

Written evidence submitted by The Scouts (BYC001)

Executive Summary

- Young people are disproportionately affected by knife crime, particularly in areas of deprivation.
- The Scout Association is ambitious and positive regarding the social impact that youth organisations can have in deprived areas in supporting young people and building community cohesion.

Introduction

1. The Scouts welcome the opportunity to submit written evidence to the consultation on Knife Crime by the Youth Select Committee.
2. The Scout movement was founded 1907 by Lt. General Robert Baden-Powell. Today, we help over 460,000 young people aged between 6-25 every week enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future.
3. The Scouts are a registered UK charity that provides activities for young people to develop character skills like resilience and initiative, as well as employability skills like leadership, teamwork and practical skills such as First Aid. Young people involved in Scouting are 33%¹ more likely to support their local communities, and over 250,000 Scouts are making positive contributions to their local communities through community impact campaigns that we support.² In 2018, we have recognised over 700,000 hours of community impact voluntary work through community impact badges or young people.³

Young People

Q7. How do differences in young people lives (e.g. geographic location, education, mental health, household income and socioeconomic background) make them more vulnerable to being involved in knife crime?"

4. The Scouts are aware of evidence showing a clear link between areas of deprivation, knife crime, and the impact on young people.
5. The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies notes that those that live in poor area are more than twice as likely to be the victim of knife crime compared to those in wealthier areas.⁴ Those living in poverty, particularly those aged between 10-25, were at higher risk of frequently falling victim to knife crime if they came from households that had difficulty managing their incomes.⁵
6. The APPG on knife crime⁶ found in its report launched on 7/5/2019 that areas that have been hit the worst by youth spending cuts have also seen some of the biggest rises in knife crime.

¹ The Scout Association 2017 Impact Report. The data compared those in Scouts to those not in Scouts.

² Skills For Life, Our plan to prepare better futures 2018-2023.

³ Ibid

⁴ Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, 'Knife Crime, A review of evidence and policy'

⁵ Ibid

⁶ <http://www.preventknifecrime.co.uk/>

7. MORI Youth Survey (2004) found that those who claimed to have been a victim of knife crime were twice as likely to also carry a knife (18%/36%)⁷
8. The British Medical Journal (2018) found that 71% of patients under 25 who were treated for stab injuries came from the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods⁸.

Prevention

Q13. What support is available to identify and help young people at risk of getting involved in knife crime? Is it effective?

9. The Scouts provide positive role models for young people involved in the movement, and encourages young people to take leadership and responsibility through our troop structure.
10. As of 2018, Scouts are currently involved in 834 areas of deprivation, and aim to be actively engaged in 500 additional areas by 2023, where we believe that young people, and the communities in which they live, will benefit the most.⁹
11. As a charity for young people, Scouts seeks to bring people together in communities and build friendship and mutual understanding. We provide social mixing at district and county levels, as well as a national and international events that bring young people together from different backgrounds and walks of life. We also provide young people with opportunities to improve the lives of those around them and become involved in their local communities. As of 2017, 56% of Scout sections are participating in community impact projects through our Million Hands initiative¹⁰ it is our objective by 2023 to have another 250,000 young people making positive impacts in their local communities each year.
12. Reductions to local Government funding have meant that many children's services in local communities have been reduced. The Scouts believe that well-funded services for young people, alongside youth charities, can empower young people to have a positive impact on their communities.

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⁷ MORI Youth Survey 2004.

⁸ British Medical Journal Open (2018) "Temporal and geographic patterns of stab injuries in young people: a retrospective cohort study from a UK major trauma centre."

⁹ Skills For Life, Our plan to prepare better futures 2018-2023.

¹⁰ Your Programme Your Voice survey 2017