



THE INSTITUTE FOR CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



University of  
East London

# Newham Youth Safety Action Team

# Listening Campaign

December 2020 to January 2021

RESEARCHTHATMATTERS

## AIM OF THE LISTENING CAMPAIGN

The campaign aimed to explore the views of children and young people about the safety of public transport and their prospects of living and working in Newham once they leave education.

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

We listened to children and young people attending schools and colleges in Newham. We also ran community conversations from a group of students who had completed the survey.

## THE SURVEY

The main tool of the campaign was a project survey (Dec 21-Jan 22) which gathered information on young people's experiences of public transport as well as their work readiness. The information was collated and analysed by the University of East London (UEL). The Newham Youth Safety Action Team (comprising of both students and educators) guided what to examine during the research process.

## TAPPING INTO COMMUNITY NEEDS

The results of this study will inform the practices of the organisations involved (e.g. local schools and colleges) to help shape future activities, interventions and campaigns. These will be co-

developed and co-delivered with young people to promote safety on public transport and their successful transition into the local workforce.

## PARTNERSHIP

TELCO (also known as Newham Citizens), a local branch of Citizens UK, had invited UEL to become research partners for the campaign. Together they systematically collected information in support of Newham Youth Safety Action team stated outcomes.

Other partners included:

- St Bonaventure's Catholic School
- London Design & Engineering UTC
- Sarah Bonnell School
- School 21
- Community Links
- New Vic College
- University of East London

## ETHICAL APPROVAL

University of East London Research Ethics Sub-Committee

Reference No: ETH2021-0066

## ACKNOWLEDGING ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Nora Morocza  
Shan Zhang  
Prof Andrew Ravenscroft

# Insights from the Listening Campaign: Safety on Public Transport and Living and Working in Newham

## 1,037 survey respondents

**90.5%**  
live in  
Newham



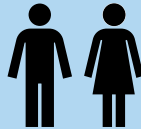
**11.4%** Aged 11  
and under

**51.5%** Aged 12-14

**30.5%** Aged 15-17



**47%** Female  
**50%** Male  
**3%** Prefer not to say



**36.5%** Sarah Bonnell

**49.7%** St Bonaventure's

**13.1%** New Vic College



At St Bonaventure we have been involved in listening to students across our school on their experiences of safety. We sent out a survey that reached almost 550 students to understand how they could feel safer. We wanted to know what their solutions were. We spoke to people in forms across the school from 6th Form students through to Year 7's to get a good picture of what's going on. We heard from them about the big challenges people have and we know we need to see change and ways to make Newham safer and we want to be part of the solution!"

Tomas Tamasauskis, St Bonaventure's Catholic School

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Who do you travel to school or college with?



on your own  
**49.1%**



family  
**28.4%**



friends  
**21.8%**

How do you get to school or college?

(The vast majority of young people travel using more than one mode of transport)



bus  
**65%**



tube  
**2.3%**



cycle  
**2%**



train  
**7%**



walk  
**51.3%**

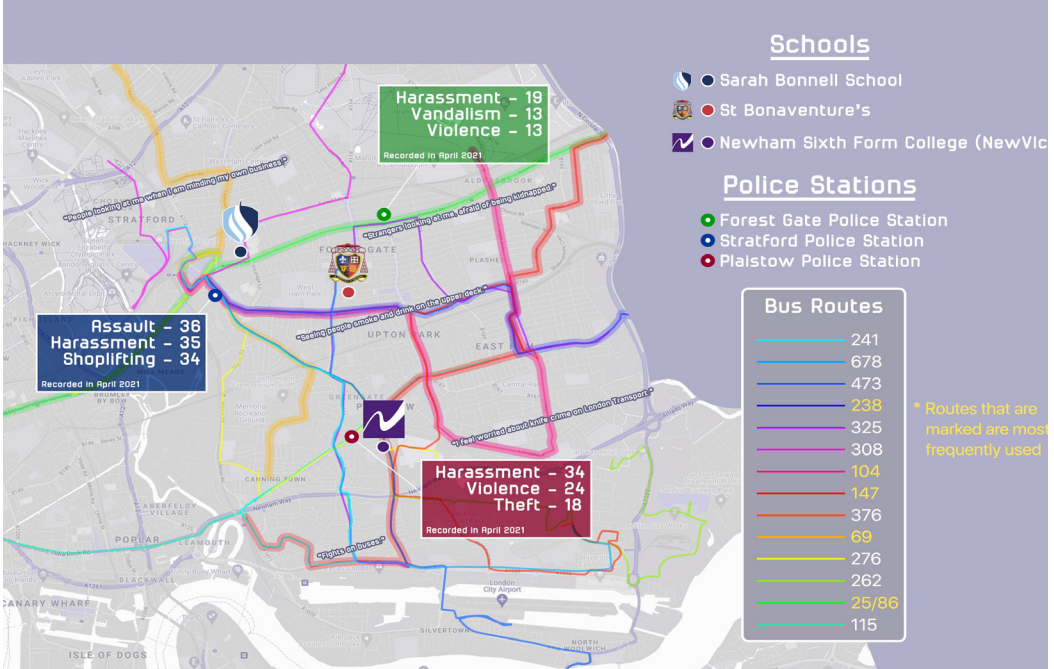
# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

