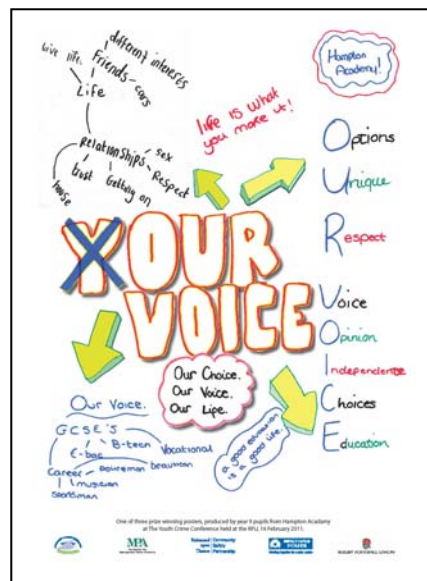
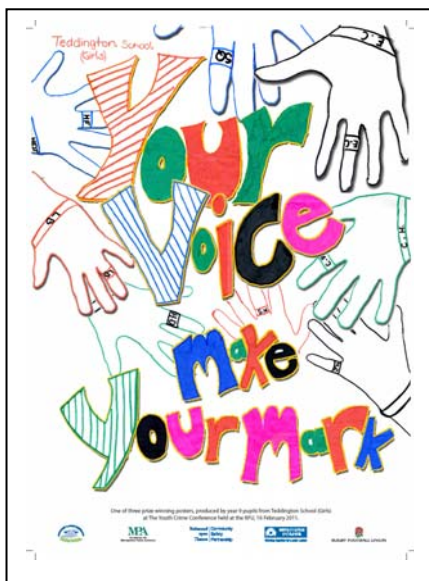
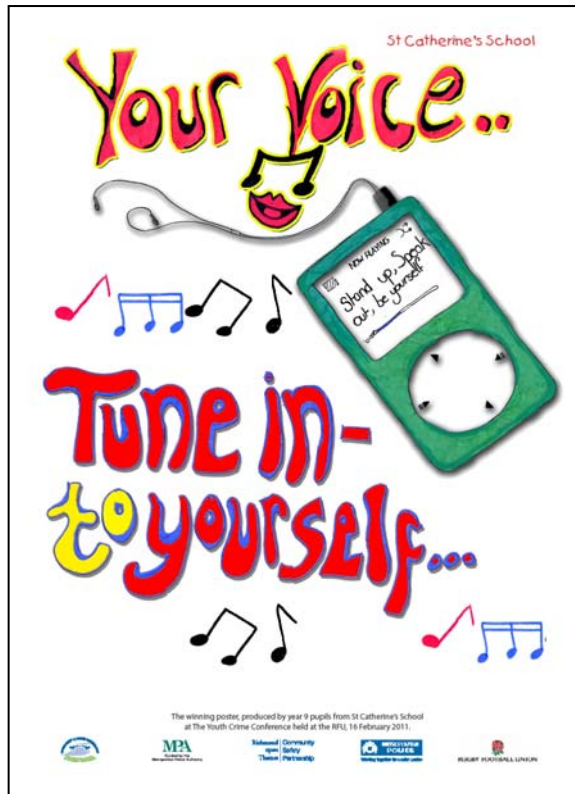


YOUTH CRIME CONFERENCE

REPORT 2011

“STAY SAFE, STAY SECURE, STAY TOGETHER”



REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP'S YOUTH CRIME CONFERENCE 2011

HELD WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2011

THE CONFERENCE WAS ENTITLED "STAY SAFE, STAY SECURE, STAY TOGETHER"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an account of the 2011 Conference organised by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Community and Police Partnership (CPP). The day is funded and supported by a number of organisations with the Rugby Federation Union (RFU) supplying the venue free of charge. The aims of the Conference are set out in the main report.

This was the 17th Conference held for pupils from ten of the borough's Secondary/Independent Schools; more than 130 year nine pupils attended the event. The names of the Schools are contained in the report.

Schools police officers, including Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and a number of "civilians" acted as facilitators for the Breakout Groups and the Workshops. Two or three facilitators were allocated to each school; their role was to support the students and to ensure that they enjoyed and benefitted from the event.

The students were given the opportunity to consider rights and responsibilities whilst looking at the consequences and effects of crime. This was achieved through workshop sessions, drama presentations and discussions. Healthy relationships featured for the first time looking at violence in relationships (not always seen as a crime).

