PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Leicester PAC Project: The Trust Gap

The Summary



YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

COMMUNITY FUND

What is the Peer Action Collective (PAC)?

Funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and the #iwill Fund (a joint investment between The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport), PAC brings together young people affected by violence to take the lead through peer research and social action.

We are the Leicester PAC Team

In Leicester, PAC is delivered by a partnership, including:

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN)
Young Leicestershire
Leicestershire Police
St Matthew's Big Local
Team Hub

The Leicester PAC Team includes 12 PAC Leads, aged 16 – 20, who have lived experience of violence and policing, and the PAC Leads are supported by a Youth Action Lead.

We are focusing the research on East and West Leicester, where local data shows higher levels of violence. By focusing on these areas, we hope to gain valuable insights into children and young people's (CYP) experiences and perspectives of policing within their communities.

The PAC Leads are from East and West Leicester and have lived experience of violence and policing themselves, including direct and/or indirect experiences. The research project focuses on understanding CYP's lived experiences of policing, their perceptions of police presence in their communities and their ideas for improving relationships, communication and trust between CYP and the police.

CYP have been involved in PAC from the very beginning. They helped shape the project, recruit the PAC Leads and design the research. CYP will continue to help guide the project as it develops.





Introducing the Leicester PAC Team and their first research project. Press play below to watch...



In Leicester, we wanted to find out...

How can the police and children and young people build better communication and trust within neighbourhoods?

To answer this question, we...

Spoke to 88 young people across East and West Leicester, in group or 1-1 settings

We asked questions about...

- **What community means to them**
- **Where they see police in their neighbourhoods**
- **If they trust the police**
- **If they would feel comfortable speaking to the police**
- **How trust and communication could be made better between children and young people and the police**

Trust on a Spectrum

Family whispers what to believe,
peers pass down the tales they've heard,
a screen lights up at 2 AM
a stranger's story becomes the word.

Some officers wave, some walk on by,
one smiles soft, one shouts too fast,
"depends on who you meet," they say,
trust built new, then bound to the past.

Town centre, park, the school gate line
presence read as *something's wrong*,
not safety walking in the street,
but sirens dressed in a warning song.

Years stack up in a young mind's ledger,
cuffs too tight, a voice not heard,
each account another brick
in a wall no rebuild has stirred.

Confidence bleeds when no one follows through,
when reports go quiet, filed and gone,
"they'll do nothing," the whisper spreads,
and the silence teaches to carry on.

Don't be the one who talks, they say,
don't wear the label, snitch, alone,
a word can travel further than truth,
Can turn a name into a target.

Fear trails you to the corner shop,
who's watching when you stop to speak,
a badge nearby, a glance held long,
enough to make the brave feel weak.

Retaliation waits in the wings,
not just for you but who you love,
so silence becomes the safer choice,
even when it doesn't feel enough.

Yet still they gather, still they speak,
88 voices, spectrum wide,
not asking to be simply policed,
asking to be seen, and heard, and tried.

Our future. Our voice. Our action.

A poem inspired by the findings by

Aniqa Rashid,

PAC Lead

How Do Young People Feel About Police Presence?

Young people most commonly reported seeing police officers in town centres, schools and parks. Whilst these were often the places where police were most visible, police presence was often linked to crime or disorder rather than being seen as being normal.

"I just feel like when there are police involved in the town centre, there's probably something going on" – Interview participant

Views on police presence varied across participants. Some young people felt comfortable speaking to officers in certain locations, like schools and youth clubs. Others felt uncomfortable speaking to the police in public, especially if they were worried about what others may think about the interaction. Additionally, views appeared to differ between East and West Leicester, with participants from East Leicester being generally more likely to identify areas they were comfortable speaking to the police, whereas participants from West Leicester were more likely to be uncomfortable across multiple settings, which may be due to participants from East Leicester generally having less negative views of the police.

"With the schools and youth clubs, I feel like people would be more comfortable there" – Interview participant

Even though many children and young people had mixed views of the police, a lot of them expressed a desire for more police presence within their neighbourhoods. Increased police presence was often linked with worries about safety and a belief that a stronger police presence in the community could help improve relationships with young people.

