

# TKAP Bulletin

*Sent to Police, Government Offices, OGDs, and partners. Please share this publication as you feel appropriate.*

## UPDATE FROM JUSTIN RUSSELL, Head of Violent Crime Unit, Home Office

Serious youth violence threatens the cohesiveness of our society and affects individuals, families and communities. It also threatens young peoples' right to live their lives free from fear.

In Phase Two, the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) is about more than knife crime: it brings together the range of work being delivered across government to target all serious youth violence and reinforces the government's view that violence is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

We will issue this bulletin regularly until the end of the current programme – March 2010 – to keep you up to speed on TKAP. We hope you will contribute to the content; particularly by alerting us to what is working in your area.

## TKAP STATISTICS

TKAP Phase One aimed to reduce the carrying of knives, related homicides and serious stabbings among teenagers (aged 13-19) in 10 police force areas. Management information was collected from a range of sources both before and during the TKAP period and an overview is available on the Home Office website: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentstreet/violentstreet014.htm>

In future issues we will alert you to statistics of interest, such as the provisional figures for admissions to hospitals in England for assault with a sharp object for the 12-months ending May 2009, which were published on 9 September: <http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1131>

## YOUR BULLETIN

We emailed recipients of the previously 'restricted' TKAP Bulletin to get their views; the new design and content of this newsletter is based on their feedback. The Bulletin now highlights effective practice and key news across the three strands of engagement, enforcement and prevention rather than containing a full report from each TKAP area.

We will profile people working on TKAP, look at the work of Government departments in delivering TKAP, and draw your attention to dates of key meetings, events and publication of relevant data.

If you have been forwarded this Bulletin and wish to be added to the distribution list, please email [tacklingknivesactionprogramme@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tacklingknivesactionprogramme@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

## COMING UP...

**5 October:**  
Nominations close for YJB's 'Communicating Youth Justice Award '09' – [click for more info.](#)

**5- 6 October:**  
Problem Oriented Partnerships Conference. For more information: [alex.birtwistle@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alex.birtwistle@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**17–24 October:**  
Inside Justice Week, for further information: <http://insidejustice.cjsonline.gov.uk/>

**21 October:**  
next issue of TKAP Bulletin

**2-6 November: Not in My Neighbourhood Week of Action**

## TKAP FORCE AREAS UPDATE

### Prevention

- **South Wales:** an Alcohol Diversion Project is being trialled in the Merthyr/Rhondda Cynon Taf areas: people stopped for drunken behaviour can avoid conviction or have their PND fine halved by attending a class-based input to increase understanding of drunken behaviour and its effects. The scheme (funded by the Welsh Assembly Government) has been arranged by Druglink, with the support of South Wales Police, Merthyr and RCT Community Safety Partnerships.
- **West Yorkshire:** One punch is all it takes to shatter lives – that’s the message that’s been given this summer to highlight the devastating effects just one punch can have. As part of West Yorkshire Police’s ongoing work to reduce violent crime, officers are teaming up with Crimestoppers to raise awareness of how a night out can lead to a fight and the loss of a life. The campaign is looking to show how in a split second a person can become a killer or be killed.
- **Lancashire:** “Be Sharp, Think Sharp” has been shortlisted for the Fear & Fashion Award (to be announced 1 October). The concept was developed by the Armed Response Unit working with the North West Ambulance Service and Local Educational authorities. Its delivers a hard hitting anti knife message to young people from year seven upwards to deter knife carrying and reassure and improve public confidence. The team of volunteers has delivered the message to over 45,000 students (approximately 50% of high school students within the Lancashire force area).
- **South Yorkshire:** Point7 gun and knife crime awareness presentations continue to be made to targeted groups of young people in conjunction with Youth Offending Services. Youth workers are continuing to use the Be Safe programme in youth clubs across Sheffield to engage with groups of young people to raise awareness and discuss issues of carrying knives.

- **Met Police:** Over the summer, the Met urged young people to ‘Choose a different ending’ in an interactive publicity campaign via YouTube. Filmed from the point of view of a teenage boy, it allows users to interact with films to decide what happens next. It shows young people the consequences of carrying a knife, aims to dispel the myth that a knife gives protection and provokes young people to think carefully about their decisions. Visitors are encouraged to visit [www.droptheweapons.org](http://www.droptheweapons.org) to hear from real people about their experiences of carrying weapons.

### Engagement

- **South Wales:** Offences from drug dealing to illegal parking were targeted in a multi agency operation to tackle ASB. Police joined local children in the crackdown designed to improve quality of life for residents in Butetown, Cardiff. The area is top in the deprivation indices for Wales and has seen a recent increase in gang-related activity. The children went on patrol, helping with issues such as clearing litter. Based on the ‘broken windows’ theory, it has targeted improving the area whilst increasing engagement with young people.
- **South Wales:** Primary school pupils in Blaenrhondda (RCT) were given a lesson about the dangers of guns and knives from the Force Armed Response Unit just before summer holidays. The visit helped pupils realise that imitation firearms such as BB guns are not toys and can injure people and animals. Pupils were able to try out some of the police equipment including body armour, helmets and shields.
- **Lancashire:** a School Survey has identified young people’s experiences and perceptions on issues including Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime. Focus groups of youths were consulted on the survey content, which was run in eight secondary schools. Analysis is due shortly. The aim is to roll out the survey countywide to gather perceptions of young people from differing backgrounds, and different locations, which will be useful for implementing interventions.

