

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

TKAP is working hard, and across government, to achieve a target of 100 hospitals in TKAP areas sharing A&E data with crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) by the end of 2009. While initially some hospitals and trusts were concerned that data sharing may be an additional burden, the evidence from Cardiff, which piloted this approach, is that it can deliver a significant reduction in levels of violence and a corresponding reduction in admissions.

It's also important that CDRPs make best use of this data to inform their activities, and that they feed their plans back so that the benefits are clear to hospitals. A recent research report commissioned by Government Office for London highlights that where A&E data sharing is seen as 'an integral element of wider partnership working ... the more likely it is to be sustained and effective'. Data sharing is a focus for the Home Secretary – and was something he championed when Secretary of State in the Department of Health – because it can deliver a sustainable legacy beyond the life of TKAP as well as helping to achieve our mission to reduce serious youth violence and the harm it causes to individuals, families and communities.

LATEST STATISTICS

Figures published today in the Quarterly Update show that based on British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews in the year to June 2009, crime remains stable compared with the year to June 2008; BCS household crime showed a decrease of four per cent but there was no change in the level of personal crime. Violent crime and firearm offences continue to fall - this quarter we saw a continued fall in knife related violence, including a 35 per cent drop in knife related homicide down from 71 to 46, and a fall in firearms offences of 5%.

The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by four per cent in April to June 2009 compared with the same quarter in 2008. BCS interviews also showed the risk of being a victim of crime (22%) remained stable compared with the year to June 2008. This level of risk of being a victim of crime is historically low. Estimates of all BCS personal crime categories (violence, theft from the person and other personal theft) remained stable. The fall in police recorded crime for April to June 2009 compared with the same period in 2008 reflected falls in violence against the person (by 1%), recorded offences against vehicles (by 12%), criminal damage (by 5%) and 'other theft' offences (by 3%).

COMING UP...

22 October: Quarterly crime statistics and the [HMIC](#) report into police recording of Most Serious Violence published.

28 October: final figures for NHS hospital admissions to be published by [NHS Information Centre](#)

2-6 November: [Not in my Neighbourhood Week of Action](#)

11-12 November: the Youth Justice Board's [Annual Youth Justice Convention](#) (ACC Sue Fish speaking)

13 November: Free event. Flavasum Collection making the case for theatre as a way to reach and engage marginalised young people: www.theflavasumtrust.org

ONLINE CRIME

In September, the Violent Crime Unit hosted a meeting with law enforcement and other agencies to share effective practice on investigating, prosecuting and securing convictions against individuals and groups engaged in gang-related activity and serious youth violence. The focus was online activities; particularly social networking websites.

Police forces presented their work and tactics in using user-generated content on social networking sites to investigate and secure convictions against individuals. It also allowed the Home Office and police forces to discuss current barriers and potential technological and legislative developments with regards to investigating and prosecuting such activity.

SAFER SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

A Safer School Partnership (SSP) is a formal agreement between a school or partnership of schools and police to work together to keep young people safe, reduce crime and the fear of crime, and improve behaviour in schools and their communities.

A lot of forces are already working in partnership with schools and are reaping the benefits through improved prevention and early intervention. However we wanted to add something to this bulletin as, although SSPs can benefit all areas, the SSP model can be particularly helpful in addressing serious youth violence.

SSPs guidance was published in May 2009 with a DVD of case studies: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/sspg/>. The guidance describes how SSPs can address issues around serious youth violence, for example how the SSP Unit at Camden Police held an anti-knife football tournament for secondary schools across the borough. For more information contact Laura Ratcliffe from the Children and Young People team at the Home Office on laura.ratcliffe4@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or 0207 035 0621.

