

13th May 2024

Dear Residents

I am writing to you from the Violence Reduction Partnership about the national knife crime awareness campaign, Operation Sceptre, from 13th – 19th May 2024, to help tackle knife crime. Very few people carry knives, but when it happens, knife crime has devastating impacts. It is against the law to carry a knife for your protection

This week you may see news and information about knife crime, including police operations, surrender bins, media campaigns and education for children. We work to keep communities safe and educate people they are safer not carrying knives.

We hope you feel safe where you live and do not have any concerns. This is a difficult topic, but we know that talking about it gives us a chance to address what is going on. There are ways to get help if you are worried, maybe for someone in your household or in your area. Your housing association will support you in your home and local area, so please contact them.

We recommend always call 999 if you see a crime happening or are scared for yours or someone else's immediate safety. You can report concerns via 101 or online to Hampshire and IOW Constabulary [Report a crime | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](#)

If you are impacted by knife crime and would like support, please contact the Victim Care hub: [Home - Hampshire Victim Care Hub \(hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk\)](#)

If you are a parent/carer, please talk to your child about this issue, here is some guidance to help:

The Ben Kinsella Trust guide for parents and carers: [The-Ben-Kinsella-Trust-A-guide-to-knife-harm-for-parents-and-carers.pdf \(benkinsella.org.uk\)](#). This has information and support if you are worried.

Safe4Me has advice for parents: [Parent/Carers – Safe4Me](#); and Fearless, a website dedicated to keeping children safe. Here you can find information on crime, being a bystander, and anonymously report crime and get help. [Fearless: Anonymous Reporting for a Safer Community | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#).

Lastly, we are promoting our knife crime survey, so please give us your views, and encourage children over 12 years to complete it too, via the QR code.

Thank you for your help in tackling this, we really appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely,



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