



**Bromley Youth Council
Your Choice Youth Conference:**

***Informed and influenced to stay safe in Bromley.
Preventing Knife Crime & Youth Violence Report***

Title: *BYC Your Choice Youth Conference: Informed and influenced to stay safe in Bromley. Preventing Knife Crime & Youth Violence Report*

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Chairperson Emily Warnham

Contact Info: BYC@bromley.gov.uk

Report produced by: Emily Warnham, Ellen Thom, Cameron Ward, Tajana Reeves, Jacob Eyers, Sean Gardener, Seejay Brown, Phoebe Phillimore, Hannah Dumbrell, Nathan Ward, Rayyan Fayisal, Abdullah Aslam.

1. Introduction

Bromley Youth Council (BYC) is run for young people by young people and supported by the London Borough of Bromley. The primary route for involvement is through borough wide election where young people can get involved. Young people come together to represent the views of their peers and to bring about positive changes for all young people living, working and educated in the borough. Through participation in the youth council, young people gain new skills, make new friends, share new experiences, but most of all they work to improve the lives of other young people in Bromley.

2. BYC Manifesto 2019/20

2.1 BYC host a Youth Manifesto conference annually to ensure it is representing the voice of young people in the London Borough of Bromley. Student councils and local youth forums are invited along to the one-day youth conference, planned and delivered by members of the youth council. Young people are empowered to have a say on what is important to them through various activities. Attendees get the opportunity to vote on a primary and secondary campaign for BYC's forth coming year. They highlight the key areas under a chosen campaign area, and this forms the youth councils Manifesto for that year. In 2019, BYC members introduced a digital online voting system to allow wider youth participation voting on campaigns.

2.2 Youth Councillors come together to evaluate the Manifesto event and plan how they will tackle the voted campaign areas going forward. A detailed campaign plan is produced every year by youth councillors to ensure they deliver a robust campaign. Over 714 young people voted on campaigns in 2019. The Primary campaign was 'Put an End to Knife Crime' and the secondary campaign was Youth Mental Health. Youth Councillor's presented their Manifesto and campaign plans to elected members, key LBB officers and partners in June 2019 at the BYC Executive meeting. Please see *Appendix 1* for the campaign plan for 'Put an End to Knife Crime'.

3. Rationale for Youth Conference

3.1 Over the past 10 years, London has seen an increase in youth violence including gangs and knife crime incidences, acid attacks and assaults on young people by young people. In 2019 young people living, educated or working in Bromley voted at the Manifesto event for BYC members to campaign and 'Put an End to Knife Crime'. This follows the BYC campaign to raise awareness and address Bromley's emerging gang culture campaign in 2018.

Youth councillors took to the streets in Bromley to survey 796 young people on youth violence in Penge, Orpington and Bromley Town Centre. Young people gave their suggestions about what more BYC can do to address the challenges. Interacting with young people is very important to BYC and running a survey was a great way to meet young people that might not be familiar with us or what we do. Young people felt there was not enough direct education tackling these issues; young people would like to see knife crime awareness lessons in school; more information and access to services working to prevent and reduce knife crime. Following the success of the anti-gang's conference for young people in 2018, BYC members felt direct education to a targeted audience has the best impact and can make a real difference.

3.2 Youth violence, gangs and knife crime have been voted as key campaigns locally and nationally through the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) and London Youth Assembly (LYA) in the last two years. As a result, young people debated the issue of knife crime in the House of Parliament in November 2019 and LYA members put their concerns and recommendations to The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. LYA members were able to scrutinise Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in London on these issues facing young people today.

4. Overview of Youth Conference:

4.1 BYC members researched key facilitators for the event, taking on board learning points from the previous youth conference on gangs. They worked in partnership with secondary head teachers, Met Police and Bromley Safeguarding board to ensure the content delivery was meaningful. The workshop facilitators included Margaret and Barry from The Jimmy Mizen foundation; an ex-gang member from the organisation 2020; COBRA Defence organisation, a local organisation in Bromley and Barnardo's. All workshops covered various topics that can be contributing factors to knife crime. They aimed to educate young people and support all to live a safe and productive lives. Details of the organisations used are in *Appendix 2*.

4.2 The overall conference held on Thursday 28th November 2019, held at The Warren Metropolitan sports ground was an overall success. The event was well attended by 74 young people. This included students from Bromley Trust Academy, Bullers Wood Girls School, Bishop Justus, Darrick Wood, Eden Park High School, Glebe, Hayes, Harris Academy Beckenham, Langley Park School for Boys, Langley Park School for Girls, The Ravensbourne, Tutorial Foundation and Marjorie McClure. School's

identified young people who are considered as vulnerable or at risk of carrying a knife or involved with gangs, to attend. There was careful planning and preparation in partnership with schools, Bromley Youth Support Programme, Youth Offending Service with the Metropolitan police to ensure the conference was safe and educational for all.

4.3 BYC followed a recommendation from the Principal at a Bromley Secondary school, to give consideration on the name of the conference and to remove any reference to the attendees being identified as 'vulnerable' or 'at risk'. All attendees were welcomed to the youth conference as representatives from their school attending an educational conference called 'Your Choice', providing educational workshops on current issues affecting young people in Bromley.

