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Dear Head Teachers

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Andrea Reynolds and I am a Police Officer with the West Midlands Police. We would like to thank you for expressing your interest in assisting us to capture the Youth voice of this generation outside Birmingham and have their views influence what we do in service delivery into the future.

The purpose of this young people survey is to understand the views and perceptions of West Midlands Police and policing more generally. In particular to assess levels of trust, confidence, legitimacy that exist among 13-21 year olds, their experiences of contact with the police and how this could be improved.

The survey findings will provide an important insight into young people's perceptions of the police, expectations of how interactions and contact with the police should be carried out and the factors that influence trust, confidence and legitimacy in the police.

These insights will play an important part in influencing the nature and type of service that local officers and police staff provide within the West Midlands area. It is important that West Midlands Police capture the views and perceptions of young people to understand;

- a. Young people's perceptions of police legitimacy
- b. An understanding of how young people feel they can participate in keeping communities safe
- c. An understanding of young people's experiences of contact with police and how interactions between the police and young people can be improved.
- d. How young people can support or contribute to policing

Links with, and partnerships with, local schools and further/higher educational establishments provide an excellent opportunity to capture young people's perceptions and views. To support this ambition we appreciate your support to engage with your people and facilitate the completion of the survey which is now being sent by an electronic link. The survey is being coordinated and managed by Cambridge University.

We are seeking your support to engage with young people at your local schools and colleges.

Explain the survey and its importance to them and encourage completion

Explain the period when the survey will be launched and concluded

Explain way in which the findings will be used.

The aim is to launch the next Young People Survey this week commencing 26/03//2018. The survey will then run until 04/05/2018 taking the Easter Break into consideration. Hopefully this gives a timely opportunity to each student to respond at a time in the curriculum you deem best.

The electronic survey will be sent by hyperlink to a single point of contact at each school that will then be responsible for circulating it to pupils and students between the ages of 13-21 years as applicable.

Once closed, the survey data will be analysed by academic staff at Cambridge University. The resulting findings will be shared with local partnerships teams to influence local engagement strategies. The survey will also be used to inform force thinking in respect of engagement, service delivery, learning and development, capturing and using the voice of young people in future service design and delivery.

We anticipate that that each participating school will adopt the role as guardian for pupils whilst in their care and we would like to ensure that students understand that the survey is totally optional for them to complete. If possible we would appreciate that the school advertise to parents in a newsletter or on their website what they are doing.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please forward any questions or concerns to a.reynolds@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk.

Sincerely,

Andrea Reynolds

Fairness in Policing Team

Deputy Chief Constable's Taskforce