

Dec 2011



Background

No Knives, Better Lives is a national youth engagement initiative aimed at educating young people about the dangers of carrying a knife and the devastating personal consequences it can have on their future, as well as on their family and friends. No Knives Better Lives educates young people on the reasons not to carry a knife, and helps to shape positive attitudes and influence positive life choices by promoting other opportunities.

No Knives, Better Lives is a multi-pronged initiative that reaches out to young people through community engagement; youth diversionary activity; advertising; partnerships with local stakeholders; schools and youth work programmes. Crucially, NKBL is a nationally directed, but locally delivered initiative. Elements of NKBL will be delivered by national partners to all NKBL areas and the majority will be locally tailored - from education and marketing through to diversionary activities.

NKBL Quote: Ian Morris- Chief Inspector VRU



“Scotland unfortunately has an association with violence and there is no doubt knives are the weapon of choice, accounting for a significant proportion of homicide figures and being present in much of our violent crime. Young people represent a significant proportion of these figures both as victims and perpetrators and there is no doubt a culture has developed in some areas that makes it socially acceptable to carry a knife. I suspect many of those who choose to carry knives think very little of the risks this may present to them.

NKBL is an excellent programme that has been developed for young people to warn them about the potential consequences they may face by carrying a knife. It addresses attitudes through a variety of means both within the educational and community setting and in many cases supports the preventative work already being carried out by partners to tackle this important issue.

I have observed the programme develop since its inception and it is now being introduced to some of the areas of greatest need in Scotland. I have no doubt that it will complement the work already being done by practitioners in these areas and grow from strength to strength.”

'No Knives, Better Lives' developments

WeCTV

WeCTV is running again this year, but expanding to offer the experience to all our NKBL priority areas. There are regional heats in each area, with one winning group from each competing area going through to the national event.



The Scottish Youth Parliament is running the 'We-CTV' programme across all No Knives Better Lives areas. At a national level, We-CTV is a film making competition designed to engage young people in producing their own anti-knife crime messages. Find out more at www.syp.org.uk

Peer Education

The Peer Education project is new to NKBL and we aim to roll this out across all NKBL priority areas over the next 8 months. The project recruits up to 12 young people in each NKBL area to be trained as volunteer peer educators. Involvement in the project will provide young people with the opportunity to gain skills, knowledge and experience that can be used as a further springboard into education, training or employment. In so doing it provides an opportunity for active citizenship.

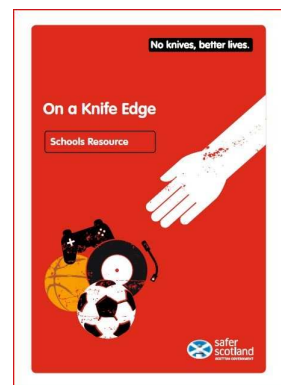
Peer education can be an effective way of engaging young people in the issue of knife crime and violence, and so contribute to the local and national NKBL objectives. Supported by a worker from Fast Forward, the peer educators are trained using No Knives Better Lives resources such as the 'Sharp Solutions' toolkit. Local NKBL partners also work together to identify opportunities for the peer educators to spread their messages within their community and engage with other young people.

Glow

Glow is the world's first national intranet for education and is transforming the way the curriculum is delivered in Scotland. Glow provides a safe online environment for pupils, teachers and parents, it provides a space to create personalised programmes of work, share thinking, curriculum resources and a virtual learning space to share information, communicate and collaborate across the network. No Knives Better Lives will have a dedicated Glow page that hosts resources and information on the initiative. This will be live in early 2012.

No Knives Better Lives & Schools

Now that the educational toolkit, 'On A Knife Edge' had been launched, we are currently finalising a schools brief which clearly lays out what can be offered to schools as part of NKBL. We are liaising with Education Scotland to finalise this and it should be available to partners in January 2012.



Three brand new areas will be launching as NKBL priority areas in 2012, they are: N. Ayrshire, N. Lanarkshire and S. Lanarkshire.

