

Site

Bradford YJS

Name of project / initiative

Weapon Awareness Violence Reduction programme

Overview

Bradford YJS found that a significant proportion of serious violent incidents in the area involved weapons and took place in school settings. Many of the pupils involved were subject to permanent exclusion, with knock-on implications for their education and long term prospects, as well as placing them at significantly increased risk of exploitation and further criminalisation. In response, the YJS offered to deliver "Behind the Blade", a 1-2-1 knife crime awareness intervention programme, delivered over 3-6 weeks, to local pupils found to be carrying knives at school, or considered at risk of doing so – with participants also offered a certificated first aid training on completion, on how to support a stabbing victim. In response to requests from schools, the YJS also started delivering assembly-based knife awareness sessions, in partnership with local police and health services. Both the 1-2-1 programme, and the school assembly sessions, have proved popular across the city.

Longevity

Since Sept 2021.

Benefits

The Weapons Awareness Violence Reduction programme has been well received by schools across Bradford, who feel that it has contributed to a reduction in knife related incidents. The initiative has also led to a significant reduction in knife related school exclusions, with schools more prepared to keep young people at school if they take part in the 1-2-1 programme.

Uniqueness

While there are other knife crime initiatives around the country, we believe that our programme is an example of good practice, including in having been developed in response to real-life data and the pattern of need within our community.

Applicability

We believe this could be rolled out in any area in which school-based knife carrying and violent incidents are a significant problem.

Requirements

Senior leader buy-in; good relationships with local schools, police and healthcare .

For more information:

Contact: Sarah Griffin, Service Manager, Bradford YJS, sarah.griffin@bradford.gov.uk
See also: <https://bit.ly/behind-the-blade> [Behind the Blade]

Submitted by:

Sarah Griffin (contact details above)