OPEN: POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Intelligence shows that Friday and Saturday nights are peak times for youth anti-social behaviour and crime. That is why there is a cross-government push to work with local delivery partners to provide access to positive activities for young people at those times.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Home Office and the Department for Culture Media and Sport have joined forces to encourage stakeholders to make 'Open' a reality and are investing heavily. The £270m MyPlace facilities will champion weekend activities, and, in the meantime, this year's funding guidance for the Youth Capital and Youth Opportunity Funds and positive activities for young people make Open a priority.

Only 14% of activities are available on Friday nights and just 2% on Saturday nights. Activities on these nights can help to engage the 30% of young people who don't participate, usually those who are most vulnerable to a range of negative outcomes. It is unsurprising that areas with positive activities on these nights are seeing a drop in reports of youth ASB.

We want as many local agencies as possible to become part of their local partnership; delivering activities for young people on Friday and Saturday evenings and promoting their offer to young people and the community. Your youth service can provide further information about how the Open drive is being implemented in your area, or for more information: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/aiminghigh/open/open/>

TKAP FORCE AREA UPDATES ENGAGEMENT AND REASSURANCE

South Yorkshire

In September, Operation Socratic ran in Sheffield's "Student Land". The annual operation welcomes students and tells them how to avoid being victims of crime (particularly robbery or assault). Every evening two PCs and two PCSOs conducted high visibility patrols on foot or bicycle. PCSO's also gave eight talks at halls of residence.

After recent gang-related incidents in Burngreave, a group of parents identified that their children from the age of 8 were being influenced by gangs and even carrying weapons. The parents asked police for advice and support and a formal parents group was set up. The group organises activities to keep young people safe and off the streets, including sessions on weapons, cultural history, creative arts, and sports. Since the group formed there has been a reduction of 20% in reported youth anti-social behaviour in the area (compared with the rest of the city which had a 2% reduction over the same period).

Thames Valley

To develop an effective anti-knife crime strategy, police in Slough linked up with two local organisations: Aik Saath and Swipe, and consulted young people about how they would tackle knife crime. A range of ideas were suggested and music nights were a favourite. These would consist of branding the nights to an anti-knife crime theme, competitions to design posters and t-shirts, wristbands carrying an anti-knife crime pledge, and monthly music events to explore different genres of music. Local musicians will work with young people to encourage participation in the music nights to enable expression of work done.

Lancashire

Pharos Youth Intervention Programme started in Fleetwood on Thursday 8th October. This 10-week intensive programme targets young people on the cusp of becoming involved in serious youth violence. The first session was around introductions

and expectations. It included a supervised session at the Gym which was well received by participants. After this they were presented with a free pass to use in the forthcoming week.

Nottinghamshire

Police have trialled bluetooth technology to deliver a 'Have Fun Stay Safe' message to thousands of young people at Nottingham's famous Goose Fair. Designed to appeal to a 13-24 year olds, the message included tips on how to avoid being a victim of crime. The force has bought 10 kits to deliver messages to the young people of Nottinghamshire.

A project established by a community police officer after the death of a Nottingham teenager is being rolled out countywide with funding from the TKAP programme. Knife And Gun Education (KAGE) discourages children from bringing weapons to schools, and over 2,300 children aged 6-18 have been educated on gun and knife crime. A leaflet is being developed and a KAGE pledge card has been created so young people can 'pledge' to being weapon-free. The project will roll out to Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the next month.

ENFORCEMENT

South Yorkshire

Intelligence gained by the Gangs Team Researcher through social networking sites such as Facebook and Bebo lead to four young people being identified and their homes searched for weapons. The searches garnered 15 knives, two imitation firearms, two baseball bats and one catapult.

In Sheffield, Police Officers, PCSOs and Sheffield Homes searched outside areas in the Broomhall area and found six knives secreted behind electric junction boxes and in bushes. Three knives were recovered from a flat during a drugs search warrant. The occupant was arrested for drugs offences and has previous convictions for using a knife as a weapon.

