



NKBL BRIEF INTERVENTIONS CARDS




No knives, better lives.

www.noknivesbetterlives.com

These cards should be used in conjunction with Sharper Solutions and Nae Danger and are intended to be useful prompts for when you are out and about and meet individuals or groups of young people.

We want you to have positive informal relations with young people and be the person that they trust to go to for their information needs.

These cards are intended to help you to get the following;

- Up to date information about knife carrying and knife crime in Scotland
 - Information about the 5Ds of bystander intervention
 - Activities about knife carrying and violence that stimulate discussion
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MORE INFORMATION AND TOOLKITS

Visit the NKBL Website on

<https://noknivesbetterlives.com/>

For more information on the Bystander Approach please download our toolkit aimed at young people aged 11 and over, 'Nae Danger.'



For more information on activities and prevention messages, please download our toolkit aimed at prevention practitioners such as police, youth workers, social workers, health promotion workers and teachers, 'Sharper Solutions.'



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The truth about knife carrying.

ASK

Do you think that knife carrying has increased or decreased over the last 10 years?


ANSWER

Decreased

Crimes associated with offensive weapons like knives have reduced in Scotland by 61% over the last ten years.

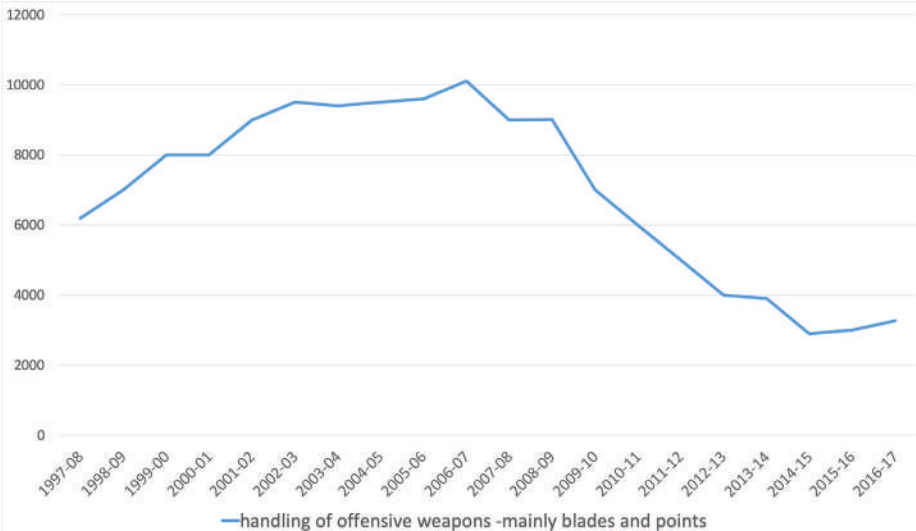
For young people convictions have reduced by 85%.

Scotland is a much more peaceful and safer place than it was ten years ago.



FACTS

Crimes of handling offensive weapons recorded by the Police, 1997 to 2017



KNIFE FACTS QUIZ

ASK

young people whether these statements are true (aye)
or false (nae danger)

| | AYE | NAE DANGER |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Men are more likely to carry knives than women | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| It is more likely that you will be stabbed by a stranger | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police can stop and search you if they think you are carrying a knife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Most people who carry knives are under 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

[Add any statements of your own – there are more in Sharper Solutions]

ACTIVITY

- **Men are more likely to carry knives than women**

A lot more likely! 85% of people convicted of carrying knives were men.

- **It is more likely that you will be stabbed by a stranger**

Most people who are stabbed know the perpetrator (about 60%). You are unlikely to be stabbed by a stranger.

- **Police can stop and search you if they think you are carrying a knife**

Police can legitimately stop and search you if they suspect you of carrying a knife, even if you are under 16 or female.

- **Most people who carry knives are under 25**

The average age of someone convicted of carrying a knife in Scotland is 29.

Most young people do not carry knives. We think that knife carrying is not seen as either cool or safe amongst young people.

STEREOTYPES AND ASSUMPTIONS

ASK**Who is most likely to carry a knife out of these young people?**

Why? What assumptions have you made?

Why might a young person resort to knife carrying?



ACTIVITY

STEREOTYPES AND ASSUMPTIONS

ANSWER

The simple answer is that anyone can make a mistake and pick up a knife.

Imaginary Box of Behaviours

Ask the group to discuss a behaviour in terms of positive and negative consequences (short and long term) e.g. carrying a knife, reporting knife carrying, helping a friend who is being bullied, reporting 'flaming' on social media, taking illegal drugs, drinking alcohol, smoking etc.

You can expand on this activity by discussing the fact that the adolescent brain is more susceptible to the short-term reward of risk taking behaviour.

CARRYING A KNIFE DOESN'T MAKE YOU SAFER

ASK

Why do some young people carry knives?

- Because they think everyone else is carrying a knife?
- Because they think that it will make them safer?
- Because they are scared?
- Because they think it will give them status?
- Because they are fashionable?
- Have you ever known anyone who carried a knife? Why did they and what would have stopped them from carrying a knife?

DISCUSSION

MEDIA AND SENSATIONALISING

ASK

Why might we think that knife crime is worse than it actually is?

- Trends in the rest of the UK, particularly London
- The way it's reported in the media
- Sensationalised pictures of hoodies with knives

REASSURANCE

DESIGN

a poster campaign to put people off carrying knives...

