

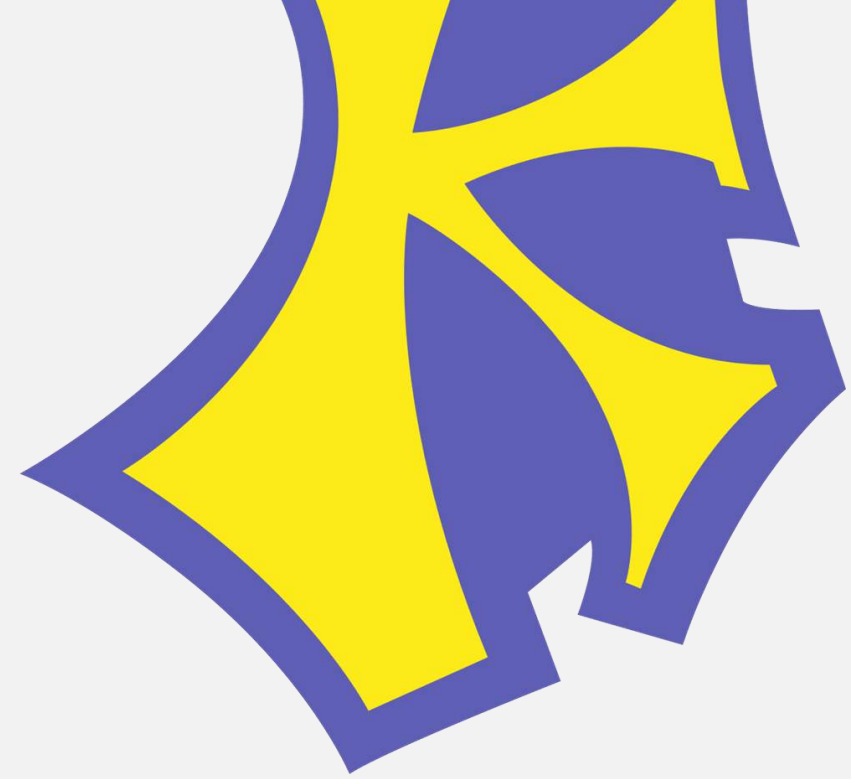


The Ben Kinsella Trust

Stop Knife Crime



Please fill in this questionnaire
Join in at [Slido.com](https://www.slido.com) **#ACTIVEESSEX**



Keeping Young People Safe

Anoushka Dunic – Ben Kinsella Trust – Training Programmes Manager

Tom Paget – Reach Group – Project Manager





Ben Kinsella

Ben Kinsella 1991 – 2008

In 2008, Ben Kinsella was murdered in an unprovoked attack.

His family established The Ben Kinsella Trust.



The **Ben Kinsella** Trust

Our Mission

The Ben Kinsella Trust campaigns for action and justice for those affected by knife crime and educates young people so that they can make positive choices to stay safe.

Our Vision

No family or community should suffer the loss of a life to knife crime.

National Knife Crime Statistics

78%

Knife crime has increased by 78% in ten years

82%

of Homicides among teenage victims involve a knife or sharp instrument.

2x

Teenagers are over twice as likely to be murdered with a knife than they were 10 years ago

Source: ONS

Essex VVU Statistics

All of Essex:

- 2023/24 Violence with Injury **decreased by 5%**
- 2023/24 Knife crime **decreased by 4%**
- 2023/24 Non-domestic homicides **decreased by 34%**

Serious Violence for 2023 increased 7% nationally (England & Wales)

(compared to previous years)



**We need to stop just pulling people out
of the river.**

**We need to go upstream and find out
why they are falling in.**

Desmond Tutu



Keeping Young People Safe: Dismantling belief systems through education to prevent knife carrying

A report published by The Ben Kinsella Trust in May 2024.

The report compiles the responses of over 9000 young people and 300 teachers and youth work professionals.



Keeping Young People Safe

Dismantling belief systems through education to prevent knife carrying

May 2024



Annabel Jackson

Responses were collected from the following demographic of young people.

