



**VIOLENCE
REDUCTION
UNIT**

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR
GREATER MANCHESTER'S COMMUNITIES



GREATER MANCHESTER'S HOPE HACK 2022

SUMMARY

Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and partners embraced the opportunity to host a Hack event and contribute to the national Hope Collective 'Reimagined' report. Building on the theme of creating a fairer and just society, Greater Manchester decided to focus on 8 themes.



THEMES

Education

**Poverty,
Inequality,
Racism & Division**

**Media & Social
Media**

**Mental & Physical
Health**

**Youth work /
Sports &
Recreation**

**Keeping young
people safe**

**Relationships
with Police and
Criminal Justice**

**Vulnerability &
Exploitation**

**CLICK ON EACH OF THE
THEMES TO READ
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
FEEDBACK, IDEAS AND
SOLUTIONS**

90+ Young people attended

40 Professionals and local leaders attended

HOW



Following the format of previous Hacks, each theme was explored in workshops by groups of approximately 12 young people, facilitated by local youth workers and subject matter experts. Following the workshops, young people had the opportunity to present their findings.



**WATCH THE
EVENT
VIDEO HERE**

FEEDBACK



"Hope Hack is about having the most direct and honest conversation with the young people of Greater Manchester – it's about their reality – their lives."

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

COMMENTS BY YOUNG PEOPLE



- We want to be heard, empowered and respected!
- Listen to the next generation.
- Lets create a society where every voice is heard.
- We know things won't change overnight, but lets make a start.
- I came to England with no confidence. My teacher gave me confidence.
- There is only one race, and it's the human race.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The views collected from young people at Hope Hack events across the country, will go on to form the basis of a new report, "Reimagined", produced by the Hope Collective. It will be presented to political parties for consideration as they produce their manifestoes ahead of the next General Election. This ground-breaking report will outline what young people would like to see happen to make the UK a better place to live and grow up in.

Find out more on our website:
www.gmvru.co.uk

Follow us on social media:
@GM_VRU



With thanks to:



THEMES

Theme	High level feedback	Ideas and solutions
Education	<p>The PSHE curriculum should include inequality and violence prevention. Educational establishments should acknowledge racism and inequality exists and address it in a positive way. Teachers might need more training and support if they are to recognise issues and then be able to address them.</p>	<p>Educational establishments should introduce 'Culture Days' where students have the opportunity to learn about each other's culture through dress, food and customs. Perhaps a National School Culture Day.</p> <p>When inputs or presentations are delivered in schools, there should always be a young person's perspective included.</p> <p>PSHE curriculum should be voted on by young people to cover subjects that are important to them. Schools could invite relatable people with experiences of the subjects to help deliver the curriculum.</p> <p>Create 'safe listening spaces' within school where young people can talk about concerns and get support.</p> <p>Challenging /dealing with issues rather than normalising - "boys will be boys".</p> <p>Misogyny - understand the significant impact this has on girl's education and social development.</p> <p>Training and support for teachers - how do they recognise issues and support young people.</p>
Poverty, Inequality, Racism & Division	<p>Young people want equality of services and opportunities, regardless of demographics and circumstances. Recognise that these issues do exist and affect young people – don't pretend they don't.</p>	<p>Campaigns to promote people standing together against racism.</p> <p>Greater Manchester to consider its own Diversity Day each year. 'Pride' attracts a lot of attention and resource, but it's quite specific.</p> <p>Let's talk about racism openly in schools and make those who are racist the minority voice, showing that the vast majority of people aren't racist. It may even change people's views. It may promote conversations amongst adults.</p> <p>Don't be afraid to challenge bad behaviour – I bet everyone else is thinking the same as you.</p> <p>Let's tackle racism by talking about it on social media.</p> <p>More work to raise young people's aspirations in areas that are historically viewed as deprived and / or areas of high crime.</p>

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Media & Social Media	<p>More education for young people and parents.</p> <p>Media to be influenced to report on positive youth stories as well as those that are perceived as negative.</p>	<p>A radio show or podcast by young people for young people.</p> <p>Young people should be invited for comment where a story relates to young people.</p> <p>Some age restrictions should be higher for TikTok and some video posts.</p> <p>Companies need to be quicker to take down some posts with consequences if they don't.</p> <p>More relevant education and workshops in schools and colleges for young people around the dangers and positive use of social media, and how to use it safely.</p> <p>Young people should be encouraged to use social media to tell everyone about the great things that young people do in the community, like youth club activities and volunteering. The news and papers should also do this. Perhaps social media clubs could be set up in schools?</p>
Mental & Physical Health	<p>Access to services earlier on (First Aid approach) – consider a different name to mental health which currently stigmatises young people.</p> <p>Workforce training on how to recognise and appropriately respond to young people who may need support.</p>	<p>Greater recognition within education on how mental health and bullying impacts young people.</p> <p>Stop judging and please start listening.</p> <p>Professionals to not make young people feel different because of their mental health conditions or disabilities.</p> <p>More training for teachers to help them understand young people with disabilities or a mental health diagnosis.</p> <p>Lots of young people are suffering because of family circumstances, the impact of Covid and people having less money. They might not be at the stage where they need lots of help, but if there isn't any help for those young people, they soon will be. We should consider what type of support should be available for young people, and what we should call it. Using names like "mental health" can put people off going for help and makes them feel uncomfortable.</p>