"I just think there's not enough round this area for how much crime and stuff goes on"– Interview participant

What Influences Trust in the Police?

The research found that trust in the police is shaped by two overarching influences:

Personal Experiences of Policing

Family, Social & Community Context

Personal Experiences of Policing

This was found to be particularly important. How CYP experienced interactions with officers, including how they felt they were treated and how they observed officers behaving, could strengthen or weaken trust and contribute to wider perceptions of the police.

These findings highlight the importance of positive interactions between the police and CYP. Being treated with respect and fairness, and feeling that officers were responsive to their needs, could help to build trust. Importantly, perceptions could also be shaped without direct interaction, with officers' observed behaviour and body language influencing whether they were seen as approachable. This demonstrates the importance of both direct interactions with CYP and the way officers present themselves within their wider presence around CYP.

Family, Social and Community Context

These were also found to shape CYP's views of the police. These included the experiences and attitudes of family and friends, what they heard about policing in their communities, wider relationships between the police and local communities, and content encountered on social media. Through these influences, CYP could develop strong perceptions of the police even where they had little or no direct contact with officers.

The significance of community within this was particularly important, as participants described community as a source of belonging, support and identity and was predominantly understood in relation to where they lived. How the police were perceived to interact with and respond to these communities could therefore have a strong influence on CYP's views of policing.

These findings demonstrate the significance of building positive relationships between the police, CYP and the wider community in supporting trust. They also point to the value of helping CYP understand police practices and procedures, particularly where these may be viewed negatively or lack context when encountered through social media.

Negative Experience Case Study
Participant 60, Female, Aged 15

Participant 60 described a series of negative experiences with the police that appeared to significantly affect their trust and confidence in policing. This case study highlights how repeated experiences of perceived unfairness, not being listened to and dissatisfaction with police responses can negatively affect trust in the police. For this participant, their experiences appear to have reinforced a long-standing belief that the police do not listen to or support young people effectively.

One of the most significant experiences involved being invited to what they believed would be a voluntary interview, only to be arrested upon arrival at the police station. Reflecting on the experience, the participant explained:

*"They said they was coming for a **voluntary interview**…I got there with my mum and **they arrested me, put me in the cells for six and a half hours**"*

The experience was described as highly distressing:

*"I hated it**. I was crying my eyes out**…Why say it's a voluntary interview and then just arrest us?...I didn't like that. I think that was very rude. **It was just wrong**"*

The participant went on to describe how the arrest reinforced distrust in the police from previous interactions:

*"**I already didn't have that trust**…That was my first ever time getting arrested. But **I've had multiple negative experiences before that as well with the police**, just not helping and listening at all"*

Participant 60 then described an ongoing situation which involved a violent altercation, where they felt that despite being injured and requiring hospital treatment, responsibility had been placed disproportionately on them and a family member, whilst others involved faced no consequences:

*"..she came from behind once and I got rushed to hospital, but only I was charged for it…my [family member] got charged for a public fight for saying "get off of her"…they edited the video and gave it into the police**, there was more put on me and none of them got charged**"*

This experience appeared to reinforce a belief that the police were unwilling to listen to young people or take their concerns seriously:

*"**I feel uncomfortable asking police for help** because I don't think they help on my behalf…**they don't take it seriously"***

Years after the incident, the participant continues to feel frustrated by the perceived lack of progress and accountability by the police:

*"**I am still angry about it** because still nothing's been done yet"*

They also described ongoing anxiety and difficulties following the incident:

*"I'll break down and have a panic attack because **I've got that bad PTSD from it all**"*

Positive Experience Case Study
Participant 67, Female, Aged 17

Participant 67 described having a generally positive perception of the police and feeling comfortable approaching officers for help. Their account suggests that this view was formed, at least in part, by their own observations of how police behaved and interacted with those in their community.

