

To: Heads, Designated Safeguarding Leads, PSHE

Cc'd Local authority education & community safety leads

Date: Monday 10 June 2024



Dear colleagues,

“Stay True To You” positive safety/knife crime: Training for education professionals and free online information sessions for all parents/carers/family members

I write to encourage all schools to take advantage of a new safety initiative developed by the Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership, offering free online training.

“Stay True To You” is a new safety campaign and resources which seeks to promote positive choices by young people, helping give them the confidence to keep themselves and their friends safe.

It has been developed in response to research conducted with young people and youth workers across the Thames Valley and it offers a positive and vibrant resource for all working to support young people, but particularly for schools. We want to support your staff in engaging with and adopting the resources.

You can find a new dedicated website: StayTrueToYou.co.uk which contains the research insights, new resources for teachers including “Conversation Starter” flashcards and a lesson/workshop guide.

We have commissioned national knife crime charity The Ben Kinsella Trust to offer exclusive online training webinars for education professionals.

We ask that you consider within your school which of your staff could benefit from the training and who could work as champions within your school. DSLs, PSHE, those in pastoral roles or working with more vulnerable young people would all be advised to participate.

Each session is delivered by one The Ben Kinsella Trust’s experienced trainers and explores the findings of our recent research with young people on their perception of safety and violence, how we can support them, signs/symptoms of exploitation/gangs and what influences behaviours.

Each session aims to raise understanding and build confidence in helping have positive, supporting conversations with young people both on a one-to-one and class basis and will cover the “Stay True to You” resources and techniques.

We offer four dates before the end of the summer term (**click the links to register in advance**).

- [5pm – 6.30pm Wednesday 12 June](#)
- [5pm – 6.30pm Tuesday 18 June](#)
- [5pm – 6.30pm Monday 24 June](#)
- [5pm – 6.30pm Monday 8 July](#)

If you cannot make any of these but would like to attend the training get in touch and we can start a wait-list and see if there is enough demand to offer another date before term ends.

If after you’ve completed the training you would like some support at your school, perhaps an input to a staff meeting or the Violence Prevention Partnership team can come to your school to train or assist in delivering a class exercise which your team could observe to help build confidence. Just contact me on tim.wiseman@thamesvalley.police.uk to discuss.

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Online information sessions for parents/carers:

We are also offering a series of online information sessions for parents/carers and extended family members to help them build their understanding of the issues that can drive violence, how to protect from exploitation and how to create safe and positive relationships with their children and their friends. This will be particularly important to offer before the summer holiday break.

These are also delivered by The Ben Kinsella Trust who have been delivering similar sessions to parents since 2008. Feedback to these sessions is always very positive, with the sessions delivered online and allow for conversations and discussions between those who participate, in a safe confidential space.

- [1pm – 3pm Thursday 20 June](#)
- [10am – 12pm Friday 28 June](#)
- [6.30pm – 8.30pm Thursday 4 July](#)

We ask all schools to assist us in promoting these parent information sessions, sharing the letter that is attached to parents, promoting the dates via newsletters or your own channels.

Printed materials and school visits:

We can provide printed sets of posters and packs of the “Conversation Starter” flashcards, together with copies of the workshop guide if you would find these helpful.

We are finalising some display materials for events/visits so if you have any ideas or opportunities through which we can reach your students and their parents do please get in touch to discuss.

I hope your school will fully engage with the opportunity and help us to build safer communities for all. If you would like to discuss do please get in touch.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wiseman'.

Tim Wiseman

Head of Communications & Engagement

Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership

Tim.wiseman@thamesvalley.police.uk

Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership

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