

Youth Voice Survey 2018

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MOPAC Evidence and Insight

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M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

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MOPAC Youth Voice Survey 2018

Executive Summary

About the Youth Voice Survey 2018

The Youth Voice Survey 2018 was hosted online between 7th March 2018 and 8th May 2018, and aimed to gather the views of young Londoners about crime and safety issues that affect them. The survey was disseminated to young people aged 11 to 16 via Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Officers (dedicated police officers that work collaboratively with schools and educational establishments). A total of 7832 young people took part in the survey, providing a valuable capture of youth views across London.

Key Findings: Young People and Crime (p. 8)



- The majority of young Londoners feel safe **in the area where they live** (74%) and **at school** (84%).
- Just over 1 in 10 young people say they have been the **victim of a crime** in the last year (12%). Young victims are more likely to have a range of other vulnerabilities, including **exposure to serious youth violence** and **wider wellbeing issues**.
- 44% of young victims **reported their crime to the police**. 29% of these were **happy** with the way the police dealt with it.

Key Findings: Young People and the Police (p. 12)



- Young people's **opinions of the police** are mixed. Half the young people say they have a 'good opinion' of the police (50%), although many are neutral or have 'no opinion'.
- Having a known **Safer Schools Officer** can benefit young people's feelings of safety at school, and in some cases improve wider opinions of the police.
- While young people broadly support **Stop and Search**, results highlight the importance of the **quality of interaction**. Despite this, less than half of those who had been Stopped and Searched felt the police treated them well when carrying it out.

Key Findings: Young People and Serious Violence (p. 17)



- While around a quarter of young people **know someone** who has carried a knife (26%) or who is in a gang (23%), smaller proportions say they have **personally carried a knife** or are **personally in a gang** (both 3%).
- Young people express a desire for **more education** about the consequences of knife crime, and stress this should include schools, the police, previous offenders and victims.

Key Findings: Young People and Safeguarding (p. 22)



- Results highlight exposure to **online risk**, with around a quarter of young people saying they have experienced cyber-bullying (25%) or been sent rude/sexual content (23%).
- A minority of young people feel that sexual harassment or domestic abuse behaviours may sometimes be **acceptable**. For example, around a quarter feel it may be acceptable to insult a partner (24%) or make sexual jokes/comments about people (23%).
- **Experiences of sexual harassment** are prevalent amongst young people growing up in London, particularly amongst young females. 22% of those experiencing sexual harassment **spoke to anyone about it**.

Analyses highlight a **complex interplay** between different topics covered by the Youth Survey 2018, reinforcing the idea that aspects of crime and safety for young people in London cannot be considered in isolation. More widely, this suggests that steps to improve experiences or perceptions in one area are likely to benefit a wider range of outcomes for those growing up in the capital.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the Youth Voice Survey 2018

According to Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates, over half a million London residents are aged between 11 and 16; representing nearly 7% of London's total population. More widely, the number of young people aged under 16 living in London is projected to rise by 7% between mid-2016 and mid-2026 (ONS, 2018), emphasising the importance of giving this group the opportunity to voice their opinions about crime and safety issues that affect them.

Research has highlighted a potentially complex picture of crime victimisation and offending amongst young people. Several large-scale surveys have concluded that those aged under 16 experience relatively high levels of criminal victimisation (19% as reported in the MOPAC Youth Matter Survey, 2015), often involving low-level violent offences or theft of personal property (e.g. ONS, 2014/2018; Wilson, Sharp & Patterson, 2006). However, research also suggests that some young people in this age group may also be more likely to offend, particularly for young males and once again in relation to theft and violent offences (Cooper & Roe, 2012; Youth Justice Board & Ministry of Justice, 2018). The 'age-crime curve' has been well-documented in academic literature, whereby a sharp increase in offending is seen during early adolescence, which peaks during the mid-late teenage years, and then begins to gradually decline (Farrington, 1986).

Beyond this, previous research has also highlighted the importance of early engagement between the police and young people to help build positive relationships (All Parliamentary Group for Children, 2014; MOPAC, 2015). The Crime Survey for England and Wales Youth Module (ONS, 2014) reported that only half of young people nationally hold positive views of the police, with these views tending to become more negative with age. More specifically to London, the MOPAC Youth Matter Survey (2015) found that just 42% of young respondents were confident in police, which was 24 percentage points lower than the adult opinion as measured by the Public Attitude Survey at the time. Moreover, research has suggested that a lack of confidence in the police forms a key barrier that prevents young victims from seeking help from the police (ONS, 2014b; Victim Support, 2014), and has identified particularly high levels of under-reporting of crime amongst young people (ONS, 2014b).

This picture is also set against the backdrop of changing crime trends that affect young people. A rise in knife offending has been seen across England and Wales since 2014, with London seeing a 22% increase in knife crime¹ during FY 2017/18. Moreover, knife crime disproportionately affects young people in the capital, with around four in ten victims of knife crime resulting in injury² aged under 25, and the number of young victims of knife crime with injury rising over recent years, from 1563 in 2014 to 2134 in 2017³. Furthermore, young people are increasingly growing up in a world dependent on the internet and social media, bringing with it a range of additional safeguarding needs to help protect young people from online offences, including grooming and exploitation (HMIC, 2015).

It is for all these reasons that one of the key commitments from the Mayor of London in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 is to 'keep children and young people safe'. This includes tackling the issues that disproportionately affect young people in London, including knife crime, gang-related crime, serious

¹ MOPAC Weapon-enabled Crime Dashboard

² Ibid

³ Data drawn from MetStats and relate to victims of non-DA Knife Crime with Injury offences where the victim was aged under-25.

youth violence, exploitation and abuse. The Mayor of London's (2017) Knife Crime Strategy recognises that knife crime disproportionately affects young Londoners, and emphasises the importance of including young people as part of the solution. This includes taking steps to divert those most at risk of offending and victimisation away from crime, and encouraging young people to reach their potential. Similarly, the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (Mayor of London, 2018) acknowledges that behaviours and beliefs that lead to sexual violence and harassment can often be manifested in early years, and emphasises the importance of working with young people to challenge these views.

Together, this highlights the value of gathering young people's opinions about crime and safety issues in London that affect them. This group represent the next generation to make the transition to adulthood in the city, and it therefore seems important to include their unique voice to help inform crime and policing decisions in the capital.

However, despite this, existing surveys provide limited insight into the views of young people growing up in London. Routine surveys conducted by MOPAC (including the Public Attitude Survey and the User Satisfaction Survey) focus exclusively on gathering the views of *adult* residents (aged 16+). More widely, projects such as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) Youth Module and the recent Safer Lives Survey conducted by The Youth Violence Commission (2018) provide interesting insights into young people's experiences and attitudes towards crime and policing issues at a national level, but are not specific to those growing up in London.

To help fill this gap in knowledge, MOPAC and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) have developed specific research projects to capture the views of young people growing up in the capital. Two previous waves of this project have been conducted: 'Youth Talk' in 2013 (11-16 year olds) and 'Youth Matter' in 2015 (11-18 year olds). The Youth Voice Survey 2018 represents the most recent wave of this project and gives young people the chance to have a say in how their city is policed.

This report presents the findings from the Youth Voice Survey 2018, and is divided into four sections; each of which explores a different aspect of young people's views of crime and policing issues. The first section, '*Young People and Crime*' focuses on young Londoners' feelings of safety at home and at school, and provides a snapshot of crime victimisation and reporting amongst this group. The second section, '*Young People and the Police*' explores young people's perceptions of the police, and examines engagement with Safer Schools Officers. The third section, '*Young People and Serious Youth Violence*' measures exposure to gangs and knife crime amongst those growing up in the capital, and gathers reactions to the Mayor's 'London Needs You Alive' anti-knife campaign. Finally, the fourth section '*Young People and Safeguarding*' looks at online safety amongst young people, and explores early attitudes and opinions towards sexual harassment and healthy relationships.

2. Methodology

2.1. A London Youth Online Survey

The Youth Voice Survey 2018 was conducted by the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) in close collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Service. The survey was hosted online using a secure portal provided by Opinion Research Services (ORS), and was open between 7th March 2018 and 8th May 2018. The survey comprised a total of 50 questions, and took around 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Topics covered by the survey included:

- Feelings of safety at home and at school
- Experiences of crime victimisation
- Satisfaction with the police for young victims of crime
- Views and perceptions of the police
- Views of Safer Schools Officers
- Views and experiences of Stop and Search
- Exposure to knife crime and gangs
- Attitudes towards anti-knife crime campaigns (including London Needs You Alive)
- Experiences of online safety (those in school years 10 and 11 only)
- Experiences of sexual harassment (those in school years 10 and 11 only)

The survey was distributed to schools in London via the Metropolitan Police Service's Safer Schools Officers (dedicated police officers that work collaboratively with schools and educational establishments across the city). This method of distribution was selected to build upon existing partnership working between the Metropolitan Police Service and schools in London.