They described seeing officers in public as friendly and approachable:

*"…they seem **quite friendly** and stuff. If I had anything, **I would be able to talk to them**"*

The participant also recalled recently witnessing two police officers who were responding to an intoxicated individual shouting and swearing on the street. Rather than escalating the situation by engaging with the individual, the participant described how the officers remained calm while continuing to monitor what was happening:

*"…they were just standing and just completely ignoring him…they didn't want to give him attention because the man was clearly looking for attention…**I think they dealt with it the right way…It was under control**"*

What is particularly notable about this account, was how the influence of this observation was evident in how the participant perceived other police encounters. When shown a photograph of a man being arrested by two officers in their interview, the participant drew on the previous experience they had witnessed to make sense of the image. They perceived the man in the image as being arrested due to having been drunk and behaving aggressively:

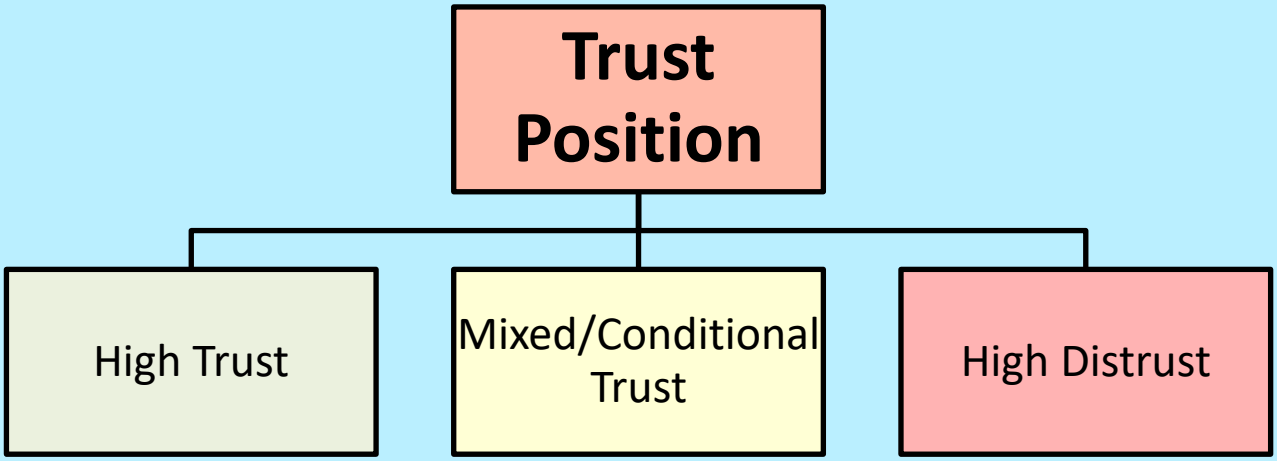
"I could probably imagine, based on these scenarios, that the man getting arrested is probably going to be screaming and swearing. Most of the time, they'd probably be drunk"

They also assumed that the officers in the photo were responding appropriately:

*"The police probably just seem **very calm and professional** and just allowing a person to scream at them. But that's just based on experiences that I've seen"*

The participant's account demonstrates how a positive experience of policing can influence both wider perceptions of the police and trust in their actions. After witnessing officers calmly and professionally manage a challenging situation, the participant then drew on this experience when interpreting a photograph of an unrelated arrest with no context. This demonstrates how police encounters can influence how subsequent police behaviour is interpreted and contribute to an expectation that officers will act appropriately or not.

Trust Position



Trust categories were developed through the analysis of participants' accounts, based on patterns identified across the data.

The findings suggest that CYP's levels of trust reflected the influences they experienced – their personal experiences of policing and their family, social and community context - and whether these contributed positively or negatively to their views of the police.

Participants who described the **highest levels of trust or distrust** often described multiple positive or negative experiences that contributed to their position.

Participants exposed to a mixture of positive and negative influences were more likely to **describe mixed or conditional levels of trust**, which could vary depending on the situation or officer involved. Most participants seemed to fall into this position.

Participants expressing the highest level of distrust were more commonly from West Leicester. However, views varied within all areas, highlighting how different experiences within these two overarching influences could contribute to different levels of trust.

High Trust Case Study
Participant 39, Male, Aged 20

This participant consistently expressed high levels of trust in the police, describing positive experiences with local officers and a belief that the police play an important role in keeping communities safe. Unlike many others, this participant reported no negative personal experiences with the police and felt that they had been treated fairly. Positive attitudes towards the police within their family also supported their views.

