

## **Written evidence submitted by SAMM National (BYC022)**

1. Sadly at SAMM we are only too aware of the devastating effects of knife crime. We support over 5,000 people who have been bereaved through murder or manslaughter. The most frequent way of killing someone seems to be with a knife! There is much discussion in the media etc about how to tackle knife crime but I have not seen many people talk about the role of the parents in this subject. A young man on a TV programme recently was asked "where do you get the knives?" and his reply was "From the kitchen drawer!" If this is the case why aren't parents particularly mothers asking where their knives are and checking up on what their children are doing?

2. To tackle this problem we need a joined up approach with police, health service, social services, housing and many other organisations working together with parents. The Sure start programme worked with parents and under school age children teaching parenting skills to parents. If you have been dragged up by your parents then the only way you know to care for your own children is to drag them up. We need to break this cycle of indifference and teach children from a very early age respect for others. This includes respect for themselves and respect for their parents and then towards others.

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