A total of 7832 responses were received from young people aged 11 to 16 across London. The final sample contained roughly equal proportions of young males and females, and contained young people from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds. Demographic breakdowns of these responses are shown in Appendix A Figure A1. Differences quoted in this research report are statistically significant at the $P < 0.05$ level.

2.2. Ethical Considerations

Distributing the survey via schools provided an ethical safeguard for young people, by ensuring that consent from appropriate adults (teachers or parents) was obtained before participation.

To retain confidentiality, the survey did not gather data that would identify either individuals or schools. Before taking part, young people were provided with information about the nature of the research, and were informed that their participation was voluntary. To aid this, young people were able to skip any questions they did not want to answer, while questions relating to more sensitive topics (e.g. crime victimisation, serious youth violence, sexual harassment and online behaviours) also contained explicit 'prefer not to say' options. Throughout the survey, young people were provided with links to relevant support organisations and charities as a safeguarding measure for any concerns around topics raised.

2.2. Limitations

Sampling via Safer Schools Officers provided considerable benefits in terms of practicality and ethical considerations, and allowed the Youth Voice Survey 2018 to reach a wide audience of young people across the capital.

However, this method may have also resulted in several limitations, which should be borne in mind when considering the results in this report. Although the final sample of 7,832 represents a strong capture of youth opinions in London, response rates do vary at a borough level, and this could affect the representativeness of results (see Appendix A Table A2 for borough breakdowns). Related to this, given the anonymity of the survey, it is difficult to estimate the number of schools which comprise the sample: pupils that attend a single school may be more likely to demonstrate cohesive views, particularly for questions that relate to school experiences (e.g. safety at school, presence of Safer Schools Officers etc.), and once again this may have impacted on results. Finally, as the survey was disseminated via schools, it is important to recognise that the survey may have missed the views of young people not in formal education, including home-schooled children, those who have been excluded, young offenders, and those who regularly truant or go missing.

3. Results

3.1. Young People and Crime

The first section of this report explores young people's experiences and exposure to crime issues in London. This includes overall feelings of safety and perceptions of crime problems in young people's school/local area, alongside personal experiences of crime victimisation.

Section Summary: Young People and Crime



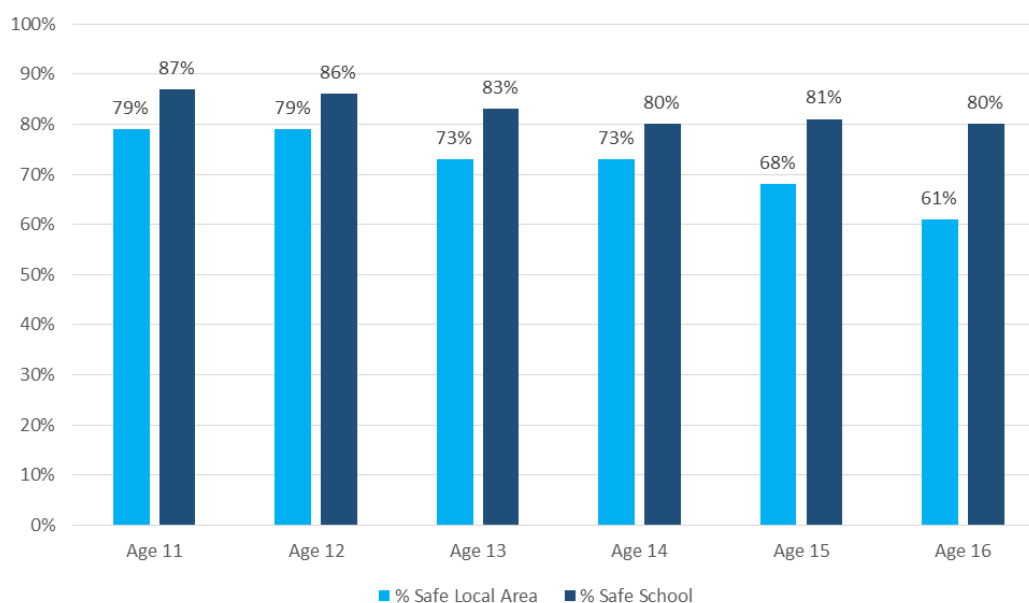
- The Youth Voice Survey 2018 provides an encouraging picture of young people's safety in London, with the majority feeling safe both where they live and at school. Despite this, results highlight the influence of issues including gangs, knife crime, and violence upon young people's feelings of safety, supporting the continued drive to tackle these issues across the capital.
- Results highlight an overlap between early crime victimisation and a range of other wider vulnerabilities, including personal or vicarious exposure to criminal offending, wider wellbeing issues, and feelings of unsafety. This reinforces the importance of recognising the complex interplay between these vulnerabilities when dealing with young people, and ensuring appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.
- 44% of young victims said they reported their crime to the police, while 29% of these were happy with the service provided by the police. This reinforces the importance of continuing to drive improvements to the service delivered by the police and other organisations to ensure young victims receive the support that they need.

3.1.1. Perceptions of Safety

Positively, results from the Youth Voice Survey 2018 indicate that the majority of young people feel safe both in the local area where they live (74%, 5787 of 7805) and at school (84%, 6502 of 7786).

However, feelings of safety in the local area and at school tend to decrease with age. Illustrating this, those aged 11 years old (79%, 775 of 976) are 18 percentage points more likely to say they feel safe in their local area than those aged 16 years old (61%, 369 of 601) (see Figure 1). The trend is the same but less pronounced for feelings of safety at school, with a 7 percentage point difference between 11 year olds (87%, 845 of 972) and 16 year olds (80%, 484 of 602).

Figure 1: Feelings of safety in the local area and at school decrease with age.



While the majority of all ethnic groups report feeling safe, young people from a Black background (76%, 941 of 1232) are significantly less likely to feel safe at school compared with young people from a White background (89%, 1885 of 2113). This effect is the same but less pronounced for feelings of safety in the local area, with young people from a Black background (72%, 891 of 1232) once again less likely to say they feel safe compared with those from a White background (77%, 1630 of 2116).

As well as overall feelings of safety, the Youth Voice Survey 2018 also sought deeper opinions on a range of perceived problems either locally or at school (See Table 1).

Table 1. Issues perceived as a ‘big problem’ in the local area and at school.

Local Area			School		
	%	Frequency		%	Frequency
Violence	31%	2353	Violence	28%	2145
People joining gangs	30%	2320	Stealing	21%	1609
People carrying knives	29%	2238	Hate Crime	18%	1418
Stealing	25%	1947	People joining gangs	16%	1232
People using drugs	24%	1853	Sexist bullying	13%	967
Hate Crime	24%	1860	Sexual harassment	12%	945
People dealing drugs	20%	1552	People carrying knives	12%	936
Sexual harassment	19%	1433	People using drugs	11%	860
Sexist bullying	16%	1205	People dealing drugs	9%	710

Approximate base: Local Area (7700), School (7700)

Two main observations can be made about the findings. Firstly, violence is the issue most often perceived as being a big problem in both environments, and to a similar degree. Secondly, for most other issues, fewer young people rate them as being a big problem at school in comparison to their local area.

While it is interesting to look at young people’s perceptions of safety in isolation, it is also possible to seek richer insights by looking at how feelings of safety are associated with other topics covered by the Youth Voice Survey 2018 (see Section 2.1 for more information about topics covered). Logistic regression analysis⁴ allows us to look at the *risk-factors* that may make a young person more likely to feel ‘unsafe’ in the area where they live and at school. Conversely, improvements in these factors are likely to beneficially impact on young people’s feelings of safety.

When looking at the risk factors for feeling unsafe, results highlight a strong overlap between safety at school and safety in the local area. Feeling unsafe at school is one of the strongest predictors of feeling unsafe locally, and vice versa. This suggests these two environments are closely connected.

Furthermore, results also reinforce the influence of young people’s perceptions of serious violence upon their feelings of safety. Illustrating this, feeling that ‘people joining gangs’ and ‘people carrying knives’ are a problem locally are both strong risk-factors for feeling unsafe in the local area, whilst feeling that ‘violence’ is a problem at school is also an important risk-factor for feeling unsafe at school. In particular, this supports the continued drive to tackle youth violence issues in London – although the vast majority of young Londoners feel safe, steps to reduce gang crime, knife crime and youth violence are likely to have wider beneficial impacts on young people’s feelings of safety.

3.1.2. Crime Victimization

Results from the Youth Voice Survey 2018 show that just over 1 in 10 young people have been the victim of a crime during the last year (12%, 851 of 7381). This suggests a level of self-reported victimisation roughly comparable with that seen amongst adults in London (11%, Public Attitude Survey 2017-18). Furthermore, these results are broadly in line with national levels seen for young people aged 10 to 15 (11%) (ONS, 2018^b), supporting the validity of the Youth Voice Survey 2018.

