

CAN YOU HELP STAFFORDSHIRE #DITCHTHEBLADE?

**SIGNS WHICH COULD INDICATE THAT YOUR CHILD
IS AT RISK OF BEING INVOLVED IN KNIFE CRIME:**

**WITHDRAWING
FROM FAMILY AND SCHOOL,
CHANGING THEIR BEHAVIOUR
AND/OR SKIPPING SCHOOL.**

**LOSING INTEREST
IN HOBBIES AND OLD
FRIENDS, AND NOW HANGING
AROUND WITH A NEW GROUP,
STAYING OUT LATE AND BEING
VAGUE ABOUT WHERE
THEY'RE GOING.**

**BECOMING SECRETIVE
AND DEFENSIVE,
PARTICULARLY ABOUT
WHAT'S IN THEIR BAG AND
MIGHT EVEN HAVE TOLD YOU
THAT THEY NEED TO
CARRY A KNIFE.**

**YOU'VE NOTICED
KNIVES ARE MISSING
FROM THE HOUSE OR MAY
EVEN HAVE FOUND ONE IN
YOUR CHILD'S BAG OR COAT.**

Some of these things seem easily explained as part of the difficult teenage years, but it's still important to talk to them about knife crime.

**IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A REPORT ABOUT A CHILD
CARRYING A KNIFE PLEASE CALL STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE ON 101**

OR YOU CAN PRIVATE MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK OR TWITTER.

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY.

WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE CARRYING A KNIFE?

If you are a parent or carer and you are worried about a child you can find advice at:

WWW.STAFFORDSHIRE.POLICE.UK/DITCHTHEBLADE

**#DITCH
THE
BLADE**

CAN YOU HELP STAFFORDSHIRE #DITCHTHEBLADE?

Ditch the Blade is focused on encouraging conversations about knife crime, an issue which needs to be tackled by everyone working together.

SIGNS YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT KNIFE CRIME:

- They have become withdrawn from family and school, they've changed their behaviour and/or skipping school.
- They become secretive and defensive easily, particularly about what's in their bag and might even have told you that they need to carry a knife.
- They have lost interest in hobbies and old friends, and now hang around with a new group, staying out late and they're vague about where they're going.
- You've noticed knives are missing from the house or may even have found one in your child's bag or coat.

These things seem easily explained as part of the difficult teenage years, but it's still important to talk to them about knife crime.

How to begin a conversation...

Pick a place and a time where you can comfortably chat together.

Ask them if they understand what knife crime is about. Be patient, get them talking, reassure them that they can be honest with you about their fears and worries.

YOU ARE THERE TO LISTEN AND SUPPORT THEM



WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE CARRYING A KNIFE?

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A REPORT ABOUT A CHILD CARRYING A KNIFE

PLEASE CALL **STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE ON 101**,

WE MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO OFFER CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE.

If you are a parent or carer and you are worried about a child you can seek guidance and support from your local safeguarding team:

Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Safeguarding Referral Team can be contacted on 01782 235100, or out of hours 01782 234234

If you live in another area of Staffordshire, you can contact Staffordshire County Council's First Response on 0800 1313 126, or out of hours 0345 6042 886



Help for young people
There are many independent agencies that can provide children and young people with confidential help and advice.

Victim Support 0800 1689 111
There for anyone who has been affected by crime, regardless of whether it was reported or how long ago it happened. Victim Support will provide free, confidential support so you can move forward.

Childline 0800 1111
Counsellors are there for young people 24/7. They can help and support with any issue they're going through, no matter how big or small.

Fearless (Crimestoppers)
www.fearless.org
Fearless is an independent charity that allows people to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. They provide a route for passing details of crime securely and safely via their website.

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