

PEER EDUCATION ASSEMBLY PACK

Supporting young people to make informed, positive choices when faced with risk taking behaviours.



~~No knives~~
Better lives

KNIFE CRIME ASSEMBLY PACK

Aims:

- To increase young people's knowledge of knife crime in Scotland and its consequences.
- To explore different steps you can take to help a friend involved in risk taking behaviours.

Time:

- 30 minutes

Resources:

- Presentation slides
- Printed notes

Peer educator notes:

- You can adapt the suggested script below to suit your own presenting style, the group your delivering to and the time limit you have.

There are also ways you could make it even more interactive...

- Use an online tool like Mentimeter or Slido to make knowledge checks more engaging.
- Include scenarios where volunteers act out situations related to knife carrying, followed by a group discussion on what the characters could have done differently. How could an active bystander have stepped in?
- Create an interactive pledge where young people can come up to sign a banner or stick on a post-it

Setting the scene (Slide 1)

2 minutes

- Start by welcoming everyone and introducing yourself.
- Explain that today's assembly is about developing their knowledge of knife crime and understanding the impact of carrying knives can have.

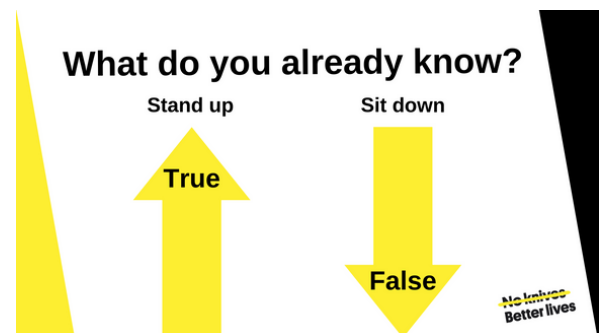


Stand Up, Sit Down (Slide 2)

2 minutes

Explain how the game works:

- We're going to play a quick game to see what you already know about knife crime. It's called 'Stand Up, Sit Down.'
- I'll read out a statement, and you have to decide whether you think it's true or false. If you think it's true, stand up. If you think it's false, sit down. After each statement, we'll explain the answer so you can learn more about the facts.



Activity statements (Slide 3)

10 minutes

Click through the statements one at a time, give the young people some time to respond and then give an explanation.

1. Glasgow is the 'murder capital of Europe'.

Correct answer: Sit down.

This was true, but Glasgow lost that title back in 2019. Scotland has worked hard to reduce knife crime since it peaked in 2009, through things like better education and community projects, but there's still more to do!

2. It's mostly teenagers who get caught carrying knives.

Correct answer: Sit down.

It's not just teenagers who get caught with knives. Adults also get in trouble for carrying them. Knife crime affects people of all ages. The median age is 29.

3. Girls rather than boys are more likely to be the victims of knife crime.

Correct answer: Stand up.

Boys are more likely to be involved in knife crime, both as victims and those who carry knives. But that doesn't mean girls aren't affected— statistically, it happens more to boys.

4. People carry knives for their own protection.

Correct answer: Sit down.

A lot of people think carrying a knife will keep them safe, but it actually makes things more dangerous. If you're carrying a knife, you're more likely to get hurt or get into serious trouble. So it doesn't protect you the way people might think.

5. Scaring people is the best way to stop them from carrying knives.

Correct answer: Sit down.

Scaring people with gory pictures and extreme stories might seem like a good idea, but it often doesn't work. What works better is talking to people and showing them better ways to protect themselves. Programmes like peer education—what we're doing today—work better because they give people support and understanding.

Stand Up, Sit Down

1. Glasgow is the 'murder capital of Europe'.
2. It's mostly teenagers who get caught carrying knives.
3. Boys rather than girls are more likely to be the victims of knife crime.
4. People carry knives for their own protection.
5. Scaring people is the best way to stop them from carrying knives.

No knives
Better lives

Why is this topic important? (Slide 4)

2 minutes

Explain the importance of learning about knife crime presentation:

- **Raising Awareness:** Knife crime is a serious issue that can affect anyone, especially young people. By raising awareness, we help everyone understand the real dangers and the impact it has on lives, families and communities.
- **Myth Busting:** There are a lot of myths around knife crime—like we saw in Stand Up, Sit Down. Busting these myths is important because the truth can help us make better, safer choices.
- **Prevention:** The best way to stop knife crime is by preventing it. Understanding the risks and knowing how to avoid dangerous situations can help keep you and your friends safe.
- **Empowerment:** Talking about knife crime gives young people the power to make positive choices. Knowing the facts helps you feel more confident to stay out of trouble and to support others who may be at risk.
- **Starting the Conversation:** Knife crime is a difficult topic, but it's important to talk about it. By starting the conversation, we can encourage others to speak up, get help if they need it and work together to create a safer community.

