

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Prevention Fund

Knife Crime

Overview of Knife Crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated £100,000 to fund projects through the 'Police and Crime Commissioner's Prevention Fund-Knife Crime' for initiatives which intervene early to reduce knife crime.

- Nationally, the number of knife related offences continues to increase, there were over 40,000 offences involving a knife or a sharp instrument in the financial year ending March 2018. This was the highest number of offences over the last eight years.
- For more detailed analysis of the National picture please refer to Knife Crime England and Wales (House of Commons briefing paper) [LINK](#)
- It is recognised that the reasons for carrying a knife are varied however the four most common are:
 - Social media posturing and peer pressure
 - Exploitation - being made to carry a knife
 - Membership of gang, or involved in serious organised criminality
 - Feeling vulnerable
- Locally, previous analysis has suggested that males have the highest likelihood of being a victim (67%) or an offender (81%). Analysis has also shown that the most likely age range to be an offender of knife crime is the age range 18-24 years old, this is also the case with victims of knife crime. Previously the age range with the highest proportion of offences was 25-34 years old, suggesting that both offenders and victims are getting younger.
- For the purposes of applying to 'The Police and Crime Commissioner's Prevention Fund-Knife Crime', we would expect initiatives and projects to be focussed on early intervention and will therefore be targeted at a younger cohort of 12-24 year olds.
- For more information on Early Intervention approaches, please see 'Preventing Serious youth violence –what works (Big Lottery Fund)'

https://media.biglotteryfund.org.uk/media/documents/BLF_KL18-12_SeriousViolence.pdf



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- Within Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland neighbourhood teams and partners have identified over 100 habitual knife carriers.
- There is a clear link with other violence and drugs supply (county lines) so knife crime is also now seen as symptom of Serious Organised Crime
- **Hotspots** remain, Loughborough, Highfields and Belgrave, West Leicester (inclusive of Abbey, Beaumont Leys, Braunstone Park/Rowley Fields, Fosse, New Parks, Westcotes) and the City Centre.
- Monitoring- Whilst we would like the bidder to set out themselves how they evidence the success of their project, we will require all projects to evidence the reach of their project.