

TKAP Bulletin

Sent to Police, Government Offices, OGDs, and partners. Please share this publication as you feel appropriate.

UPDATE FROM JUSTIN RUSSELL, Head of Violent Crime Unit, Home Office

Hundreds of frontline staff deliver activities as part of TKAP and the Youth Crime Action Plan. This week, ACPO Operational Lead for TKAP ACC Sue Fish spoke at a DCSF 'Youth Taskforce roadshow' on TKAP and the importance of using local knowledge to commission suitable activities for young people. The roadshows are for practitioners from a range of disciplines who are engaged in supporting and challenging young people to 'stay on track'. Below is an extract from her speech:

"Local practitioners now have to demonstrate skills including managing teams, budgets and partnerships. Partnerships are complicated by local area agreements, strategic enterprises, a plethora of funding streams, and local, regional and national initiatives. It is a crowded landscape and while the police and other law enforcement agencies have a key role to play, we can't arrest our way out of the serious youth violence problem. We have to look at the issue differently – and we are doing this with TKAP.

"We are working through partnerships to deliver interventions based on a risk management approach; focusing on location, offender and victim (or risky times and places, risky people and people at risk). The central programme team, with knowledge from local advisors, analyses the outcomes of activities and interventions, and shares effective practice across England and Wales to help to improve the national picture.

"Partnership engagement and involvement is essential so that activities are targeted appropriately. Partnership working can be extremely effective in terms of pooling resources to maximise opportunities and get us a 'bigger bang for our buck'.

"When commissioning services and activities, it's crucial that practitioners use local knowledge to answer questions like "Which age group do we need to provide for and at what times?" and "Where is the best place to reach young people?" Most importantly, what we do now has to count. We must leave behind a legacy of sustainable, successful measures to tackle SYV so that we can provide young people with a better, safer future."

COMING UP...

26 November:

London [CDRP](#)
Serious Youth Crime
workshops

30 November:

Bedfordshire Knife
Crime Conference
(ACC Sue Fish giving
keynote address)

8 December: The [2009 Philip Lawrence](#)

[Awards](#) rewarding
outstanding
achievements in good
citizenship by young
people aged 11 to 20

10 December:

London [Serious
Youth Violence
Board](#) working
in partnership to
tackle serious youth
violence

10 December:

[National Crime
Reduction Board](#)
meeting with the
Home Secretary

LATEST STATISTICS

The NHS Information Centre publishes provisional monthly data on admissions to hospitals in England for assault and for assault by sharp object. The most recent publication (November 10) included data on admissions in the target age group (13-24) from April 2007 to July 2009 in TKAP areas and across England. These data can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1131>

STAKEHOLDER WEBSITE

The Home Office maintains the 'It Doesn't Have to Happen' anti-knife crime campaign website for stakeholders. It is regularly updated with news and resources. The site contains information for local campaigners, young people, and parents and carers. You can also order free merchandise via the site: www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/stopknifecrime

ROYAL RECOGNITION FOR CARDIFF RESEARCH

Cardiff University's research into violence, alcohol and late-night safety has been recognised with one of the highest awards in the academic world. The Violence and Society Research Group is among the winners of a Queen's Anniversary Prize for excellence in higher education. Her Majesty the Queen will present the award to the University at Buckingham Palace in February 2010.

A key achievement by the Group, which includes academics from the School of Dentistry, Medicine, Psychology and Business, is the use of anonymised Accident and Emergency data to identify trends in late-night violence. This is used by Community Safety Partnerships and in the Group's annual national violence survey

For more information: www.cf.ac.uk/news/articles/royal-recognition-for-cardiff-research.html

TKAP FORCE AREA UPDATES ENGAGEMENT AND REASSURANCE

South Yorkshire Police

Operation Octave continues, with the Firearms Team visiting 10 schools in October, and presenting to 2,220 young people. A sample of feedback:

"Thanks for such an impressive presentation last week: the presentation, impact and power of the message were excellent and the feedback from staff and pupils has been very positive." Deputy Head Teacher Wickersley School, Rotherham.

"I was very privileged to watch the Firearms presentation... I work in a pastoral role and know the students extremely well. I have never known

our Year 11's as engaged as they were for the full afternoon. The staff who delivered the information were professional and worked very well with the kids. The materials were aimed directly to young people and were very effective. I will certainly look forward to seeing this again next year when it will be delivered to our younger students. Once again – may I thank you for this experience." Head of Pastoral Services Wickersley School, Rotherham

The Firearms Team also attended an Open Day at Barnsley Youth Court attended by 400 members of the public, an ARC community engagement at Mosborough Fire Station with 12 young people subject to direct intervention due to receiving ASBO's, and a presentation at Park Youth Club in Sheffield as a result of issues with gangs and knife carrying in the area.

British Transport Police

TKAP funding enabled BTP London South Area to develop a Community Engagement and Education Scheme with Millwall Football Club. The Millwall Community Scheme already delivers sporting activities for young people in SE London, including the Kickz Project and the Street Pro Programme.

