

# Essex Young Victim Perspectives



*This document is a brief summary of a research report completed by Catch22 on behalf of The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner in Essex in January 2015. The full report will be made available via the PCC's website shortly.*

## Brief Summary / Introduction

Catch22 was commissioned by The Office of The Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in Essex to gain insights in to 'Young Victim Perspectives'.

This report is based on Catch22 having gained the views of 249 young people and 19 professionals working with young people in a variety of roles across Essex, in regards to young people's views and experiences of victimisation, as well as what help or support should be available to them if they were to become a victim.

Through the research a wide range of experiences and suggestions were shared, highlighting the difficulties faced by young people themselves, as well as the difficulties in providing appropriate support for young victims, considering the wide range of circumstances and incidents that can lead to young people becoming a victim.

However, despite the difficulties for young people becoming or being at risk of victimisation, the young people and professionals involved in the research were able to discuss, problem solve and formulate some clear themes and ideas in regards to what support should be available, how young people can access the support, as well as how to raise awareness about these services with young people, families and professionals.

The research was based around two research methods: online survey and focus groups. Initially it was hoped that 1:1 interviews would also take place with young people, as well as focus groups with parents. However, no young people came forward or agreed to undertake a 1:1 interview, and no parents came forward or agreed to engage in focus groups (despite requesting these methods with partner organisations and via the promotion of the research).

# Key Messages

## Young people's views on victimisation

- **Most young people are aware that witnessing domestic violence is likely to cause emotional harm**
- **Most young people believe that most adults think young people are more likely to commit crime, rather than become a victim of crime**
- **Most young people believe that young people are more at risk of being a victim of crime than an adult**
- **Most young people are aware of the risk of being coerced in to criminal behaviour by others**  
*However...*
- **If they were coerced in to committing crime, most young people would not talk to anyone about it**

## What might lead to a young person becoming a victim?

- **Most young people identify bullying as the most common cause of victimisation for young people**

## Where would a young victim go for help?

- **Most young people are not aware of where they can go for help and support if they become a victim (other than to report an incident of crime to the police)**
- **If they become a victim of street mugging, most young people would tell the police - either directly themselves, or through the support of family and/or friends**
- **After family and friends, most young people would talk to a supportive member of staff at their school (or other trusted professional) if they become a victim**

## What would young people want to happen?

- **Most young people expect their school to offer them help and advice if they become a victim (or for their school to direct them towards other support available)**
- **When there is an identifiable perpetrator of crime, as a victim most young people want to maintain their anonymity**
- **If a young person becomes a victim, the risk of someone informing the police without the young person's consent was a major reason why a young person would NOT talk to someone about it.**

## What do young people want support to look like?

- **The vast majority of young people expect to be offered help and support if they were to become a victim – often with more emphasis on the support than “catching the criminal”**
- **The type of support most young people expect to be offered, if they became a victim, includes access to online or group support with other young victims, as well as access to 1:1 or counselling support ONLY if they choose to access this**