



## **Serious Violence in Cleveland: Survey of Young People Information Sheet**

### **What is the Violence Reduction Unit?**

Cleveland Police Force Area was given funding by the Home Office to create a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) with the aim of reducing and preventing Serious Violence. The unit is known as [CURV](#) (Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence).

### **What is Crest Advisory?**

Crest Advisory is a crime and justice research and consultancy. You can read more about Crest Advisory at <https://www.crestadvisory.com/>.

### **What has Crest Advisory been asked to do?**

A requirement of serious violence funding from the Home Office is that a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is carried out to understand the picture of Serious Violence in the area and inform the actions taken by the VRU to address it. Crest Advisory has been asked to undertake the SNA for Cleveland VRU. The survey of children and young people will contribute to the SNA.

### **Why is the survey of children and young people so important?**

The views and experiences of children and young people are often excluded in conversations around Serious Violence, and in doing so we miss out on their valuable insight. The survey provides the opportunity for the voice of children and young people to be included in the SNA.

### **What is the survey asking of children and young people?**

The survey covers two areas: children and young peoples' perceptions of Serious Violence and the prevalence of Serious Violence in the lives of children and young people. In terms of perceptions, we would like to know what they see as Serious Violence, how big of a problem they think it is and where they see it most often. We also want to understand what they think the underlying causes of this problem might be and how it should be addressed. This will include asking them about the impact it has on their feelings of safety in the community. To assess the prevalence of Serious Violence in the lives of young people we will ask survey participants to indicate whether they have been a victim or witness of Serious Violence and whether they have committed any acts of Serious Violence.

### **Will the survey questions be the same for all age groups?**

No. Survey respondents will be asked to give their age at the beginning of the survey online or will be given the age appropriate version as a hardcopy. The survey will only have age-adjusted questions.



### **How will children and young people respond to the survey?**

The survey will be online and accessed via a link/QR code provided to the school or youth service. A PDF version of the survey will also be provided that can be printed off and completed, if more suitable. It will be the school/youth service's decision as to how and when they ask children to complete the survey.

### **Where has this been done before?**

Crest Advisory has conducted similar surveys locally for the London Borough of Newham and nationally for the Youth Endowment Fund, and have strong quality assurance processes in place to ensure the surveys are accessible for young people and meet the highest ethical standards.

### **What will happen to the results of the survey?**

The survey results will inform the strategic needs assessment. Aggregated findings and hot spot areas identified by participants will be shared with CURV. Any published reporting will only contain anonymised references to individual schools.

### **What will schools and local authorities get from the survey?**

Once the survey is complete we will also make the anonymised results available at school, ward and local authority levels, thus giving headteachers and education policy makers a clearer picture of the views of their students on Serious Violence. Each school will only receive their own results rather than all results.

### **Who can I contact about this?**

Please feel free to get in touch with Serina Fuller, Strategy and Insight Manager at [serina.fuller@crestadvisory.com](mailto:serina.fuller@crestadvisory.com) with any thoughts or questions.