

Dear Sir/Madam,

Next week (Monday 11 - Sunday 17 March) marks the start of Op Sceptre, a knife crime awareness campaign.

Launched by Metropolitan Police in 2015 in response to knife crime, Op Sceptre, a national campaign, aims to raise awareness, with the overall aim of reducing knife crime and the harm it causes to individuals, their families and the wider community.

Wiltshire continues to be a safe county to live and work in, with the number of knife crime incidents in Wiltshire falling by 18 per cent since September 2017, however as we see incidents of knife crime rising across the country, especially those involving young people we know we cannot be complacent.

As a key part of our communities we are asking for your help in sharing the message that knife crime will not be tolerated in our county.

We know that most young people don't carry knives, it is not a normal thing to do, but research conducted across the county tells us some young people choose to carry knives for protection and because it makes them feel safer.

With your help, and building on the good work you are already doing, we need to educate young people to ensure that they understand the law and the consequences that carrying a knife can have.

Fearless is a website for young people created by Crimestoppers, as a way for young people to access information and to anonymously report incidents of crime. Please can we ask you to make your students aware of this website <https://www.fearless.org/en>

Fearless have also produced a number of lesson plans and resources to help those working with young people. These are free of charge and can be accessed using this link: <https://www.fearless.org/getmedia/9b4eca18-ef92-4373-acfe-ceafc1a91332/1Weapons-Fearless-Resource-2016.pdf>

Please also find attached a leaflet on knife crime which can be shared with both pupils and parents.

Thank you in anticipation for your ongoing support in tackling knife crime.

Best wishes

Sonja Leith

Head of Crime Prevention – Wiltshire Police