BTP engaged in this with Millwall, training a number of police officers as FA Level 1 football coaches. Building on this, the Force arranged four tournaments during summer holidays and one in autumn half term for people aged 11 to 18 in areas where gang, gun and knife crime is prevalent. The programme delivered coaching and 5-a-side tournaments at a number of sites on Friday evenings; a time identified as a peak offending period.

After the tournaments, the opportunity was taken to deliver through the Arc Theatre Group the “Boy X” initiative, to engage the young people in debate around knife crime issues. The tournaments and other activities were attended by the BTP coaches and other officers, in order to break down barriers and build a rapport with the young people.

Lancashire

Urban Routes is a two-day training programme with 20 participants per workshop designed to inform young people of the consequences of carrying knives and being involved in gang culture. The sessions enable participants to work as a group to examine their life experiences and expectations and will accelerate the cessation of anti-social or criminal behaviour in young violent offenders, and guide vulnerable young people away from the influence of those involved in anti-social criminal behaviour. 60 youths have been put forward to participate and letters have been sent out inviting the first group to attend a course in January.

ENFORCEMENT

South Yorkshire Police

Operation Analogue, a high visibility operation by the Gang Enforcement Team in Sheffield, aims to reduce serious youth violence and violent crime. This TKAP

operation used automatic number plate recognition at Club Zion (a gang-affiliated club in Sheffield). One male was detained for possession of a knife, four for possession of a controlled drug, one for possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply, and two for over-the-permitted-limit.

In October, a researcher continued to search social networking sites to provide intelligence on young people posing with knives and firearms. Young people identified in five images were interviewed and, having spoken with their parents, it was determined that gang referrals were not needed. The quality of photos found in October was higher than September and more suspects were identified; this should result in more enforcement and referrals.

On 9 October, Police officers from Sharrow in Sheffield ran a ‘Section 60’ Stop and Search Operation. 15 people were searched: two street cautions were issued for possession of cannabis and one person was arrested for breach of bail. No weapons were found. The Operation was the result of Sheffield Homes staff and Police finding knives in outdoor locations on a nearby estate in September 2009 (see the previous TKAP Bulletin).

South Wales Police

A Golden Hour Response Vehicle intended to improve the initial service at the scenes of more serious violence incidents has started a trial period (funded by a secondary TKAP grant). Specialist CID and CSI advice has been available to improve investigative opportunities within the first hour of the incident occurring. The trial continues across the South Wales Police area on Friday and Saturday nights on the run-up to Xmas. Incidents attended and supported already include a stabbing in Cardiff, a GBH offence outside a pub in Bridgend, glassings and assaults in Swansea and a rape allegation in Swansea.

Lancashire

Following on from activity associated with TKAP 1 in 2008/09, 20 additional Body Cams have been purchased and are being deployed by police to support targeted patrols in identified violent crime hotspot areas across Pennine Division. Body Cams have been proven to be a highly effective means to support evidence gathering and also deter offending. Worn visibly on the Officer's body armour it can be activated at the scene of any incident.

PREVENTION

Essex Police

The 'Say NO to Knives' message is reaching far beyond the borders of Essex thanks to free wristbands available for the last 9 months. The wristbands were designed to get the message out to young people in Essex, and there has been a clear resonance elsewhere in the country. Our wristbands have been sent all as far as New York, Durban and many eastern European countries.

South Yorkshire Police

Officers conducted high visibility patrols in the Manor and Arbourthorne areas of Sheffield. At the same time and when powers applied, officers used a metal super scanner to search areas where knives may be hidden. Plain clothed officers have been deployed in areas where knife crime offences have occurred to detect/prevent further offences. Over 80 stop searches were conducted, with one arrest as a result.

During the October half term week, diversionary activities were conducted in Rotherham to engage young people. These included a DJ Skills workshop and a RAVE event. Free transportation was provided around the local area for the events. These activities were delivered with partners including Early Intervention Team, Youth Service and JADE (local young peoples charity), NHS (Sexual Health), Know the Score, the Anthony Nolan Trust and both local schools.

West Yorkshire Police

Students in Huddersfield are putting their artistic talents to the test to keep their communities safe this Christmas. A competition run by the Huddersfield South Neighbourhood Policing Team asks them to create a design around crime prevention.

Wakefield District Police are piloting an initiative to tighten up on premises that serve alcohol to people who are drunk. Neighbourhood policing teams across North West Leeds Division stepped up their work to target alcohol-related crime and ASB as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Money confiscated from local criminals has paid for a football tournament where children from North East Leeds compete against each other to be crowned inaugural Community Football Champions.

Merseyside

From 10 November, Merseyside went live with its A&E data exchange model (The 'Xchange' model). Data from three local priority hospitals is used within BCU tactical assessments on the Tasking and Coordination meetings.

We took receipt of two new street projectors in time for mischief night and bonfire night. They were used on the main routes into Liverpool on both evenings and we received excellent feedback from communities.

On 11 and 12 November, Operation Chapman focused on visits to DV gold victims, educational inputs, lockdown of night time economy areas on student nights, violence cars patrolling main hotspots, pole and arch operations, deployment of street projectors and test purchase operations. It Doesn't Have to Happen campaigners' kits were given out to key stakeholders.