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Youth work / Sports & Recreation	<p>Requirement for more outreach work and youth clubs.</p> <p>More inclusive spaces where young people feel safe and wanted. Activities based on what young people want rather than just sport.</p> <p>Remove cost barriers and make transport easier.</p>	<p>Having the right staff, trained in the right way, including funded training for more staff to upskill.</p> <p>Raise the profile of youth work & sports roles because these are the people who really listen and understand the community.</p> <p>Increase wages for trained staff to value and retain them.</p> <p>Wider variety of activities put on, including monthly spaces to discuss issues.</p> <p>LGBTQ+ sports, attractive to a variety of interests.</p> <p>Funded sports teams, funded venues & funded equipment.</p> <p>Focussing on a sense of belonging and community.</p> <p>Support for individuals, like those who are homeless.</p> <p>Wider interventions/programmes for those at risk.</p> <p>Encouraging local attendance at local opportunities for young people.</p> <p>Local areas need to look at what buildings they already have, and how they can create safe spaces for young people in the evening, at weekend and during holidays.</p> <p>We know there isn't lots of money to spend on new clubs, but let's make the best use of what we have.</p>
Keeping young people safe	<p>More Police on the streets.</p> <p>More safe spaces and activities.</p>	<p>Better links between authorities and the community through communication and activities.</p> <p>Recognition that young people are the future and need investment.</p> <p>More funding is always needed, but let's use it wisely and make the best use of all spaces.</p> <p>Make more use of green spaces – good for health and awareness of our environment. Get back to basics.</p> <p>We need far more interactions with our services (Police / Fire / Medical / Ambulance). Most stuff we hear about is negative.</p> <p>We think there should be more community Police officers on the streets and on public transport, who are there to talk to us, not just to take action.</p> <p>Keeping safe should be taught more in schools.</p> <p>Young people need safe places to go, and safe ways of getting there.</p>

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<p>Relationships with Police and the Criminal Justice System.</p>	<p>Police should explain more about their activities in communities and learn how to better communicate with young people.</p> <p>Young people should be encouraged to change and given the confidence to change their direction.</p>	<p>There is a big perception by young people of racial profiling by the Police, which they need to look at. Young people perceive the Criminal Justice System as just that – a system which is against them. Perhaps we need to change the narrative to something which comes across as preventative and supportive?</p> <p>Police need to get alongside people rather than emphasising the power imbalance. The uniform or clothes the Police wear can influence this.</p> <p>Take a positive approach - listen, work with us, respect us, meet us in the community and places where we like to be.</p> <p>More training for Police on how to engage with young people.</p> <p>Recognise we are human and make mistakes. Police should explain more about what they do in communities.</p> <p>Young offenders should be given second chances instead of being labelled as troublemakers. Many are just children who need help.</p>
<p>Vulnerability & Exploitation</p>	<p>This isn't just a 'gang' issue – it's on our doorsteps.</p> <p>More education and awareness for young people and adults of what to look out for and what to do.</p> <p>Young people feel the need to become involved because of inequality / school exclusions / poverty.</p>	<p>Importance of having trusted person available in schools, colleges and youth groups. If you can't speak to a teacher, speak to your trusted friends. Recommend building in life skills to school curriculum.</p> <p>A video or information could pop up on social media to teach young people about how to say no / who to talk to / how to spot the signs.</p> <p>Young people said a campaign was needed to raise the issue of exploitation in languages and a way that connects with young people on the platforms they use. Highlighting where people can access support.</p> <p>Young people felt that life skills should be delivered in schools which better connects with vulnerable people who are not academic. This would include delivery on exploitation and other key areas through people with lived experience who can connect with the young people. There would also be a focus on highlighting that you can be successful even if you are not academic, identifying accessible routes for young people.</p> <p>Lots of people think that exploitation is a gang issue that doesn't happen where they live. We know it can happen anywhere and there should be more education for young people and adults about what to look for and what to do. It would be best if role models and people with lived experience helped to deliver the education.</p>