## Reasons for feeling unsafe on public transport

REASON	SOLUTIONS
<b>COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus drivers' stewardship               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Control antisocial behaviour</li> <li>- Enforce COVID-19 measures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>SAFETY ON BUSES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police officers or security wardens patrolling buses</li> </ul>
<b>CROWDS ON BUSES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling with family: improved perceived safety</li> </ul>
<b>ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCTV's emergency buttons and body scanners on buses: more controlled environment</li> <li>• Introduce school buses with responsible adult supervision</li> </ul>
<b>FEELING UNSAFE IN THE DARK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing school timetables: avoiding travelling in the dark (long journeys)</li> <li>• Increase bus frequency in the evening: less waiting times in bus stops</li> </ul>

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

## Common bus routes and crime in the area



At St Bonaventure safety has always been a big issue. We know where the crime hotspots are in our borough, and this can affect our students and their way of getting home. Stratford comes up every time we do listening. So, we went down to create Safe Haven's in the Stratford Centre so young people could go there if they feel unsafe. We can't take all the credit for ourselves as we had a little bit of help from Sarah Bonnell. We even had some help from the Mayor of Newham as well. Recently we have been thinking about how we can make the routes to school safe on transport and have surveyed our school, from our smallest Year 7s up to the young adults in 6th Form. We can't wait to take action for change again soon."

Guylian Vaz-Pereira, St Bonaventure's Catholic School

# WORKFORCE

Would you work in Newham?

**NO**  
39%

**YES**  
11%

**UNSURE**  
50%

What are your favourite subjects at school?

1. Science technology, engineering and mathematics
2. Humanities
3. Social sciences
4. Sport and physical education
5. Art and drama



What are the most exciting industries to work in?



engineering



sports



law

How do you hear about job opportunities?



online  
**76%**



family  
**44%**



teacher  
**41%**



friends  
**31%**

# What students and pupils say matter most to them to keep them safe and for brighter futures.

SARAH BONNELL	NEW VIC COLLEGE	ST BONAVENTURE'S
Job opportunities for young people to gain relevant work experience	More apprenticeships and job opportunities for young people	More job/apprenticeship/work experience opportunities
	Address the attainment gap in education	
More career fairs and workshops		
	Reduce knife crime	Tackle crime, mainly knife crime
Create youth clubs to provide a safe place for young people		Create more youth clubs/centres with various activity options
	Provide financial support for young people	Financial support and affordable housing
More mental health support, funding and campaigns, mainly during exam period		More mental health support

## Addressing the needs of young people: Recommendations

### SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Youth clubs to provide safe places for young people and entertainment in the evenings.
- A Transport System in Newham which is designed and continually improved to get thousands of children home safely, including school buses for young people and more buses on the busiest routes at peak times.
- TFL and Bus Operators to allow students travel in even if they forget their Zipcard, if they are wearing their School Uniform.

### INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE

- Paid work experience and apprenticeship opportunities in the community and at local businesses.
- Career fairs for and in the community, meeting young people where they are whether it's School or College.

**Dr Darren Sharpe**  
**Deputy Director & Senior Research Fellow**  
 Institute for Connected Communities  
 University of East London  
 T: +44 (0)20 8223 2167  
 E: D.Sharpe@uel.ac.uk

