



13th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

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.

This week, there will be activities, including police operations, surrender bins, education and talks for children. We educate children they are safer not carrying knives, and help them walk away from dangerous situations.

Very few young people carry knives, but when it happens, knife crime has devastating impacts. As a partnership, we work hard to deter people from carrying knives. It is against the law to carry a knife for your protection. We are asking all parents and carers to talk to children about this issue and seek help if you are worried. It is unlikely that your child is carrying a knife, but perhaps they know someone who does. Here are some useful resources which can help:

The Ben Kinsella Trust guide for parents and carers: [The-Ben-Kinsella-Trust-A-guide-to-knife-harm-for-parents-and-carers.pdf \(benkinsella.org.uk\)](https://www.benkinsella.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/The-Ben-Kinsella-Trust-A-guide-to-knife-harm-for-parents-and-carers.pdf) . This has information and support if you are worried.

We would also like you know about Safe4Me, which has advice for parents: [Parent/Carers – Safe4Me](https://www.safe4me.org.uk/); 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 \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.fearless.org.uk/).

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](https://www.hampshireandislewightconstabulary.com/)

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://www.hampshireandislewightconstabulary.com/victim-care)

We will continue to focus on educating and supporting children to make good choices, especially this week. This is a difficult topic, but we know that talking about it gives us a chance to address what is going on for our children. We are promoting our knife survey and ask you to encourage your child to give us their views. Please scan the QR code attached.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Pegler', is placed above the printed name.

Jim Pegler
Violence Reduction Unit Director for Hampshire and IOW
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