

LYC and Knife Crime: Stop Blaming, Start Listening.





Last year 27,460 young people in Lancashire voted in the Make Your Mark Youth Parliament ballot.

LYC want to think about knife crime & young people differently





The Centre for Children and Young People's Participation

- Research and social action with young people
- Research, teaching and networking concerned with young people's participation, inclusion and empowerment
- Focus on changes that young people seek by building links between young people, academics, policy makers and practitioners.



- Change perspectives about young people for good
- Raise awareness about what is really happening in Lancashire
- Challenge media representations that say knife crime is a problem of youth
- Understand why young people carry knives or get involved
- Change young people's attitudes

What is knife crime?

- Carrying an offensive weapon or something with a blade or sharply pointed in public or at school
- Using these to threaten or hurt someone
- Under 18s buying knives / selling to under 18s

Not a problem in Lancashire?

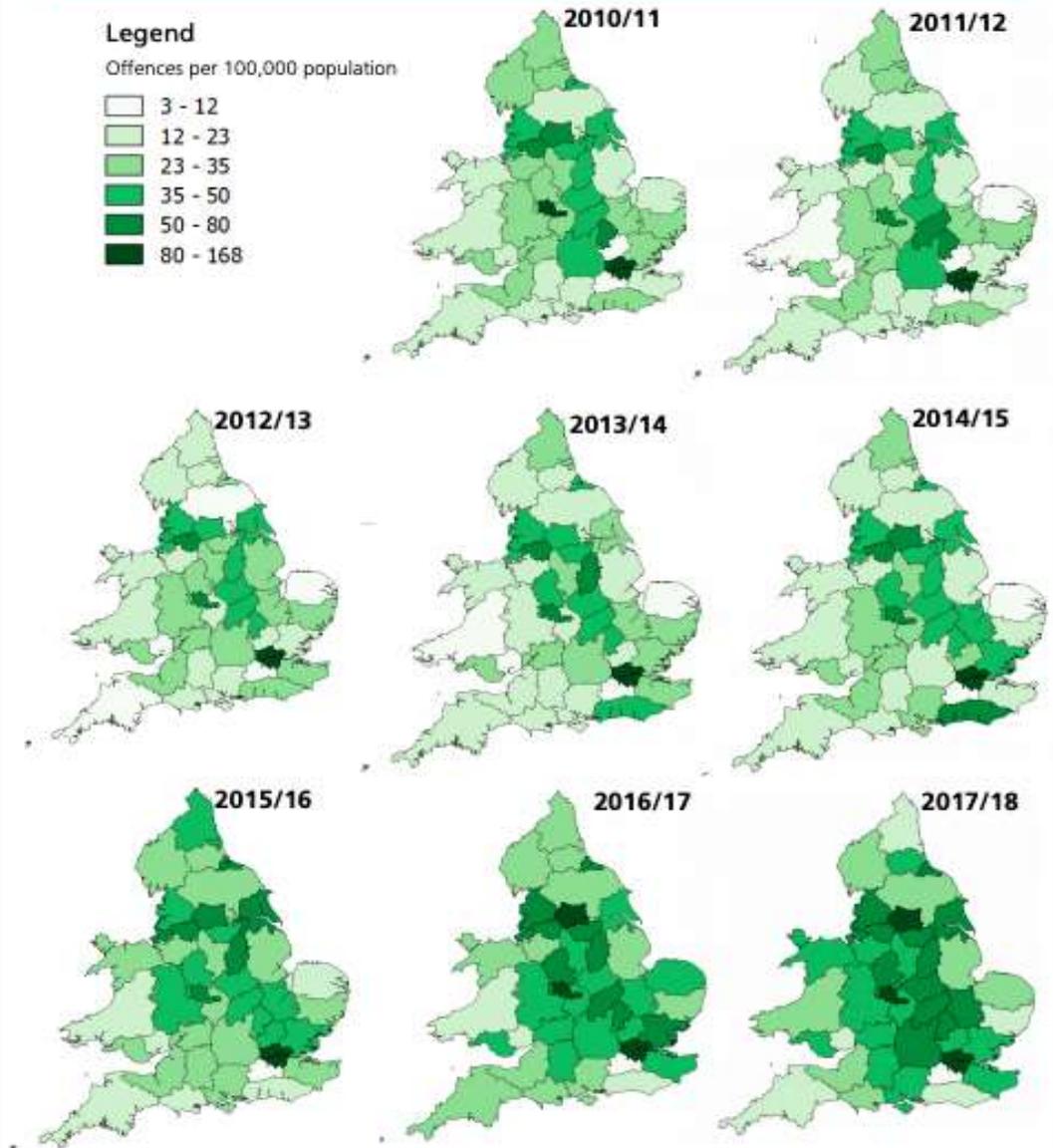
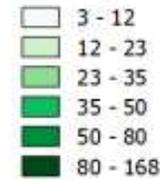
Trusted2Know.co.uk, Lancashire Constabulary (2015), suggests that 'we do not have a massive knife crime problem in Lancashire and are experiencing the lowest crime rate in the county in over thirty years'.

