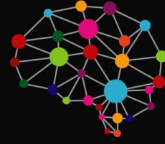






Leicestershire  
**Police**  
Protecting our communities



Violence  
Reduction  
Network

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**CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS OFFICER**

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**POLICE OFFICER**

**VIOLENT & COMPLEX CRIME UNIT (VCCU)**

# WHAT IS 'KNIFE CRIME'?

**CARRYING**

**PURCHASING\***

**THREATENING**

**FATALLY  
WOUNDING**

**INJURING**

**OWNING\***

**INTENDING TO  
INJURE/HARM**

**ROBBERY\***

**BURGLARY\***

So, what is knife crime? It's likely that you will all have heard of the term knife crime, and most will have an idea what we mean when we say it... over the last couple of years there has been a lot of focus on this issue in the media, so you will often hear about it on TV, the radio and online.

Knife crime doesn't just mean an incident where someone has been injured, it can apply to several different scenarios...

Put very simply, knife crime is a crime that involves a knife... sounds really simple, but this can include...  
Knife crime includes:

- Carrying a knife in a public place without a good reason such as for work purposes
- Trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
- Threatening someone with a knife
- Owning a banned knife
- Injuring or fatally wounding somebody with a knife
- Intent to injure or harm somebody with a knife
- A robbery where a knife was carried as a weapon
- burglary where a knife was carried as a weapon

For many of these scenarios, the knife doesn't even have to be used for it to count as a knife crime, the presence of the knife is enough.

# WHO CARRIES A KNIFE?



So, who actually carries knives...

If we were to pick 100 people at random from across Leicester and Leicestershire, how many do you think either are, or regularly carry a knife on them?

We often think that many more people carry knives than is actually the case, we can hear about an incident either from friends or on the TV and we can start to think that carrying knives is quite common...

The truth is, fewer than 1 in 100 people will actually carry a knife... that means over 99% of people don't carry knives and never will

These 99% are normal, this is the sort of behaviour which is commonplace, and this is where the vast majority of you guys who are with us today will be.

**Carrying a knife** increases your risk of being injured. It also increases the risk of the people around **you** being injured... the chances are, that this 1 person out of a 100 who chooses to carry a knife, if anyone is going to end up getting seriously injured, it will be them or their close friends.

# THE STATS

## WHAT AGE GROUP COMMIT THE MOST KNIFE CRIME?

| 18 - 24 YEAR OLDS

## CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY...

| 12 - 17 YEAR OLDS



So this is where knife crimes gets really relevant for you guys...

The age group that commit the most knife crime are 18-24 year olds... and they are closely followed by 12-17 year olds

So although most people don't carry knives, and don't want to... it tends to be a minority of young people such as yourselves who do, so this means its also young people like yourselves who are getting into trouble with the police, getting criminal records and unfortunately getting injured.

# THE STATS



**OFFENDING**

**28%**



**OFFENDERS**

**85%**

Some good news is that in the last year, knife crime offending, so the number of crimes where a knife has been involved, has actually decreased by 28%, that's a really big drop... this could be linked to the Covid pandemic and the national lockdown restrictions, so fewer people have been out and about, and as a result fewer young people have been getting into fights and arguments with each other face-to-face...

At this stage we're not really certain why there has been a decrease...

Locally, here in Leicester and Leicestershire, about 85% of our knife crime is committed by boys and the average age of an offender is 17, so to emphasise once again, this is a minority of young people such as yourselves who are choosing, for whatever reason to go out into public places whilst carrying a knife, this very rarely has a positive outcome... those who do this are at such a great risk of getting hurt themselves, as are those around them, including their friends, and getting in trouble with the police.

Those of you who don't carry knives, if you have a friend who does you're still at great risk... not just of potentially getting hurt by that knife.... But if your friend uses that knife and you are with them when they do, depending upon the circumstances and your actions you can also get into a lot of trouble.

We're going to show you a really short video now which shows how this can happen, how being with a friend who's carrying a knife can result in you getting into serious trouble. There's nothing graphic in the video, it's just a young person talking to the camera explaining what happened in this incident...



## The Ben Kinsella Trust

So there we have a young guy, talking to us from prison where he's serving a seven year sentence...

Prison really isn't a nice place, so that's 7 years of sleeping, eating and going to the toilet in a tiny room, possibly with another person living in the same room.