BUT there's some rules:



You **can't** show a knife



You **can't** show blood



You **can't** show a young person in a negative way

ACTIVITY

AYE – NAE DANGER!

- Similar to AGREE/DISAGREE you can either write on paper or chalk the ground and hold this as a moving debate
- Read out the statements and ask the group to 'move' to where they feel they want to stand in relation to whether they agree or disagree.
- If they choose they can stand in the middle, or along a continuum.
- People with strong views must try and persuade the undecided to back their point of view.
- Facilitate a debate amongst the group members. You can add factual information or correct any 'myths' the group use in their arguments with each other.
- Once the debate has concluded you can ask if anyone wants to move – no one should be allowed to remain in the middle.
- Read another statement and have another debate!

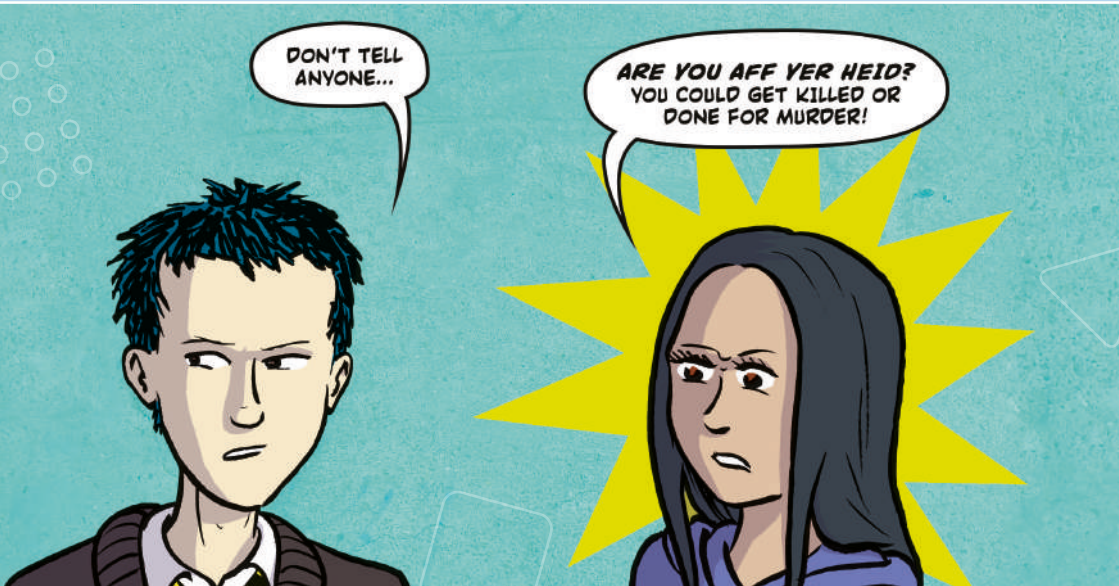
STATEMENTS

- I would never use a knife.....
- If you're under 16 you can't be prosecuted for carrying a knife.....
- The media makes out like all young people carry knives.....
- People who carry knives are stupid.....
- Carrying a knife makes you feel safer.....
- There is a safe place to stab someone (i.e. the bum).....
- I might carry a weapon if I knew someone was 'after' me.....
- If I knew my friend was carrying a knife I wouldn't 'grass' on him/her.....
- If I knew my friend was carrying a knife I would try and persuade him/her not to.....
- You are less likely to be bullied if you carry a knife.....
- It's hard to get hold of a knife if you are under 16.....

SCENARIO

ARE YOU AFF YER HEID?

The situation



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

- What would you do if you thought your friend was carrying a knife?
 - Write the responses down or memorise them.
- What is the most popular response?
 - Why?
- What are the drawbacks/advantages of this response?
- Did you know that if you intervene in a knife carrying situation, you have probably used one of the 5Ds of bystander intervention?

DISCUSSION

HOW TO INTERVENE

When you know that someone is carrying a knife you can intervene using the 5Ds



Intervening in a knife carrying situation is risky and a lot will depend on how well you know the person carrying the knife.

Only intervene if it completely safe to do so.

INTERVENING IN A KNIFE CARRYING SITUATION

Direct

..... Speak to your friend directly. Talk through some options that don't involve knife carrying.

Distract

..... Offer to do an activity that will take your friend mind off things.

Delegate

..... Speak to someone your friend will listen to (doesn't have to be a policeman) for example an older sibling or a responsible peer.

Document

..... Take a note of how many times they are carrying. Don't normalise knife carrying.

Delay

..... Offer follow up support. Be a friend!

ACTIVITY

A WORD ABOUT GRASSING

'Grassing' is a toxic term. It can really stop people from getting the help they need to intervene in a knife carrying situation.

Explore this issue through holding an 'It's Okay ✓ / Not Okay' ✗ debate
(Use chalks / paper / hold a moving debate)

.....

Which of these circumstances is it okay to tell someone and who would you tell?

- Your friend has stolen a mars bar from the local shop
- Your friend has told you that she was sexually assaulted by her partner
- Your friend has paid someone to write an essay for them
- Your friend has smoked a cannabis joint in their bedroom with pals
- Your friend has been given a free mobile phone by some older youths
- Your friend has told you they've started carrying a knife for protection
- Your friend has told you about a creepy older relative who has been asking for a kiss
- Your friend has told you they intend to stab someone to teach them a lesson

GET IN TOUCH



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