

Islington YJS

Involving Children & Families in Police Training

[keywords: *young people, lived experience, community relations*]

Overview

Islington YJS run a bi-monthly training session for student officers with Islington & Camden Police, involving children and their parents/carers, exploring their experiences of policing, in particular stop and search. The session was developed with the focus of incorporating the lived experience of children and their families, to open up discussions around topics such as race, disproportionality, communication, the impact of stop & search and use of force, and both their positive and negative experiences of policing. It also provides an opportunity for more established officers to share with the children and their families some of the challenges they have faced in their roles, and the impact those can have on them personally. The training programme started in 2021, and by May 2023 had trained 175 officers, with excellent feedback from all concerned.

Its impact

Feedback from participants shows that student officers valued the sessions and felt they provided them with valuable learning and viewpoints they had not previously considered; while the children, and their families, felt they were heard. Another important aspect and positive outcome is the opportunity for children, parents, and student officers, to have a positive interaction with each other.

What's special about it

This is currently unique to Islington youth justice service.

Wider applicability

The YJS believe that this approach would be widely applicable elsewhere and could be readily replicated.

Further information

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See also: [KnowX.uk/Islington-KBT24.pdf](https://knowx.uk/Islington-KBT24.pdf) (report)