7 years of living behind a wall, having no freedom, no option to go outside, to go to the park, to go to town, the cinema, anything.

7 years of only seeing either your family or friends for 2 hours every month or so.

In that incident, he had a fight with some older guys, and got beat up... we're not really told how it started, for all we know he could have been the victim in that scenario and the other guys started something with him... but it's what he did next that got him into trouble... he went home, went to bed then the following day he went to look for them with a friend... as soon as he did that he's asking for trouble, he's continuing this violence... he could have just left it, he could have spoken to someone he trusted about it, but he didn't, he went looking for revenge.

Once they'd managed to find one of these guys, his friend, so not even the guy talking to us, but his friend stabbed the guy... even though the young man who was talking to us didn't personally attack or stab the other person, he was part of that attack, he got his friend involved, and the pair of them together went looking for revenge... he might not even have known that his friend was carrying a knife.

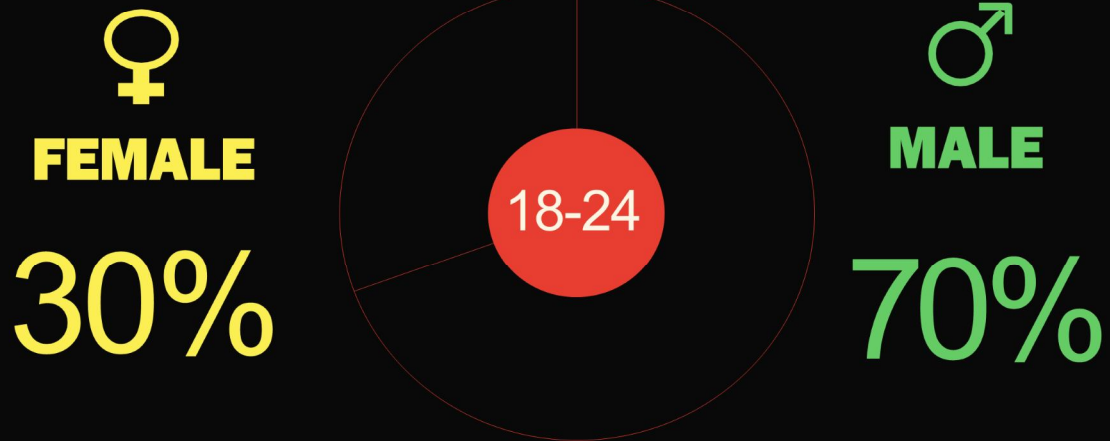
We call this joint enterprise, and even though in an incident there may only be 1 person who physically stabs another... anyone who is with them and either encouraged or helped that attack to take place is just as guilty, and will get into trouble all the same.

The person who was stabbed didn't die, but was seriously injured... and because this guy went looking for revenge, he chose to continue this conflict, he received 7 years in jail.

We want you guys to think about how that could have gone differently... he could have gone home that night after the initial fight, spoke to his parents or a trusted adult if there was some underlying issue such as bullying etc... he could have woken up the next morning with a few bruises and a damaged ego and just left it there...

If he had just chosen to walk away, one young person wouldn't have been stabbed and he would have 7 years of his life back

# THE VICTIMS



So we saw that locally our average offender, will be a 17 year old boy... but what about the victims, the people that end up getting injured or threatened with knives...

In our area...

70% of victims are boys

30% are girls

And on average they are between 18 and 24 years old, so once again this is young people caught up in this



# WHY MIGHT PEOPLE CARRY KNIVES'?

**PEER PRESSURE**

**WORK**

**GANG CULTURE**

**COMMIT CRIME**

**POOR MENTAL HEALTH**

**FEAR FACTOR**

**INTIMIDATE OTHERS**

**FASHION FACTOR**

**CULTURAL BELIEFS**

Concentrate on fear factor and peer pressure

Ask the group – Would you carry a knife?

Why do people carry knives?

- Fear Factor
- Fashion Factor
- Poor mental health
- Cultural beliefs
- Work
- To commit crime
- Peer pressure
- Intimidate others
- Gang culture

Do you think any of these reasons are appropriate?

Work whilst doing the job  
Cultural Beliefs

# OFFENCES

**Possessing an offensive weapon in a public place is an offence**

(Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953)

**Threatening someone with an offensive weapon in a public place**

(Section 1A of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953)

**Possessing a bladed or pointed article in a public place**

(Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988)

Discuss the offences that relate to having a knife/ offences weapon.