A5: KNIFE AND SHARP INSTRUMENT OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE

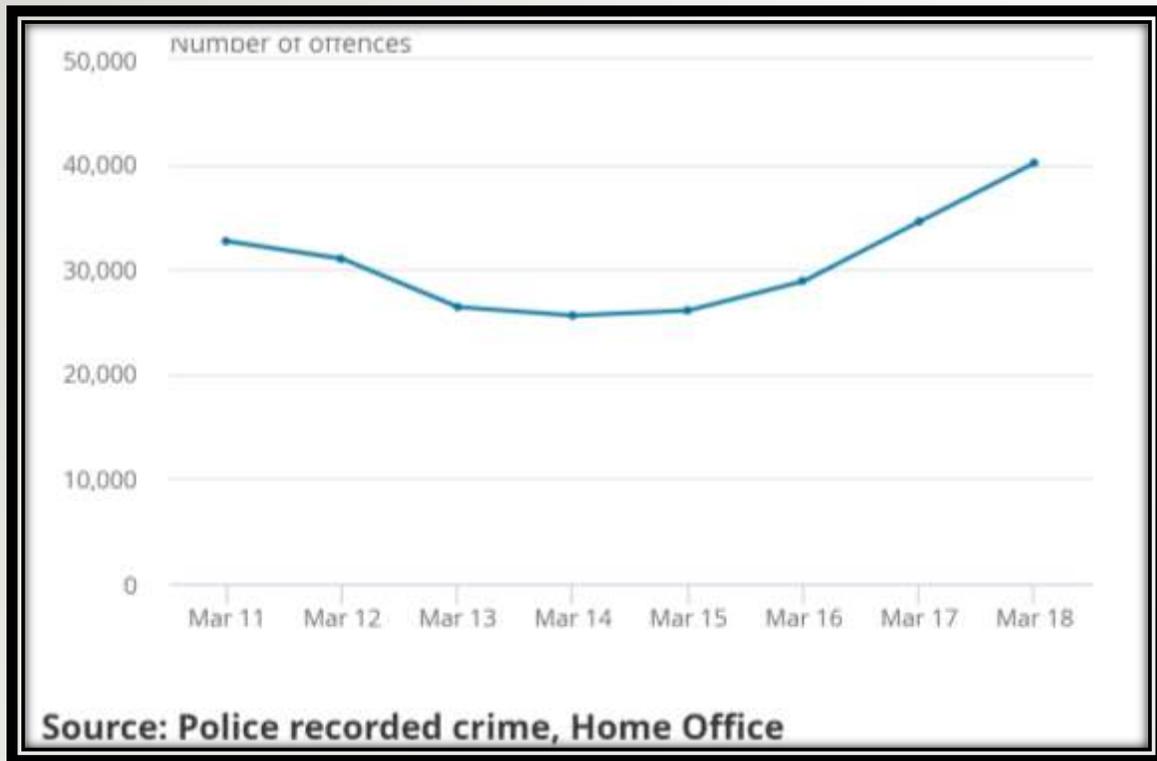
Selected offences 2010/11 - 2017/18 England and Wales

Legend

Offences per 100,000 population



A “virulent disease”?



Ashton argues that a trend of harsher sentences has not succeeded in quelling the problem, and that we ‘are now at a stage which requires stronger community organisation and participation linked to whole-systems action’ (Ashton, 2019:165).

A problem of youth?

A knife to the heart of Britain: Shocking scale of youth knife crime is revealed as children with stab wounds DOUBLE in five years and knifepoint robberies rise 50%, after two more teenagers are killed
Camber, Daily Mail, 4/3/19

The teenagers who are getting away with knife crime: Seven blade-carrying yobs as young as 13 walk free from courts in just one week
Camber, Daily Mail, 10/3/19

Youth knife culture killed my son
O'Neill, Times, 16/3/07

Sean O'Neill
The mother of a schoolboy slain by teenagers in state his designer baseball cap called yesterday for lighter sentences to tackle the knife culture among young people.

from a knife and nothing is being done about it," Mrs Rodney said. "Tomorrow, next week, next year, somebody else could be in my shoes, because it is out of control."
Mrs Rodney, 38, from Fulham, southwest London,