Positive relationships with neighbourhood officers appeared to play an important role in shaping these views. The participant described regular contact with both police officers and PCSOs within the community, explaining:

*"There used to be a man who used to come to my house, a police officer, and **he used to buzz around the community, check on people**"*

They also described current neighbourhood officers as visible and engaged within the community, noting that officers regularly visited the local youth club and:

*"They normally do a **good job around the community**"*

As well as describing positive interactions with officers:

*"Sometimes you have **good conversations as well with police officers**"*

Participant 39 also recognised that trust in the police is often shaped by upbringing and wider social influences. Whilst describing positive attitudes towards the police in their family, they noted that views among young people in their community were more mixed:

*"I think when it comes to the older generation, like **my mum and aunties and stuff like that, they say good things about the police. They love the police**… **I love the police**. But when it comes **to our generation**…I wouldn't say that we don't chat badly to them, but we also don't really love them, we don't like them…**I know it's 50/50 between them. It's not all good**"*

Despite having peers who had experienced police intervention and criminal justice involvement, the participant described distancing themselves from these influences. Reflecting on peers who had been arrested or imprisoned, they explained:

*"It definitely changes my perspective for them, not for the police…**I'm not really hating the police, the police have to do their job**"*

This is particularly notable given the participants' earlier reflections on the influence of family and community attitudes towards the police. Whilst they recognised that many young people in their community held mixed or negative views, family influence appeared to play a more significant role in shaping the participant's perception of the police. Participant 39 referred to positive messages from their mother and wider family:

*"**My mum is a major player in how I am right now**… I don't follow what my community says about the police, **I follow what I believe**"*

This suggests that for Participant 39, familial influences and personal experiences of policing were more influential than peer experiences or wider community narratives, contributing to their position at the high-trust end of the spectrum.

Mixed/Conditional Trust Case Study
Participant 10, Non-Binary, Aged 17

Participant 10's account illustrates how different experiences of policing could contribute to mixed or conditional trust. Rather than viewing the police consistently positively or negatively, their trust varied depending on the circumstances and the individual officer involved.

Summarising their overall view of the police, participant 10 explained:

*"It's like hit or miss with some officers, like, **you meet the really nice ones, you meet the not so nice ones**…I think it's more of a 50-50 split"*

Unlike participants at the high or low trust position, participant 10 recognised both positive and negative experiences of policing. They described having generally positive experiences when seeking help from the police:

*"With feeling comfortable with asking them for help, I've done it on multiple occasions, for myself and others, and **those experiences have been mostly positive…they've been understanding for the majority of the time**"*

They also viewed many officers as approachable and described positive everyday interactions:

*"A lot of them I've met, **they've been decent, like they're always down for a chat**…sometimes me and my friends, if we see a police car, **we'll wave at them, and they'll wave back**"*

However, the positive experiences sat alongside negative encounters:

*"I've met some police officers that have been **actually caring and understanding and have fully been reasonable**. Whereas I've had it before as well where it was **just having people just shout at me**…I get you're here to enforce the law, but you don't even know if I've done anything. Do no talk down to me"*

Participant 10 also described situations in which they felt police were too quick to make assumptions about young people:

*"**Some of them just jump automatically to assumptions**…I was walking with my friends…and then as I'm walking, I just hear a police officer in the distance just shouting, 'stop right there', and I'm like 'sorry, sorry, I'm not involved…"*

Whilst Participant 10 generally felt comfortable approaching the police, they also identified wider concerns surrounding fairness and how some groups are treated. In particular, they raised concerns about interactions between the police and people experiencing mental health crises:

*"I've noticed that, especially with mental health cases, they are sometimes treated somewhat as criminals…Sometimes even while being detained by police under a Mental Health Section, **it's more so like they're being punished rather than being helped**"*

However, Participant 10 resisted negative experiences and perceptions from shaping their view of all police officers:

*"I don't really see anything necessarily against them because **I'm not just going to judge a book by its cover**"*

Participant 10's account demonstrates how trust can remain balanced between positive and negative influences. Positive influences had increased their confidence in individual officers, whilst concerns around assumptions, fairness and the treatment of vulnerable people prevented trust from becoming wholly positive.