South Wales

Diversionary activities reduced Halloween calls by 20%. Activities funded by the Community Cash Back scheme coupled with extra officers carrying out high visibility patrols, helped reduce the number of calls related to anti-social behaviour.

Lancashire

Knife Crime Offender Profiling - The aim of the project is to map and risk assess offenders involved in knife related offences. The database has been developed and is currently being populated with information around all knife crime offenders who come into police contact. One of the main initial benefits is the ability to identify repeat offenders so that multi-agency interventions can be put in place.

Nottinghamshire

Operation Animism is tackling ASB in Mansfield and Ashfield in an effort to prevent low-level incidents escalating into violence. Dedicated patrol teams operate in each of Mansfield and Ashfield's four Neighbourhood Policing Areas between 3pm and 11pm every Friday and Saturday, responding to reports of ASB. They are also conducting pre-planned patrols and working with partners including the Special Constabulary and Community Protection Officers to identify long-term solutions to ASB issues. Since Operation Animism began nine weeks ago, officers have attended more than 275 incidents and made 18 arrests. They have seized alcohol from under-18s on more than 100 occasions, taken 28 youths home to their parents and sent 80 letters to parents warning them about their child's behaviour.

In South Nottinghamshire, a police-led multi-agency project is helping young people identified as vulnerable or at risk of becoming an offender. The "Three 9's Challenge" is a youth intervention strategy which mentors young people aged 10-16 for 12-months and involves youth services, schools police officers and the young person's school. All students sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract to

show their commitment and agree to be monitored throughout the period. Four individual modules take place over each of the school holiday periods, with each one designed to challenge, develop and test new skills as both individuals and as team members. The partners consist of Nottinghamshire Police, Fire & Rescue Service, St John's Ambulance, the County Council Trading Standards and Road Safety Dept, and the City Council Trading Standards and Road Safety Dept.

Nottinghamshire Police has run a design competition with 200 students to develop an anti-knife crime marketing campaign. The winning design will be displayed in buses across Nottingham city and the county, as well as on the Nottingham tram system. The chosen transport routes are in areas that have been identified as having the biggest issues with serious youth violence, while posters will be delivered to schools and youth groups via school liaison officers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Police in Nottingham are organising an under-18 night at a nightclub working with urban radio station Kemet FM to create a credible arena to deliver anti-knife crime peer-to-peer messages. The organisers will make use of bluetooth marketing to get the anti-knife crime message across. The event is being held at Halo nightclub in December. It will target 13-24 year olds and feature a live set from the Raw Talent Collective, with hit single 'Stop the violence', and an open mike session for young people to show off their MC skills on the subject of tackling violence and knife-crime. The event is being project managed by two young DJs from the station's Kids Chaos show.

CRIMESTOPPERS ANTI-KNIFE TEXT CAMPAIGN A HIT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Crimestoppers has been trialling a secure method for sending information on crime via text messaging, working with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and specifically the Operation Blunt team. The trial focused on gathering information on those who carry knives. The project targets 11–18 year-olds.

A full evaluation of the texting project in London has been conducted and included feedback from young people, MPS, Inspectors, Crimestoppers staff and school officers. The texting project was rolled out in London in September 2008 and evaluated in March 2009. During that time 125 pieces of actionable information were received.

The Crimestoppers texting service is now available in 12 regions across the country – all of which are TKAP areas. Since the service began, 543 actionable text messages have been received.

Moving forward with the project will mean ensuring that young people are continually reminded about the texting service and the very specific information that is required, through ongoing workshops and marketing materials.

NIMNW

Not in My Neighbourhood Week 2009 received tremendous support from communities and local partnerships alike with hundreds of activities taking place across England and Wales. Approximately 300 local partners, local police, neighbourhood watch schemes and voluntary groups took part in the week with the aim of highlighting the work they do to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

YOUTH TASKFORCE

‘It Doesn’t Have To Happen’ is the Home Office’s anti-knife campaign. A major part of the campaign focuses on youth engagement. We have brought together 27 young people to spread IDHTH in their local communities and on the campaign’s Bebo site.

As regional ambassadors, they undertake tasks to extend the reach of the campaign and act as creative consultants and editors of the Bebo site. The Youth Task Force has been hand-picked through local youth organisations and TKAP partners in London, Luton, Nottingham, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Liverpool, Preston, Leeds, Manchester and Bristol. Members are 14 – 20 years of age and have experiences of knife crime in their area. Crucially, they are keen to do something to fight knife crime, and are committed to the campaign’s aims. The Task Force is managed by specialist agency Uproar, which has an in-house Youth Team working on the campaign. Uproar works closely with Youth Workers in the regions to manage activity. The Youth Workers, in turn, manage the young people and ensure all child protection issues are adhered to.

In November and December, the Task Force will be working to recruit local shops to distribute IDHTH flyers in shopping bags.

To be added to or removed from the distribution list email:
tacklingknivesactionprogramme@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk