


Dear parents/carers

We are the  Project! We work for East Sussex County Council, Targeted Youth Support Service and funded by Hastings Opportunity Area (for the Hastings area) and Police Violence Reduction Unit (County Wide) to deliver an awareness project around knife crime and exploitation. Our main area of work is with young people in schools and the community to raise awareness around the risks and laws associated with carrying a knife, healthy relationships and exploitation, keeping safe and challenging stereotypes, myths and fears that are portrayed through the media.

The Project focuses on three main areas:-

- Educating young people to recognise and manage risk, make safe choices, be aware of peer pressure and look after their own personal safety and wellbeing.
- Focusing on the issues of knives and other weapons and will be specific to issues in local schools and communities.
- Working with parents, carers and professionals to understand the dangers and risks surrounding knife crime and to give them information and strategies to discuss this with their young people.

In collaboration with Sussex Police, Safer East Sussex Team and TYS and many more, we will be visiting local schools and colleges, as well as getting out in the community through detached/mobile work, attending events and other youth venues to meet and educate as many people as possible to give them the same message in the hope of keeping knife crime in East Sussex low.

Over the next academic year, you and your young person may see us in school through one of our classroom workshops, at a pop up roadshow with the Police, after school through a drop in session for parents or attending parent's evenings.

We wanted to write to you so that you aren't alarmed and that most schools across East Sussex will all be getting the same if not very similar workshops and roadshows if they haven't already, so that you are aware and can begin, if you haven't already, to start having conversations with your young person at home.

**New for this academic year!!** Sussex Police have purchased "Knife Arches"



Similar to what you would see at the airport or at concerts nowadays, the knife arch is to highlight the issue around what is safe to carry or not carry and to help focus the minds around the topics to be discussed. We are **NOT** using it as an enforcement tool. This is about reassurance and allowing students to talk to us about their concerns and provide the information as to what we are working on to support young people, as well as for us to signpost if necessary to relevant agencies that can continue to support young people, parents and carers, professionals, schools and the wider community.

If you are worried about your young person and need support, below are just a few links and contacts available if you require additional information or someone to speak to:

- **Childline** – 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) - to find support and advice for young people about a range of issues
- **#knifefree** - [www.knifefree.co.uk](http://www.knifefree.co.uk) - to find out more about the campaign and for more information on how to live knife free
- **Fearless (crime stoppers)** – [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org) - for advice and a way to anonymously report crime
- **Victim support** – [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) - for support for anyone who has been a victim of crime
- **Youth Workers** – Local youth centre
  - **kNOwknives** Facebook page
- **School**
- **Police** – 101 non emergency
  - 999 emergency

We look forward to working with you and your young person over the next academic year.

Kind regards



The #kNOwknives team