5. Survey Results

5.1 On arrival, all participants were given a pre-conference questionnaire to measure their knowledge, understanding and concerns around knife crime. It will provide information key information to measure the impact the conference made. Interestingly knife crime, gangs, grooming and personal safety were the highest concerns for this group. Only 17% would report crime anonymously.

5.2 Please find below the results from the pre-conference questionnaire.

Q1. Have you been to a youth conference before?	Yes	17%
	No	83%
Q2. Are you concerned about any of the following;	Knife Crime	96%
	Gangs	90%
	Peer Pressure	95%
	Drugs	65%
	Youth Violence	45%
	Grooming	80%
	Internet safety	38%
	County lines	50%
	Weapons	60%
	Reporting crime	48%
	Exploitation	38%
	Personal Safety	60%
Q3. Have you attended any workshops/assemblies on any of these issues before?	Yes	40%
	No	38%
	Don't know	22%
Q4. Have you heard of 'For Jimmy' and what they do?	Yes	12%
	No	70%
	Don't know	18%
Q5: Have you heard of COBRA Defence and what they do?	Yes	0%
	No	88%
	Don't know	2%
Q6: Have you heard of 2020 and what they do?	Yes	0%
	No	90%
	Don't know	10%
Q7: Have you heard of Fearless and what they do?	Yes	10%
	No	85%
	Don't know	5%
	Yes	17%

Q8. Would you report a Crime Anonymously?	No	43%
	Don't know	40%

5.3 Please find below the results from the completed evaluation forms by young people. All young people said they learnt something new from attending the conference and many were able to tell us what they learnt. The workshop with the ex-gang member from 2020 was rated excellent by 80% of the young people, followed by the 'For Jimmy' talk.

There was an increase in the number of young people who would now report a crime anonymously from 17% to 66%. This was due to young people not knowing how to report a crime or that they could anonymously.

Overall, 64% of young people that attended the youth conference felt it was excellent and 96% of young people feel it is important to have youth conferences to educate young people on important issues impacting young people lives.

Q1. Did you learn something new today?	Yes No	100%
Q2. What did you learn from the youth conference?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgiveness & hope • Think before you act • How knife crime effects everyone • Don't carry a knife • Anger is why stuff happens • Freedom is important • You can report a crime • Life sentence is 25 years • Don't carry a knife • Life is m or important than selling drugs 	
Q3. How would you rate the 'For Jimmy Talk' by the Mizen family?	Excellent 76% OK 2% Poor 2%	
Q4. How would you rate the FEARLESS workshop?	Excellent 68% OK 10% Poor 22%	
Q5. How would you rate the COBRA workshop?	Excellent 20% OK 44% Poor 36%	
Q6. How would you rate the 2020 workshop?	Excellent 80% OK 18% Poor 2%	

Q7. How would you rate the BYC team?	Excellent 72% OK 26% Poor 2%
Q8. Would you report a crime anonymously after taking part in the workshop?	Yes 66% No 30% Don't Know 4%
Q9. How would you rate today's youth conference as a whole?	Excellent 64% Good 36% Ok Poor Bad
Q10. Do you think it is important to have regular youth conferences on important issues like today's one in the future?	Yes 96% No Don't know 4%

“Thank you, Bromley Youth Council, for a really informative and educational conference on knife crime. I have learnt a lot about my students today. You have saved many lives. Keep up the good work.” – Teacher, Bromley Trust Academy.



6. Summary & Recommendations

- 6.1 BYC recognises there needs to be more joined up strategic work across services to eradicate and reduce knife crime and youth violence within Bromley. Following the evidence the 'For Jimmy' talk had a real impact on young people, BYC members participated in a sponsored walk from City Hall to Bromley, 9.5 miles to raise funds that would support The Mizen Foundation to give their talks to more young people within Bromley schools. Currently 14 secondary schools have signed up for talks/workshops and to empower young people to lead on a community social action project around safety
- 6.2 There was great feedback from teachers, students and facilitators delivering at the youth conferences. BYC received several emails from teachers sharing the difference BYC has made to young people's lives and potentially save some lives through providing direct education through a conference.
- 6.3 BYC members have learned a lot from engaging in both campaigns around youth violence. It is important to recognise there is a small group of young people marginalised from society that do engage, for many different reasons, in youth violence. BYC members identified a link between youth violence and mental health. More needs to be done in partnership with mental health services for young people to work holistically to address knife crime locally.
- 6.4 BYC would like to understand how services in the Borough share information on key young people at risk or caught carrying a knife to ensure these young people are offered early intervention and a holistic educational programme to support them. Information gained from the conference indicated that there is no clear guidance for schools, and some do not have a weapons policy.

Thank you to all youth councillors, Bromley Safer Neighbourhood board,
Bromley Youth Support Programme.



