

CURV: KNIFE CRIME ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Knife Crime Action Plan has been developed through in-depth analysis and collaboration with key stakeholders, demonstrating a collective commitment to improving safety. This plan focuses on reducing knife crime through early intervention, community engagement and sustainable support for those at risk. By collaborating with schools, communities, police and local organizations, we aim to create safer environments, offer positive alternatives to violence and provide young people with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

APPROACH

The Knife Crime Action Plan aims to reduce knife crime by targeting both young people and adults. For young people, the focus is on prevention through early engagement, positive alternatives to violence and support at critical moments. The plan empowers communities with youth-led campaigns, real-life stories, and safe spaces. For adults (19+), the emphasis is on long-term solutions like job training, skill development, and mentorship to create lasting opportunities. By collaborating closely with stakeholders, we will ensure a coordinated approach that aligns prevention efforts with enforcement actions. Our goal is to build stronger, safer communities where individuals have the tools and support to avoid serious violence and contribute to a Safer Cleveland.

KEY THEMES

1. **PREVENTION – ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND DIVERT**
2. **EARLY INTERVENTION – SUPPORTING AT CRITICAL CROSSROADS**
3. **COMMUNITY ACTION – REDUCING KNIFE CRIME TOGETHER**
4. **BUILDING TOMORROW – CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SAFER FUTURE**

OBJECTIVES:

- **Engage Young People:** Deliver programs to educate young people about the dangers of knife crime and offer positive alternatives.
- **Provide Mentorship:** Connect young people with mentors from non-violent industries to help guide their choices.
- **Create Safe Spaces:** Set up safe environments where young people can get support and engage in positive activities.
- **Support Youth-Led Campaigns:** Empower young people to lead anti-knife crime campaigns and raise awareness in their communities.

- **Professional Development:** Provide training and job opportunities to help young people build skills for the future.
- **Strengthen Community and Police Collaboration:** Facilitate ongoing partnership development with CURV, local authorities, police and community groups to prevent knife crime.
- **Support Adults at Risk:** Provide guidance and support for adults at risk of becoming involved in knife crime.
- **Promote Safe Reporting:** Encourage people to report concerns about knife crime through easy-to-use or anonymous channels.
- **Reduce Knife Crime:** Work with communities to reduce knife crime and its impact on safety.
- **Monitor and Improve:** Regularly assess progress and adjust the plan based on feedback and results.

PRINCIPLES:

- **Prevention Focus:** Prioritise early intervention to stop knife crime before it starts, through education and positive youth activities.
- **Youth-Led Solutions:** Empower young people to take an active role in identifying problems and creating solutions that resonate with their peers.
- **Long-Term Impact:** Implement sustainable programs that lead to lasting change in communities, not short-term fixes.
- **Collaborative Approach:** Work closely with police, schools, local authorities, businesses and community groups to align efforts and resources.
- **Data-Driven:** Make decisions based on clear evidence, ensuring that all interventions are effective and targeted where they are needed most.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

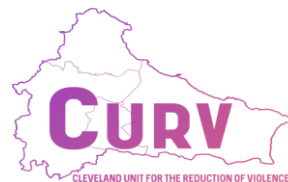
As CURV's 25-26 Action Plan sets out, the overall success measures are set out by the Home Office and include:

- NHS data on hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object, for all ages and particularly for those under 25.
- Police-reported data on knife and sharp object-enabled serious violence, across all age groups.
- Homicide statistics recorded by police, with a focus on victims under 25 and non-domestic settings (where data allows)
- Reduction in reoffending rates
- Reduction in serious violence measured using the Cambridge Harm Index
- Cost Benefit Analysis

NEXT STEPS

- **Establishing Collaborative Partnerships:** Strengthen ties with Cleveland Police, schools, local authorities and community groups to ensure smooth implementation of programmes.
- **Resource Allocation:** Identify funding and resources to support the initiatives outlined and to review collaborative commissioning.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Implement a framework for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the plan to ensure accountability and transparency.
- **Data Analysis:** Ensure all key data informs delivery and commissioning.
- **Engagement & Outreach:** Continue engaging with the community through workshops, social media campaigns and outreach initiatives to ensure all stakeholders are involved and informed.

By working together across sectors, we can create a safer, more supportive Cleveland for our young people and work towards reducing knife crime across our communities.