The types of crimes experienced by young people are shown in Box 1. Those who have been the victim of a crime in the last year most often said that they had experienced ‘theft or burglary’ (35%, 276 of 783) or ‘violence’ (19%, 146 of 783). This is in line with previous findings that identified notable proportions of young people feeling that ‘people being violent’ and ‘people stealing things’ are problematic issues in their school and local area.

Analyses highlight a range of risk-factors that may make a young person more likely to become the victim of crime, including:

- Having poorer levels of mental wellbeing⁵.
- Knowing someone who is in a gang.
- Having a bad opinion of the police.
- Feeling unsafe at home.
- Having personally carried a knife.

Box 1.
What crime did you experience?
(Only asked to victims, N = 783)

- Theft or Burglary (35%)
- Violence (19%)
- Hate Crime (12%)
- Online Crime (7%)
- Criminal Damage (4%)
- Something Else (20%)
- I don’t know (4%)

⁴ Logistic regression is an analytic method that looks at the effect of several predictor variables together upon an outcome. In this way, it is possible to understand the most important risk-factors that make an outcome more likely.

⁵ Levels of mental wellbeing were assessed by asking young people how often they felt happy, worried or anxious, stressed, lonely and like they are not good enough. An overall wellbeing score was then calculated by averaging responses across these scales.

In particular, this appears to emphasise an overlap between early victimisation and exposure to other aspects of violence amongst young people in London. Illustrating this, those who ‘know someone who is in a gang’ or ‘have personally carried a knife’ are more likely to say they have been the victim of a crime in the last 12 months. Beyond this, it is also notable that young victims are more likely to experience certain other vulnerabilities, including poorer levels of ‘mental wellbeing’ and increased risk of feeling ‘unsafe at home’. This suggests that young victims of crime are also likely to be experiencing a range of other adversities, highlighting unique safeguarding needs amongst this group.

Box 2.
Why didn't you report this crime to the police?

(N = 416)

I didn't think it was important/serious enough (48%)

I didn't think the police would help me (32%)

I dealt with it myself (31%)

I didn't want to be a grass or a snitch (27%)

I didn't feel comfortable talking to the police (23%).

I don't like the police (22%).

I was worried about what would happen next (21%)

I was worried about my friends/family finding out (17%)

I didn't think about reporting it (16%)

I had a bad experience with the police before (14%)

I felt frightened by the offender (13%)

The offender was my friend/family (13%)

In terms of reporting their crime, 44% (348 of 791) of young victims said they told the police. The most commonly selected reason for *not* reporting a crime to the police was because young people ‘didn't feel the crime was important or serious enough’ (see box 2). However, results also suggest that poor perceptions or experiences of the police also form key barriers to reporting amongst young people. Illustrating this, feeling the police would not help them, not liking the police, and having bad previous experiences of the police all emerged as common reasons for young victims not reporting their crime. Furthermore, young people also express a hesitancy to talk to the police, with some being concerned about possible repercussions.

Moreover, although base numbers are low, results suggest that poor perceptions of the police may influence the decision to report a crime to a greater extent amongst young people from BAME groups. BAME young people are significantly more likely than White young

people to say they did not report because they ‘don't like the police’ (26% (54 of 210) compared with 14% (14 of 102)), because they've ‘had a bad experience with the police before’ (17% (36 of 210) compared with 8%, (8 of 102)) and because they ‘didn't think the police would help’ (37% (78 of 210) compared with 25% (26 of 102)). This is in line with wider findings from the Youth Voice Survey that perceptions of the police tend to be more negative amongst young people from certain minority ethnic groups (see section 3.2.1 of this report).

Amongst young victims who *did* report their crime to the police, 29% (101 of 345) said they were happy with the way the police dealt with it, while 49% (168 of 345) were unhappy (remaining respondents were neutral or said they did not know). Although results are not directly comparable, this is notably below the levels of satisfaction with the police service seen for adult victims of crime as measured in the User Satisfaction Survey, which stood at 70% for FY 2017-18. This reinforces the importance of continuing to drive improvements to the service delivered by the police to ensure that young victims receive the support they need.

3.2. Young People and the Police

Having looked at young people's feelings of safety and experiences of crime in London, the second section of this report aims to further explore the relationship between young people and the police - this includes engagement with Safer Schools Officers and experiences of Stop and Search.

Section Summary: Young People and the Police



- The Youth Voice Survey 2018 highlights mixed views towards the police in London, with particular issues emerging around perceived police fairness. However, a sizeable group of young people appear to have not yet formed strong opinions of the police, and this highlights a valuable opportunity to help shape young people's early views.
- When looking specifically at Safer Schools Officers, results highlight beneficial impacts on young people's safety at school. However, results also identify a vulnerable group of young people who feel unsafe at school and also unable to seek help from their Safer Schools Officers. Overall, results highlight the importance of building good relationships between Safer Schools Officers and pupils, and ensuring officers are approachable.
- Results emphasise the importance of ensuring polite and respectful interactions during police Stop and Search encounters, as negative encounters can have detrimental impacts on young people's opinions of the police more broadly. However, less than half of young people stopped said the police were polite, treated them with respect, or told them the reasons why they were stopped, with results particularly low amongst BAME groups.

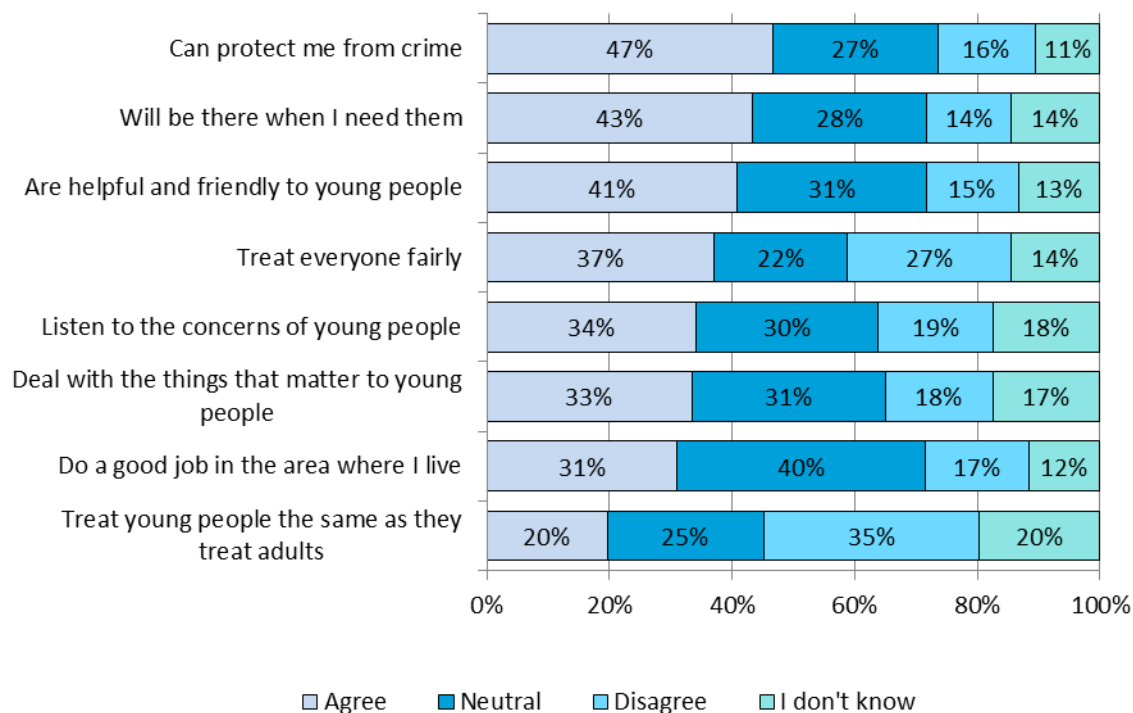
3.2.1. Perceptions of the Police

When young people were asked about their 'overall opinion' of the police, 50% (3874 of 7815) said they have a 'good opinion of the police', while around 1 in 7 (14%, 1121 of 7815) said they have a 'bad opinion of the police'. However, notable proportions of young people said that they either have 'no opinion' of the police (23%, 1767 of 7815) or that they 'don't know' (13%, 1053 of 7815) in response to this question, highlighting a sizeable group of young people who may not have yet formed a strong opinion about the police.

In line with findings from the CSEW (ONS 2014) and MOPAC's (2015) Youth Matter Survey, results suggest that opinions of the police in London become more negative with age. For example, those aged 16 are three times more likely to say they have a 'bad opinion' of the police (21%, 127 of 600) than those aged 11 (7%, 67 of 978).

Beyond their 'overall opinion', young people were also asked about their wider attitudes towards different aspects of the police's role, with mixed opinions once again emerging (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Young people have mixed wider perceptions of the police.



Previously, we identified a satisfaction gap between young people and adults in London, and importantly these results highlight similar gaps in public perceptions of the police. Illustrating this, 31% of young people (2421 of 7799) agree the police do a ‘good job in their local area’, which is considerably lower than the result seen for adult residents at 67% (Public Attitude Survey, FY 17-18) and a decline on the result seen in the last MOPAC ‘Youth Matter’ Survey in 2015 (39%⁶).

Analyses suggest that some of the most important risk-factors for young people having a ‘bad overall opinion’ of the police include:

- Feeling the police do not do a good job in the local area.
- Feeling the police do not treat everyone fairly.
- Ethnicity (being from a Black or Mixed Ethnic Group compared with being from a White Ethnic Group).
- Feeling the police cannot be relied on to be there when you need them.
- Feeling the police are not helpful and friendly.
- Having a negative experience of Stop and Search (compared with not being Stopped and Searched).

In line with previous research into police legitimacy and procedural justice (e.g. Sunshine & Tyler, 2003; Tyler, 2003), these findings highlight the importance of young people’s views of police fairness and effectiveness in determining their wider opinions of the police. Most notably, perceptions of police *unfairness* emerge as a particularly strong predictor of young people having bad opinions. However, results

⁶ Changes to question wording mean that results from the ‘Youth Matter’ Survey 2015 are not directly comparable. Results relate to the proportion of young people saying the police do an ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ job in the local area.

from the Youth Voice Survey 2018 also appear to highlight issues with perceived police fairness amongst young people in London. Illustrating this, 37% of young people agree that the police ‘treat everyone fairly regardless of their skin colour or religion’ (2874 of 7740), with results for those from a white ethnic background (50%, 1061 of 2104) notably higher than those from a black ethnic background (20%, 241 of 1216). Together, these findings emphasise the importance of considering opportunities to help improve young people’s perceptions of police fairness in London, perhaps with particular emphasis upon engaging with those from minority ethnic backgrounds. Improvements in this area are also likely to result in more favourable overall opinions of the police amongst young people.

Furthermore, these findings highlight the influence of Stop and Search upon young people’s opinions of the police. When young people reported *positive* Stop and Search encounters⁷, no adverse effect on young people’s overall opinion of the police was seen. In contrast, when young people reported *negative* Stop and Search encounters⁸, this effect was more drastic – young people were then notably more likely to report a bad overall opinion of the police. These findings suggest that it may not be the Stop and Search encounter per-se which can be detrimental to young people’s opinions of the police, but emphasise the importance of the way in which the interaction is carried out. If a young person feels they are treated well, this appears to buffer against potential negative impacts on wider opinions of the police. This is broadly in line with previous research that emphasises the importance of fair procedural interactions upon public confidence and police legitimacy (e.g. Sunshine & Tyler, 2003; Tyler, 2003), and the potentially disproportionate impact of negative interactions (e.g. Stanko et al. 2012, Bradford, Jackson & Stanko, 2009).

3.2.2. Stop and Search

Given the influence of Stop and Search upon young people’s perceptions of the police as discussed above, it is an important finding that 44% of the survey cohort (3247 of 7358) agreed that the police should use Stop and Search, compared with 12% (895 of 7358) that disagreed. This demonstrates broad support for Stop and Search amongst young people, although this is lower than the proportion of adults in London who agree with the use of Stop and Search (77%)⁹. Furthermore, this is also a decrease when compared with MOPAC’s (2013) Youth Talk survey, where 56% of respondents said that Stop and Search should be allowed.

While 38% (2834 of 7496) of young people say that they know someone that has been Stopped and Searched, 10% (749 of 7496) report that they have been subject to the procedure themselves. This figure may be higher than expected amongst those aged 11 to 16, and may in part reflect young people’s own understanding of what a ‘Stop and Search’ encounter is, or wider experiences of related procedures (such as ‘Stop and Account’). Despite this, it is still important to recognise that this proportion of young people *feel* or *believe* that they have been Stopped and Searched by police, regardless of it how it would be officially recorded.

Previous research has shown that people are largely supportive of Stop and Search so long as it is conducted in a procedurally just manner (Singer, 2013), while section 3.2.1 of this report concludes that negative Stop and Search interactions are capable of having a detrimental impact on young people’s overall opinions of the police. The Youth Voice Survey 2018 highlights mixed experiences of Stop and

⁷ Positive Stop and Search encounters refer to those where the young person agrees that the police ‘were polite’, ‘treated them with respect’ AND ‘told them the reasons why they had been stopped.

⁸ Negative Stop and Search encounters refer to those where the young person does NOT agree with the above.

⁹ ‘Disproportionality: Justice Matters’ MOPAC, March 2018

Search, with 43% (312 of 719) of young people agreeing the police were polite during the process, 42% (296 of 707) agreeing the police treated them with respect, and 48% (341 of 712) saying the police explained why the procedure was being carried out. These figures bear some similarity to adult opinions – previous research shows that 36% say they were treated with respect, although a higher proportion (61%) say that they were told the reason why they were Stopped and Searched (HMIC and YouGov, 2013).

Although base sizes are small, young people from a BAME background are significantly less likely to report positive Stop and Search experiences across all measures than young people from a White background (see Table 2).

Table 2: Experiences of Stop and Search Experience, by Ethnicity.

	White		BAME	
	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
... the police were polite	58%	80	40%	160
...the police treated you with respect	62%	83	38%	151
...told you the reason you were stopped	61%	82	45%	180

Approximate base: White (135), BAME (400). All differences are statistically significant at the $P < 0.05$ level.

3.2.3. Safer Schools Officers

Having looked at young people’s overall perceptions of the police in London, this next section specifically explores young people’s attitudes towards Safer Schools Officers. These are dedicated police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service that work with schools and pupil referral units.

The Youth Voice Survey 2018 reveals mixed levels of awareness of Safer Schools Officers amongst young people. Around 6 in 10 young people say they are aware that their school has a Safer Schools Officer (57%, 4386 of 7706), 13% (977 of 7706) say they are ‘not aware’ and a further 30% (2343 of 7706) say they ‘do not know’.

Despite this, for young people who are aware of their Safer Schools Officer, a notable proportion (43%, 1847 of 4327) say this officer makes them feel ‘more safe’ at school, while only a small minority say it makes them feel ‘less safe’ (2%, 85 of 4327). Similarly, the majority of young people say they would feel confident speaking to their Safer Schools Officer if a crime were to happen to them or they were worried about something (56%, 2409 of 4327), although 31% (1363 of 4327) say they would not feel confident doing this. However, analyses also highlight certain groups of young people for whom the positive impact of Safer Schools Officers may be less pronounced. In particular, those from older age groups and young people from Black, Mixed or Other Ethnic Backgrounds were less likely to say that having a Safer Schools Officer makes them feel ‘more safe’ at school, or to say they would feel confident speaking to this officer.

Moreover, those who feel ‘unsafe’ at school are notably *less* likely to feel confident speaking to their Safer Schools Officer (28%, 137 of 491) than those who feel ‘safe’ at school (60%, 2229 of 3704). These findings seem to highlight a particularly vulnerable group of young people who may be experiencing issues at school, but feel unable to seek help from their Safer Schools Officers. This reinforces the importance of identifying and engaging with young people most at risk in school to ensure they feel confident to seek help.

Overall, results highlight a willingness amongst young people to have the police working together with their school. When asked to select the top three things the police should do in schools to help keep everyone safe (Box 3), young people tended to prioritise helping those experiencing difficulties and dealing with crime-related issues in school over more supportive tasks, such as giving assemblies or organising activities. However, young people who said they had been personally in a gang were significantly more likely to say they would like Safer Schools Officers to organise activities at school (37%, 81 of 217) than those not in a gang (30%, 1930 of 6509).

Box 3.

What are the top three things you think police officers should do in your school?
(N = 7832)

- Help find the right support for young people who are having difficulties at home or school (42%).
- Investigate crimes that happen in school (41%).
- Deal with people who commit crime in school (40%).
- Search young people in school to make sure they are not carrying things like drugs or knives (36%).
- Make it easier for young people to contact the police and talk about problems or worries (35%).
- Give assemblies or lessons on crime and police issues (30%).
- Help to organise activities for young people at your school (e.g. school trips, or youth clubs) (29%).
- Spend time walking around to provide a visible police presence (23%).

It is worth noting that the fourth most commonly selected option is for police to ‘search school pupils to make sure they are not carrying drugs or knives’. This is perhaps surprising given the potentially intrusive nature of these searches and the previously highlighted relationship between negative police stop interactions and wider opinions of the police. It is possible this may be influenced by the fact that Safer Schools Officers are more likely to be known to young people. Those choosing searches as a priority also showed greater support for police searches in general, for example they were also more likely to agree that the police should conduct Stop and Search (57%, 1536 of 2714) than those not choosing this as a priority (37%, 1711 of 4644). Furthermore, those feeling ‘unsafe’ at school were more likely to feel the police should prioritise searching young people for drugs and weapons (40%, 410 of 1014) than those feeling safe at school (35%, 2287 of 6502), with this forming the second-highest priority for this group.

Finally, results from the Youth Voice Survey 2018 also suggest that Safer Schools Officers can have additional beneficial impacts *beyond the school environment*; in particular upon young people’s wider ‘overall opinions’ of the police. However, results suggest that building positive relationships between officers and pupils is critical to this. Illustrating this, those who are aware that their school has a Safer Schools Officer *and* who feel confident speaking to this officer are significantly less likely to have an overall ‘bad overall opinion’ of the police than those not aware of their Safer Schools Officer. In contrast, if a young person is aware of their Safer Schools Officer but does *not* feel confident speaking to them then this beneficial effect is no longer seen. This suggests it is not solely the presence of a Safer Schools Officer per se that can benefit young people’s wider opinions of the police, but instead reinforces the importance of engaging with pupils and ensuring this officer is approachable.

3.3. Young People and Serious Violence

This section looks at young people's experiences and exposure to serious violence in London, including knife crime and gangs. The section also explores young people's reactions to anti-violence campaigns, including the Mayor's 'London Needs You Alive' campaign.

Section Summary: Young People and Serious Violence



- 3% of young people say they have either carried a knife or been in a gang. Results suggest that being in a gang is an important risk-factor for carrying a knife, but also highlight an overlap between knife offending and previous criminal victimisation.
- Results highlight an appetite from young people to receive more education about the impact of carrying knives. In particular, young people emphasise that this could involve input from schools, the police, charities, offenders and victims of knife crime.
- The use of knife imagery in anti-knife campaigns appears to help get young people's attention. However, results also suggest that such knife imagery may make young people more scared or worried about knife crime, in particular for those already concerned about the issue.
- Results highlight positive targeting of the London Needs You Alive campaign towards young people most affected by knife crime, with many feeling it gave a positive message to young people in London (59%).

3.3.1 Knife and Gang Crime

Within the Youth Voice Survey 2018, young people were asked about their exposure to gangs and knife crime. A quarter of young people say that they know someone who has carried a knife (26%, 1790 of 6856) or who is in a gang (23%, 1583 of 6798).

Certain groups of young people appear to show greater vicarious exposure to these issues, including young victims of crime and those who have attended a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). For example, 54% of young victims of crime (396 of 738) know someone that has carried a knife compared with 21% of non-victims (1082 of 5210). Similarly, 53% of young victims know someone in a gang (382 of 724), compared to 17% of non-victims (904 of 5184).

When looking at PRU attendees, 47% (92 of 196) say they know someone who has carried a knife with them, compared with 25% of non-PRU attendees (1188 of 4673). Once again, it is a similar picture for exposure to gangs, with 46% of PRU attendees saying they know someone in a gang (87 of 191) compared with 22% of non-PRU attendees (1022 of 4585).

The proportion of young people responding to the survey who claim to have carried a knife (218 of 7033) or to have been in a gang *themselves* (217 of 7056) is 3% in each case. 38% (76 of 198) of those saying they have personally been in a gang also say that they have carried a knife. The proportion here saying

that they have carried a knife is lower than that shown by other research¹⁰, but in each case there are substantial methodological differences.

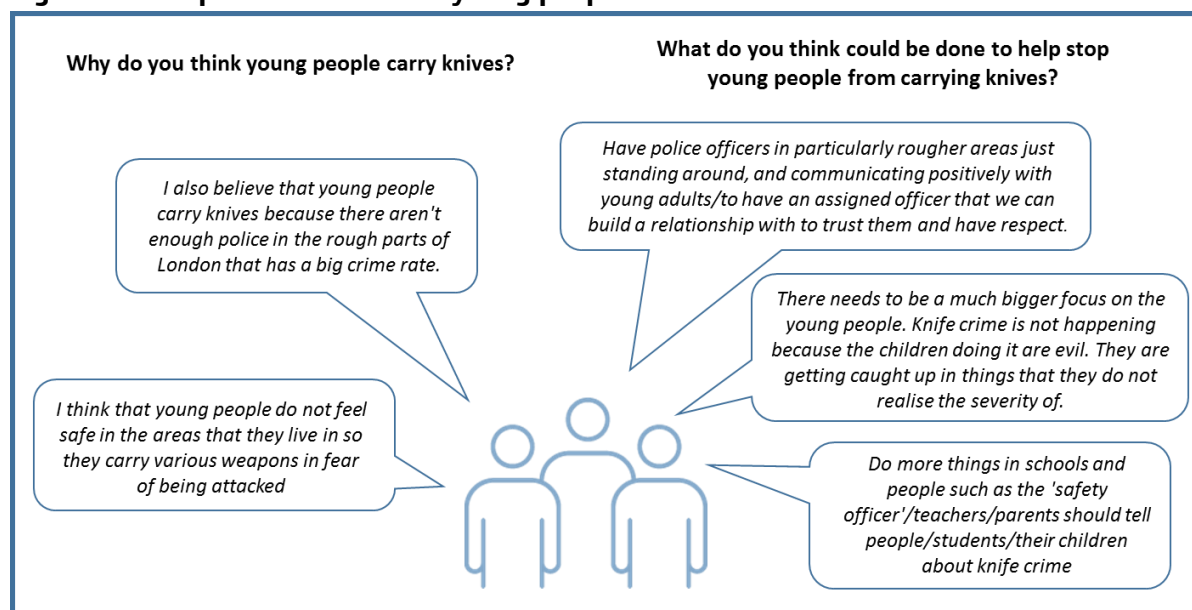
Analyses suggest that some of the most important risk-factors in determining whether a young person has ever personally carried a knife include:

- Feeling pressured to carry a knife.
- Being personally in a gang.
- Having been the victim of a crime.
- Knowing people who have been 'Stopped and Searched'.
- Feeling people carrying knives is a big problem at school.

This suggests that personal involvement in gangs remains an important risk-factor for knife-carrying. Beyond this, however, results appear to highlight the influence of wider vicarious exposure to knife issues upon young people's behaviour, with feeling 'pressured to carry a knife' and believing 'people carrying knives is a big problem in school' also emerging as important risk-factors. More widely, it is also worth noting that being the victim of a crime also emerges as an important risk-factor, perhaps reinforcing an overlap between victimisation and offending amongst young people.

The Youth Voice Survey 2018 also provided a platform for young people to give their views about knife crime, including around why some young people may carry knives and what the police can do to help tackle knife crime (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Example comments from young people around knife crime in London.



Almost half of those asked why young people carried knives referred to doing so for their own protection. This was often linked to wider feelings of safety, with some comments highlighting a general fear about crime in London (including murder, kidnapping, sexual harassment, stealing and violence) among young people. Other themes also emerged, voiced by smaller proportions, including to specifically commit crime, harm and intimidate others, the influence of gangs, the desire to "look cool", "hard" or "gain respect", the ineffectiveness of police to protect them, or people's own poor emotional wellbeing.

¹⁰ 6% in the CSEW; 30% in Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, 2010

For those asked about what can stop people from carrying knives, the most common theme (occurring in about 30% of comments) to emerge regarded police action. This included increased police numbers and patrolling and also the Stop and Search of people suspected of carrying knives. The views expressed about police action are consistent with data gleaned from elsewhere in the survey, with 58% of young people (4233 of 7337) agreeing that Stop and Search would stop people carrying knives. However, deeper analysis revealed significant factors related to those that disagreed with this view: being older, being from a black ethnic group, having a bad opinion of the police, and knowing someone that is in a gang. This in turn echoes previous findings from MOPAC’s Knife Crime Strategy Consultation in June 2017.

Another common theme regarded education about the realities and consequences of carrying knives. The nature of the education that young people spoke of was multi-agency, involving schools, teachers, the police, parents, charities, previous offenders and victims. This commonly overlapped with comments about wider communication and understanding on behalf of all the different agencies referred to. The young people expressed a desire and stressed the importance for such agencies to engage with their own situations, circumstances and points of view. This highlights positive opportunities for multi-agency work to help educate young people on the risks and impacts of knife crime.

3.3.2. London Needs You Alive

One section of the Youth Voice 2018 survey measured exposure and attitudinal responses to the London Needs You Alive campaign. This campaign was run by the Mayor of London with the aim of reducing the number of young people carrying knives in the capital by reinforcing their sense of worth. The campaign aimed to reach young people who are at risk of knife violence, with a particular focus on those aged 13 to 16 in boroughs with high levels of knife crime. Several strands of communication were used, including social media, online video platforms, street advertising and an educational toolkit.

At the time of the Youth Voice Survey 2018 (7th March 2018 to 8th May 2018), around 1 in 6 young people said they had heard about the London Needs You Alive campaign (17%, 1190 of 6975). In general, results support the campaign’s focus on young people aged 13 to 16 and those most affected by knife crime. Illustrating this, awareness of the campaign increased with age, from 12% of 11-year-olds (107 of 869) to 22% of 16-year-olds (114 of 527). Similarly, those saying they had personally carried a knife were also more likely to be aware of the campaign (26%, 53 of 206) than those saying they had not carried a knife (17%, 1081 of 6418).

Furthermore, results highlight the success of certain key media channels, including those central to the London Needs You Alive campaign such as Instagram, online video advertising and street advertising (see Box 4¹¹).

Young people supported the use of incentives to encourage engagement with campaigns: over half said they would be more likely to get involved with the London Needs You Alive campaign if they had the chance to win ‘a holiday or day out’ (62%, 645 of 1033), ‘clothes or vouchers’ (54%, 559 of 1031) or the ‘opportunity to record a music track or spend the day in the studio with a famous artist (52%, 545 of 1042).

Box 4.
Where did you hear about the campaign?
(Most commonly selected answers, N =1190)

- Instagram (42%)
- Video advert on the internet (34%)
- Posters or outdoor adverts (27%)
- Television (24%)
- School lessons or assemblies (24%)

¹¹ Respondents could choose more than one channel. Only asked to those aware of the campaign.

Table 3: Perceptions of the London Needs You Alive campaign.

	%	Frequency
The things I saw gave a positive message to young people in London.	59%	640
The things I saw made me think more about what can happen when people carry knives.	53%	580
The things I saw made me think more about what I can achieve and why my life is important.	51%	558
The things I saw worked well for people my age.	39%	425
The things I saw made me feel more worried about knife crime in London	22%	250

Approximate base: 1100

When asked about their wider attitudes to the campaign (see Table 3), over half of young people seeing the campaign felt it gave a positive message, made them think more about the risks of carrying knives, and made them think more about why their life is important. In contrast, a minority of young people *disagreed* with the attitudinal questions (maximum 11%), with remaining respondents either ‘neutral’ or saying they ‘don’t know’. Findings therefore appear to show general support for the London Needs You Alive campaign, with many young people holding positive attitudes, but nevertheless also highlight a sizeable group of young people who remain either neutral or unsure about their attitudes towards the campaign.

Moreover, results suggest that young people’s perceptions of the London Needs You Alive campaign may be less positive for those already exposed to certain crime and safety issues. For example, young people saying they know someone who carries a knife were more likely to disagree that the campaign ‘made them think about why their life is important’ (14%, 44 of 309) than those saying they do not know anyone who carries a knife (8%, 49 of 607). Furthermore, young people already feeling unsafe at school or in their local area were more likely to say the things they saw made them ‘more worried about knife crime in London’ than those feeling safe, perhaps suggesting that in some cases the campaign may have exacerbated concerns amongst those already worried about their safety.

3.3.3. Knife Imagery in Media Campaigns

Within the Youth Voice Survey 2018, young people were shown an image taken from an anti-knife campaign developed by the Metropolitan Police Service. The original image, which had been used as part of this campaign, contained a knife covered in blood – the image was subsequently edited to remove this knife, creating two identical campaign images except for the presence or absence of the knife (Appendix B).

Young people completing the survey were randomly shown one of these two images and were asked a series of attitudinal statements relating to the picture they saw (Table 4). In this way, it was possible to isolate the effect of including knife imagery within anti-knife media campaigns upon young audiences.

Table 4: Proportion agreeing with statements, by whether or not the image shown contained a knife.

	Knife		No Knife	
	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
I would remember this picture	52%	820	51%	811
This picture would get my attention*	65%	1027	61%	972
This picture would make me want to know more	35%	539	33%	513
This picture would make me feel scared*	34%	530	30%	473
The picture would make me feel more worried about knife crime*	54%	873	50%	809

Statistically significant differences are seen in the proportion agreeing at $P < 0.05$ for questions marked with a (). Approximate base: Knife (1550), No Knife (1580)

The effect of knife imagery upon young people appears to be complex. For example, young people seeing campaign imagery with a knife were more likely to say the picture got their attention (65% compared with 61%), but were also more likely to say the picture made them feel scared (34% compared with 30%) or more worried about knife crime in London (54% compared with 50%).

Furthermore, the effect of knife imagery upon young people's levels of fear and worry appears to be stronger amongst those *already concerned* about knife crime. For example, when looking at those who feel knife crime is a 'big problem' in the area where they live, the proportion saying they would feel scared as a result of seeing the image is notably higher for those seeing the image containing a knife (40%, 174 of 437) compared with those seeing the image without a knife (29%, 117 of 401). In contrast, this effect is not seen amongst those feeling knife crime is 'not a problem' in their local area, where the proportion feeling scared remains at 33% (115 of 345) regardless of the condition. For those already worried about knife crime then, viewing knife imagery may further exacerbate this fear. This effect is important to consider when designing anti-knife crime campaigns; perhaps even more so when campaign materials aim to target young people living in areas most affected by knife crime.

3.4. Young People and Safeguarding

The final section of this report seeks to explore young people's experiences of online safety and inappropriate content, and to measure early experiences and attitudes towards sexual harassment and healthy relationships. Given the sensitive nature of these topics, these questions were only asked to young people in school years 10 and 11 (aged 14 to 16), with a total base of 1752 respondents.

Section Summary: Young People and Safeguarding



- Results from the Youth Voice Survey 2018 highlight considerable proportions of young people that have been exposed to potentially inappropriate content online. In particular, young girls are more likely to say they have experienced online risks; including online bullying, being added by someone they don't know, being sent rude or sexual content, or being asked to do something they don't want to do.
- A notable minority of young people feel that sexual harassment or domestic abuse may sometimes be acceptable, with a greater degree of uncertainty about the acceptability of behaviours seen amongst boys. This supports MOPAC's commitment to engage with young people from an early age to challenge the beliefs that underlie inappropriate behaviours.
- Despite a notable proportion of young people saying they have experienced sexual harassment, results suggest that many do not seek help or talk about these experiences. The normalisation of these behaviours forms a key barrier to accessing support, while young people also express uncertainty around who to speak to. This reinforces the importance of taking steps to challenge the normalisation of these behaviours, and to make young people more aware of services available to them.

3.4.1. Online Safety

Young people in years 10 and 11 were asked whether they had experienced any of a set of online or social media risks (see Table 5). Over half of respondents (56%, 787 of 1396) said they had experienced someone that they did not know try to 'add' or speak to them online, while approximately a quarter had either had been bullied online (25%, 354 of 1389) or been sent rude or sexual content (23%, 304 of 1346). 8% of young people (114 of 1387) said they had been threatened or physically hurt in real life as a result of online activity.

Table 5: Proportion experiencing online risks in the last 12 months.

	%	Frequency
Someone you didn't know tried to add you or speak to you online	56%	787
Someone said mean things to you or bullied you online	25%	354
Someone sent you rude or sexual content	23%	304
Someone tried to persuade you to do something that you did not want to do	16%	220
Someone shared embarrassing pictures of you, or used your picture in a way you didn't want	11%	152
Someone threatened or physically hurt you in real life as a result of something that happened online, or something that was posted on social media	8%	114

Approximate Base: 1300

A larger proportion of female respondents are affected than males in almost every case. With the exception of 'sharing embarrassing pictures' or 'being threatened or hurt in real life as a result of something that happened online', each of these differences are statistically significant (see Appendix C Table C1).

Young people who feel unsafe in their local area (37%, 139 of 376) are more likely to say they have been bullied online than those feeling safe in their local area (22%, 208 of 958). This effect is also seen for feeling safe at school, with 39% of those feeling unsafe (69 of 176) saying they have been bullied online compared with 24% of those feeling safe at school (269 of 1143).

As well as things that they have personally *experienced* online, the survey also asked young people about things they may have *seen* online (See Table 6).

Table 6: Proportion of young people seeing potentially inappropriate content in the last year.

	%	Frequency
Violent content (e.g. pictures/videos showing fights/weapons)	53%	734
Racist content, or content that promotes hate or discrimination	47%	650
Gang-related content	38%	518

Approximate base: 1380

47% of young people have seen racist content, or content that promotes hate or discrimination in the last year. There are also safeguarding considerations for those who have seen gang-related content online. Those young people that have seen such content are more likely to feel unsafe, to be victims of crime, and to know people who are in gangs when compared to those who have not (see Table 7).

Table 7. Safeguarding Considerations and Online Gang Related Content

	Seen Gang Content		Not Seen Gang Content	
	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
Feel unsafe in local area	42%	215	19%	139
Feel unsafe at school	16%	85	10%	72
Victim of crime in last 12 months	25%	121	10%	71
Know someone in a gang	55%	265	17%	117
Know someone that has carried a knife	58%	282	24%	169

Approximate base: Seen Gang Content (500), Not Seen Gang Content (710). All differences are statistically significant at the $P < 0.05$ level.

3.4.2. Sexual Harassment and Healthy Relationships

As part of the Youth Voice Survey 2018, young people in school years 10 and 11 were shown examples of scenarios that could be considered as sexual harassment or domestic abuse, and were asked whether it was 'always', 'sometimes' or 'never' ok for people to do these things (see Table 8).

Table 8: Proportion of young people thinking it is acceptable (always ok or sometimes ok) to...