Glasgow and Edinburgh will also be launching in new, targeted priority areas in January/ February 2012.

Resources available- A reminder of what's on offer....

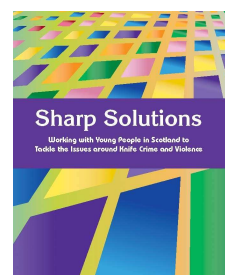
These innovative resources can help to start a discussion, or develop different approaches to raising the serious issue that is knife crime in Scotland.

Branded merchandise- Just a reminder that branded merchandise is now back in stock and can be ordered to support the delivery of any local NKBL activity.

www.noknivesbetterlives.com - This website is currently being updated and will be refreshed by February 2012. There will be dedicated web sections for young people, practitioners, community and parents. Each of the different pages will be specific to that target audience and will be interactive. There will be a restricted NKBL Practitioners section, which will only be available to practitioners within the priority NKBL areas. This dedicated section of the website will be where the practitioner's network will be hosted, making it possible to share best practice, case studies, order resources and much more.

Sharp Solutions

The youth work toolkit developed by YouthLink Scotland in partnership with Fairbridge training can be downloaded free of charge at www.noknivesbetterlives.com



On A Knife Edge- The educational toolkit developed to be used in schools. This can be downloaded free of charge at www.noknivesbetterlives.com

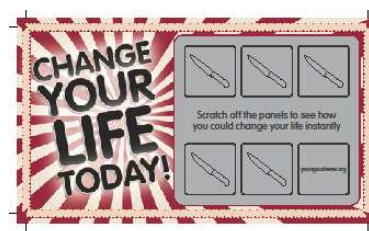
Short films - We've produced three short films about the dangers of carrying a knife. *Embalmer* gives an embalmer's view of a knife crime victim, and *Paramedic* gives a paramedic's view of a knife crime victim. The *Knife Crime Animated Graffiti* film tells the story of a young lad who decides to carry a knife.

Lexi Lyall film - A short film featuring Lexi Lyall, the mother of William Lyall, who was tragically stabbed to death in 2003. She tells the story of how William's murder has affected her life.

Local films - A number of short films have been produced by our local partners and groups of young people.

Knife crime scratch cards

These scratch cards are easy to hand out in-between activities. They show the chances you take if you carry a knife. Get the group to play the scratch cards together and encourage them to discuss the results. These are handy if you don't have a lot of time with each person and need a quick way to grab their attention.



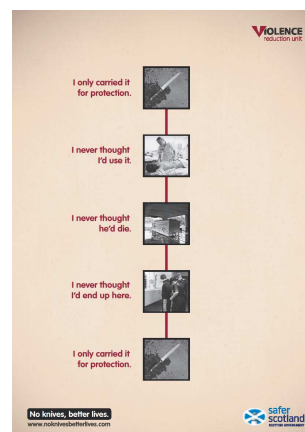
The Wheel of Misfortune

Encourage young people to 'choose life over a knife' with this specially designed game. It gives you an interactive way to talk about the consequences of knife crime, as well as the positive aspects of not getting involved with knives.



Posters

Simple campaign posters tell the stories following knife crimes. They show that every crime has many victims by showing the effects on the knife user and also their families and friends. These can be put up around schools and community centres to reinforce the message that carrying a knife isn't worth the risk. Electronic versions of the posters (to which you can add your own organisation's logo) can be downloaded from www.noknivesbetterlives.com.



Got a story to tell?

The No Knives Better Lives team at Stripe Communications can help to support local activity in your area through PR and communications, to spread the word about No Knives Better Lives and the impact it is having in communities across Scotland. Contact them with details of events, activities or stories from your area at noknivesbetterlives@stripecom.co.uk or 0131 561 8628.

If you have any feedback or views / suggestions for future developments, please contact the National Delivery Team:

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From everyone at the No Knives Better Lives team, we wish you all a great festive holidays and happy new year.