

Welfare Awareness Topic: Knife Crime

Overview – *The causes of knife crime are extremely complex, involving deep-seated problems like inequality, poverty, social alienation, and a lack of opportunities for young people.*

In the year ending March 2020, knife and offensive weapon offences increased by 2% from the previous year, and though initially decreasing during the first lockdown, knife crime rose by 25% after restrictions were lifted. Statistics show that if you carry a knife or weapon this increases your likelihood of being hurt.

Knife crime is any crime involving a knife, which includes:

- Carrying a knife or trying to buy one if you are under 18
- Threatening someone with a knife
- Carrying a knife that's banned
- A murder where the victim was stabbed with a knife
- A robbery or burglary where a thief carried a knife as a weapon.

Any knife over three inches is illegal to carry, and even if you are carrying a legal knife, it becomes illegal if you use it as a weapon to threaten or harm anyone. If you're caught carrying a knife, you could receive a community sentence, a fine, or be imprisoned.

What can you do?

Protect yourself- try to avoid situations which you feel could put you at risk, be aware of what is going on around you, and remember that you can always talk to someone if you feel worried/scared or pressured into doing anything you do not wish to do. The most important thing is to keep yourself safe and find positive activities to channel your energy.

Protect and look out for others- try and notice if others might be pressured into situations that might result in them carrying a knife, acting secretive or failing to attend normal activities- if you are worried about someone, talk to them, and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Article/Source / Find out more

- [Safeline Young People](#) - read up about how to keep safe here.
- [Met Police - Stop Knife Crime](#) - information about what knife crime is, and how to prevent it.
- If you have information about knife crime in your area and you're nervous about going to the police, you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or give information completely [anonymously online](#). They will never ask for your name or try to trace the number that you're calling from.
- Whether you carry a knife, are thinking about carrying, or are worried about someone you know getting involved with knives – there is help and support available. [KnifeFree](#) has more information and advice here, as well as resources for help and support.

Support

If you would like to talk to the safeguarding team about anything you have just read, we will listen without judgement and signpost you to support. If you would like to talk to a member of the Safeguarding Team then please get in touch: safeguarding@bpp.com