High Distrust Case Study
Participant 79, Male, Aged 17

This participant's account represents an example of high distrust towards the police. Throughout the interview, they described a series of negative experiences which appeared to shape their perceptions of police. Whilst they felt comfortable approaching PCSOs, they drew a clear distinction between PSCOs and police officers:

*"'I just feel like I can approach a PCSO, but not an officer, because **officers are just a bit arrogant**"*

The participant did not believe young people were treated fairly by the police and described experiences that they felt were unnecessarily forceful:

*"Because they actually **put the cuffs so tight around your wrist for no reason**, innit? And just **drag you around** and that"*

They then went on to describe an encounter from childhood that has remained with them:

*"I was very young, innit? I was twelve or something…but I didn't even do anything…**The officer kicked me in my legs and made me faceplant, and then jumped on top of me**"*

The participant also recalled being arrested and later released without understanding why:

*"…arrested me for no reason, yeah? Brought me to the station, then released me…**I just didn't like the way I was treated**"*

Rather than being viewed as isolated incidents, these experiences appeared to contribute to a wider distrust of the police. When discussing trust, the participant was clear:

*"I just don't feel like I can trust them anymore. **I just don't trust them at all**, to be honest"*

The impact of these experiences appeared to go beyond a loss of trust and had become associated with feelings of fear and vulnerability around police officers:

*"Yeah, I feel like when I see officers, **sometimes I fear for my life**"*

When asked why, they responded:

*"Because the Metropolitan Police **traumatised me quite crazy**. I just don't like them…**They just scare me**"*

The trauma associated with these experiences remained highly emotional. Discussing their encounters, the participant stated:

*"**I was very, very traumatised**. I didn't want to come into contact with the police again because I was just a youth, and I don't feel like there was a need to take it to the levels it was taken to. And **it just scared me**"*

Even years later, the experience still affected them:

*"When I come to think of it, **it makes me sad sometimes**"*

What Affects Willingness to Communicate With the Police?

The findings showed that trust can influence whether a young person feels comfortable approaching the police, but other factors were also important:

The Nature/Seriousness of the Situation
and
Communication Barriers:
Being Labelled a "Snitch"
Fear of Retaliation
Fear of Being Seen Talking to the Police
Confidentiality Concerns

This demonstrates how even young people who trust the police may still be reluctant to speak to them if they are worried about how others will react, fear negative consequences or lack confidence in the confidentiality of their conversation.

What Affects Willingness to Communicate With the Police?

The Nature/Seriousness of the Situation

Many participants explained that whether they would contact the police depended on the situation. Even some young people who reported low levels of trust said they would seek police help in serious situations where somebody was at immediate risk of harm.

"When it comes to situations like a guy getting stabbed, for example, of course I would call the ambulance or the police because that guy's life is in danger…But when it comes to drugs, whatever, their own stuff…that is not my business" – Interview participant

Communication Barrier: *Being Labelled a "Snitch"*

A common concern was being labelled a "snitch" by peers or others in the community. Many young people felt that speaking to the police could lead others to assume they were reporting information or going against people around them. This fear created a barrier to seeking help, sharing concerns, or engaging with the police at all

"everybody's like 'oh my mum didn't raise a snitch'. Everybody doesn't want to be a snitch" -Workshop participant

Communication Barrier: *Fear of Retaliation*

Some participants were worried that speaking to the police could lead to negative consequences from others. This included concerns about them or their family being targeted by individuals involved in criminal activity, as well as fears about how others in their community might react.

"Because if you grass, then, yeah, you might…get in trouble" – Interview participant

What Affects Willingness to Communicate With the Police?

Communication Barrier: *Fear of Being Seen Speaking to the Police*

Many participants were concerned about being seen speaking to police officers in public. Some felt this could attract unwanted attention, lead to judgement from others or create assumptions that they were providing information to the police or that they were in trouble.

