Young people’s police and crime study (2011 – 2013) – The Results!

Policing priorities

Q1. Which three issues are the biggest problems in your area?

Throughout the study the top three responses remained the same:

1. drug dealing
2. anti-social behaviour
3. burglary

Q2. Which three services should Greater Manchester Police be prioritising?

Throughout the study the top three responses remained the same:

1. responding to emergency calls
2. detecting crime and arresting offenders
3. keeping victims informed

Neighbourhood Policing

Q3. Do you feel you can rely on the police in your local area to be there when you need them?

Year 1 (2011) – 52% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 42% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 39% of all students agreed

This shows a 13% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

- many police officers don’t like young people;
- they wouldn’t believe us if we reported a crime;
- some officers think we are all trouble causers;
- they take ages to arrive or don’t turn up when they are called.

Of those who said they had confidence in their local police officers, many said they felt if they needed their help in an emergency they could be relied upon.

Q4. Do you feel the police in your local area treat everyone fairly regardless of whom they are?

Year 1 (2011) – 39% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 33% of all students agreed

Year 3 (2013) – 31% of all students agreed

This shows an 8% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said as they have grown older they now come into contact with the police more frequently and believed their confidence had reduced because:

- young people are treated differently than adults by the police;
- treated unfairly, we’re moved on even though we aren’t doing anything wrong;
- we’re spoken to disrespectfully and often swore at;
- they use stop and search to target black young men.

Few said they formed these views by personal experiences, with most saying they were influenced by media reports and from discussions taken place within their peer group.

Q5. Do you feel the police in your local area can be relied upon to deal with minor crimes?

Year 1 (2011) – 41% of all students agreed

Year 2 (2012) – 35% of all students agreed

Year 3 (2013) – 28% of all students agreed

This shows a 13% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

- police budgets had been cut and they don’t have the time anymore;
- crime such as vandalism and graffiti aren’t serious;
- minor crimes don’t get investigated or solved;
- would prefer the police to deal with serious crime such as assaults and robberies.

Many didn’t see this as a problem as minor crimes were viewed as less serious and they would prefer crimes which caused physical harm to others should always come first.

Q6. Do you feel the police in your local area understand the issues that matter in the community?

Year 1 (2011) – 42% of all students agreed

Year 2 (2012) – 42% of all students agreed

Year 3 (2013) – 39% of all students agreed

This shows a 3% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

- we don’t see many police walking around the community, only in vans;
• there are still lots of crime taking place but the police aren’t aware of it;
• don’t come into school anymore;
• we don’t trust them and they don’t trust us.

Many acknowledged that they felt more work was needed to build trust and confidence and one way of achieving this apart from making area’s safer was for officers to be more visible and friendlier.

Q7. Do you have confidence in the police in your local area?

Year 1 (2011) – 46% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 41% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 37% of all students agreed

This shows a 9% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

• there aren’t enough police officers in our area;
• they take a long time to turn up or don’t always come then called;
• we feel the police treat young people differently to adults;
• the police can’t solve all crime.

Of those who said they had confidence in their local police officers, many said they felt if they needed their help in an emergency they could be relied upon.

Q8. Are the police and PCSOs doing a good job in your area?

Year 1 (2011) – 53% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 48% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 38% of all students agreed

This shows a 15% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

• they take too long to turn up to reported crimes;
• some have a poor attitude towards young people;
• they stereotype us as trouble causers;
• many crimes aren’t solved.

Despite the reduction in confidence, much of the negativity was directed at response officers and not neighbourhood policing teams.

Q9. Do you know any of the police officers or PCSOs in your local area?

Year 1 (2011) – 57% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 53% of all students agreed

Year 3 (2013) – 51% of all students agreed

This shows a 6% point decrease during the study, although half of those asked knew their local officers.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

- we don’t see as many officers or as often in the community;
- officers leave and new ones aren’t as nice;
- they don’t come in school anymore;
- it isn’t cool to talk or get on with the police.

Of those who said they knew their local neighbourhood officers, many described them as friendly and approachable.

**Q10. Do the police in your local area listen to young people?**

Year 1 (2011) – 48% of all students agreed

Year 2 (2012) – 39% of all students agreed

Year 3 (2013) – 35% of all students agreed

This shows a 13% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

- we’re viewed as being a problem to the police;
- they just want us to give them information;
- promises have been made to young people (arrange events) hadn’t been kept;
- our opinions aren’t valued the same as adults in the community.

Many students believed that their relationship with the police could be improved if officers ran activities in their local area, after listening to what was needed. It was felt that some officers showed a level of empathy when asking young people to disperse when in a large group but offered no alternatives places to where they could go.

**Complaints**

**Q11. If you weren’t happy with something the police did would you make a complaint?**

Year 1 (2011) – 59% of all students agreed

Year 2 (2012) – 69% of all students agreed

Year 3 (2013) – 65% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 6% point increase in confidence during the study.
Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had improved because:

- we’re more aware that we have a right to complain
- if we don’t complain then nothing would ever change;
- we feel braver and less fearful of the police;
- received literature which showed us how we could complain.

Of those who were confident about complaining, many said they had previously complained about poor service they had received, usually when taking faulty clothing or electrical back to shops. For some who said they wouldn’t complain, many said it was because they felt they would be targeted by individual officers.

Q12. If you wanted to make a complaint against the police would they take it seriously?

Year 1 (2011) – 46% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 38% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 33% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 13% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had reduced because:

- young people wouldn’t be believed;
- the police would look after their own staff;
- what’s the point, nothing will change;
- the police can do whatever they want

For the third of students who thought the police would take a complaint serious, many said they would rely on a parent to make contact.

Anti social behaviour

Q13. Do you think that confiscating alcohol from underage people would reduce anti-social behaviour?

