



13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you on behalf of the Violence Reduction Partnership about the knife crime awareness campaign, Operation Sceptre, that is running from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November in England and Wales. This is a national week of action to help tackle knife crime.

This week, there will be lots of activities, including police operations, surrender bins, knife searches, education and talks for young people. Our aim is to educate children that they are safer not carrying knives, and to help them walk away from harm.

We know that very few young people carry knives, but when it happens, knife crime 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 issue, understand what is going on for them, 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:

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](#)

We believe it is important to educate and support young people to make good choices, and this will be a big focus this week.

This is a difficult topic, but we also know that talking about it gives us a chance to tackle what might be going on for our young people. If you are impacted by knife crime and would like support, please contact Victim Support [Hampshire and Isle of Wight - Victim Support](#)

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

Yours sincerely,

Jim Pegler

Violence Reduction Unit Director for Hampshire and the IOW

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