	Always/ Sometimes OK	Frequency
Check your partner's phone or social media to see that they've been up to or who they've been talking to	47%	642
Stare or wolf-whistle at people you fancy as they walk past.	31%	432
Tell your partner not to hang out with some of their friends because you don't like them	31%	429
Insult your partner during an argument	24%	331
Make sexual comments or jokes about people	23%	318
Try to dance with someone you fancy, even if they don't want to dance with you	23%	316
Hit or push your partner during an argument	6%	86

Approximate base: 1370

Around half of young people (47%, 642 of 1372) feel it is ok for someone to check their partner's phone or social media to see what they've been doing or who they've been talking to, while a third (31%, 429 of 1367) feel it is ok for someone to tell their partner not to see certain friends. For each of the behaviours listed, young people are more likely to feel they are 'sometimes acceptable' than 'always acceptable' (see appendix C Table C2).

Although far fewer feel it is ok to hit or push a partner (6%, 86 of 1371), this still equates to around 1 in 20 young people who feel physical violence may be acceptable. Analyses suggest that some of the most important risk factors for feeling that ‘hitting or pushing a partner’ is acceptable include:

- Being in a gang.
- Feeling the police can NOT be relied on to be there when needed.
- Feeling violence is a problem in the local area.

This appears to highlight an overlap between feeling domestic violence is acceptable and exposure to other aspects of serious youth violence, including ‘being in a gang’ and ‘feeling violence is a problem in the local area’. This could suggest that wider exposure to other violence-related issues may be important in determining young people’s more specific attitudes towards domestic violence. Closely related to this, believing the police cannot be relied on to be there when needed’ also emerges as one of the strongest predictors of feeling it is acceptable to hit or push a partner. Previous research has shown the importance of perceived police legitimacy upon people’s willingness to obey wider laws (Tyler, 2006). In line with this, these findings could suggest that for some young people an underlying lack of trust in the police may be associated with early views around the acceptability of offending behaviours.

When looking at the acceptability of domestic abuse and sexual harassment behaviours by gender, young females tend to be more likely than young males to feel these behaviours are ‘never’ ok. In contrast, young males are around twice as likely to answer ‘I don’t know’ than females. For example, while 6% of young females (37 of 651) say they do not know whether it’s acceptable for someone to hit their partner, this figure stands at 14% (86 of 603) for young males. This could highlight a greater level of uncertainty amongst young males as to the extent to which sexual harassment or domestic abuse may be considered acceptable, and reinforces the importance of engaging with young people at an early age to discuss these important issues and to help lay the foundations for healthy relationships into adulthood.

Beyond this, young people were also asked about their own personal experiences of sexual harassment, with results suggesting that these experiences are relatively common (See table 9).

Table 9: Proportion who have experienced sexual harassment in the last year.

	%	Frequency
Unwanted staring	48%	639
Wolf-whistling	24%	321
Unwanted sexual comments	22%	294
Jokes or taunts of a sexual nature	22%	286

Approximate base: 1320.

When looking at this in more detail, young females are notably more likely to experience sexual harassment than young males. This means the picture of harassment amongst young females becomes even more stark: over two-thirds of girls in school years 10 and 11 say they have experienced unwanted staring over the last year (68%, 435 of 642), while around a third have experienced jokes or taunts of a sexual nature (30%, 191 of 634) or sexual comments (34%, 218 of 639).

Box 5.
Why didn't you speak to anyone about your experience of sexual harassment?

*(Most frequently chosen answers
N = 482)*

- I didn't feel I needed to (66%)
- I didn't think it was important or serious enough (43%)
- It's normal/it was just banter (27%)
- It happens too often (18%)
- I didn't think about talking to anyone (16%)
- I didn't know who did it (14%)
- I felt ashamed, or didn't feel comfortable talking about it (13%)
- I didn't know who to speak to (11%)

22% of young people experiencing sexual harassment said they spoke to someone about it or sought help (149 of 679). Moreover, when help was sought, the clear majority said they spoke to their family or friends (90%, 134 of 149); in contrast, very few young people said they spoke to the police (7%, 10 of 149) or to a support organisation/charity (5%, 7 of 149).

For those who chose *not* to speak to anyone about their experiences, normalisation of sexual harassment behaviours again emerges as a key barrier to seeking help. Many young people said they did not seek help because they didn't feel the incident was 'important or serious enough', 'it happens too often', or because 'it's normal/just banter' (see box 5). This was also reflected in young people's comments:

"People are way too sensitive it's nothing serious and shouldn't be taken seriously"

"[School] girls get used to getting eyed by older perv men so we just move away fast"

Finally, it is worth noting that around 1 in 10 young people who did not talk about their experiences of sexual harassment said this was because they felt ashamed, or did not know who to speak to. This could reinforce the importance of ensuring young people feel empowered to seek help and are aware of available channels for support.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Youth Voice Survey 2018 has gathered a wealth of data, offering valuable insights into young people's experiences and perceptions of crime and safety issues across the capital. The survey is a rich source of information, providing young people with a voice and a platform for sharing their views.

Overall, there are some reassuring findings that have emerged from the survey. Most notably, it is positive that the clear majority of young people say they feel safe both in the area where they live and at school. Furthermore, results suggest potentially beneficial impacts of Safer Schools Officers upon young people's feelings of safety at school, and it is encouraging that the majority of young Londoners broadly support the use of Stop and Search tactics to help tackle knife crime in the capital.

Despite this, results from the survey also highlight some areas for attention. Analyses reveal relatively high levels of under-reporting of crime amongst young people in London, despite victimisation appearing to be associated with multiple vulnerabilities such as exposure to youth violence issues and wider poor wellbeing. Moreover, less than a third of those who *do* report their crimes to the police say they are satisfied with the service provided to them, which is notably lower than victim satisfaction rates seen amongst adults in London. In addition to this, results highlight the prevalence of exposure to gang involvement and knife possession amongst those growing up in the capital, and support commitments to encourage positive attitudes and behaviours that underlie healthy relationships amongst young people.

However, there are some clear opportunities arising from the survey, both for MOPAC and the Metropolitan Police, and for wider partnership working. When looking across all the topics covered by the Youth Voice Survey 2018¹², results highlight a complex interplay between crime and safety issues (see Table 10). This suggests that steps to improve young people's perceptions or experiences of these issues are likely to have wider benefits across a range of inter-related outcomes.

In particular, topics associated with serious youth violence ('knife crime' and 'gangs') serve as risk-factors for several outcomes, including wider feelings of safety, young people's attitudes towards the police, experiences of criminal victimisation, and personal offending behaviours (e.g. knife possession). This could suggest that exposure to aspects of serious youth violence are particularly important in shaping young people's wider attitudes towards a range of crime and safety issues, and supports the continued drive to tackle knife and gang violence in the capital. Within the Youth Voice Survey 2018, young people expressed a desire for more interventions that raise their awareness of the potential consequences of carrying weapons, and suggested that this could be most effective if delivered in partnership between different organisations, including the police, schools, previous offenders and victims.

Furthermore, results highlight the important role that the police play in a range of outcomes, with 'opinion of the police' associated with several measures including feelings of safety and experiences of victimisation. When considered alongside the finding that sizeable proportions of young people may not yet have formed strong opinions of the police, this also highlights a valuable opportunity to help build early positive relationships with young Londoners.

Finally, results further reinforce the overlap between feelings of safety, crime victimisation, and wider wellbeing issues. This highlights the importance of ensuring that the police and partnership organisations

¹² The relationships between different topics covered in the survey were explored using several logistic regression models on a range of outcome variables.

across London recognise this complex picture of vulnerability, and provide appropriate support to safeguard young people.

The next steps are to share findings from the Youth Voice Survey 2018 more widely to provide an evidence base and catalyst for continuous improvements to policy, commissioning and delivery of services to help keep young people safe in London.

Table 10: Summary of the most important risk-factors from different areas of the Youth Voice Survey 2018, and their relationships with key outcomes.

