

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Chippenham Police Station

Monkton Park
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 2ER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I wanted to write to you as your local Neighbourhood Policing Inspector as I recognise that there is anxiety and concern in the community after the recent fatal stabbing in Chippenham.

Since this tragic incident occurred, my team have kept in close liaison with our local schools and key partners. This was in addition to increasing visible patrols and deploying our mobile police station to the town centre - providing valuable engagement between us and our communities.

All our thoughts are with the victim's loved ones, and we continue to offer them specialist support.

The criminal process regarding the Chippenham murder is ongoing so, whilst it would be inappropriate to comment further on this, I would like to take the opportunity to reach out to you about the realities of knife crime, what we are doing about it and what you can do about it as parents, guardians, family members and friends.

Firstly, it is important to recognise that instances where a knife is used are incredibly rare in our county, regardless of the suspect's age. I still believe that this area is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Carrying a knife in public is illegal. If a person is suspected to be carrying a knife or a weapon, they will be stopped and searched by us and that knife or weapon will be seized. Anyone caught with one could be arrested. Illegal possession of a knife is an imprisonable offence and having a criminal record can impact getting a job or travelling to different countries.

If we stop and search your child, we will contact you to tell you why the search took place and what the result was. If we have information or intelligence that your child is carrying a knife or weapon, we will visit you to



tell you. We would always want to prevent a crime than deal with the consequences after one has been committed.

Understanding why people carry a knife is important. Some people carry a knife because they think it provides protection. This is not the case. Statistics show that if you carry a knife or weapon, you are more likely to end up getting hurt. This isn't about respect or being feared, by carrying one you put yourself, a friend or a family member in danger.

To help spread this message, Wiltshire Police participate in a series of campaigns and operations to prevent knife crime, such as Operation Sceptre, aimed at reducing knife related violence through enforcement and education. We carry out weapon sweeps in the community, carry out regular school visits, retailer test purchasing and support surrender bins. We also carry out targeted patrols of locations linked to crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and will utilise stop and search powers when necessary.

To help us tackle emerging threats and intelligence around community threat, harm and risk, we work together with many partners such as education, health and social services. Many local secondary schools have also received the 'Blunt Truth' input from the NHS and Police. This anti-knife crime initiative involves teaching the children about the consequences of carrying a knife, what to do if someone they know is carrying a knife, and what to do if someone is stabbed.

Nobody knows your child better than you - so we urge all parents and carers to speak to your children about knife crime; be inquisitive with what they are doing, where they are going and who they are spending time with. If either they or you have any concerns about knife and weapon crime, there are many ways to report your concerns and any information you may have, including:

- **Police** - there are several ways you can contact us, from calling 999 if it is an emergency, 101 for non-emergency, online reporting through our [website](#), visit our enquiry offices to speak to us face to face. You can also email your local Neighbourhood Policing Team: ChippenhamAreaNPT@wiltshire.police.uk and find out more about your area on our [website](#).



- **Childline** – they have counsellors who can provide support 24/7 to children aged 19 and under. Their number is 0800 11 11. You can visit their website: www.childline.org.uk
- **Crimestoppers** – they are a national charity that are 100% independent from the Police and information can be given to them anonymously. Their number is 0800 555 111, or visit their website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org/
- **Fearless** - is the youth arm of Crimestoppers. They can provide advice and guidance, as well as providing real life stories of people who were previously involved in knife crime but also take information anonymously. You can visit their website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless
- Your child's school or college will have support mechanisms in place to help should they have any concerns.

The [Ben Kinsella Trust](#) and the [Kings Trust](#) are two national charities that offer opportunities for young people, particularly those who are moving away from gangs and crime.

There are also local anti-knife community groups and charities which have been set up in the county in recent years in response to fatal stabbings, such as [Change Lives, No to Knives](#) and [Owen's World](#) to help inform through awareness campaigns, educational resources, and support for those affected by knife crime.

Lastly, we want to hear from you and any suggestions you might have. We work best when collaborating with our communities, so please reach out to us.

Kind regards,

Pete Foster

Neighbourhood Policing Inspector – Chippenham, Calne and Corsham