APPENDIX 1:

CURV Knife Crime Action Plan

| Area of Work | Aim | Activities |
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| <p><u>PREVENTION</u> Engage, Educate and Divert</p> | <p>Prevent knife crime by educating and engaging young people early and offering positive alternatives to violence.</p> | <p>Education-Based Awareness: Deliver age appropriate interactive sessions in schools, colleges and other educational settings to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of knife-related violence. This includes providing age-appropriate lessons, resources and discussions to encourage safe, informed decision-making. Given the sensitivity of addressing this topic with younger audiences, particularly in primary schools, a tiered and trauma-informed approach will be adopted. This ensures that early education focuses on fostering safety, emotional resilience, and positive choices, while being mindful of the developmental needs of the children involved.</p> <p>Knife Crime Awareness Day: Encourage educational institutions across Cleveland to nominate a day in their academic calendar to host a dedicated awareness event focused on knife crime. CURV will provide schools and colleges with resources and guidance via the CURV website to support their delivery, ensuring the event promotes awareness, positive choices and community discussion.</p> <p>Supporting Families: Strengthen early prevention by providing parents and carers with access to practical guidance, workshops and community-based peer support. These resources will help families feel more confident in recognising risks and supporting young people to make safe choices.</p> |

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| | | <p>CURV Resource Page: Develop a dedicated online hub with educational materials, guidelines and links to support schools, families, and community members in promoting knife crime prevention.</p> <p>PODCAST: Knife Crime Reality – Pilot Series Support the development of a short podcast series (5–6 episodes) co-produced with a local education provider. The series will be hosted by students and feature conversations with individuals connected to knife crime and serious violence, including lived experience and key community voices. The podcast aims to raise awareness, encourage dialogue, and support prevention messaging.</p> <p>E-LEARNING: Pilot the use of an accessible e-learning tool to support early intervention and education around knife crime and serious violence. The resource should be suitable for a range of age groups and communities. Explore similar programmes already in use (e.g. Northumbria’s Violence Prevention Ambassador Programme) and consider opportunities for co-commissioning across the three North East PCCs to support consistent messaging, collaboration and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Positive Diversionary Activities: Offer accessible positive activities such as sports, music, drama, arts etc, to engage and divert young people away from potential violence or criminal activity.</p> |
| <p><u>EARLY INTERVENTION</u></p> <p>Supporting at Critical Crossroads</p> | <p>Provide immediate support to young people and adults at key moments to help them avoid involvement in knife crime.</p> | <p>Support at Key Moments: Expanding the existing navigator scheme (Custody, A&E) into schools. School Navigators will provide tailored support for young people at critical moments when they are at risk of becoming involved in violence, similar to our other navigator roles, helping to deter young people away from harm and towards safer, more positive paths.</p> |

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| | | <p>This expansion supports our long-term vision to build a consistent, trusted network of Navigators across Cleveland, embedded in key settings to ensure young people receive the right support at the right time. These roles will help bridge gaps across education, health, and criminal justice, creating a more joined-up response for those at risk.</p> <p>Alongside this, we will continue to strengthen the existing navigator schemes in Custody & A&E, developing a sustainable and coordinated system of support across all key areas. This approach will strengthen our ability to offer long-term, coordinated intervention, ensuring young people receive the support they need at critical crossroads. We will also explore targeted interventions for repeat offenders with a focus on trauma-informed, relationship-based approaches that aim to disrupt cycles of reoffending and connect individuals to more positive, long-term opportunities.</p> <p>Probation and Diversion Programmes: Strengthen referral pathways into existing diversion programmes (e.g., DIVERT) for individuals involved in weapons possession, ensuring they receive timely and effective support.</p> <p>Probation Collaboration: Enhance cooperation with probation services to provide coordinated support for young adults at risk of reoffending. This includes joint planning and ensuring a smooth transition from custody to community-based services.</p> <p>Mentorship & Guidance: Provide mentors to guide young people away from violence and towards positive choices.</p> <p>Mentorship with a Twist: Pair at-risk young people not only with lived experience mentors but also with professionals from non-</p> |
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| | | <p>violent industries (e.g., construction, sports, healthcare, arts, culinary, etc.). This will give them exposure to positive career paths and help build practical connections, empowering them with the tools and networks needed for a better future.</p> <p>Outreach in High-Risk Areas: Pilot support teams (pop-up workshops) in neighbourhoods with elevated levels of knife crime, engaging with young people and offering alternatives to violence. These efforts will align with SV hotspot areas, police initiatives in Clear Hold Build Areas, and function as a support resource during critical incidents (e.g., homicide, stabbings). This will ensure a coordinated approach, combining community support, prevention, and proactive law enforcement to reduce knife crime and improve safety.</p> <p>Safe Reporting Channels: Develop or signpost existing reporting channels to encourage safe, anonymous reporting of knife crime concerns. This may involve promoting initiatives like Crimestoppers or their Fearless campaign, encouraging individuals to report information securely and confidentially, ensuring concerns are addressed without fear of reprisal.</p> <p>Supporting Families: Work with and support families in all intervention efforts to prevent knife crime.</p> <p>Focused Deterrence: To develop the programme based on last year's learnings, this approach will focus on serious violence (SV) and target individuals at critical crossroads. It combines support for those involved in violence, engages the community to encourage reintegration, and clearly communicates the consequences of crime with swift enforcement. Piloted in areas based on hotspot data, focused deterrence seeks to steer individuals away from violence</p> |
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| | | and towards safer futures by offering access to community resources and positive alternatives |
| <p><u>COMMUNITY ACTION</u></p> <p>Reducing Knife Crime Together</p> | <p>Empower the community to actively participate in reducing knife crime and support safer environments for all.</p> | <p>Real-Life Stories: Share personal accounts from individuals affected by knife crime to help raise awareness and highlight its impact, including restorative conversations.</p> <p>Supporting Families: Promote involvement in local responses to knife crime through forums, opportunities to share lived experience and access to relevant support services. This will help ensure families feel heard, supported and connected to community efforts.</p> <p>Youth-Led Campaigns: Support young people in creating and sharing anti-knife crime messages on social media and within their communities.</p> <p>Youth-Led Problem Solving: Set up forums or task forces where young people can identify local causes of knife crime and produce their own solutions.</p> <p>Safe Spaces: Establish safe zones where individuals can access support, engage in positive activities, and spend time in a secure environment.</p> <p>Community Pledge Campaign: Pilot a campaign encouraging individuals and businesses to pledge support for knife crime awareness and to take action to create safer spaces in their communities.</p> <p>Training for Trusted Adults: Train trusted adults in communities, such as teachers, barbers, and shopkeepers, to recognize signs of knife crime risk and offer support to young people.</p> <p>Weapon Amnesty & Proactive Police Operations: Work closely with Cleveland Police’s Knife Crime and Serious Violence leads to</p> |

