



HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

DATE: 31st March 2010

Young People Go Shopping Having Given Information to Police Authority

Three members of the Young People's Parliament were celebrating after the Police Authority rewarded them for helping with enquiries.

Joshua Smith, Emily Potter and another lucky young person won £50, £30 and £20 worth of shopping vouchers respectively having taken part in a free prize draw open to all the young people who responded to a Police Authority survey.

Over 100 young people from Hull and surrounding areas took part in the survey, which is part of the Police Authority's ongoing work to engage young people, make sure that their views are taken into account and check that the service delivered by Humberston Police is meeting their needs.

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, said the Police Authority is keen to see more young people engaged with policing. "Young people are the voices of the future," she explained. "In this country we police by consent and it is important that we build relationships with young people from different communities, listen to what they tell us and then make sure policing is provided in the most appropriate ways to keep them safe and out of trouble. This is the way to gain their trust and confidence.

"These three young people, who were delighted to win the vouchers, took the time and trouble to answer our questions along with about 100 of their contemporaries. As a result we know that the majority of youngsters responding feel safe, are happy with the service provided by the Police and know how to contact them. Those who didn't feel safe cited 'gangs' as the reason and we will be working with our partners to see how this and other issues raised can be most effectively addressed.

"We are also pleased to see that as part of the Safer Schools Partnership in Hull every primary and secondary school will have increased links with their Neighbourhood Policing Team to help with resolving local problems. We will scrutinise the success of this approach to see if lessons can be learned and rolled out across other divisions."

Survey Results

The survey, which was carried out in February 2010, found that:

1. The majority (76%) of young people feel safe where they live. The main reason given by those who don't feel safe was 'gangs'.

2. They were asked what the police could do to make them feel safer and the top four answers were:
 - More police patrolling the streets
 - Security Cameras
 - Better Street Lighting
 - Deal with 'gangs'
3. Their top five priorities for policing were:
 - Gangs
 - Bullying (including cyber and text bullying techniques)
 - Theft
 - Vandalism
 - Hate crime
4. The majority (82%) felt that the police were doing excellently, very well or OK at handling young people's concerns.
5. 78% knew where their nearest police station was.
6. Less than half had either spoken to a police officer or visited a police station.

The photograph attached shows the first prize winner 11 year old Joshua Smith with Police Authority Chief Executive Kevin Sharp.

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Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, 01283 821012 / 07702 541401