



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 15/05/2023

Ref: **Op Sceptre**

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

The Wiltshire Police Youth and Early Intervention team work with schools, colleges and partners to share messages and educate young people. The aim is to keep young people in our community safe from harm and exploitation, whilst educating them where they can go for support.

Op Sceptre, a week-long national campaign aimed at tackling knife crime, is running from 15th May – 21st May 2023. Wiltshire Police's Youth and Early Intervention Team would like to raise awareness of weapons and knife crime within Swindon and Wiltshire. We wanted to give you, as trusted adults, some useful and helpful information on the following subjects:

- How to recognise the signs that may indicate that your young people are potentially at risk of being exploited or vulnerable to carrying/storing weapons.
- Safeguarding and signposting information on who to turn to and which agencies can help you.

Wiltshire Police aim to raise awareness around knife crime and carrying weapons on the streets of Swindon and Wiltshire. We need your help as trusted adults to ensure that every young person knows what the risks are, to help them make informative and educated choices moving forward in their lives.

Signs that your young person maybe being exploited

- Is your child hanging around with a new group of friends? A group that you don't know or have never met?
- Is your child suddenly wearing new items of clothing that you have **NOT** purchased for them?
- Does your child have more than one phone?

- Have they started to become more irritable every time you try to engage with them?
- Are they becoming more secretive, always in their bedroom, not engaging in family activities/outings?
- Is your child missing school? Or having missing episodes from home?

Whilst most of these signs are what you may call typical teenage behaviour, just be mindful that there could be more to it. If your gut feeling is telling you that something isn't right, then have a conversation with them.

Things to think about before your young person goes out

- Do you know where they are going?
- Do you know who they are with?
- What time do they need to be back by?
- Ensure you have contact details for their friends and their friend's parents.

Safeguarding and signposting information

Fearless is a site designed specifically for young people and not adults. You can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime and criminality. It can also be used as an anonymous reporting tool for young people.

<https://www.fearless.org>

Crimestoppers is an anonymous reporting service specifically for adults and is the sister company of Fearless. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>, 0800 555 111.

The NSPCC is a children's charity, dedicated to supporting children and trusted adults for most situations providing useful information and resources.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

Childline is here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they are going through. You can talk about anything. Whether it's something big or small, their trained counsellors are there to support you. <https://www.childline.org.uk>. Or call on 0800 1111.

The Ben Kinsella Trust aims to educate everyone on the dangers of knife crime ensuring that young people can make educated choices and where to go to for more help and support. They have resources for young people, school and trusted adults. <https://www.benkinsella.org.uk>

Please take a few minutes to look at the videos below. The aim of these is to highlight what your child/children/young person may be going through, if they find themselves in that situation and to give you, as a trusted adult, an insight into what this might look like. Please be mindful these videos can be emotive for those watching.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

- [Kayleigh's Love Story - Full Version - YouTube](#) – Kayleigh's Love Story
- [Phoebe Maddison - Look At Where You're Now \(feat. The Magic Word Magician\) | County Lines - YouTube](#) – Swindon Based Exploitation Song
- [Help put 'county lines' out of business - YouTube](#) – National Criminal Child Exploitation
- [Knife crime: A new way forward - YouTube](#) – Avon and Somerset Police.

List of knife surrender bin locations

- Amesbury, Baptist Church, SP4 7SN. Tues-Fri 0800-1600, Sun 0800-1600
- Calne, Bank House, SN11 0EN. Mon-Fri 0930-1600.
- Chippenham, Monkton Park, SN15 1ER. Mon-Fri 0830-1730.
- Devizes, St James Church, SN10 3AA. Tues & Thurs 0900-1900, Wed 1200-1900, Fri 1200-1600, Sat 0900-1200.
- Melksham Police Station, SN12 6QQ. Mon-Fri 0830-1730.
- Salisbury Police Station, SP1 3UZ. Mon-Fri 0830-1730. Sat 0900-1300.
- Swindon, Christ Church, SN1 3HG. Mon-Sun 0800-1700.
- Gablecross Police Station, SSN3 4RB. Mon-Fri 0830-1730. Sat 0900-1300.
- Swindon, Pinetrees Community Centre, SN2 1QR. Mon-Fri 0800-1800.
- Trowbridge Police Station, BA14 7EP. Mon-Fri 0830-1730. Sat 0900-1300.
- Trowbridge, St James Church, BA14 8RU Mon-Sat 1000-1200.
- Warminster, Civic Centre, BA12 8LB. Mon-Fri 0900-1630.

If you have any concerns about a young person and wish to contact the Police, please call 101. If there is immediate risk to a young person call 999.

We hope that you have found this information useful and should you have any questions please contact us using the email addresses below.

youth@wiltshire.police.uk

youthswindon@wiltshire.police.uk

Kind Regards,

Youth and Early intervention Team

Keeping Wiltshire Safe