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| | | <p>align prevention programs with proactive efforts to reduce dangerous weapons in circulation, including zombie knives and machetes. This will include engaging communities on weapon amnesties and ensuring non-operational support efforts complement enforcement actions of Cleveland Police.</p> |
| <p><u>BUILDING TOMORROW</u> Creating Opportunities for a Safer Future</p> | <p>Provide individuals with the skills and opportunities for long-term growth, while developing sustainable solutions to reduce knife crime and strengthen communities.</p> | <p>Knife Crime Taskforce: Resume the Knife Crime Taskforce originally launched by <i>The Northern Echo</i>, with participation from North East Violence Reduction Units, Police and Crime Commissioner’s, commissioned services and key delivery partners. The Taskforce will strengthen regional collaboration, support the sharing of effective practice and help align local and regional responses. It will provide a platform for joint working, youth and community engagement and the development of consistent, evidence-informed approaches and messaging around knife crime prevention.</p> <p>Sustainable Solutions: Focus on implementing approaches that build long-term resilience within communities. Where possible, support the development of self-sustaining initiatives that continue to provide opportunities and reduce knife crime beyond the life of individual projects.</p> <p>Youth-Led Change: Involve young people in shaping local responses and informing policies that affect them. Their insight will help ensure that strategies are relevant, realistic and rooted in lived experience.</p> <p>Job & Training Opportunities: Work with partners to connect young people to job training, apprenticeships and other positive pathways. This includes piloting approaches that focus on long-term skill development, mentoring and employment support.</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Enterprise Hubs for Youth</i>: Explore the creation of local hubs where young people can gain business skills, access vocational training, and learn about entrepreneurship, providing positive alternatives to criminal activity. • <i>Skills-Building in High-Risk Areas</i>: Pilot targeted workshops and training programmes in high-demand sectors (e.g. construction, hospitality, technology) in areas most affected by knife crime. These pilots aim to increase access to future job opportunities and reduce vulnerability. • <i>Community-Based Youth Jobs</i>: Collaborate with local authorities and businesses to assess small-scale job schemes for at-risk young people. These could include local event support, park maintenance, or peer mentoring—providing paid experience and a stronger sense of community connection. <p>Support for 19+ Young Adults: Strengthen existing interventions by building closer links with probation services and community partners. Explore the potential to expand successful programmes—such as MFC Foundation’s 19-24+ Kicks—across other parts of Cleveland, where appropriate. These efforts aim to provide consistent mentorship and positive pathways for young adults at risk of violence or reoffending.</p> <p>Ongoing Feedback & Improvement: Monitor progress and gather feedback from young people, community members and delivery partners to adapt and improve initiatives as they develop, ensuring responses remain informed, realistic and responsive to local need.</p> |
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