

Written evidence submitted by Rotherham Youth Cabinet (BYC002)

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

- The worse the living conditions are the more likely you are to be involved in knife crime.
- Usually families with less income in more deprived areas tend to not criticise illegal activities such as knife crime and they bring their children up that way whereas their opposites would be less likely to commit knife crime.
- People from deprived areas more likely to commit knife crime as they feel more isolated and depressed which would makes them more likely to be influenced by bad crowds.
- People from less or non-deprived areas are less likely to commit knife crime
- Young people are more vulnerable to resort to knife crime because they feel they have nothing else to do because of the cuts to youth provision services.

2) What motivates young people to carry knives?

- Fear
- Pride
- Peer pressure
- Protection
- Safety
- To show off
- To be or is being bullied
- To look cool
- Influenced by role models
- Bad influences
- Self-defence
- To attack someone

3) Is fear a motivator for young people who carry knives? What causes this? What can be done to address this?

- Yes, as they feel someone may attack them with a knife and they will have nothing to protect themselves with.
- Yes
- Yes, people who are scared are attracted to feel safe so they will use a knife as protection, police should encourage young people to feel safe and secure whilst on streets.
- Someone should use leaflets to intimidate those to carry knives to not do so otherwise they will go to jail,
- Yes, they feel safer with knives as they will be able to protect themselves, we can address this properly educating young people about knife crime and its consequences.

4) Is there any evidence that gang culture, social media and/ or music impact young people's involvement in knife crime?

- Yes, as all of these may be part of the person's identity
- Music is a major influence as many rappers, especially grime artist promote the use of knife crime to their listeners,
- Yes, creates their identity
- Yes, social media impacts individuals who become victims of bullying and may feel the need to protect themselves.

5) Is there a correlation between young people being excluded, or not getting enough support, from education and involvement in knife crime?

- Young people spend more time on the streets.
- Not getting support from school or getting excluded leaves the young people vulnerable with more time on their hands, at this point it's when young people would start getting involved with gang culture
- They are more likely to commit knife crime
- Yes

6) What could be done to make young people less likely to a) carry knives b) commit knife crime?

- More strict guidelines around knives in music or introduce a age restriction
- Young people to be more educated, make more youth work provisions to keep young people off the streets
- Prevention and early intervention work in schools with a pastoral approach
- Tackling the causes which lead to young people carrying knives

7) What support is available to identify and help young people at risk of getting involved with knife crime? Is it effective?

- Youth clubs, youth workers, make your mark, child line- this is affective as it provides advice
- Police coming into schools to educate around knife crime
- Youth services, perhaps they work but we cannot know due to constant government cuts to the service

8) Are there particular groups of people who are overlooked by current prevention strategies?

- Yes, people from non-deprived areas
- People not in school or other provision
- Professional people
- Probably