

Police Scotland and Youth Just Us

Youth Just Us have been working with Police Scotland's Children and Young People's team to highlight the current issues and solutions that care and justice experienced young people want to change in their interactions with the police. The following feedback was given by members of the Police Scotland team:

"The session was very well laid out and presented. The quiz at the start was a good way to bring everyone together again after the previous session and light hearted, making it a good transition for the rest of the session."

"I feel that the experiences shared within this session were told with honesty and confidence and I can understand why there is a feeling of negativity towards the Police. I also felt that despite the engagement and relationships we are currently making, we still have a lot to do. This group however have shown a strength which gives hope that this could be achieved in some areas."

"I thought the last meeting was really powerful, humbling and sad. The personal experience was a tough listen but needed to be heard. It helps drive me personally to change the way we engage with children and young people. I think we have lots of opportunity to improve how we actively listen to young people and hopefully experiences with Youth Just Us and like groups can be more commonplace in future."

"I am so grateful to Youth Just Us for taking time to prepare for and run the engagement sessions. Police Scotland is looking for ways to meaningfully engage, and I am excited to see how we can develop this relationship further. I would like us to take our time with the relationship building, and from our side, happy to take the lead from Youth Just Us on what this could mean."

"I initially started to prepare a paragraph when you requested it, however I found it very difficult to find anything to say. The experiences shared by the group were not new to me therefore did not instil any new emotions. The first time I heard Care Experienced young people talk about their negative interactions with police I was very emotional which resulted in me working with Who Cares Scotland both professional and personally."

"I think the most significant take away for me was that whilst I had an appreciation that every contact we as Police have with people will leave a trace, how significant the lasting impact of this can be and how it can completely alter a person's perception of us for the remainder of their lives. I think hearing that first-hand from someone who has clearly gone on to lead a very successful life but still feels so much distress when recounting these incidents really brought it home for me."