

Leicestershire police and crime commissioner admits young people have apathy towards police as he launches new youth commission

May 17 2013

LEICESTERSHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Clive Loader has set up the first youth commission in the country after admitting young people in the county had 'apathy' for the police.

Sir Clive launched the youth commission in a bid to engage with young people across Leicestershire and to hit head on the police issues which affect young people in Leicestershire such as hate-crime and drugs.

It is the first of its type in the country and will be made up of approximately 20 people aged 14 to 25.

Sir Clive launched the initiative at the Samworth Enterprise Academy, in the Saffron Lane area of Leicester.

Between July and October, Sir Clive and a young people's charity will conduct a survey of 2,000 young people across the city and county to find out how they believe policing could be improved.

The final results will be published at the end of the year and the panel recruited.

Speaking after the launch, Sir Clive said: "Before I became Police and Crime Commissioner I had a meeting with young people and it was clear that when it came to police and policing issues there was apathy.

"The police wasn't held in the highest regard and these weren't young people who had been involved in crime but who were studying at college.

"I knew that this gap between police and young people had to be breached and that is what I will be aiming to do.

"Young people need a voice and we need to listen to what they have to say.

"I am very keen to hear their thoughts on how the police and I can work better with young people to reduce crime and make our communities safer for everyone."

Charity organisation the SHM Foundation will oversee the project. It believes the Leicestershire project will be replicated in other areas of the country.

Rose Dowling, of the foundation, said: "Police and crime commissioners are keen to learn from young people and be challenged by them.

"Young people want to be heard. We will help that happen."

More information about the project is available at www.forceforward.co.uk or