Outcome	Safety	Opinion of police	Crime victimisation	Safer Schools Officers	Knife Crime	Gangs	Stop and Search	Mental Wellbeing
Feeling unsafe in local area	Those who feel unsafe at school are more likely to feel unsafe in the local area.	Those who feel the police do a bad job locally are more likely to feel unsafe in the local area.			Those who feel knife crime is a problem locally are more likely to feel unsafe in the local area.	Those who feel gangs are a problem locally are more likely to feel unsafe in the local area.		Those with poorer mental wellbeing are more likely to feel unsafe in the local area.
Feeling unsafe at school	Those who feel unsafe at school, or feel violence is a problem at school, are more likely to feel unsafe at school.	Those who have a bad opinion of the police are more likely to feel unsafe at school.	Young victims of crime are more likely to feel unsafe at school.		Those who know someone who carries a knife are more likely to feel unsafe at school.	Those who have personally been in a gang are more likely to feel unsafe at school.		Those with poorer mental wellbeing are more likely to feel unsafe at school.
Having a bad opinion of the police	Those who feel unsafe at school are more likely to have a bad opinion of the police.	Those with wider negative perceptions of the police (e.g. unfairness) are more likely to have a bad opinion of the police.	Young victims of crime are more likely to have a bad opinion of the police.	Those without an SSO, or who have an SSO but don't feel confident talking to them, are more likely to have a bad opinion of the police.	Those who know someone who carries a knife are more likely to have a bad opinion of the police.		Those who have had a negative 'Stop and Search' encounter are more likely to have a bad opinion of the police.	
Being a young victim of crime	Those who feel unsafe at home are more likely to have been a victim of crime.	Those who have a bad opinion of the police are more likely to have been a victim of crime.			Those who have personally carried a knife, or know someone who has, are more likely to have been a victim of crime.	Those who know someone in a gang are more likely to have been a victim of crime.	Those who have been 'Stopped and Searched' are more likely to have been a victim of crime.	Those with poorer mental wellbeing are more likely to have been a victim of crime.
Having personally carried a knife			Young victims of crime are more likely to have carried a knife.		Those who have felt pressured to carry, know others who carry, and feel knives are a problem at school are more likely to have carried a knife.	Those in a gang are more likely to have carried a knife.	Those who know someone who has been 'Stopped and Searched' are more likely to have carried a knife.	
Being involved in a gang	Those who feel unsafe at school are more likely to have been in a gang.				Those who have carried a knife are more likely to have been in a gang.	Those who know other people in gangs are more likely to have been in a gang.	Those who have been 'Stopped and Searched' are more likely to have been in a gang.	

*Outcomes are listed vertically in the table, while risk factors are displayed horizontally. Important relationships between these are highlighted in interconnecting cells.

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Appendix A: Demographics

Figure A1: Demographic breakdowns for respondents.

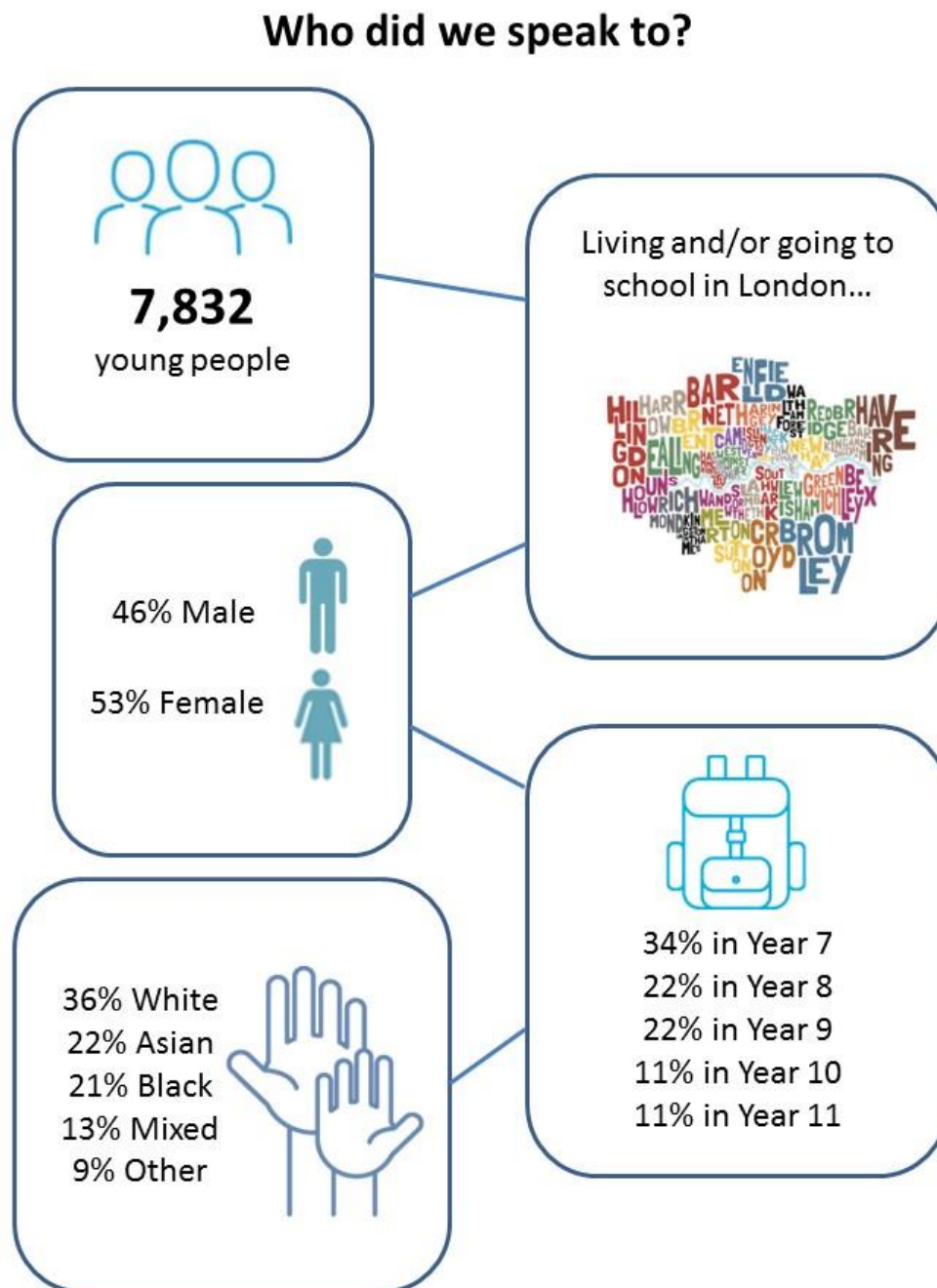


Table A2: Borough distributions of respondents.

	Live		Go to School	
	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
Barking and Dagenham	13%	1010	13%	1016
Barnet	5%	371	5%	406
Bexley	2%	141	2%	140
Brent	2%	119	0%	11
Bromley	1%	105	1%	99
Camden	5%	423	9%	666
City of London	2%	152	1%	82
Croydon	3%	220	3%	255
Ealing	5%	382	5%	369
Enfield	2%	126	1%	95
Greenwich	5%	391	5%	414
Hackney	3%	224	3%	267
Hammersmith and Fulham	2%	190	3%	272
Haringey	1%	80	0%	32
Harrow	2%	170	2%	145
Havering	7%	550	7%	550
Hillingdon	2%	188	2%	185
Hounslow	2%	120	1%	51
Islington	2%	185	0%	20
Kensington and Chelsea	1%	66	0%	15
Kingston upon Thames	2%	119	1%	106
Lambeth	3%	256	3%	198
Lewisham	1%	107	0%	36
Merton	1%	74	2%	154
Newham	1%	41	0%	5
Redbridge	3%	233	3%	257
Richmond upon Thames	3%	236	3%	249
Southwark	3%	245	4%	312
Sutton	0%	14	0%	1
Tower Hamlets	3%	235	3%	253
Waltham Forest	4%	275	4%	278
Wandsworth	3%	257	3%	265
Westminster	3%	238	4%	337
I don't know	3%	228	3%	253
Outside of London	1%	61	0%	38
Total	100%	7832	100%	7832

Appendix B: Campaign Images With (Picture 1) and Without (Picture 2) Knife Imagery.



Appendix C: Safeguarding

Table C1: Online safeguarding experiences.

In the last 12 months has someone...	Male	Frequency	Female	Frequency
...you didn't know tried to add you or speak to you online*	49%	295	65%	415
...said mean things to you or bullied you online*	21%	127	28%	180
...sent you rude or sexual content*	16%	91	28%	176
...tried to persuade you to do something that you did not want to do*	13%	75	19%	118
...shared embarrassing pictures of you, or used your picture in a way you didn't want	10%	61	11%	69
...threatened or physically hurt you in real life as a result of something that happened online, or something that was posted on social media	8%	48	8%	51

Statistically significant differences are seen between males and females at $P < 0.05$ for questions marked with a ().

Approximate base: Male (590), Female (630)

Table C2. Acceptability of sexual harassment and domestic abuse behaviours: full results.

	Always OK	Frequency	Sometimes OK	Frequency	Never OK	Frequency	I don't know	Frequency
Checking your partner's phone or social media to see that they've been up to or who they've been talking to	9%	129	37%	513	38%	522	15%	208
Telling your partner not to hang out with some of their friends because you don't like them	5%	68	26%	361	54%	732	15%	206
Staring or wolf-whistling at people you fancy as they walk past.	5%	66	27%	366	51%	701	18%	243
Trying to dance with someone you fancy, even if they don't want to dance with you	4%	57	19%	259	60%	819	17%	238
Insulting your partner during an argument	4%	52	20%	279	61%	834	15%	208
Making sexual comments or jokes about people	4%	50	19%	268	63%	863	14%	195
Hitting or pushing your partner during an argument	2%	31	4%	55	83%	1135	11%	150

Approximate base: 1370