Males – 51%

Females – 46%

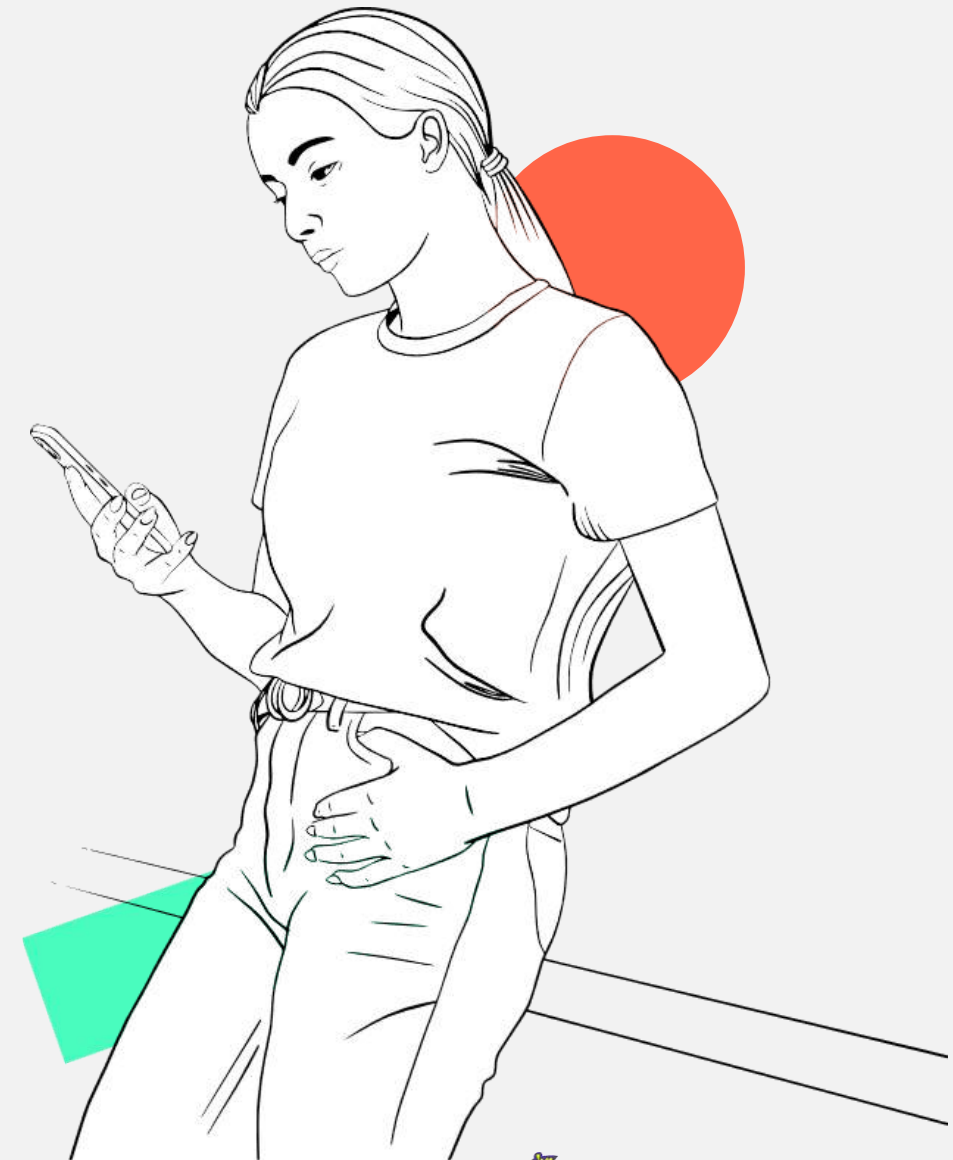
Other/not answered – 3%

9 to 13 years – 79%

14 to 18 years – 21%

Survey responses

I know a knife carrier	24%
I think carrying a knife will protect me	24%
I have thought about carrying a knife	8%
I have / do carry a knife	2%



BBC Bitesize Survey

A report published by BBC Bitesize in May 2024.

The report compiles the responses of over 2000 young people across the UK.

Males – 1013

Females – 1029

13 to 15 years – 52%

16 to 18 years – 48%



BBC

Bitesize



Comparisons

	BEN KINSELLA TRUST	BBC BITESIZE
I don't feel safe walking the streets in my area	36%	33%
I am worried about knife crime	64%	46%
I am worried about knife crime in my school	n/a	31%



A local perspective?

Tom Paget: Reach Group



Do you think young
people feel safe in
Essex?

What are the main reasons young people don't feel safe?

Why do you think knife
crime involving young
people is rising?

What would reduce
violence and knife crime
for young people?



What would you
like to ask?

Why knives?

Motivation

Carry for offensive/defensive purposes. Expecting violence / fearful.
Status / clout.

Peer influences

If one member of a group of friends carry a knife, the rest are likely to follow. Normalised.

Contagion



New weapon introduced. Young people may start to 'level up' and fear they aren't keeping up.

Research shows that fear is one of the biggest drivers of knife crime and violence.

