



Home Office

# Tackling Knives Action Programme

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# *Tackling Knives Action Programme*

**5 Government Departments and 12 police force areas working together to:**

Prevent young people from becoming involved with knife crime

Increase risk of sanction for those who carry a knife

Reassure the public

**Reduce teenage knife deaths and serious woundings and increase public confidence**

## ***Local delivery - enforcement, punishment and prevention***

- **Enhanced, high visibility enforcement**
- **Increased trading standards operations** against underage purchase
- **An expectation of prosecution** for possession and early, intensive interventions for first time young offenders.
- **Freeing up officer time** to concentrate on tackling the real issues by reducing bureaucracy in the TKAP force areas
- **Knives awareness and education in schools.** E.g. Think Sharp, Be Sharp (Lancs); Tooled Up for School (W.Mids); Prison Me No Way (W.Yorks);
- **Parents** - home visits and letters to families of at risk young people.
- **Data and intelligence sharing** with A&E, ambulance services (Notts) and other partners to target vulnerable people and places

## *National Policy - actions in progress*

- **DCSF** and **HO** providing £700k funding to each high priority area through Youth Crime Action Plan (bids now in)
- **DH** working with Strategic Health Authorities to encourage consistent sharing of data between police and local hospitals
- **Home Office** launched £3M anti-knife marketing campaign; £3.8M Community Fund and £3m for extra after-school patrol, Operation Staysafe and safer schools activity.
  - Also: Crimestoppers texting service; Evidence gathering for Good Practice Guide ; Considering changes to law.
- **MoJ** rolling out intensive unpaid work programme for offenders sentenced to the maximum sentence of 300 hours for possession
- **YJB** rolling out Knife Possession Prevention Programme, already live in Southwark, Haringey, Leeds and Manchester

## *What impact is TKAP having?*

- **Police taking tougher approach.** 100,000 stop and searches for weapons since June. Over 2,000 weapons recovered.
- **Cautions down, prosecutions up.** 95% of knife possession arrests in the Met now leading to charge.
- **Senior police commanders reporting that the proportion of searches leading to a weapon being found is falling.**
- **Courts taking a tougher approach too.** Number of offenders in prison for offensive weapons possession up by 30% since May. Remand population double what it was last year.

## *Conclusion*

- High levels of local action taking place in TKAP areas
- Central government taking forward national action to support
- But still high public concern and fatalities

# *Ongoing Work with Police and Partners*

## **Enforcement**

- Continue to facilitate intelligence led enforcement activity, especially around local transport hubs and the night time economy, school routes

## **Trading Standards**

- Help stamp out underage knife sales
- Encourage retailers to join a local campaign to educate shop staff

## **Partnership working**

- Support sustainable partnership working to give long term solutions

## **Health**

- Commit to address the barriers to sharing data
- Awareness of the Cardiff model as a structure for making this work

## **Education**

- Support educational programmes and youth forums to engage young people on dangers of knife crime