Bromley Youth Council

2019/20 Campaigns Work Plan

Appendix 1

BYC Campaign: Put an End to Knife Crime		
<p>Knife crime has been an ever growing problem throughout the last year with over 200 fatal stabbings in England and Wales of this 132 people killed were from the city of London alone, the highest for 10 years. Furthermore, one in four (71%) of victims were young men aged 18-24. This epidemic is a rising problem that we as young people have made clear is a problem we are truly passionate about and feel as if should be tackled hence why the young people voted for it at the manifesto event of 2019.</p> <p>The purpose of our campaign is to make a change that will reduce these drastic figures. This is why UK chancellor Philip Hammond is donating £100 million to help the police fight the battle, which is knife crime. Philip Hammond also said “We know action is needed now to tackle knife crime, which is blighting communities around the country,” “I’ve heard the calls from the police and the families affected by this devastating crime.”</p> <p>We are aware that this growing issue is one that will be hard to overcome but that is all the more reasons why this campaign is our primary issue this year.</p>		
Date	Action (What)	Outcome (Why)
	<p>To provide direct education around the consequences of knife crime to young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise for a minimum of twelve secondary schools to sign up to at least one “Talk for Change” workshop led by the Mizen family from the “For Jimmy” charity. BYC will plan an event and fundraise to seek funding to pay for the educational “Talk for Change” workshops delivered by the Mizen’s from the For Jimmy charity. We will use an online fundraising link and publicise the opportunity to donate via Youth Council Social Media. To survey young people before/after the workshop to measure the impact of the education on knife crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To empower schools to sign up to the For Jimmy workshop. To inform, influence and educate young people against carrying a knife To enable young people to hear the messages that “all their lives are valuable”, and that “we have the power to build the type of communities we all want to live in” To plan and deliver a fund raising activity To raise funds to pay for the For Jimmy workshops (minimum of approx. £2,400) To create a safer community for everyone to live in To give young people a voice on knife crime
	<p>To raise awareness of www.fearless.org a service where young people can report crime 100% anonymously and access non-judgemental advice and guidance.</p> <p>To promote the use of Knife free lesson plans in schools and youth groups across the borough and distribute posters and social media links. https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/home-office-knifefree-lesson-plans-ks34-%E2%80%93updated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To access and distribute knife crime awareness leaflets and posters Young people will develop research and planning skills Young people will communicate with educational establishments to distribute material and research the Schools involvement in supporting the no knives agenda. Young people will work as a team Young people will champion tackling knife crime among their peers.

	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/knifefree-campaign-graphics-and-posters</p> <p>Research via School Councils what work is undertaken in schools in relation to Knife crime and knife carrying.</p>	
	<p>BYC members Consult on the LBB Knife Crime and Serious Violence Action Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people will develop consultation; giving/receiving feedback • Young people will work as a team • Young people will influence local policy
	<p>BYC members to work in partnership with Bromley Police Cadets to be trained and assist with a knife sweep.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people to undertake hands on experience/ research in how many knives are on the street. • Young people to gain an insight into the severity of knife crime in Bromley Borough
	<p>BYC will plan, organise and deliver a one day youth conference aimed at young people around knife crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will bring together young people and local services to look and knife crime and find solutions for the borough. • The day will offer informed workshops to educate young people away from knife crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people will develop their planning and organisational skills • Young people will increase their learning around the criminal justice system, crime and consequence • Young people will increase their knowledge around why young people carry knives and the pressures on young people to carry out illegal activities • Young people will be more informed around locally services and initiatives challenging knife crime

'For Jimmy' - Talk for Change

Shortly after Jimmy was killed in 2008, Barry and Margaret were asked to speak in a local school. Far from confident public speakers, they both shared stories about what they knew best – Jimmy. Those initial talks have evolved into a programme that inspires young people, schools and businesses to build safer, more peaceful communities.

mizenfoundation.org

Margaret Mizen - margaret@mizenfoundation.org

Cobra Defence London

COBRA Defence offer training against knife crime and gang activity as well as Early Prevention Workshops. **Mind Over Matter** consists of an **Interactive Early Prevention** 1-hour workshop. This is a fun, engaging experience and is designed to develop/enhance the participants ability to make the right decisions in their lives. It's very important that young people can identify the correct paths in life and make those important decisions for themselves.

COBRA Defence London - cobradefencelondon@yahoo.com

2020

Gun & Knife Crime Awareness. Guns & knives ruin lives! But all too often, kids associate these deadly weapons with the fun experiences of playing ever more realistic video games, the glamorous illusions peddled by the film industry or the macho lyrics of the gangster rap star. To ensure kids understand the gravity of the decision to use or carry guns or knives, they need to be introduced to the reality of weapons and the law, the real implications of making poor decisions involving weapons and the ways in which conflict can be avoided without the need of a dangerous deterrent. Age-appropriate role-plays and open discussion forums are used to fully engage with young people and understand their perspectives on gun and knife crime.

www.2020dreams.org.uk

Daniel Paul - daniel@2020dreams.org.uk

Fearless

Fearless is a service that allows individuals to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. It is government lead and the team provide education and resources on the individual crime types. Where possible, Fearless have included relevant supporting video's and signposted to other agencies who are industry experts.

Hannah Halls - Hannah.Halls@crimestoppers-uk.org