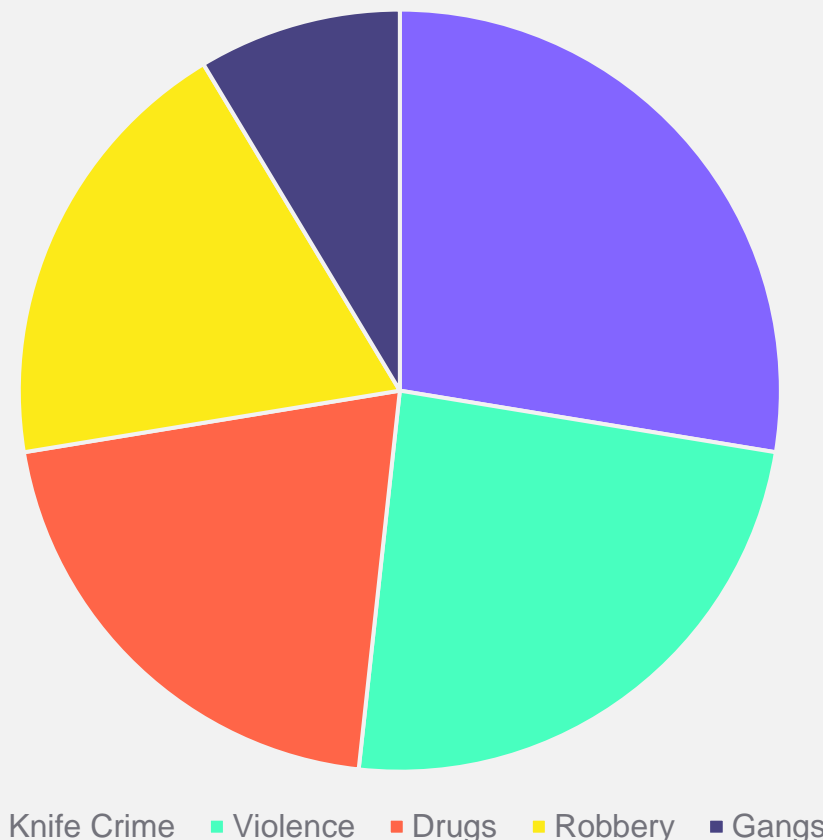
VVU Youth Voices Listening Report 2022-2023

Young people's views around youth violence and how safe they feel in their communities

1,563 children
10 - 25 years
73 youth settings
Essex, Southend and Thurrock

Top 5 concerns for safety

- 1) Knife crime / getting stabbed - **16%**
- 2) Youth Violence - **14%**
- 3) Drugs and drug users - **12%**
- 4) Getting robbed - **11%**
- 5) Gangs - **5%**



What works?

More likely to work	Less likely to work
Positive imagery	Images of knives or violence
Talking about staying safe	Talking about 'knife crime'
Non-directive approaches	Directive approaches
Empathy and connection	Scare tactics
Reflective learning	Blaming
Positive activities and mentoring for young people	Scarcity in community services / support
Energise and uplift	Reduced resilience and autonomy



The Ben Kinsella Trust
Stop Knife Crime

How can your
organisation help to
prevent knife crime
and violence?

