

# Month of Action against Violence: January 2023

**Ash Smith**  
Chief Inspector  
Thames Valley Police

**PS Ricci Dolan**  
Inspector Karen Bunce  
Thames Valley Police



# Knife Angel

- To mark the month of action, Slough will host the national monument against violence and aggression.
- Also known as the 'Knife Angel', the monument is a 27ft sculpture, made from approximately 100,000 bladed weapons collected in knife amnesty bins during police operations across the country. It will be situated at Arbour Park, Slough.
- Created by the British Ironwork Centre, the monument travels to locations around the UK to educate children, young people and adults about the harmful effects that violent behaviour has on communities.



# What is the month of action?

- Brings the community together to take a stand against violence in all forms in January.
- Planned events will take place throughout including anti-violence ambassadors, football competition, education of young people along with parents, teachers, and the public. Various engagement events.
- The aim is for activity to take place across Slough, and include as many partners, statutory and voluntary, across all our communities.
- The Knife Angel will leave a legacy for Slough.

# Why now?

- **Whilst serious violence in Slough has reduced over the last three years, we know that violence, particularly knife crime in recent months has become a particular concern for our community.**
- **There is a clear desire in our town to work together to stamp out violence and a multi-agency and community response is required.**
- **There is never a right or wrong time to talk about violence and aggression however, the New Year can act as a catalyst for encouraging conversation about violence and aggression, and the monument and this month of activity will provide a good focal point and conversation starter for all.**

# Safety Centre Charity



**We are the World's First and Regions Leading Safety Education Charity, delivering immersive and engaging education programmes directly into schools and community spaces.**

**As a key partner for this project we are pleased to offer the following education provision:**

- 30 Early Knife Crime Intervention Sessions for groups of up to 30 children.**
- Tailored sessions for Year 6 and Year 7 students delivered by our Education Team.**
- The inputs will be delivered directly to the schools in person or online at the school. Young people will be educated on the Knife Angel, and encouraged to attend in the evening or on weekends to view the Knife Angel in person.**

# Success

**As experts in early intervention and prevention education programmes, we have successfully delivered Early Knife Crime Intervention Sessions to Year 6 & Year 7 Primary and Senior school children, and the outcomes of which include:**

- 99% understood the risk of carrying a knife for themselves and other people.**
- 99% understood that they could get a prison sentence for carrying a knife.**
- 98% agreed that the session made them more aware of the consequences of knife crime.**
- 94% identified they could call the local police or Childline for advice before a situation became dangerous.**
- 90% understood you don't have to carry a knife to be involved in knife crime.**

# Activities planned....

- An opening ceremony.
- A candlelit procession.
- A public book of reflection.
- Engagement events to reach as many people in Slough as possible.
- A closing ceremony.

# Thank You

Any questions / comments?

[Ashley.smith@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:Ashley.smith@thamesvalley.police.uk)

[Ricci.dolan@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:Ricci.dolan@thamesvalley.police.uk)

[Karen.bunce@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:Karen.bunce@thamesvalley.police.uk)