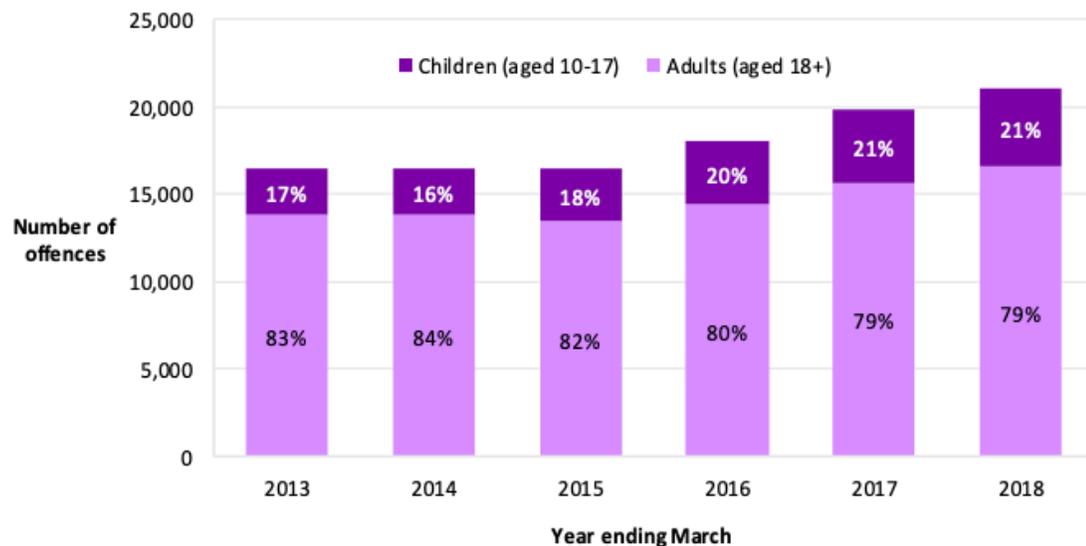
the court, was acquitted of murder and manslaughter and cleared of aiding.
Scotland Yard said last night that officers were still searching for a third youth who is alleged to have struck the single knife blow that killed

about the killing, a youth was charged with Keran's murder, but the case against him was dropped in November last year because there was insufficient evidence to prosecute successfully. He is believed to have been the teenage wearing a

snatched his black New Era cap from his head.
When Keran tried to grab the hat, the youth stabbed him. Witnesses said the killer's hand moved extremely fast, as if he were throwing a punch, and Keran was thrown backwards.

A problem of youth?

Figure 11.5: Number and proportion of knife or offensive weapon offences resulting in a caution or conviction, by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018¹⁵⁹