Today we are going to look at offences relation to possession only, there are a number of offences which go beyond possession

- Possessing an offensive weapon in a public place is an offence (Section 1 of the prevention of Crime Act 1953)
- It is also an offence to threaten someone with an offensive weapon in a public place. (Section 1A of the Prevention of Crime Act)
- Possessing a bladed or pointed article in a public place is an offence (Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988)

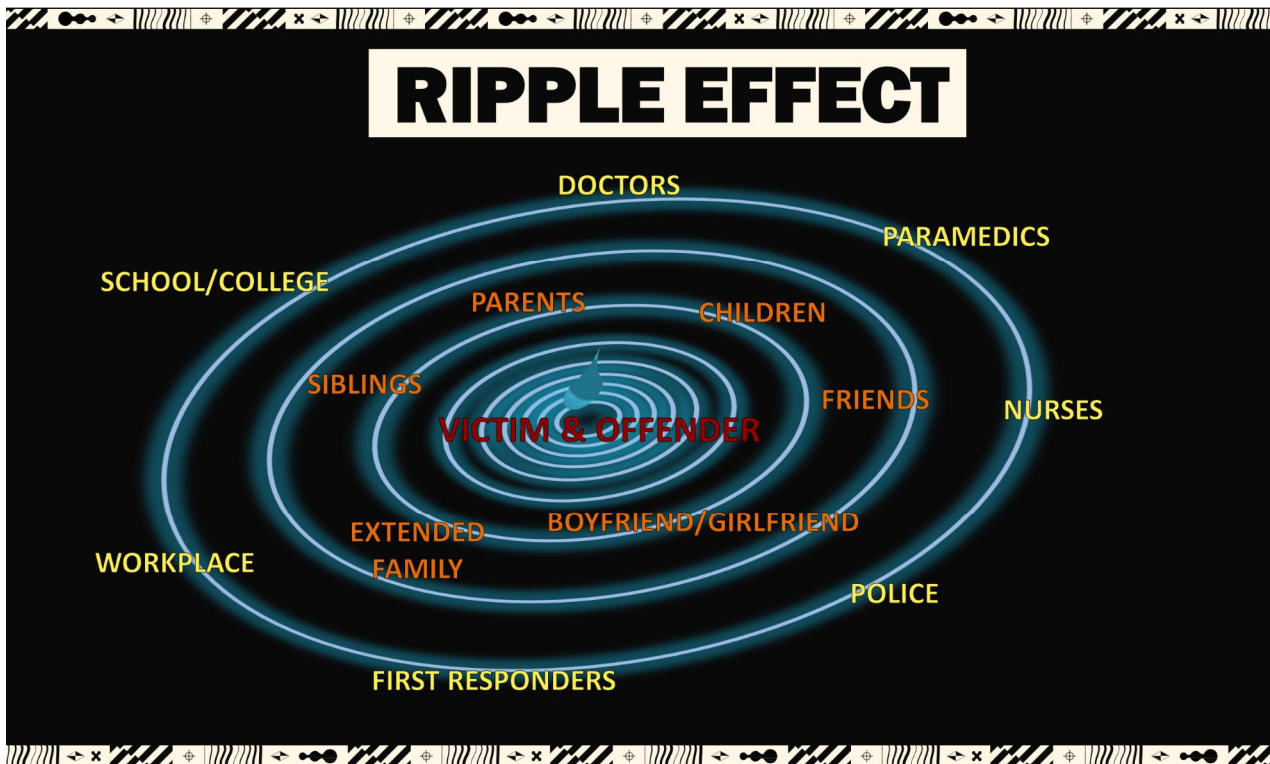
SUMMARY: Magistrate's court can sentence a maximum of 6 months imprisonment and/ or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum

INDICTMENT: Crown court can sentence a maximum of 4 years imprisonment and/ or fine.

#### Sentencing Children and Young People Definitive Guidelines

When considering the relevant adult guideline, the court may feel it appropriate to apply a sentence broadly within the region of half to two thirds of the adult sentence for those aged 15 – 17 and allow a greater reduction for those aged under 15. This is only a rough guide. In most cases when considering the appropriate reduction from the adult sentence the emotional and developmental age and maturity of the child or young person is of at least equal importance as their chronological age.