The PACT process identified a problem with young people involved in drink-related ASB and violence in Beighton. We conducted a test purchase operation, surveillance on target premises, patrols, and stop search. Two young people were arrested. Working with us, Sheffield Futures engaged 20 young people and two joined the ‘voice and influence’ programme. The group is working with the Park Rangers. Dedicated sessions now exist two nights a week and feedback from the community is that the area now has fewer incidents.

Metropolitan Police Service

257 people were arrested in a week-long series of raids to tackle youth and gang-related violence. The operation was part of a sustained drive to tackle violence against young people, and to take lethal weapons out of the community, under Operation Blunt 2. Arrests were made for a number of offences including robbery, burglary, drugs-related offences, assault and firearms offences. 93 people have been charged and more charges are anticipated.

Ten knives, 12 guns (including a sawn-off shotgun), 70 rounds ammunition, two sharp instruments, eight other offensive weapons, two dangerous dogs, drugs and around £23,000 cash has been seized. In North London, a specially adapted ballpoint pen with a concealed two-inch blade was seized. Two youths have been arrested: one is on bail, one has been charged.

Hundreds of officers have been deployed in the operation, with support from partners, including British Transport Police, City of London Police and UK Borders’ Agency.

A wide range of enforcement tactics have been deployed in support of this operation, including the use of screening arches at transport hubs, stop and search operations and searches of open spaces for weapons.

South Wales

Cardiff Licensing Committee has agreed in principle to a city wide Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) in a bid to target alcohol fuelled violence. Five emergency ambulances in Cardiff and an A&E dept in Merthyr are to be supplied with CCTV to prevent and detect assaults on NHS staff.

Thames Valley

A pilot project in High Wycombe is focussing on researching social network sites to identify and gather intelligence on local gangs and youth crime. Started during TKAP Phase I, the project has already enabled positive disruption activity while avoiding compromising the project’s aims. The force hopes to use young people resourced from our volunteer programme to work on the project. If successful the initiative will be rolled out across the force.

Lancashire

Blackpool Police launched their multi agency TKAP Phase 2 test purchasing operations on Sunday 18 October with really encouraging results: 20 premises were visited and passed. Some of these premises had previously failed such inspections however they passed on this occasion, showing they are being more responsible and listening to advice previously given.

Merseyside

In September, there were 132 knife arch operations and four ‘Youth Violence weeks of action’. The first Leopard Operations (overt videoing of targets) were delivered in Liverpool. Both were successful in dispersing street gangs and providing evidence for ABCs and ASBO applications. The allocation of a Bronze Commander has resulted in a strong operational lead for each week of action. Planning is underway for the first Liverpool wide ‘clampdown’ operation which will run over two days in November.

PREVENTION

South Yorkshire

In September, Sheffield's dedicated gangs team carried out an operation deploying a knife arch. 230 people passed through the arch and 70 PACE 1 searches were conducted. The results were two cannabis cautions, one arrest for D&D, one arrest for fraud and one stolen vehicle recovered. A further two knife operations in the Hillsborough area of Sheffield saw 160 young people through the arches. No weapons were found.

In Rotherham proactive policing of fairs in the Maltby and Dinnington areas including stop and search where appropriate. Assembly talks were held regarding issues of youths in the Rosehill Park area which has been in the local press.

South Wales

South Wales Police are launching a Domestic Violence radio campaign in the run up to the autumn internationals. Aimed at those who travel to the City Centre and those watching at home, it encourages the audience to recognise when they have had enough to drink, and to be mindful of their actions. Research shows that on an international weekend reports of domestic incidents rise by up to 30%, and 45% of those involved have been drinking. The ads will be broadcast before each game and depict a victim making a call for help to a police control room after her partner has gone for her with a kitchen knife. Afraid for her life she locks herself in the bathroom before making her panicked call to officers.

An electronic board outside Police HQ Bridgend is displaying an anti-knife message for attention of passing motorists.

A multi-agency group developed to combat the emerging issue of street gangs has commenced meetings in Cardiff and a multi-agency Violent Crime Task Group has been resurrected in Swansea to target issues including night time economy-related violence.