Year 1 (2011) – 57% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 48% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 37% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 20% point decrease of opinion during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they didn’t believe this would be effective because:

- young people would just go and get more;
they may commit crimes to get it (steal from shops);
- it may cause more trouble for the police if young people become argumentative;
- it could make some turn to using cannabis instead.

Of those who didn't believe this method would work, many said the police should target the shops selling alcohol and that if officers informed their parents it might have more of an effect.

**Q14. Do you think parenting orders would reduce anti-social behaviour?**

Year 1 (2011) – 59% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 52% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 48% of all students agreed

This shows an overall **11% point decrease** in opinion during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they didn’t believe this would be effective because:

- parents wouldn’t attend, they would feel like failures;
- even if they did, would they put into practice what they had learned;
- their children wouldn’t listen anyway;
- some don’t care what their children do as long as their out of the house.

Of those who thought parent orders could be effective, many thought young parents may benefit from being taught the skills needed to make sure their children were brought up well.

**Q15. Do you think ASBO’s reduce anti-social behaviour?**

Year 1 (2011) – 57% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 62% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 57% of all students agreed

This shows there wasn’t any overall change at the end of study.

Those students taking part in the study who believed these types of orders **could** work said it was because:

- they are monitored by the police;
- it stops people from going places and doing certain things;
- if people continue they’ll get in more trouble
- it keeps trouble causers off the street at night (if on tag).

The students who didn’t think they worked said it was because:

- we know people that had been given an ASBO and it didn’t change their behaviour;
- it’s impossible to know what people are doing 24/7;
- the police have got better things to do than check on people;
- unless you deal with troublesome families they won’t stop.
Q16. Do you think people using or dealing drugs is a problem where you live?

Year 1 (2011) – 49% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 64% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 66% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 17% point increase in opinion during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed this issue had increased from nearly half of all students to two-thirds because:

- we are now aware of the smell (of cannabis) and recognise notice it more
- it has been offered to us;
- some of us have had tried it;
- we know people who sold it;

Of those who said it wasn’t a problem, cannabis was viewed as being harmless and believed all young people had tried it.

The students who did think it was a problem said that cannabis use could lead to other drugs and believed heroin to be the worse drug.

Q17. Do you think people being drunk or rowdy in a public place is a problem where you live?

Year 1 (2011) – 72% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 61% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 55% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 17% point decrease in opinion during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed this issue had reduced because:

- it’s viewed as the norm;
- we are sometimes the ones involved;
- we usually hang around in a group, we feel safer;
- we know the trouble causers in their areas and stay away from them.

Q18. Is rubbish and litter lying around a problem where you live?

Year 1 (2011) – 72% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 69% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 68% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 4% point decrease in opinion during the study.

The two-thirds of students who said they believed this issue was still a problem said it was because:

- everyone drops litter;
Many believed it was the role of the council to ensure that litter was cleaned up and that the police would find it difficult to punish everyone.

Q19. Do you think vandalism and/or graffiti is a problem near where you live?

Year 1 (2011) – 56% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 47% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 47% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 9% point decrease in opinion during the study.

Those students who said that this problem had decreased believed it was because:

- we don’t notice it as much;
- it looks good (graffiti);
- sometime were involved in doing it;
- it’s not a serious offence.

Of those who did think this type of crime was a problem, they say an area which had a lot of graffiti and vandalism made them think it was a place with high crime and not a nice place to live.

Q20. Do you think teenagers hanging around on street corners are a problem near where you live?

Year 1 (2011) – 65% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 55% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 49% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 16% point decrease in opinion during the study.

Some taking part in the study said they believed it was because we;

- once feared these groups;
- are now part of these teenagers;
- aren’t doing anything wrong;
- have to hang around as they don’t have anywhere else to go.

Those that still felt it was a problem said they sometimes felt intimidated walking past a group of teenagers they didn’t know and were sometimes fearful for their own safety.

Q21. Do you think noisy neighbours or loud parties are a problem near where you live?
Year 1 (2011) – 62% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 47% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 43% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 19% point decrease in opinion during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed this issue had reduced because:

- think this was more accepted;
- were now those noisy neighbours and attended such parties;
- it’s part of being a teenager;
- don’t notice it as much.

Those who thought it was still a problem said their parents would deal with issue of this nature.

**Contacting the police**

**Q22. Which method would you use to contact the police?**

Throughout the study the top three responses remained the same:

- 999
- 101 (non-emergency number)
- at a police station

In 2011, 33% students said they would contact the police via the GMP website but in future years this fell to an average of 5%. This was explained as not knowing in year one that you couldn’t report a crime on the website, which was realised later on in the study.

There was an overall 8% point increase in the number of students who said they would approach an officer in the street and a 5% rise in the number who would communicate via GMP social networking.

**Q23. Would you feel confident reporting a crime to the police?**

Year 1 (2011) – 70% of all students agreed
Year 2 (2012) – 68% of all students agreed
Year 3 (2013) – 67% of all students agreed

This shows an overall 3% point decrease in confidence during the study.

Some students taking part in the study said they believed confidence had remained high because the police are the most equipped to:

- solve crime;
- arrest offenders;
- detect crime;
- protect them.
Of the students who said they wouldn't report a crime they said this was because they didn’t want to be a grass and would be frightened of criminals finding out they had spoken to the police.

**Perception of crime based on age**

Q24. Which three crimes do you think older people (over 55) are most at risk of being a victim of?

Throughout the study the top three responses remained the same:

1. theft
2. robbery
3. burglary

Q25. Which three crimes do you think young people (under 18) are most at risk of being a victim of?

Throughout the study the top three responses remained the same:

1. sexual offences
2. violence against the person
3. theft