



19th November 2019

Safer Crawley Project

Approximately 1,300 year 9 students from schools across Crawley have been invited to attend The Hawth theatre on the 19th November for a project aimed at making Crawley safer for young people, and making them more aware of the potential risks of carrying knives and “County Lines”.

The event has been devised and arranged by all 7 secondary schools in Crawley, and will be delivered by St Giles Trust, a charity who have experience in helping young people who are at risk of becoming involved in gangs and violence. They will be joined by several other organisations with the sole aim of educating young people through presentations and workshops.

County Lines

'County Lines' is a recent term used by police and partner agencies to refer to drug networks that originate from large urban areas such as London to more rural communities such as Crawley.

Gangs and organised crime groups will often use young, vulnerable people to carry out illegal activity such as drug dealing.

Operation Fortress is an initiative which aims to tackle drug related violence.



Signs to look for if you are worried about a young person;

Persistently going missing.

Unexplained gifts, money, clothing etc.

Excessive text messages or phone calls.

Relationships with older people or gang association.

What can you do?

Ask questions about the behaviour and explain the risks involved in this activity.

<https://www.fearless.org/en> can be used to anonymously report concerns about drug dealing

Knife Crime

Operation Sceptre is a police led initiative, which aims to keep the streets safe from knife crime.

Some young people carry a knife because they are worried about becoming the victim of a crime.



Signs to look for if you are worried about a young person;

Secretive about their belongings.

Changes in behaviour.

Vague about what they are doing outside of school.

What can you do?

Ask their views on knife crime.

Support them and explain the risks involved.

Speak to them about the dangers, the facts, the law and the consequences.

Visit <http://knifecrimes.org/> for helpful information about knife crime.

Helpful resources for parents & carers

<https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/parents-carers-2/> for advice and support with a range of safeguarding challenges facing young people.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> for support and confidential reporting of concerns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DK5S-M549A&safe=true> a video from St Giles Trust about a project set up to tackle knife crime and exploitation among young people.

