

# Strategic Partnership Boards

**SAFETY** **SAFEGUARDING** **WELLBEING**

Spotlight on...

## Challenging the culture of Knife Crime: Safeguarding Children and Young People

**Knife crime is a problem in wider society and in our community it cannot be tackled alone by a single agency**

It is clear that knife crime is an increasing safeguarding risk to children, both at school and in their local communities. Knife crime, gang violence and child exploitation are rightly high on public and political agendas. In the 12 months to September 2018, knife crime had **increased by 68.4%** across England and Wales (compared with 12 months up to September 2014) and this has included fatal teenage stabbings.

Children and young people need everyone in society to work together and to put children first to protect them from county lines, gangs, knives, drugs and adults who pose a risk to them.



### What do school leaders think?



These children have:

- Experienced poverty
- Abuse or neglect
- Living within troubled families

Young people may have experienced social exclusions due to factors such as race, social or financial background. School leaders said that all pupils who have been permanently excluded because of a knife related incident had at least one of these characteristics.

### What did OFSTED say?



Last month, OFSTED published a report on how schools, colleges and pupil referral units (PRUs) in London protect children from knife violence in school and how to teach pupils stay safe outside of school

Rather than focusing on criminality, this report stresses that the common factor of pupils who are found carrying knives into school is their vulnerability. You can see the full report [here](#).

Click on the image below to hear some real stories about young people becoming knife free



For advice on speaking to a young person about knife crime click [here](#)

If you feel that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm please call the police on 999 who can provide an immediate response.

If you don't believe the risk requires immediate action, contact the Waltham Forest Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team to discuss your concerns:

Tel: 020 8496 2310 (Monday to Thursday 9am-5.15pm, Friday 9am-5pm), 020 8496 3000 (out of hours)



**Please share this email** with your colleagues, staff and networks and discuss in your team and management meetings.

If you want to join the email address for spotlights and other information please send your email to [Strategicpartnerships@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Strategicpartnerships@walthamforest.gov.uk)

**How much do you know about working in a Think Family Way?**

Click [here](#) to complete our short survey– *less than 3 minutes*



**SAFE AND WELL MONTH**



It's that time of year again! June is our safe and well month, we will be hosting a number of events where you can learn about a variety of topics to do with safeguarding, wellbeing and safety. Throughout May and June we will be sending out a weekly spotlight, and updated calendar of events (... as there's more to come!)

To view our calendar of free events and book your place click [here](#)