

13th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you on behalf of the Violence Reduction Partnership about the national knife crime awareness campaign, Operation Sceptre, that is running from 13th – 19th May in England and Wales.

We believe it is important to educate and support young people to make good choices, and this will be a focus this week. Our aim is to educate children that they are safer not carrying knives, and to help them walk away from harm. To achieve this, we will be engaging children in educational activities and awareness talks.

This is a difficult topic, but we know that talking about knives gives us a chance to tackle this issue. Maybe you could encourage your child to take the survey, via the QR code below.

Very few young people will ever carry knives, but when knife crime happens, it can have devastating impacts. We are working hard to drive down knife carrying. It is against the law to carry a knife for your protection. We are asking all parents and carers to talk to their children about this, understand their thoughts on this, and seek help if you are worried. Your child is very unlikely to ever carry a knife, but perhaps they know someone who might. Here are some useful resources:

The Ben Kinsella Trust works to stop knife crime and here is their guide for parents and carers: [The-Ben-Kinsella-Trust-A-guide-to-knife-harm-for-parents-and-carers.pdf \(benkinsella.org.uk\)](https://benkinsella.org.uk/The-Ben-Kinsella-Trust-A-guide-to-knife-harm-for-parents-and-carers.pdf). This contains a lot of useful information about this topic, as well as where to go for support.

We would also like you know about Safe4Me, which has advice for parents: [Parent/Carers – Safe4Me](#); and Fearless, a website dedicated to keeping young people safe. Here you can find information for young people on crime, being a bystander, and how anyone can anonymously report crime and get help. There is also a page to help parents and carers with information. [Fearless: Anonymous Reporting for a Safer Community | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#).

We recommend always call 999 if you see a crime happening or are scared for yours or someone else's immediate safety, or 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 \(hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk\)](https://hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk)

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

Yours sincerely,



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