



# **Strategic approach to knife crime with schools 2018-19**

**Jill Summers: Head of Safer and Stronger  
Communities (job share), Liverpool City Council  
and Part time secondee to Merseyside Violence  
Reduction Unit**

# Liverpool's journey....

- Liverpool context
- What we did
- Reflections on the journey and lessons learned
- Evolving work as part of the new Merseyside VRU

**Citysafe  
2018-19**

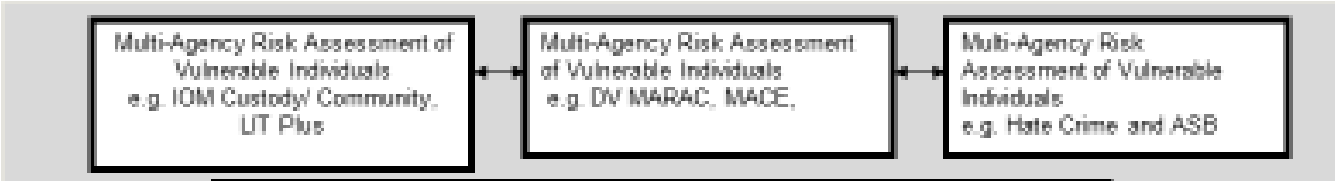
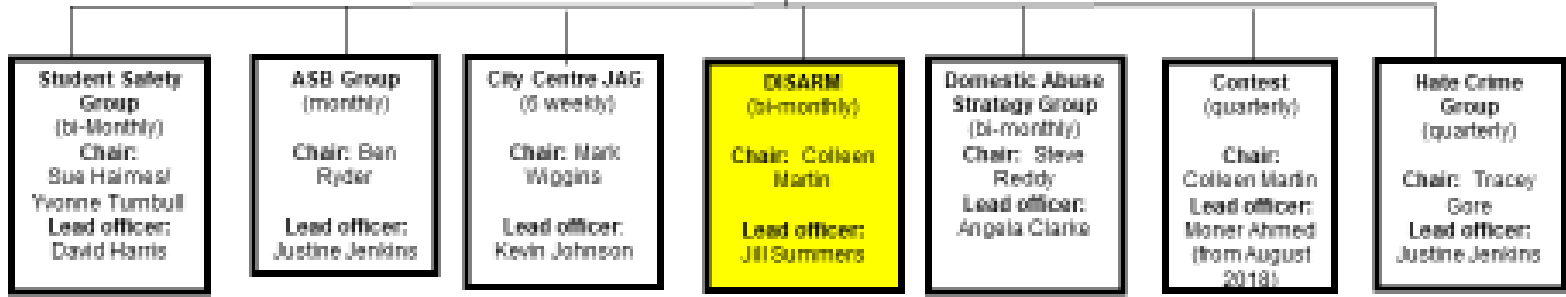
**Merseyside Community Safety Partnership**  
(Six meetings per annum)  
Chair: PCC Jane Kennedy

Health & Wellbeing Board  
Criminal Justice Board  
Safeguarding Boards  
YOS Board

Neighbourhood Select Committee

**Inclusive Cities Taskforce**  
Chair: Frank Hont  
Lead officer: Jill Summers

**Citysafe Board (Quarterly)**  
Chair: Councillor Liz Parsons (Cabinet Member, Communities and Partnerships)  
Lead Officer: Jenny Ewels

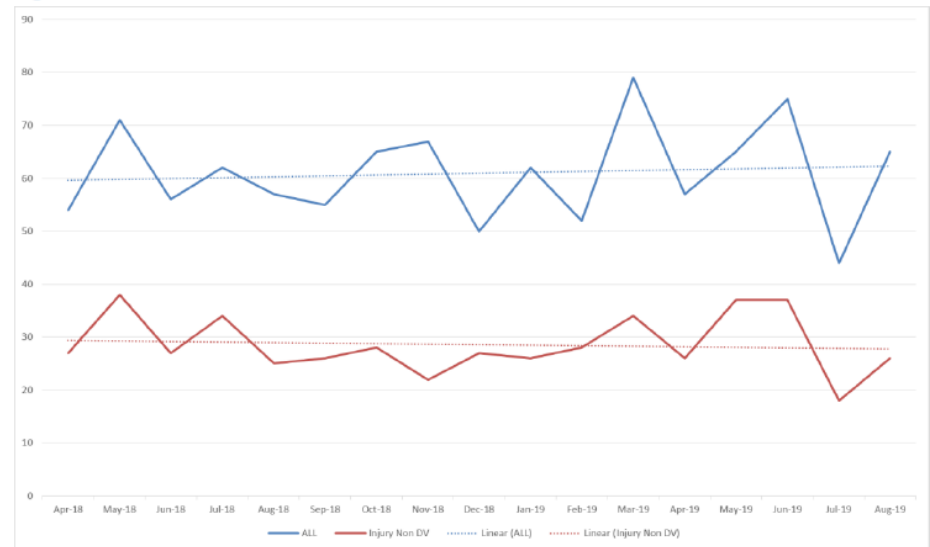


**Local priority areas**

# Current data- August 2019

- Overall trends- **2% ↑**
- YTD 306 knife crimes in Liverpool
- Injury non-DV – **5% ↓**
- 1 fatal stabbing- 33 year old male- 4 men arrested