"I feel like once you've become a so-called associate with the police…people no longer trust you because they believe that you are working with the police" – Workshop participant

Communication Barrier: *Confidentiality Concerns*

Participants also raised concerns about confidentiality. Some questioned whether information shared with the police would remain private and worried about who might be told about their conversations. Concerns included information being shared with parents, family members or others.

"I think it's that thing about confidentiality and if they're going to bring parents involved and going to their houses and stuff like that. Like how confidential is it?"-Interview participant

Willingness to Communicate Case Study, Participant 39, Male, Aged 20

As outlined earlier in the report, Participant 39 was identified as falling into a position of high trust with the police. Throughout their interview, they described positive experiences with the police and trusted officers to respond appropriately when needed. Despite their positive views, the participant still described circumstances in which they would be reluctant to communicate with the police. This demonstrates that trust alone does not determine whether a young person is willing to engage with the police.

When discussing criminal activity within the community, the participant explained that involving the police could result in negative consequences for those who provide information:

*"You know, when you involve the police, sometimes with people like them, they cause you trouble. So, you keep silent. I know it's not a good thing, but **you always keep silent because you want to protect yourself**"*

The participant explained that concerns around retaliation could discourage young people from coming forward:

*"They don't want the police to know what they've been up to, **and if you tell them what they've been doing, it will cause problems for you**"*

They also described concerns about the safety of family members:

*"Because **you've got to protect yourself**. You know these people, and the thing is, you don't want to get involved because you know **they can go after your family**"*

Importantly, these concerns were not linked to a lack of trust in the police. Instead, they reflected a belief that there are limits to what the police can do to keep people safe after information has been shared. Reflecting on this, Participant 39 stated:

*"**Because even though you have to trust the police, the police can't do everything**. I'll be honest with you, **the police can't protect you from everything**"*

This was reinforced when the participant reflected on the realities of living within a community and the potential consequences of speaking out:

*"You got to sometimes tell the police there is stuff going on within our community, but you have also got to know that you've got to protect yourself, that's all. **Because people are people sometimes, and they will come for you if you do something bad to them**"*

The participant's willingness to communicate was also influenced by the nature and seriousness of the situation, whilst they were reluctant to become involved in issues they viewed as personal matters, they felt different when someone was at risk of serious harm:

*"When it comes to situations like a guy getting stabbed, for example, of course I would call the ambulance or the police because that guy's life is in danger…but **when it comes to business, when it comes to drugs, whatever, their own stuff, no one is getting killed or whatever, that is not my business**"*

What Could Help Improve Trust and Communication?

Young people identified several ways that relationships between young people and the police could be improved. Many of these suggestions directly addressed the trust influences identified through the research. The solutions identified included:

Building Positive Relationships Through Engagement
Improving Education and Awareness About Policing
Learning From The PCSO Approach
Improve Police Communication and Interaction with CYP
Improve Police Training and Understanding of CYP
Increasing Representation and Cultural Understanding Within The Police

Building Positive Relationships Through Engagement

The research highlighted the importance of regular, positive contact between young people and the police. Many participants felt that trust is more likely to develop when young people meet officers in everyday settings, rather than only during incidents or enforcement situations. Suggestions included activities, workshops, and greater police involvement in communities, schools and youth settings.

"The police should do activities with young people, I guess. Activities that gain trust for them" – Interview participant

Improving Education and Awareness About Policing

Many participants felt that young people are often influenced by stories from family, friends and social media, without having many opportunities to learn about policing directly. Participants suggested providing more information about what police officers do, how policing works and the role officers play in supporting communities as a way to improve trust and communication.

"Just education and stuff like that. Just getting more aware of what the police do and stuff like that. Just knowing what the police's jobs are. It's not that they just arrest people" – Interview participant

What Could Help Improve Trust and Communication?

Learning From The PCSO Approach

Findings demonstrated that some young people viewed PCSOs more positively than police officers. Participants felt that police officers could build stronger relationships with young people by adopting some of the qualities associated with the PCSO approach, such as being more visible, approachable and engaged within communities.