## Enforcement

- Lancashire:** Operation Détente targets TKAP issues in Preston and focuses on Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). Détente aims to deliver a high visibility police presence to reassure the public and gather intelligence, and to prevent/detect offences through intelligence led visible patrol and by utilising Section 60 and Section 60AA powers. From April 2009 to date 32 Operations have been carried out with 2465 persons spoken to, 60 alcohol seizures, 9 arrests, 73 vehicles stopped, 554 S60s, 13 PNDs, 48 youth referral forms issued, 436 interventions with OCG members, 328 INTL submissions, 84 licensed premises visits.
- London:** Knife crime has declined in London by 5.3% so far this performance year up to 30 August with 294 fewer victims. The number of Homicide victims in London aged from 13–24 have decreased from 31 to 13 during the same period and those aged 13–19 decreased from 16 to 5. A number of tactics are being used to drive down serious violence.
- Operation Blunt** tackles knife crime. So far this performance year up to 30 August there have been 93,400 Operation Blunt stop and searches with 4,517 arrests of which 3,499 have been for knives and other weapons. Neighbourhood public place weapon sweeps have proven to be a useful tactic in taking weapons off our street and disrupting gang violence. So far this year there have been 8,256 such sweeps. Only recently a firearm has been recovered during a weapon sweep. In total so far this year 2,211 knives have been recovered.
- South Yorkshire:** an operation to detect/prevent the use of knives by local youths committing offences was carried out around Spring Lane and City Road in Sheffield. The operation determined which youths were thought to be in possession of knives, and individuals were stopped and searched where powers allowed.



## INTRODUCING PAT BENYON TO THE TKAP TEAM

Pat Benyon joined the TKAP Team at the Home Office in August. He is the local area TKAP advisor to Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police. He has 26 years service in the Metropolitan Police where he has worked in a number of London Boroughs including Hackney, Lambeth, Southwark and Westminster in a variety of uniform roles (including as Chief Inspector Operations on Hackney Borough where he was the lead for the Tackling Violent Crime Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign).

Pat has also been Chief Inspector Partnership and Safer Neighbourhoods on Lambeth Borough based at Brixton Police Station. He has experience of overseeing Inspection and Reviews of MPS Territorial Policing Boroughs as well as force wide thematic inspections.

Married with three children, in his spare time Pat has recently completed post graduate Diplomas in Management Studies and Law.

**Produced by the TKAP Programme Team:** *what did you think of this issue? We welcome your feedback, so please send your comments to [tacklingknivesactionprogramme@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tacklingknivesactionprogramme@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)*

## PRACTICAL ADVICE – NEW PUBLICATION

The TKAP team has published 'Tackling Youth Knife Violence - Practical Advice for Police'. It has been written to share effective practice from Phase One TKAP force areas so that we can make the greatest impact in reducing teenage knife deaths and serious woundings and, in doing so, increase public confidence.

The publication will be a useful resource for forces and partner agencies who, though not involved in TKAP, are working to understand their knife crime problem and develop interventions to reduce the harm caused by youth knife crime.

It will also be of interest to those who have been involved in TKAP since June 2008 or those who joined in Phase Two when TKAP was extended to cover 16 force areas.

Download a copy from [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/youth/youth087.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/youth/youth087.htm)

## YOUTH SECTOR DEVELOPMENT FUND (YSDF) POLICY EVENT - 22ND SEPTEMBER

In December 2008, the Home Office announced its backing of the Department for Children, Schools and Families work to support disadvantaged young people and the Third Sector Organisations that do so much to help them.

The Home Office committed £300,000 through the YSDF for one year to support organisations that help us reach the young people most likely to be affected by knife crime. As part of our campaign to reduce youth violence we've worked on enforcement, education and prevention programmes with schools, local authorities and the Police. This funding will help to develop and build the capacity

and sustainability of Third Sector Organisations.

In June three organisations received funding: Croydon Youth Development Trust, Rathbone and South Yorkshire Victim Offender Mediation Service (Remedi). On 22 September, this half day event will bring them together to network and discuss policy, and to ensure their activity and outcomes make a real difference. We will hear from each project funded by the YSDF, receive a policy overview from the Home Office on their expectations of the programme and consider next steps on how to assess the activities of the three projects and how they match up to Home Office priorities.

For more information, contact Danny LaFayette from the Violent Crime Unit on 0207 035 1809.

## OGD NEWS

Each issue, we will focus on a Government department working to deliver TKAP. The Home Office is working closely with the Department of Health to advance the sharing of data between A&E Departments and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships.

With only a proportion of violent crime reported to the police, A&E attendance data is an essential addition to establishing the scale of any violent crime problem. Information relating to location, time of incident and injuries can help to support a wider police intelligence picture and inform partnerships' tactics to tackle serious youth violence.

At the time of issue, 61 hospitals have implemented data sharing practices in TKAP areas. The TKAP Department of Health Innovation Fund is supporting the further development of new and existing A&E data sharing. We will inform you of how many hospitals are successful in the most recent round of funding applications in the October issue of this Bulletin.

Within TKAP Phase 2 our scope has increased to include A&E data sharing for injuries resulting from serious youth violence including, but not exclusively, knife injuries. For more information, email the TKAP Programme's A+E data sharing advisor [ian.Tumelty1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ian.Tumelty1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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