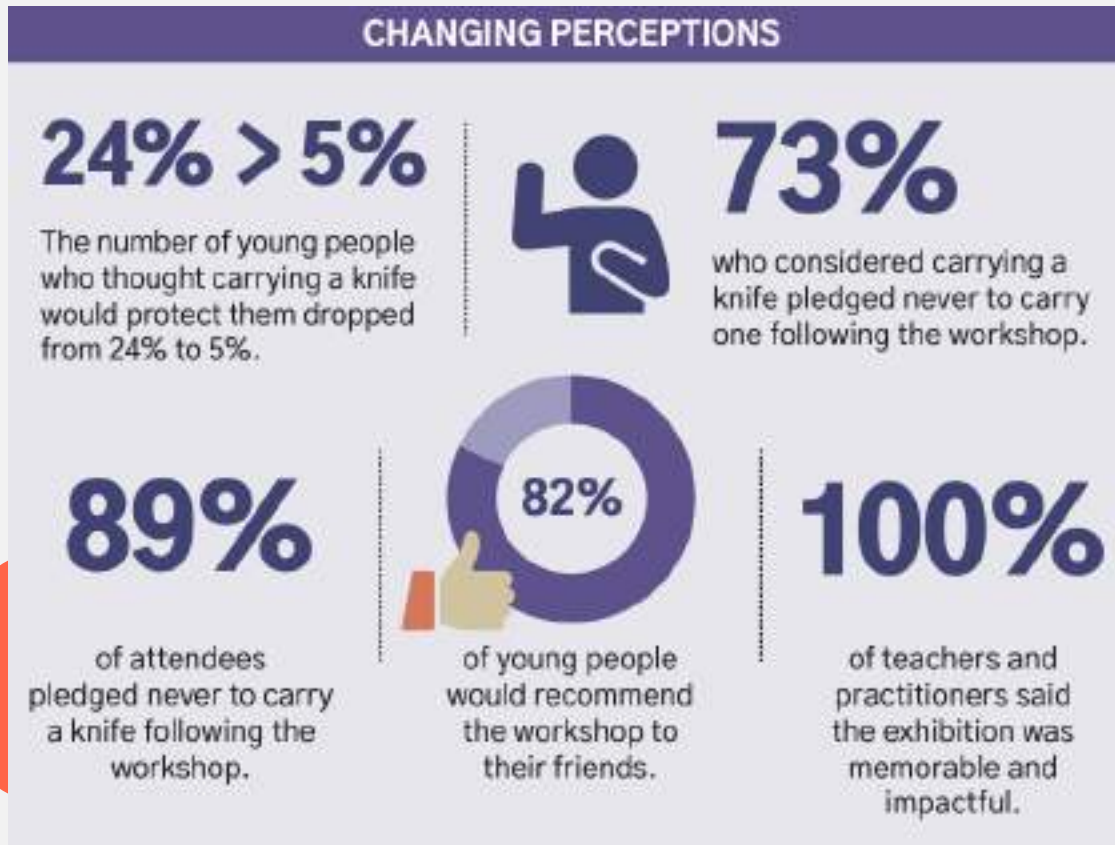
Choices & Consequences Workshops

Immersive exhibitions are particularly memorable.

- Creative methods are more distinctive and vivid: large, colourful, immersive, multi-sensory and emotional.
- Narrative stimulates episodic memory.
- Memory is more active during physical movement.
- Young people are taken out of their usual environment / comfort zone.
- A multimedia, active presentation matches the learning styles of a wider range of young people than a more traditional didactic approach.



Changing perceptions

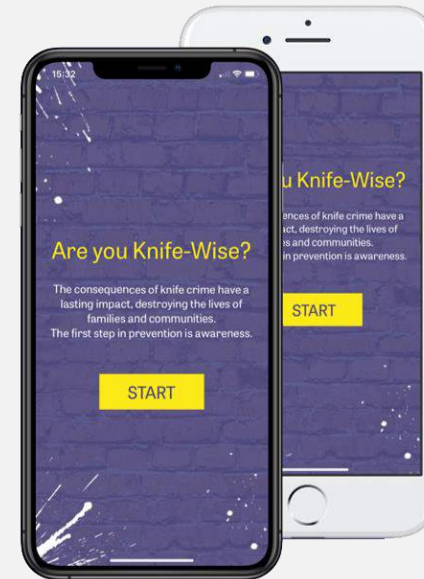


Education and early intervention strategies employed by our Choices & Consequences programme have **proved effective in challenging and altering dangerous belief systems** related to knife carrying.

This significant shift in perception **highlights the power of targeted educational interventions** in dismantling myths about knife safety, thereby reducing the inclination towards knife carrying among young people.

Keeping Young People Safe (2024) Ben Kinsella Trust

Our resources



www.BenKinsella.org.uk

Parents & Carers online workshops

Parents and Carers – Helping our Children Stay Safe | 15th October 6:30 – 8:30pm

Parenting children and young adults is hard, sometimes it can be scary and overwhelming with news stories and social media influencing how safe we feel our children are and the risks they may face in today's climate.

Join our FREE workshop to learn more about topics such as the influence of social media, the signs and stages of exploitation, and how we can prevent young people being affected by knife crime as parents, carers and as a community.

This 2 hour workshop is hosted by The Ben Kinsella Trust and covers the following topics:

- Recognising the current landscape for young people; fear, exploitation, violence and gangs
- Discuss the stages of exploitation, including the signs and stages
- Explore the risks of social media, 'Drill Music' and 'Gang-related music'
- Develop an understanding around language and slang
- Consider the trauma involved and gang life
- Understanding how 'issues' with peers can escalate and how we can help young people manage them
- Having meaningful conversations about difficult topics
- Preventing exploitation as parents and as a community
- Further support and resources



This was the most informative course I have been on, jam packed with information and awareness that would not be found anywhere, this course really gave me a real life insight and the priceless information that could help keep my own and other children safe.

Attendee at the Knife Crime Awareness workshop



Book here!



The Ben Kinsella Trust

Training



We deliver a wide range of online and face to face training to a range of audiences, including police, CJS, YJS, teachers, youth workers, community practitioners, parents and carers.

We can also design and deliver bespoke training sessions to suit your organisation or setting.

training@benkinsella.org.uk

Thank you for your time

Contact Us

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