A minimum sentence you will serve if you stab someone and they die is 25 year.



When we talk about knife crime we talk about something which we call the Ripple Effect.... And this is to demonstrate that a knife crime incident has a massive impact, which is felt far beyond the actual act itself...

Obviously at the centre of this ripple we have the victim, the person who was attacked or threatened... and the offender, the person who had the knife

Each of those has a close circle around them of family or friends, all of these will be affected... so if you think back to that video we just watched...

Beyond that close circle, you have the wider community, those in the area when the incident happened, those who may have witnessed the incident or seen the aftermath... those who first responded, such as first aiders, paramedics or the police etc, they have to see a young person perhaps with a really nasty injury, that has an effect on people, they will remember that for a very long time... there's the staff at the hospital who have to try and minimise the physical damage done and fight to save a life, this is often traumatic for them.

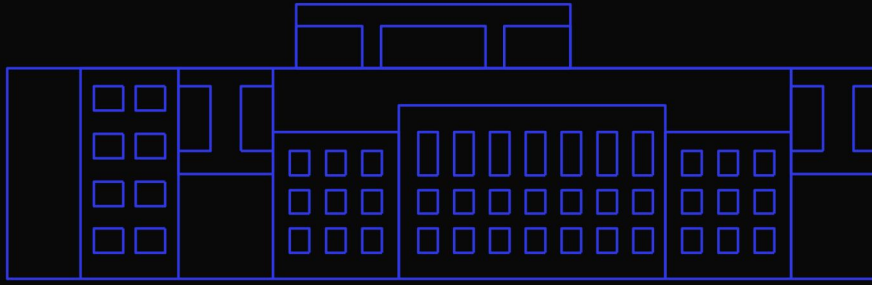
So the impact of just this one incident reaches out really far and has an effect on everyone connected to the 2 individuals at the centre.

We have another really short video now, and this is a girl talking about her brother who was involved in a knife incident...



This demonstrates that ripple effect, so much damage and trauma can be inflicted beyond that initial incident...