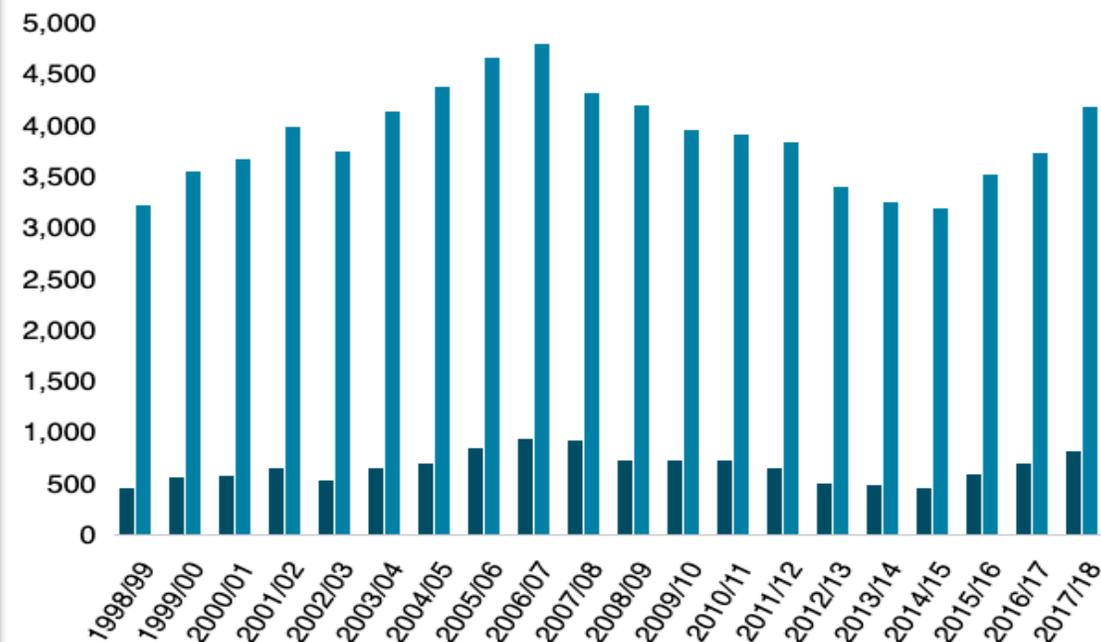


Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.12

Hospital admissions for knife assaults

Number of admissions for assault by a sharp object, England

■ Aged 18 and under ■ Aged 19 and over



Source: NHS Digital, year ending March

BBC

No one set of statistics that provides a clear picture of what is happening

No separately recorded crimes involving knives until 2007/08.

Making the victim count report (HMICFRS, 2014), -violent offences substantially under-recorded (by 33% nationally) - police forces review and improve their recording processes.

- an increase in the number of crimes recorded by the police does not necessarily mean the level of crime has increased
- for many types of crime, police recorded crime statistics do not provide a reliable measure of levels or trends in crime
- they only cover crimes that come to the attention of the police and can be affected by changes in policing activity and recording practice and by willingness of victims to report

LYC have questions.....

- Why are young people being blamed when most of the recorded crime is by adults?
- As a proportion of the population young people's involvement may be high... BUT ...are more young people being prosecuted because of their relative lack of freedom including being in and around school?

*'assaults resulting in penetrating injuries occur in distinct age-related patterns'
... 'the period immediately after school accounts for a large proportion of incidents in children, and these predominantly occur close to home and school'*

(Vulliamy et al., 2018:1-6)

The Participatory Process

Young people identify the issues

Academics from Social Work, Education, and Film/Media work with YP to YP to refine research questions and identify potential research methods

LYC investigate current literature and work with academics to test potential methods. Proposal designed and ethics application submitted

Questionnaire. LYC to approach their local schools and ask for permission to make the online questionnaire available in school time. LYC work with film/media academics to design and conduct audio-visual tool. Documentary film of process.

LYC share their findings, the audio visual collection and film in schools and at youth events. Invite police and local councilors to engage in discussion of the findings and to discuss how they can give a more balanced indication of what is happening in Lancashire.

Identifying the issues

- UCLan academics visited LYC meeting at County Hall, Preston:
- What do young people know?
- What are their concerns?
- Discussion with Lancashire Constabulary Armed Response representative

Identifying a need and designing research

Knife Crime

| | |
|--|---|
| How do we know about knife crime? | Where does this knowledge come from? |
| What is evidence and what is not? | How can we find evidence about knife crime? |
| Why does it matter what young people know and think about knife crime? | How can we find out what young people think and know about knife crime? |
| What skills will we need to do this? | Who can help us learn these skills? |
| Who do we want to participate in this research? | How will we recruit them? |

LYC - Knife Crime is related to...

- Problems with intergenerational understanding
- Problems with lack of community
- Young people lack spaces to talk
- Location
- Schools - part of the **PROBLEM** and the **SOLUTION**

‘ample evidence that community-based interventions to reduce environmental contributors to violence and minimise inequality can reduce the incidence of offending, violent injury and incarceration among young people’ (Vulliamy et 2018:5).

Rising incidence of school searches



Workshop 1

- An evening workshop in UCLan (with food)
- What questions need answering?
- How do we obtain responses that can inform research?
- How do we do this ethically?
- What does it feel like to be videoed?
- Reasons for doing a questionnaire or focus group or other method.



Workshop 2

- A whole day workshop in UCLan (more food)
- Refining research questions
- Exploring methods – questionnaire, literature review, interviews, etc.
- Using creative methods – Video booth/ diary room, Animated avatar, Archival searches (news and video)



Digital Questionnaire in schools

- Understanding what is happening in Lancashire
- Experiences around school
- Involve as many young people as possible
- LYC to approach local schools



Storytelling through audio visual techniques

- Anonymous Web based/interactive set of audio stories with avatars or animated characters
- Young people's perspectives
- Perspectives of those affected by knife crime including families, perpetrators and response services



Documenting the participatory process through film

- Young people's experience of taking part is important
- What does this tell us about participation?
- How will we work together on future projects?



Why this process works

- Young people are experts in their lives
- Adults have specialist resources
- Participation is envisaged as an interactive and responsive process
- When we work together, we work for change



The last word from LYC...

“We don’t want to feel threatened”

“Younger kids should not get into knives”

“Don’t give young people a bad name”

And to those already involved in knife crime....

“Stop what you are doing. We want to feel safe walking down the road.”