

WILTSHIRE POLICE

Operation Sceptre – Knife Crime



Dear parents, guardians and carers

We need to talk about knife crime.

Nationally we continue to see a rise in serious violence, and I am sure you have all watched with growing concern as the media reports the tragic incidents of knife crime that have occurred across the country that have destroyed many lives and impacted individuals and families.

I am pleased to say that across Wiltshire knife crime has not really increased – it has remained stable over the last few years and is certainly lower than in other towns and cities. However, that doesn't mean it doesn't happen here or that we should become complacent in our approach. We still need to take steps to prevent this awful crime happening and I firmly believe that education plays a vital role.

Wiltshire Police, along with other police forces, is currently taking part in a national knife crime awareness campaign, called Operation Sceptre. It has given us the opportunity and a platform to talk about knife crime, and it is important that this conversation doesn't just stop here.

What you can do

Whilst Wiltshire continues to be one of the safest counties to live in, to keep it this way we need your help. As well as being Assistant Chief Constable for Wiltshire Police I am also a mum. As adults, we teach our children and try to equip them with the life skills to stay safe. Educating our children about knife crime is an important part of that.

We know most young people are not involved in criminal activity, nor would they ever dream of carrying a knife or bladed weapon. But sadly, we know that possession of knives is on the rise nationally. Young people hear about it on the news, they talk about it at school, and we know, because they tell us, they would carry a knife for protection. However, we know that carrying a knife means you are more likely to find yourself in a situation where you could get seriously injured or even killed.

We need to get to a position in our communities, within peer groups, and within families where carrying a knife or blade is not just frowned upon, it is seen as completely unacceptable.

Please talk about knife crime and have regular conversations with your child/children from the earliest age, to make sure they know the facts and the risk.

As you know, bringing up young people is one of the most rewarding jobs, but also one of the toughest. I recognise that these conversations can be difficult and that you won't always have the answers. Information about knife crime is available on the [Wiltshire Police website](#), along with links to specialist websites offering further advice, guidance and support for both young people and parents, guardians and carers.

Knife crime is not just a police issue, it's a community issue and we all need to work together to stop it from devastating more lives. Your help in discussing this is very much appreciated.

Assistant Chief Constable Debs Smith