The day commenced with two Ice Breaker sessions. During one of those sessions' students were given six crime concerns to rate in order of importance through reasoned debate. As with last years Conference the highest scores were for:

- Violent Crime (knife and gun).
- Abuse (sexual, verbal, Physical and domestic)

The pupils were given the opportunity to replace one of the six with a concern of their own and terrorism (not one of the six) was the top issue for one school. The full scores can be seen in the report.

The main sessions were conducted through four interactive Workshops that ran on a rolling programme throughout the morning; details of those are set out within the report. During the afternoon police officers from the Homicide and Serious Crime Command, gave the pupils a questionnaire to complete, made presentations and showed an empowering DVD about Joint Enterprise. The titles of the workshops were: Forum Theatre, Healthy Relationships, Stop and Search/Consequences of Fire Crime, and a Poster/Slogan Competition, run by PREVENT officers.

The Conference overall scored 97% excellent/good. The Drama Workshop and Joint Enterprise scored highly with the lunch seen as excellent by some and poor by others.

Responses from the students and facilitator's have provided a number of ideas which will be considered for the 2012 Conference.

Given the success of the Conference the CPP will be asked to agree funding for a further event in 2012.

FULL REPORT OF THE YOUTH CRIME CONFERENCE 2011

The report provides an account of the Conference, held on 16 February 2011. This was the 17th event organised by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Community and Police Partnership (CPP). The day was for year nine students from the borough's State and Independent schools.

THE REPORT:

- outlines the aims of the Conference;
- sets out the details of the Conference and describes the sessions which took place
- sets out the results of the ladder game where the students prioritise a list crime issues/concerns (**Appendix A**)
- records students' responses to their evaluation including to the more specific questions (**Appendix B**);
- records facilitators' views and evaluations (**Appendix C**);
- sets out the questionnaire used by Joint Enterprise (**Appendix D**)
- lists the names of the participating schools and the post codes of attendees (**Appendix E**);
- sets out the Programme (**Appendix F**).

AIMS

The aims of the Conference are to:

- Bring young people together from schools across the Borough's, to discuss community safety and policing issues in a informal setting;
- Raise awareness amongst young people of particular community safety issues;
- Bring young people together with the police and other statutory and voluntary agencies engaged with community safety to build constructive relationships;
- Consider the impact of community safety and crime issues on young people's lives;
- Encourage young people to mix with others from different schools and to consider different perspectives;
- Encourage young people to think more deeply about the key issues of the Conference, identifying the impact on themselves, their peers and families.
- Work jointly with young people to produce publicity material aimed at their peer group;
- Gather information on the community safety issues which concern young people so that it may be incorporated into community safety plans and strategies and the local policing plan; and
- Provide information to young people about community safety issues and encourage them to spread awareness within their school communities.

DETAILS

Thanks are recorded to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) for enabling the conference to be held at such a prestigious venue. Once again we were able to use the St George's Suite and the Wakefield Rooms, which overlook the pitch.



Richmond upon Thames Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Clive Chalk opened the event and spoke about what could be gained by fully participating in the day. The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor David Marlow, spent time speaking to pupils and facilitators and joined them in their workshops.

More than one hundred and thirty students from eight of the borough's Secondary Schools and two Independent Schools attended. Head Teachers and Heads of Year are thanked for enabling and encouraging their students to participate. Some schools were unable attend due to other commitments and a clash of half term dates; they have all expressed an interest in attending in the future. The students rated the experience very highly as can be seen in the appendices.

Fifteen police officers, many of whom are School's Officers/Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and other professionals who work either with young people or in the community safety field facilitated on the day. Two or three facilitators were allocated to each school, their role was to help the students think about the issues presented in the icebreakers and workshops plus encourage them to participate and express their views.

During the poster/slogan competition they were supported by police officers from the PREVENT, Community Cohesion Team, which resulted in some amazing art work and creative ideas to take forward the "Your Voice" message. "Your Voice" is an interactive Forum for young people aiming to stimulate discussion about building stronger, safer communities. The three winning posters will be officially launched at an event in April at which the Mayor will present prizes and certificates. They will then be professionally reproduced and displayed in schools and across the borough.

The afternoon session was given over to police officers from the Homicide and Serious Crime Command. Initially officers spoke to the students, who were in their four Workshop Groups, about Joint Enterprise. The students were shown an empowering DVD about three young men serving long sentences for being indirectly involved in a homicide incident. The students were given a questionnaire to complete and that is set out at **Appendix D**

A plenary was held at the end of the day, with great success. It enabled the students to ask varied and challenging questions of the police, fire service and in particular Inspector Petra Lazar who had coordinated the afternoon workshop on Joint Enterprise.

