

KNIFE AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Metropolitan Police Commendation

In September 2011 Through Unity received a police Borough Commanders Commendation for their work in helping to prevent young people becoming involved in violence and knife crime. A great achievement.

Through Unity Charity

Our Knife Awareness Programme (KAP) is an emotionally hard-hitting programme aimed at young people aged 14 and above. It challenges and explores attitudes towards violence and weapons; seeking to engage young people as part of the solution rather than identifying them as the problem. It is suitable for schools, youth clubs or other groups of young people.

KAP is delivered in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, London Ambulance Service, London Air Ambulance and Word4Weapons; it consists of two distinct stages.

Stage One - Presentation

This is a 60 minutes theatre style presentation comprising a series of short video clips regarding weapons issues, interspersed by personal testimony from those directly involved. This will include the following:

- Police Officer
- Paramedic
- Casualty Doctor/ Air Ambulance
- Family/Friend of Victim

The purpose of this presentation is to raise the students' awareness of the full impact caused by violence and weapons related incidents. It is a hard-hitting emotional experience; we don't use any graphic images but the personal testimonies portray the real impact of violence and knife crime. This method also encourages young people to create their own mental images, thus making it a more personal experience.

The presentation concludes with advice and information from the Word4Weapons charity on keeping safe and making positive lifestyle choices.

Stage Two – Online Activities

We have partnered with the online education organisation 'e-engage' to deliver a series of real-time, online follow-up activities where young people can engage in direct conversation with a range of experts from health, law, bereaved families, violence prevention and youth support. This enables staff and young people to re-visit the conversation regarding weapons, violence and conflict resolution at regular intervals throughout the year to ensure that young people are still consciously thinking about their own safety and how to help others.

These activities cover a range of issues, including joint enterprise, gangs, bullying and cyber-safety.



What they say:

Teacher:

An excellent session which has had a great impact on the year group, the students were talking about the issues raised and the fact that they were thinking about what they had seen shows me the significant impact the presentation had on them.

Pupil:

I think it was excellent as well as emotional. It affected many people and they are still talking about it...

More feedback overleaf



E-engage On-line Forum

Speak to a panel of live experts...



Students pose their own questions to the panel ...

The Team at Work



One of our speakers delivering powerful messages to young students



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STUDENTS

Q Was the content of the presentation appropriate for your age group?

91.5% said YES; 5.6% said it partly did

Q KAP aims to raise awareness amongst young people of the full impact of violence and weapon enabled crime. To what extent did the presentation achieve this?

81.4% said YES; 11.4% said it partly did

Q Following the KAP presentation, do you feel more able to talk to your friends or family about the effects of knife crime and violence?

76.5% said YES

Q Following the KAP presentation, do you feel more able to talk to someone you know who carries a knife about the effects of knife crime and violence?

26% said YES; 5% said NO; 69% said they didn't know anyone who carried a knife

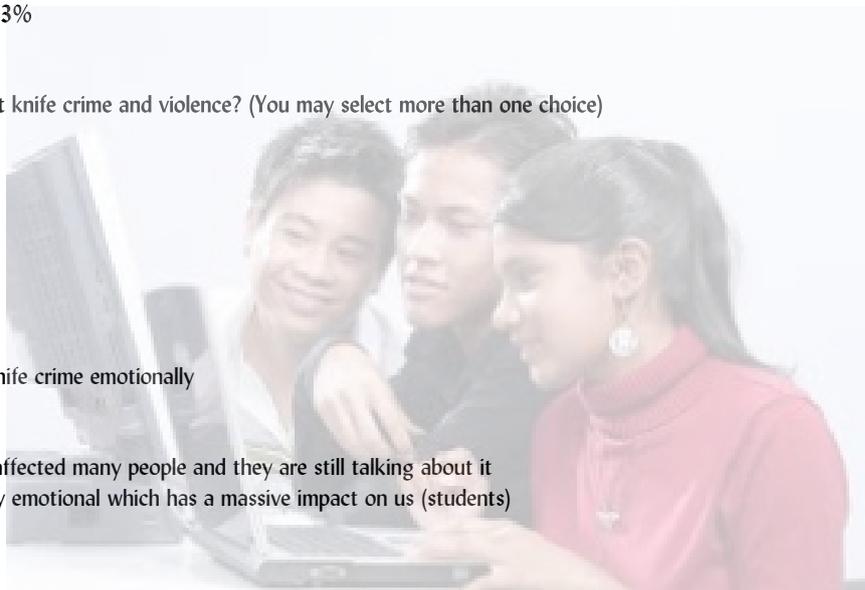
Additional questions revealed the following

Q To what extent do you consider people carrying knives a problem in your area?

- o The biggest problem 18.75%
- o A big problem but not the biggest 37.50%
- o A problem but no more than anywhere else in London 15.63%
- o A slight problem 15.63%
- o Not a problem at all 12.50%

Q Which of the following do you feel able to talk to about knife crime and violence? (You may select more than one choice)

- o Parent 60%
- o Brother/Sister 38%
- o Other relative 26%
- o Teacher 22%
- o Friend 60%
- o Police Officer 46%
- o Any other person 16%



Student Comments

- o It was a good idea to approach the effects of knife crime emotionally
- o I thought it was great
- o Very good. Thank you.
- o I think it was excellent as well as emotional. It affected many people and they are still talking about it
- o Very engaging presentation which was also very emotional which has a massive impact on us (students)
- o I think it's a very good idea
- o I enjoyed watching the presentation
- o Good programme, weapon box is good
- o The ambulance service could improve their presentation by adding more pictures and describe what a knife in you does to you
- o The presenters gave a lot of information and raised awareness of knife crime
- o I thought that the videos and visual display was helpful and that they were emotional and powerful. I also thought the relative of the killed's story was emotional and R.I.P. to her son

TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF

Q KAP aims to raise awareness amongst young people of the full impact of violence and weapon enabled crime. To what extent did the presentation achieve this?

100% said YES

Q Was the content of the presentation appropriate for the student group?

100% said YES

Q How would you rate KAP as an educational resource?

80% - excellent; 20% - very good

Q Would you be interested in additional resources provided by KAP?

94.7% said YES

Teacher & School staff feedback

- o all of the presenters delivered a powerful message in a clear and well thought manner, they provided our students with the realities of knife crime, whilst at the same time trying to allay their fears.
- o The mother of knife crime victim was extremely moving.
- o All presenters were very interesting and spoke from the heart. It was very hard hitting and moving hearing from a bereaved relative. All information given was at the correct level and engaged the students.
- o Good rapport - maybe add visuals/images
- o Presenters were all good. It was nice to get a varied account from different people who are involved in knife crime. Having a relative come in and talk makes knife crime realistic and creates an emotive bond for young people.
- o Really hard hitting - especially those first on the scene of the incidents and the bereaved relative.
- o I thought the presentations in the main hall were extremely well delivered. It didn't come across as rehearsed at all, just very genuine, full of emotion and very moving.
- o An excellent session which has had a great impact on the year group, the students were talking about the issues raised and the fact that they were thinking about what they had seen shows me the significant impact the presentation had on them.
- o Outstanding, powerful and very clear message, students were totally engaged
- o The presentation is excellent and I am sure that it will have an effect on the majority of our pupils in realising the seriousness of carrying weapons. A lot of young people do not understand the consequences and always think it will happen to someone