Why is this topic important?

- Raising awareness
- Myth Busting
- Prevention
- Empowerment
- Starting the conversation

No knives
Better lives

Why do young people carry knives? (Slide 5)

3 minutes

- Ask the audience: "Why do you think people carry knives?" Gather a few answers, like for protection, peer pressure, or to look tough.
- Click to reveal the word cloud on the slides with common reasons. Explain that these excuses are common, but carrying a knife actually increases the risk of getting hurt or into trouble with the Police.

Why do young people carry knives?

Word cloud containing terms: cool, threatened, unsafe, defense, pressure, survival, power, feeling, status, involvement, fear, tough, adults, intimidation, protection, look, revenge, friends, trust, self, bullying, gang, control, media, fit, peer, look, adults, intimidation, protection, look, revenge, friends, trust, self.

No knives
Better lives

Legal consequences (Slide 6)

5 minutes

Let's look at what really happens if you get caught carrying a knife. It's not just about getting in trouble with the law—there are serious consequences that can affect your whole life, from school and work to your relationships with friends and family.

Some legal consequences are:

- **Arrest and criminal record:** Being caught with a knife can lead to a criminal record, which affects your future.
- **Serve time:** You could be sent to one of the following depending on your age.
 - Under 18 – secure residential care unit
 - 18 – 21 – young offenders institute
 - 21+ – prison
- **Fines or community service:** You might face heavy fines or be required to do community service as a punishment.
- **Travel restrictions:** A criminal record can stop you from travelling to certain countries like the USA or Australia.
- **Future job prospects:** Employers often run background checks and a criminal record can prevent you from getting certain jobs.

Consequences

Legal:

- Arrest and criminal record
- Serve time
- Fines or community service
- Travel restrictions
- Future job prospects

No knives
Better lives

Social consequences (Slide 7)

3 minutes

There are also social consequences:

- **Impact on education:** A criminal record can get you expelled from school or prevent you from being accepted into college or university.
- **Loss of trust from friends and family:** Carrying a knife can strain relationships with those close to you, including your parents, teachers and friends

Consequences

Social:

- Impact on education
- Loss of trust from friends and family
- Stigma and reputation
- Increase risk of violence
- Fear and isolation

No knives
Better lives

Social Consequences (Slide 7) Cont'd

- **Stigma and reputation:** Being known as someone who carries a knife can lead to negative labels, making it harder to form friendships or relationships.
- **Increased risk of violence:** Carrying a knife makes it more likely that you'll end up involved in violent situations, putting yourself and others at risk.
- **Fear and isolation:** You may feel like you need to hide your actions, which can cause anxiety and isolation from those who could help.

Consequences

Social:

- Impact on education
- Loss of trust from friends and family
- Stigma and reputation
- Increase risk of violence
- Fear and isolation

No knives
Better lives

How to help a friend (Slide 8)

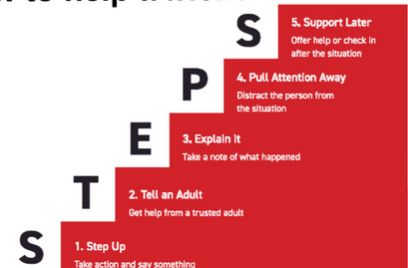
3 minutes

- Introduce the STEPS acronym of ways young people can help their friends.

Step up – Take action and say something
 Tell an adult – Get help from a trusted adult
 Explain it- Take a note of what happened
 Pull attention away – Distract the person from the situation
 Support Later – Offer help or check in after the situation

- Ask the young people to turn to the person next to them and discuss what they would do if a friend told them they were carrying a knife.
- Select a couple of volunteers to share their thoughts and identify which step it relates to.

How to help a friend



No knives
Better lives

Support (Slide 9)

2 minutes

There are lots of places where young people can get help and support. If you ever feel pressured or scared, it's important to reach out. Here are some options:

- **Trusted adults:** Talk to someone you trust, like a teacher, youth worker, or even a family member. They can help guide you and offer support.
- **Police:** If you're in immediate danger or feel unsafe, don't hesitate to contact the police for help.
- **Fearless:** A service for young people aged 11-18. It gives you key information about crime and lets you share information 100% anonymously online or by calling.
- **Childline:** A free, private, and confidential service where you can talk about anything—whether you're feeling down or need advice. You can reach them online or on the phone, anytime.
- **Breathing Space:** When life feels overwhelming, Breathing Space gives you someone to talk to. It's a free service that can help when you're feeling low or stressed.



Thank you (Slide 10)

1 minute

Ask if the young people have any questions and then end on a positive note.

- Thanks for listening and taking part today! We've covered some important topics about knife crime and how we can all play a part in making sure we and our friends stay safe.
- Remind them: "Small actions can have big impacts."