The Conference overall scored 97% excellent/good. The Drama Workshop scored 97% excellent/good and Joint Enterprise 95%. Responses to the lunch are always mixed with it being seen as excellent by some students and poor by others.

SESSIONS

Throughout the day the pupils were given the opportunity to consider rights and responsibilities looking at crime and consequences and the effects of those issues on their lives, their families' lives and the lives of others. This was achieved through the workshop sessions, drama presentations and discussions looking at, criminal damage (graffiti), peer pressure and stop and search. For the first time healthy relationships featured at the Conference and a session was introduced, looking at violence in relationships.

After the introductions the students went into their ten school groups where facilitators explained the objectives of the day. They then participated in the first Ice Breaker a quiz, which related to the issues of the day as well as crime elements and the criminal justice system. During the second Ice Breaker, the Ladder Game, students had the opportunity to prioritise, through reasoned arguments and discussion, six crime issues that young people are concerned about. Each group were provided with a blank card and again, through discussion had the opportunity to substitute one of the six for an issue of their choice, this year only one school made a substitution when terrorism was seen as the top priority, the results can be seen at **Appendix A**.

That session was followed by four interactive workshops on a rolling programme, three schools at a time attending a session, thus ensuring that all pupils attended each of the four workshops.

Workshop 1 – Forum Theatre. St Mary's College drama students, once again, provided the scenarios under the guidance of their tutor Mark Griffin. After the first run through at each session, it was shown again and the pupils were given the opportunity to stop the scenario at any time, they then took over from the players and improvised as they thought the "story" should be played out. All the key issues of the day were covered and the session was a great success.

Workshop 2 – Health Relationships. Helen Cuthbert, Victim Support; Joanna Watts, Youth Offending Team and PCSO Lisa Milton-White ran the session. The four sessions went well, although some groups interacted better than others. It was interesting watching the various Schools, even the more restless groups appeared to sit quietly and absorb what the DVD was about. A number of questions arose from the DVD and there were interesting "chats" amongst the young people. Two students had reported that they felt sad after watching the film because they felt sorry for the victim and would not want to find themselves in that situation.

Workshop 3 - Stop and Search/Consequences of Fire Crime. The first session was from the London Fire Brigade, presented by Station Manager Des Hayes. The students were shown a DVD, which aimed to show the consequences of Hoax Calls, Arson and Playing with Fire. Officers from the Territorial Support Unit undertook the second presentation on Stop and Search. The session encouraged positive communication between officers and young people aimed at dispelling the negative myths around stop and search. The students were also informed about the correct procedures for stop and search, why they might be stopped and their rights when stopped.



Workshop 4 – Poster/Slogan Competition. At the start of the Workshop each student completed a questionnaire about influences and personal choices. During the session the pupils were supported by PREVENT police officers. The school groups devised an imaginative poster and added an eye catching slogan which will be used to promote the Your Voice event being held in June 2011, for young people in the borough. The three top posters were chosen by the facilitators using a points system, after which the students prioritised the three using the interactive voting system. The winning posters can be seen on the front cover of the report.

FOLLOW UP AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The Mayor will attend a ceremony at which the posters will be launched. Pupils from St Catherine's School, whose poster was voted first and Teddington and Hampton Academy, second and third respectively will be invited to the ceremony along with their teachers. The winners and runners up will each be presented with a gift voucher and a certificate to commemorate their achievements. The posters will be circulated to schools, colleges and various places across the boroughs.

FUNDING AND THANKS

The day was funded by the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), LBRUT's CPP and the Community Safety Partnership and thanks are recorded to them for their support.

The Steering Group: Peter Kirkham, Tina Maidman, Juliette Taylor and Lisa Turner thank all those at the RFU. Fraser Cullen who agreed to the event being held at the venue once again, Anna Fowler who helped ensure that every need was met in the lead up to the day, Jenny Harrison and Sarah Goodwin who ensured that the day ran smoothly along with all the other members of staff who helped to make the day such a success.

The Steering Group's thanks goes to all the facilitators. The Conference is dependent on the part they play in encouraging the students to fully engage in the activities and we thank them for their help and support; they are key to the success of the day and the time they give preparing for the day and on the day itself is invaluable.

Thanks are also recorded to the police cadets who undertook the registration of the students, their warm welcome helps to get the day off to a good start.

Thanks also go to all those who coordinated and led the Workshops and the afternoon session, the results from the students and facilitators shows how well they were received.

Gary Burnham once again provided the technical support with advice before hand and on the day. His ingenuity with the various DVDs and music throughout the day is greatly appreciated and the Steering Group are grateful for his expertise, time and support.