



Community Safety Services



Date: 15th February 2018

All Parents, Guardians and Carers

Health and Well Being Directorate
Community Safety Services
Level 9, Civic Centre
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Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Operation SCEPTRE – Help Us to Stop Knife Crime and Keep Young People Safe

Oldham Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership is working with partners across the borough as part of a national campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying knives.

As part of Operation SCEPTRE we are writing to all parents, guardians and carers to ask for your help in keeping our young people safe.

We know that some young people are carrying knives in order to protect themselves, however the reality is that **carrying a knife actually increases the chance that you will be seriously injured or killed**. It is most often the case that the knife being carried for protection ends up being used **against** the person carrying it.

We are aware that young people are not necessarily carrying specialist knives, but rather knives which are easily accessible within the kitchen at home.

It is important to understand that even when a person carries a knife for protection, simply having the knife in their possession is a criminal offence, and that on conviction, the offence carries a sentence of up to four years.

We know that most young people do not carry knives and would never consider doing so, however we would ask all parents, guardians and carers to talk to their children about the dangers of carrying knives and to be vigilant of knives disappearing from within the home environment.

If you or your child has any information about knife crime, this can be reported to Greater Manchester Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Young people can also report information anonymously and find information, help, advice or support at Fearless.org

Help us to reduce knife crime and to keep our young people safe.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Kenny
Community Safety Manager
Oldham Community Safety Services