

Safer Schools Newsletter July 2020



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

CYP GANGS & SCHOOLS TEAM



#STOPKNIFECRIME

Welcome to our first newsletter from the Herts Police Gangs & Schools Team. We are a dedicated team that work with local Officers and partners to prevent youth related crime. We conduct a range of prevention and engagement work to raise awareness of knife crime, gang & criminal exploitation to keep you safe.

What are 'county lines' and Child Criminal Exploitation?

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks who bring drugs into an area and sell them using dedicated mobile phone lines. The perpetrators are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.

Children as young as 12 years old can be exploited or used by gangs to courier drugs in and out of their local area; 15-16 years is the most common age range. Both males and females are at risk of being exploited. Social media is often used to make initial contact with children and young people.

Criminal exploitation can be broader than just county lines and can include children forced to commit theft or take part in sexual activity. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if they appear to be taking part consensually.

Hertfordshire is a very safe place. Overall, crime in our area is down from last year.

Knife crime - know your facts

- It is illegal to carry any knife if there is intent to use it, even defensively, as a weapon; even if the knife belongs to someone else, such as a friend, girlfriend or boyfriend.
- Police can and will search someone if they believe they are carrying a knife.
- Carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and ending up with a criminal record or even a prison sentence. This can seriously affect the rest of someone's life. Having a criminal record can prevent that person getting a job, going to university or college or even travelling abroad to some countries.



For more information about the work that we do go to [@HertsCYP](https://twitter.com/HertsCYP)

LIVES NOT KNIVES

event brought to you by

Hertfordshire Constabulary CYP Gangs & Schools Team and Herts Sports Partnership.

An opportunity to listen live to a variety of inspirational speakers with real life experience of knife crime and gang affiliation.

Are you ready to hear the TRUTH behind the headlines, think it's about excitement, money and status?



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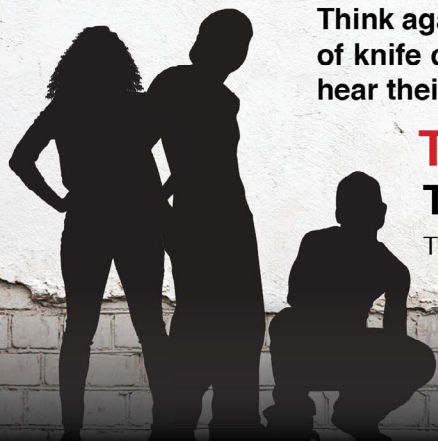


Think again... tune in to our inspirational speakers with lived experience of knife crime and serious violence and have the unique opportunity to hear their stories & ask them questions about their experiences.

Thursday 23rd July | 6.00pm - 7.30pm

To watch the event live - @entercareermode

There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions at the end of the event.



Free Herts Sports Partnership goody bag for each young person that attends the event.

Follow **career mode** on Instagram for inspirational videos of sports men, women and mentors talking about how sport has shaped their lives

@entercareermode



Stay Safe

and make

positive choices

Positive Alternatives 2020

Summer Programme

A two week programme for young people to learn about keeping themselves safe and engage in positive alternatives to gangs and knife crime.

- Monday-Friday 3 hours daily
- 2 hours of professional sports coaching
- £30 Amazon voucher on completion
- Certificate of participation

All programmes will observe current government guidelines in relation to Covid-19 including 2m social distancing, single use sanitised equipment and hand washing practices

Please speak to a YC Hertfordshire Youth Worker if you're interested in joining the project. 0300 123 7538 For email enquiries contact ych@hertfordshire.gov.uk

To refer a young person to the programme email ychreferral@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Hertfordshire

fearless
.org

Young people can report crime 100% anonymously at www.fearless.org

If you need to contact the Police please call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also speak to us online and find more information at www.herts.police.uk.