



Bath & North East Somerset

**Violence
Reduction
Partnership**

Knife Crime Toolkit

2024

This toolkit was created by Bath & North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership to provide parents/carers with information and resources to support their children and young adults.

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



Bath & North East Somerset
Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

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1. Introduction

The Bath & North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is dedicated to reducing knife crime and violence within the community. This toolkit is designed to support parents and carers in understanding the dangers of knife crime, recognising the signs, and knowing how to effectively communicate with and protect their children.

2. Understanding Knife Crime

What is Knife Crime?

Knife crime includes any crime involving a bladed article, such as carrying, threatening, or using a bladed article to commit a crime. It is a significant issue that affects individuals and communities, causing physical and emotional harm.

Statistics and Facts

- Bladed article incidents have been rising in various parts of the UK.
- Young people are both the most common perpetrators and victims of knife crime.
- Awareness and education are crucial in preventing these incidents.

3. Legal Consequences

Carrying a Knife is Illegal

- Carrying a knife in public without a valid reason is illegal and can result in serious legal consequences.
- Police have the authority to stop and search anyone suspected of carrying a weapon.

Criminal Record Impact

- A criminal record from carrying a knife can hinder future opportunities, including university admissions, employment prospects, and international travel.

Repeat Offences

- A second offence for carrying a knife will likely result in more severe punishment, including potential prison time.

4. Recognising Signs of Knife Involvement

Behavioral Indicators

- Sudden changes in behaviour or mood.
- New or older groups of friends.
- Withdrawal from family and usual activities.

Physical Signs

- Unexplained injuries.
- Evidence of bandages or other medical supplies.
- Items related to knives, or possession of a knife.

5. Talking to Your Child About Knife Crime

Starting the Conversation

- Approach the topic calmly and without judgement.
- Use real-life examples and facts to explain the dangers and consequences.

Practical Tips

- Listen to your child's concerns and questions.
- Emphasise the importance of safety and making smart choices.
- Encourage open and honest communication.

6. Prevention Strategies

Community Engagement

- Participate in local police-led community events, workshops, and meetings.
- Engage in open discussions about knife crime prevention.

Youth-Led Initiatives

- Form or join youth-led initiatives focused on violence prevention.
- Advocate for youth representation in decision-making processes related to crime prevention policies.

Education and Awareness

- Collaborate with police officers and organisations to educate peers about the risks and consequences of knife crime.
- Use social media platforms to spread awareness and encourage responsible behaviour.

Reporting Suspicious Activity

- Encourage young people to report any suspicious behaviour related to knife crime, either directly to the police or anonymously via the charity [fearless.org](https://www.fearless.org)
- Understand the importance of reporting without fear of retaliation.

7. Support and Resources

Local Support Services

- [Bath & Northeast Somerset Council](#)
- [Avon and Somerset Police](#)
- [DHI Project 28](#)
- [Youth Connect Southwest](#)
- [NHS](#)

National Support Organizations

- Parentline Plus: 24/7 advice on all aspects of parenting. Call 0808 800 22 22 or visit parentlineplus.org.uk
- Victim Support: Assistance for victims of knife crime.

8. Knife Crime Awareness Events

- Upcoming Events in B&NES, promoted on the council website and socials.
- Regular events hosted by the VRP in B&NES, promoted on the ASVRP website and socials.
- These events aim to raise awareness and empower families to make informed decisions.
- Support National Knife Crime Awareness Week.

How to Get Involved

- Attend events and workshops.
- Volunteer for local organisations and initiatives.
- Please contact VRP_Events@bathnes.gov.uk for details of any future events and suggestions on potential future venues.

9. Conclusion

The Bath & North East Somerset VRP is committed to creating a safer community by addressing knife crime through education, prevention, and support. By staying informed and actively participating in community efforts, parents and carers can play a crucial role in reducing knife-related incidents and ensuring the safety of their children.

Encourage open and honest communication



10. Knife Crime Resources and Information

- [VRP Webpage](#)
- [Ben Kinsella Trust](#) (knife crime awareness week)
- [Free online parents and carers workshops about knife crime](#), Ben Kinsella Trust
- [Resources for Teachers and Practitioners](#), Ben Kinsella Trust
- [Avon and Somerset Police – knife crime prevention and advice](#)
- [Avon and Somerset Police – week of action](#)
- [Fearless](#) – knife crime education and resources
- [The unseen effects of knife crime on Children – The Children’s Society](#)
- Childline – telephone 0800 1111 or online [Childline](#)
- Video – [Knife Crime, A New Way Forward, Avon & Somerset Police](#) (YouTube)
- [Surrender bins in B&NES](#)
- Knife Crime Workbook for teachers and professionals produced by Developing Health and Independence and Project 28
- [The Wrap online platform](#) - specialist information, self-help tools and professional support, by Developing Health and Independence
- [Knife Crime and the new Serious Violence Duty](#)
- [Stand Against Violence](#)
- [Red Cross resources on knife crime](#)
- [Red Cross teaching resources](#)
- [Government announce £4M boost to fight knife crime](#)
- [Barnardo’s resources on knife crime](#)
- [Criminal Justice Bill: Knife Crime](#)
- [Kooth - Online counselling for young people](#)
- NSPCC – call 0808 800 5000 or [NSPCC online](#)
- Family Lives – call 0808 800 2222 or [Family Lives online](#)
- [Parents Against Child Exploitation](#) (PACE)
- [Ivison Trust](#), protecting children, supporting families
- [The Children’s Society](#)

Contact Us

Email:

VRP_Admin@bathnes.gov.uk

Website:

<https://bcssp.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-north-east-somerset-violence-reduction-partnership-vrp>



www.asvrp.co.uk