PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Leicester PAC Project: The Trust Gap

We wanted to find out:

How can the police and children and young people build better communication and trust within neighbourhoods?

How did we do this?

We spoke to 88 children and young people, aged 10 – 25, from across East and West Leicester by hosting 9 workshops and 28 interviews.

What did we find out?

There are two overarching trust influences that work together to strengthen or weaken trust:

Personal Experiences of Policing

Family, Social & Community Context

Personal Experiences of Policing

Children and young people's own experiences with the police played an important role in how much they trusted them. This included how officers spoke to and treated them, as well as police behaviour they had seen themselves.

Family, Social and Community Context

Trust was also influenced by family, friends, social media and what happened in the local community. Community was found to be an important source of belonging, support and identity. Because of this, how children and young people felt the police treated and responded to their community could affect their trust, even if they'd had little or no direct experience with the police.

Positive experiences and influences could help build trust, while negative experiences and influences could reduce it.

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill

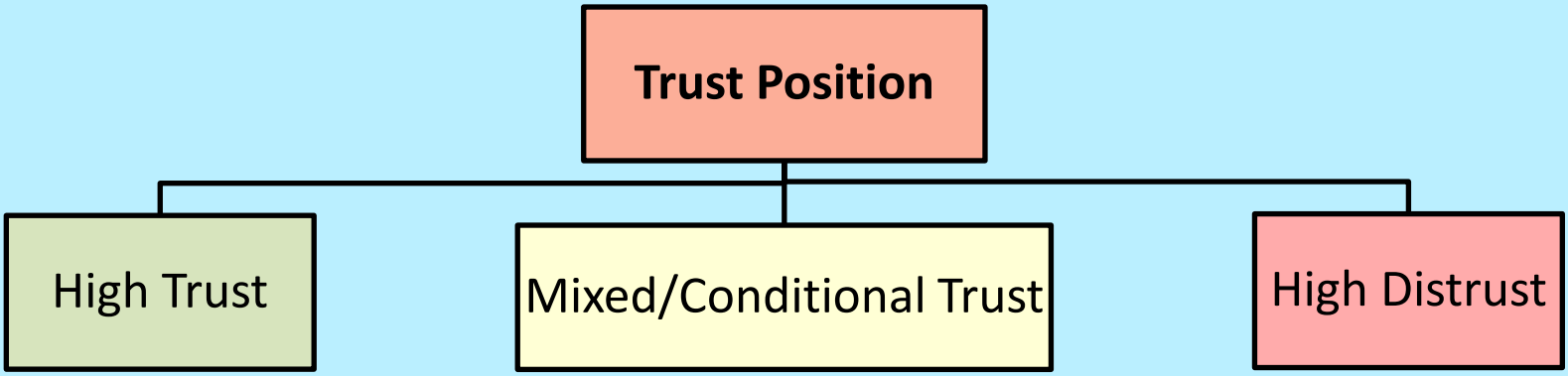
Department for Culture, Media & Sport

COMMUNITY FUND

PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Leicester PAC Project: The Trust Gap

Children and young people fell into **three broad trust categories.** Trust was shaped by the influences they experienced, and whether they were positive, negative, or both.



High Trust

- Positive experiences with the police
- Confidence police would help when needed
- Positive perceptions of police behaviour
- Family trusts the police
- Positive community perceptions of the police

Mixed/Conditional Trust

- Both positive and negative experiences with the police
- Trust depending on the individual officer involved
- Positive perceptions of some aspects of policing but concerns about others

High Distrust

- Negative experiences of policing
- Experiences of stereotyping, unfair treatment or discrimination
- Negative community attitudes towards the police
- Low confidence in police response
- Perceptions that police do not help or support their community
- Multiple influences reinforcing negative views over time

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND
Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
COMMUNITY FUND

PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Leicester PAC Project: The Trust Gap

Trust Position

The Nature/Seriousness of the Situation

Communication Barriers

Willingness to Communicate

Children and young people's willingness to communicate with the police does not depend on trust position alone. Willingness to communicate is also influenced by the nature and seriousness of the situation and further communication barriers.

The nature/seriousness of the situation

Whether children and young people would speak to the police often depended on the situation. Some who had low trust in the police said they would still contact them if someone was at immediate risk of harm, while others preferred to seek support elsewhere unless the situation was very serious.

Communication barriers

Children and young people also identified several barriers that could affect their willingness to communicate with the police regardless of their level of trust:

Being labelled a snitch

Children and young people thought speaking with the police could lead to others assuming that they were reporting on people or going against their peers, and worried that others would see them as a "snitch".

Confidentiality concerns

Young people were worried about whether information shared with the police would be passed on to parents, families or others, and lead to unwanted police involvement in their lives.

Fear of retaliation from the community and peers

Some young people were worried about what others might do or say to them or their family if they knew they'd spoken to the police.

Fear of being seen speaking to the police

Some young people worried that others may judge them, think they were in trouble, or that they were sharing information with the police if they were seen speaking to them.

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND
Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
COMMUNITY FUND

PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Leicester PAC Project: The Trust Gap

Learning from the PCSO approach
The police adopting some of the qualities associated with PCSOs, such as being more approachable and involved with communities.

Improve police training and understanding of young people
Additional training focused on working with young people, with suggested areas including mental health, de-escalation and improving responses to vulnerable individuals.

Improving education and awareness about policing
Providing more opportunities for children and young people to learn about police roles, responsibilities and processes.

Improved Trust & Communication Between CYP and the Police

Improve police communication and interactions with young people
More respectful, approachable and empathetic interactions where young people are listened to and respected.

Building positive relationships through engagement
Positive contact with the police through involvement in schools, youth settings and communities to build relationships.

Increasing representation and cultural understanding within the police
Young people said it was important for the police to reflect the communities they serve. They felt a more diverse police service would help young people feel understood and improve trust.

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND
Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
COMMUNITY FUND

PEER ACTION COLLECTIVE

Leicester PAC Project: The Trust Gap

Introducing the Leicester PAC Team and their first research project
Press play below to watch...



YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

Proudly supporting youth social action #iwill

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

COMMUNITY FUND