# EDUCATIONAL PREMISES...

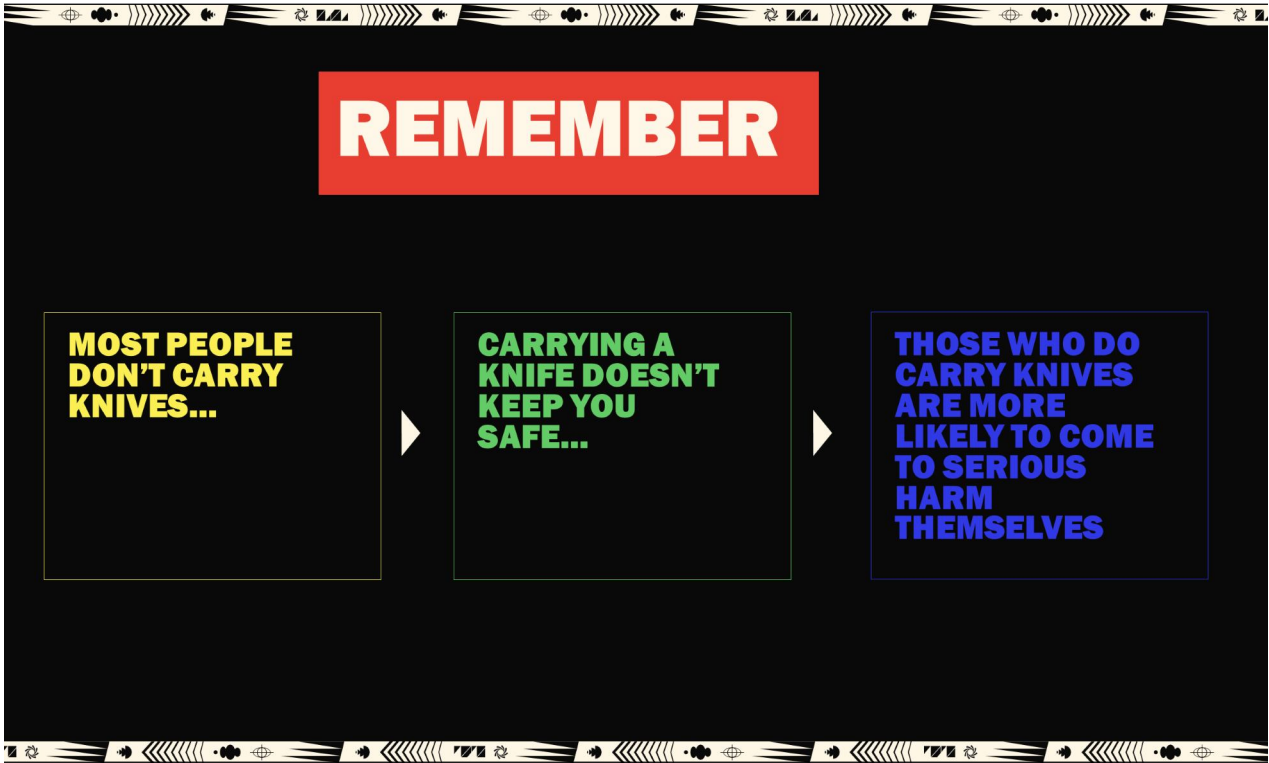


Can a teacher or authorised member of staff search you and your possessions?

- Yes they can, with reasonable suspicion that a pupil may have a prohibited item within their possessions.

What do you think prohibited items are?

- Knives or offensive weapons. Also alcohol, drugs, stolen items or other specified items.



We think this is a really good place to try and remember some positives....

Most people don't carry knives, and when we say most people we mean over 99% of people don't, this isn't normal behaviour, this is something that we all should be against and as a society we shouldn't view carrying knives as normal or acceptable... we want that 99% who don't carry to become 100%

Carrying a knife doesn't keep you safe...

...it does just the opposite, if you carry a knife your chances of getting seriously hurt increase dramatically, and its more likely that those around you, such as your friends or family will come to some form of harm also. Carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to [court](#) and ending up with a criminal record or even a prison sentence. There is no such thing as a 'safe' place to stab someone. If a knife punctures an artery anywhere on your body you can bleed to death within five minutes



**So what can you do to protect yourself?**

The easiest thing you guys can do is to check your own safety.

By this we mean that if you ever in a situation where the levels of aggression are rising, things are getting heated, people may be arguing such as yourself or friends etc.... Just walk away.

Remove yourself from that situation, this will not only keep you safe but it could de-escalate the situation, I know there can be some unhealthy attitudes out there about being seen to back-down, but it's often peoples unwillingness to do this and simply walk away which gets them into trouble.

This is more important than your pride and your ego, it's better to walk away than the potential alternatives.

# BE A GOOD FRIEND



**You can also be a good friend... don't let your mates get into a position where they act on impulse or aggression, if your mates having an argument and things are escalating, by that we mean getting worse, they're moving away from the verbal towards physical aggression, remove them from that situation.**

Does your friend have a knife or does the person they are having a disagreement with have a knife? Can you ever be sure?

- Remove yourself and a friend from any heated situation
- Divert there attention
- Distract/ cool them down
- Keep them thinking straight and in a calm mind set
- Don't support or encourage any aggressive behaviour e.g. laughing, taunting comments, peer pressure which can lead to joint enterprise as seen in the first video
- Get help if needed
- In Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland we are making a stand against violence, so why don't you join us and make a stand



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?



**SPEAK UP**

We are dependant on you to help circulate the message that knife crime and carrying knives isn't acceptable... none of us want this level of violence and young people carrying knives putting themselves and others at risk of serious harm and entering the criminal justice system. We want that 99 in 100 who don't carry knives to be 100 in 100.

Tell an trusted adult

Call the police & crime stoppers to report or get reassurance and advise

Make your voices and opinions known amongst your mates, most young people don't agree with carrying knives and they don't agree with the violence and damage which carrying knives can cause. Speak out, especially if you have a friend who you know carries a knife, you'll be protecting them by doing so.

## WHO TO CONTACT...

**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.

0800 555 111

**fearless**  
.org

**Victim First**  
Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

0800 953 9595

THE BEN KINSELLA TRUST



Crimestoppers  
Fearless  
Victim First  
Leicestershire police  
Ben Kinsella Trust  
School

- Speak with a trusted adult
  - Teacher
  - Parents/ family
  - Youth worker/ sports coach

**QUESTIONS?**