**Relationships between Police and Young People**

**Evidence**

‘**Growing up in H & F Report’:**  Statistics show “Trust in the police depends on ethnicity” with a majority of White and South Asian young people more likely to trust the police, with Black and Mixed Young people least likely to.

Black young people (44.9%) are twice as likely to know someone that has been stopped and searched in Hammersmith and Fulham compared to White young people (17.6%) as well as being more likely to have been stopped and searched themselves.

**Problem Statement**

**‘Young People and the police in H & F can have a negative relationship. This was highlighted to us during a meeting where a question from a young person sparked a response that was a snapshot of how police can react to young people.​ Add this to the difficulties around disproportionality, stop and search and police reputations, it provides a purpose to try and find a better solution to the current situation’.**

**Discussion:**

* Broad agreement that there is an issue.
* Police have experienced barriers and blockages trying to set up Youth Independent Advisory Group.
* Young people have been feeding into Sharon Tomlin in her role as a Community Leader.
* Youth Offending Service have interviewed approx. 20 young people and have found that some of those spoken to have been ‘Stopped and Searched’ 3-4 times a day and often in a disrespectful way. Perception that they have been stopped due to their skin colour, how they dress or having a small bag on them.
* There has been good conversations between police and young people in a safe environment, which for some, has been the first ever positive engagement with a police officer. Police sharing stories about why they joined the police service helps to humanise officers.
* Work going on to empower Young People to navigate stop and search.
* Local police do attend and engage with young people at youth sessions, but it feels like police tick a box at events. Rather than changing their attitudes when engaging with young people in the community.
* Young People need to be given a voice and platform to raise concerns.
* Young People feel that professionals either side with the police or don’t act on things.
* There is a long history of poor relationships and will take time to change. Police are more relatable now and need to humanise themselves.
* Good example of a Police officer having a 1-2-1 basketball session, which the police officer took it upon themselves to arrange.
* Making little steps to create a bigger change.

**Account Hackney**

**Q & A**

**How have you found the response from the police?**

* Some hear you and want to make change. Young people can quickly see tokenism and tick boxing when engaging with the police. Knowing that there are people willing to listen keeps you going as well as being youth led, taking charge, and setting the agenda. Being consistent because you know the community need it

**How can young people make the change happen?**

* Knowing you can affect someone’s life. Change can be small or large. Knowing that you are not alone and speak to young people’s wellbeing and welfare as conversations can unlock trauma from lived experience.

**Have you been able to identify where the trauma comes from?**

* Section in report called ‘Trauma’ speaks about death in custody.
* Ancestorial trauma is acknowledged. Trying to take 400+ years of trauma in a direction of healing

Account Hackney are further working on Contextual Safeguarding and the police. Partners involved include the Violence Reduction Unit, Mayor’s Office of Police and Crime ad University of Bedfordshire. They are additionally supporting & advocating for Young People to make complaints to the police.