total of 496 postcards over the course of the campaign.
- **Force Forward survey:** We ran an online survey on our blog at www.forceforward.co.uk and gathered 163 responses from young people.

To view **Moving Forward** online please go to www.forceforward.co.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to extend a warm thanks to the following organisations for their support of the Force Forward campaign:

Bradford College
Leeds City College
Queensbury School, Bradford
Leeds University Union
Leeds Met Students' Union
Sunrise Radio, Bradford
BCB Radio, Bradford
South Leicestershire College
De Montfort University Politics Society
Leicester YMCA
Samworth Enterprise Academy, Leicester
Bristol City College
City College Bath
Weston College
Ujima Radio, Bristol
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
Avon and Somerset
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
Leicestershire
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
West Yorkshire

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