Figure 1: Knife Crime Trends



Source: Merseyside Police Delphi, August 2019

## Some of the fatal victims of knife crime in Liverpool- 17/18



**Sam Cook- 20**

**Daniel Jamieson- 16**

**Brandon Regan- 17**

3 other fatal stabbings in  
neighbouring boroughs

#nomoreknives grass roots  
campaigns



# Response to increase in knife crime

Workshop held – December  
2017

Enforcement  
Criminal justice programmes  
Education and awareness  
Medics/ health  
Campaigns

Knife crime sub-group  
Strategic approach with  
schools

# 4 Pillars of Strategic Approach



Communication



Improved use of Police schools  
officers



Awareness raising, campaigns &  
targeted programmes



Use co-ordination to maximise  
resources and share information

# Objective- Delivering knife crime awareness sessions in **every** Liverpool secondary school- 2018-19

## Planning

- Support of Heads- in person meetings and safeguarding briefings
- Identify credible person to deliver
- Discuss different formats of delivery e.g. with/ without knife arches
- Involve schools and Ops officers

## Communications

- FAQs for schools
- Letter of support from Mayor/ Director Children's Services

## Admin support

- Crucial to co-ordinate and have a SPOC

## Delivery

- Aimed for 2 sessions per week- demand often exceeded supply
- Soft launch initially
- Simple feedback form to collect data from teachers

## Media and Comm's

- Schools tweeting about sessions
- Broadcast media coverage in November
- Powerful personal testimonies and feedback received

## REsources

- Staff time- police /teachers/ LCC
- Knife arches
- £10k on session delivery (LCC TSYP)



## FAQs

**Q: Why is my child being told about knife crime in Liverpool?**

**A:** All secondary school children in Liverpool schools routinely have assemblies discussing a wide range of social issues. We also want pupils to understand the risks and consequences of carrying blade and the long lasting and far reaching repercussions of knife crimes.

**Q: Why is it necessary to talk to my child about knife crime?**

**A:** It's important that we make our young people aware of the many dangers that come with carrying a knife. It is illegal and highly dangerous; most people who carry knives are physically harmed by their own blade. People can be killed by a single stab wound, we want everybody to fully understand the consequence.

**Q: Does Liverpool have a problem with knife crime?**

**A:** Statistically, Liverpool doesn't have a specific issue around knife crime; in fact rates are lower than many of the other major UK cities. There have however been several high profile deaths by stabbings, in the past several months. This has promoted the idea that 'all young people carry knives to feel safe' this is not the case.

## Letter from Mayor/ Director of Children's Services



Liverpool  
City Council

September 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer

### Knife Crime Prevention

We are writing to update you and ask for your support in tackling the issues young people face around knife crime. This follows a presentation by our Head of Safer and Stronger communities made at the recent [Headteacher](#) briefings and discussion of the issues at the various Heads' fora.

You may be aware that knife crime has risen significantly across the country. Locally, in common with other big cities and towns, we have also had an increase including some high profile murders; among them 3 young men - Sam Cook, Brandon Regan and Daniel Jamieson.

# How did schools respond?

YouTube<sup>GB</sup> Search



Calderstones School  
Calderstones School Council Anti-Knife Crime Campaign

Calderstones School

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "KNIFINGS PEAK ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL". The video player shows a person in a dark jacket walking away from the camera. The video player controls show a play button, a progress bar at 0:20 / 4:25, and settings, full screen, and share icons. Below the video player, the channel name "Calderstones School" and the video title "Calderstones School Council Anti-Knife Crime Campaign" are displayed. At the bottom left, there is a small logo for Calderstones School.



Date: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

Dear Alan,

We would like to thank you for attending our provision today to deliver your knife crime presentation to our students. We work with some of the most difficult young people in the city but from the start it was clear to see that they were engaged and intrigued to see you deliver your presentation and to listen to what you had to say.

This was very refreshing for me to see because like many places you may go, our learners all know someone who has been affected by knife crime; whether that be someone who carries a knife, someone who has used a knife or someone who has had a knife used on them.

Your delivery of the presentation was fantastic, the language you used was relevant and current with our learners and they all related well to everything you said.



# Outcomes and lessons learned

26 schools/ colleges hosted sessions- over 9000 young people better informed

Cited as best practice in LGA paper on Education initiatives

Spend more time on data collection/ evaluation

Improved multi-agency working practices and relationships

Using model to inform current and future campaigns

Clarify resources available for delivery

Reports disseminated to key strategic groups

Respond promptly to feedback on session delivery

# What's next?

- Merseyside communications campaign informed by insight and research with young people- 'Our Merseyside' #bladefree
- Education lead in the VRU- streamlining programmes available to schools- looking at something similar to MVP (Scotland VRU)

# Summary

[Jillian.summers@Liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Jillian.summers@Liverpool.gov.uk)

- **Strategic buy in- absolutely key**
- **Communications support for schools**
- **Don't forget the admin!**
- **Review to inform the next cycle**

