

Hampshire Constabulary

Education Partnership Team Update - Op Sceptre Week Guidance for Schools.

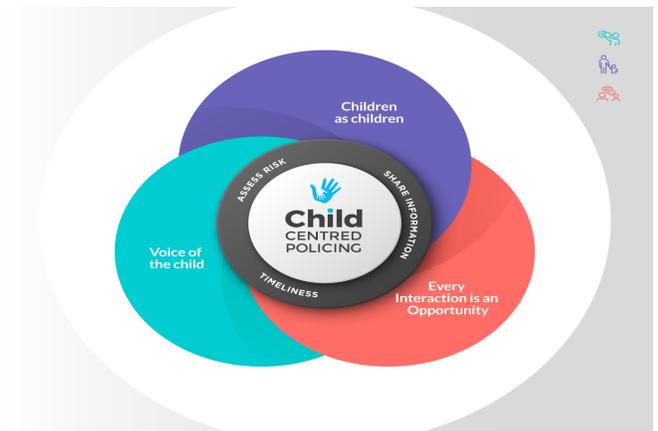
Our next Op Sceptre knife crime week of action will take place **W/C 15th November 2021**.

What is Op Sceptre?

Operation Sceptre was launched in July 2015 by The Metropolitan Police Service with the aim of reducing knife crime and the number of families affected across the whole of London.

The launch coincided with new legislation that meant those convicted of carrying a knife for the second time will face a mandatory custodial sentence.

There have been annual Op Sceptre weeks of action in an attempt to counter a nationwide rise in knife crime. February 2018 saw all police forces come together in the first national response to Op Sceptre.



The role of schools and colleges

Working in partnership with education establishments, statutory/voluntary organisations, parents and young people, we aim to raise awareness about the risks and impact carrying a knife/weapon can have on individuals and the community. Taking this positive work beyond targeted weeks of action, we aim to establish longer-term working relationships with schools to support them with educating pupils about knife crime to help to keep young people safe, supported and informed.

Whilst it is accepted that schools are very safe places, with knife tragedies mostly happening out on the street, there is a critical role for schools to play in educating young people about the influences, risks and consequences carrying knives/weapons can have to encourage safe and responsible choices

Ofsted have carried out research on how schools are dealing with knife crime, not only looking at how schools are protecting pupils from the threat of knives while they are in school, but also how they are educating pupils about the dangers of carrying a weapon outside of school.

Many schools have been tackling this head on for a long time, yet it is now clear

that all schools, no matter their location or context, must develop approaches that safeguard children from this growing threat - recognising that anyone can be the victim of knife crime as more young people carry knives.

How you can get involved.

Participating in local area plans to tackle knife crime	<p>Schools are encouraged to take a full and active role in local area plans and understand what is available to them.</p> <p>Most local authorities and policing areas have developed a knife crime strategy and schools are advised to find out who is leading this in their area, what it is and how they can fully participate in it.</p> <p>Your School PCSO/PC will be a key point of contact during this week of action, and will be able to provide you with information on what activity is taking place in the local community.</p>
Engaging young people in discussion	<p>Young people say they often will not tell school staff about their concerns and fears, because they don't think they can help. So where, when and how can we intervene in young people's lives to reduce the threat of knife crime?</p> <p>Staff and professionals in youth settings are encouraged not to judge - instead, engaging young people in conversations and bringing in other people where possible. This approach provides a chance for pupils to contribute and reflect which can positively influence attitudes, choices and behaviour - helping to support young people to understand who they are, the decisions they make and awareness of harmful influencing factors.</p>
Classroom Resources	<p>Recommended resources to support classroom deliveries are listed below; these provide comprehensive lesson plans to promote discussion, reflection and decision-making, with specialist</p>

resources to introduce this topic at primary school level upwards, encouraging schools to take education beyond assembly ideas, one-off lessons and drop-down days, to fully integrating it into the curriculum. Some provide information for young people to access themselves which school staff, parents and youth workers can signpost them to as means of support.

Safe4me: a dedicated website provided by Hampshire police to support professionals and parents with a wide range of issues affecting young people; serving as a resource library consisting of lesson plans, advice, information and sign-posting to other services and resources.

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/>

#knifefree: a Home Office campaign consisting of using real-life stories of young people to highlight the consequences of carrying a knife and to inspire young people to pursue positive alternatives; includes free accompanying lesson plans for KS 3&4 developed by The PSHE Association.

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/knifefree/>

Fearless: a dedicated website provided by 'Crimestoppers' specifically for young people aged 11-16yrs; providing information to them and a service to encourage anonymous reporting of crime. Fearless also provides lesson plans and resources to support teachers with a variety of street based crime including knife crime.

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/knife-street-crime/>

No Knives, Better Lives: dedicated website for practitioners, parents and young people. Consisting of education films, lesson plans and activity resources from primary age upwards.

<https://noknivesbetterlives.com/practitioners/resources/toolkits/>

	<p>The Ben Kinsella Trust: dedicated website providing free lesson plans for KS 2, 3 & 4 developed in partnership with The PSHE Association. http://www.benkinsella.org.uk/about/free-resources-and-links/resources-for-teachers-and-practitioners</p> <p>Knifecrimes.org: a dedicated organisation set up to support families affected by knife crime, providing a host of information and advice. http://www.knifecrimes.org/</p>
Including parents and the community	<p>What do parents feel about knife crime? Are they thinking about it? Do they know what they can do? Many of the recommended resources provide help specifically for parents to support them to actively participate in educating and protecting their children. Schools are encouraged to support parents to better understand how they can play a part in tackling this issue.</p>

If you have any questions regarding Op Sceptre, or would like some further advice please do contact the team via schoolyouthengagement@hampshire.police.uk

Kind Regards

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