Nottinghamshire

Four additional officers are working in Newark and Worksop town centres on Friday and Saturday nights on specific ASB and violence patrols. The initiative will continue over the Christmas and New Year period, with officers working with CDRP-funded street wardens to deliver early intervention work so ASB incidents don't escalate into serious violence. Another four officers, funded by TKAP, are being deployed in two dedicated vehicles to provide a fast response to incidents in the area.

A new problem-solving coordinator is working across Mansfield and Ashfield to address ASB problems quickly before they escalate into more serious issues and to reduce the number of repeat victims. They will also work with neighbourhood officers to identify and share best practice, using a robust problem solving toolkit and working with partners to identify, define and tackle the root causes, no matter how large or small.

Lancashire

Pen Drives are being issued to secondary school pupils in Hyndburn. When the drive is inserted into the computer the programme directs the young person to the police website specifically aimed at teenagers. A knife crime message is also downloaded on each drive giving safety messages and raising awareness around the use of knives and sending out a clear message about bringing knife crime offenders to justice.

VCU ONLINE

The Violent Crime Unit leads policy and delivery to reduce all violence with injury and tackle the most serious violence, serious sexual offences and domestic violence. The Unit has refreshed its content on the Crime Reduction website to help practitioners find relevant, up to date policy and delivery information: www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentcrime/

PHIONA MORRANT: POLICY SUPPORT, PUBLIC SPACE VIOLENCE TEAM.



I've worked in the Home Office for three years. Before joining the Violent Crime Unit I worked in UKBA's Criminal Casework Directorate. Many of the police who work on TKAP will have been on the receiving end of my (endless) emails relating to funding. In addition to TKAP police grants I also administer and recover grant funding on risk management, good practice forums and community and voluntary sector projects. We are currently awarding additional funding to forces to maximise activity between now and March 2010. Besides my grants responsibilities I support the team with briefings, submissions and correspondence.

THIRD SECTOR National Youth Theatre (NYT) – Talking to Byron

In March 2009, the NYT delivered Talking to Byron, an education programme for schools and pupil referral units that uses drama to help young people explore the issues around carrying and using knives. Talking to Byron was created in partnership with the Home Office (who funded the work), the Metropolitan Police and Be Safe. It was piloted in Hackney, Lambeth and Newham.

The work is aimed at 12-16 year olds; the age when they are most likely to think about carrying a knife. It connects directly with the Citizenship curriculum.

Talking to Byron was endorsed by independent evaluator Dr Richard Ings who noted that it "achieved its

impact by encouraging one group of young people to tell it like it is to other groups of young people: there were no lectures and no slide shows of statistics or stab wounds, just the words and actions of a believable group of friends. By creating what was overwhelmingly considered by students themselves to be an authentic portrait of teenage life, NYT moved beyond trying to tell young people what to do and helped them come to the right conclusions for themselves."

The work was presented to great acclaim at a Home Office conference in July 2009. The NYT is looking to roll it out in London boroughs towards the end of the spring 2010 term, subject to funding. Email: Helen.temple@nyt.org.uk or call 020 7281 3863 for more information.

Q+A for Schools on Serious Youth Violence

NASUWT is the teachers' trade union representing members in all sectors of education - including heads and deputies. They have published our Q+A on serious youth violence: <http://www.nasuw.org.uk/Whatsnew/NASUWTNews/Nationalnewsitems/SeriousYouthViolence/index.htm>

New recipients

The TKAP Bulletin is now issued to Youth Crime Action Plan practitioners, including police officers, Youth Offending Teams, Children's Services and Community Safety Managers.

YCAP practitioners work locally to tackle youth crime and ASB and support delivery of the Youth Crime Action Plan intensive package in 69 areas across the country. YCAP is a comprehensive analysis of what the government is doing to tackle youth crime. It sets out a 'triple track' approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention. For more information: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/youth-crime-action-plan/>

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