"I would like police to be more like them [PCSOs]…I want them to be more involved in the community and make It safer and care-free"
– Interview participant

Improve Police Communication and Interaction with CYP

Young people frequently highlighted the importance of respectful, approachable and empathetic interactions. Participants wanted officers to listen, explain their actions and engage with young people in a way that feels less intimidating. Many felt that positive day-to-day interactions could make it easier to build trust over time.

"I think it's just the tone that the police use and if they're having a casual conversation and being more interactive…just say like hello, like good morning…polite and respectful…the more you're being kind to me, the more I will learn" – Interview participant

What Could Help Improve Trust and Communication?

Improve Police Training and Understanding of CYP

Many participants felt that police officers would benefit from additional training focused on working with CYP. Suggested areas included mental health, de-escalation, understanding CYP's experiences and improving responses to vulnerable individuals.

"They just train for like adults, really. They don't really train for kids. They get trained for the worst situation, so when they get into a situation that needs to be heated down or cooled down, they just go straight headfirst"

– Workshop participant

Increasing Representation and Cultural Understanding

Participants frequently highlighted the importance of police officers reflecting the communities they serve. Representation was discussed in relation to ethnicity, gender, age and cultural understanding. Participants suggested that younger officers, female officers and officers from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities may help improve trust and communication by increasing relatability and reducing the perceived divide between CYP and the police.

"It lacks diversity and there's a lack of representation for like the black community or like Asians and Muslim officers"

– Workshop participant

Conclusion

The research demonstrates that CYP's trust in the police is shaped by both their experiences of policing and the wider family, social and community influences around them. These influences can build, weaken or create conditional trust, while willingness to communicate is further shaped by the situation and barriers relating to safety, confidentiality and community perceptions.

Importantly, the findings also highlight opportunities for change. CYP consistently emphasised the value of positive relationships, greater understanding, respectful and approachable communication, enhanced training and police representation that reflects the communities they serve.

Building trust and communication with the police is therefore not about a single intervention, but about creating consistent, positive experiences and relationships that enable CYP to feel understood, supported and confident engaging with the police.

So...What's Next?

Sharing Our Findings

PAC Leads presented the findings of the research to the Force Executive Board in August 2026 to support discussion and action around the issues and solutions identified by CYP. The Board will be providing a response to the full report. The findings of the report will also be shared across the wider VRN Partnership.

Changemakers and Social Action

The project will move into its next phase through the recruitment of 35 Changemakers, who will work together with the PAC Team to develop a Social Action project. The findings from this research project will inform what our Social Action will look like, turning different perspectives and lived experiences into youth-led projects that create and sustain positive change in relationships between CYP and the police, ensuring young people's voices are at the heart of preventing violence and strengthening communities across Leicester.

Survey & Phase 2

A survey will be developed and distributed to build on the findings from Project 1, engaging a wider range of CYP and strengthening the evidence base for future work. There is also a second research project that will dig deeper into the findings from Project 1, and strengthen our Social Action.

My Journey as a PAC lead

Surrounded by unfamiliar
faces and names to remember
Levi my line manager, with a sense of style and a welcoming smile

as time passed I knew I belonged
part of this diverse and talented group
in all its chaos and glory
the PAC team in Leicester

interviews and workshops
filled our weeks of research
all our planning brought to life
through the words of young people

those who chose to be part of our work
share their experiences and opinions
to find what needed to be changed
in policing, our communities and attitudes

then came the analysis of it all
put together like pieces of a puzzle
to come up with a solution, a plan,
a promise to build the change from what we find

interesting that trust can lie on a spectrum
and depending on where you find yourself
based on five interconnected influences
can dictate your choice to contact 999

that fear of being seen talking to the police
plastered with an undeserving label for it
and how communities should “be there
for when you fall and you need help”

Surrounded by now familiar
faces and names easy to recall
I am accomplished as part of this PAC team
and I know we will create change

A poem inspired by the PAC journey by

Saara Shaikh

PAC Lead

PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Thank You!

Alisha, Aniqa, Ebony, Elsie, Gezmis, Isra, Kay, Kymani, Moh, Rasheed, Ryan, Saara



A special thanks to all the incredible external training providers we've worked with along the way, thank you from all the PAC Team!

www.peeractioncollective.com

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

COMMUNITY FUND