

Nottinghamshire

**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

# Nottinghamshire's **Knife Crime Strategy**

## 2018



## COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD

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The appalling impact of knife violence on our communities is becoming all too apparent across the country and unfortunately Nottinghamshire is no exception. The publication of a specific strategy to tackle knife crime is not a cause for celebration but it I hope it offers some reassurance of our determination and commitment to confront the problem and unravel the misguided ideas and behaviours which fuel it.

The government's recently published Serious Violence Strategy puts Police and Crime Commissioners in the driving seat of managing risk and prevention. It also stresses the importance of partnership working and makes clear the fact that policing by itself will not solve knife violence in the long-term.

Everyone has a role to play from our schools and youth groups through to our health professionals and criminal justice services. Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of parents, families, individuals and communities to reject lifestyle choices and beliefs which leave young people at the mercy of weapons and street violence.

This strategy has four key strands: understanding and managing people at risk, protecting places, promoting clear messages and working with communities and the third sector.

I share the Home Secretary's view that robust policing must be part of the overall response. In view of this, I've appointed a dedicated senior lead for knife crime for Nottinghamshire Police while the Force has established a specialist Knife Crime Team. Additionally, I've funded the recruitment of dedicated knife crime officers who will be assigned to schools to build stronger relationships with young people at risk of knife crime as either perpetrators or victims and begin to breakdown attitudes that permeate anger and violence.

With clear leadership, coordination of effort and the support of our communities, I am confident that together we can make a positive impact towards tackling knife crime.



**Paddy Tipping**

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime  
Commissioner

## SPONSORS' FOREWORD

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As leaders of statutory agencies, our responsibility to respond together against the criminal use of knives in our city and county is clear. We know that communities defeat crime but we also know that we have a fundamental role in supporting them and importantly hearing their voices.

We are therefore pleased that this strategy recognises the importance of communities and our partners in the third sector and we remain committed to engaging with them as we lead our own services in delivering a credible response to the threat of violence.

As public sector leaders we have no higher duty than to protect the people we serve, especially our young people. The delivery of this strategy will require new thinking, new partnerships, system change and resources, which we are committed to making available.

We will also ensure that our organisations work closely together not only to respond to the immediate threat of knife crime but also build resilient communities and neighbourhoods in which our citizens can continue to thrive.



**Ian Curryer**  
Chief Executive,  
Nottingham City Council



**Craig Guildford**  
Chief Constable,  
Nottinghamshire Police



**Anthony May**  
Chair,  
Safer Nottinghamshire Board

## SUMMARY

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Knife crime includes offences that are facilitated by the use of a pointed or bladed article. The criminal use of knives can generally be categorised as abusive, instrumental, incidental and dissociated. This strategy concerns itself with the instrumental and incidental.

Knife crime in Nottinghamshire shows an upward trend since 2015, which is broadly comparable to the national picture. Research of national and international best practice methods, analysis of Nottinghamshire's specific issues and a conference wherein experts and practitioners were invited to offer insights have been used to develop this strategy.

Our strategy contains four main strands, which reflect our commitment to multi-faceted partnership work and the public health model that has received so much praise for its positive impact in places like Chicago and Glasgow.

### **Strand 1** **Identification and management of risk**

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1. We aim to promote early identification of those at risk of committing or becoming a victim of knife crime.
2. A cohort of high-risk nominal offenders will be developed from partnership risk assessments and managed.

3. Tailored diversion and support will be offered to those identified as at risk.
4. We will use zero-tolerance enforcement against those who carry and use knives in the commission of crimes.
5. A tiered approach to intervention will be used, with universal, specific and bespoke provision being offered.

### **Strand 2** **Developing resilient spaces**

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1. We will target harden our public spaces to make it more difficult for offenders to get away with carrying and using knives.
2. We will utilise our partnership licensing and regulation function to improve the safety of our night time economy.

### **Strand 3** **Communication and behaviour change**

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1. Coordinated communications will be developed and delivered throughout the partnership.
2. Behavioural change principles will be explored to encourage at risk people to pursue alternative options.

### **Strand 4** **Communities and the third sector**

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We will engage our communities and ensure our third sector offers a coordinated and evidence-based set of provisions.



The use of knives in the commission of crime can have disastrous consequences. Knife facilitated offences have the potential for high harm and high impact, leading to casualties and fatalities. Such incidents are life changing to individuals, families and their communities.

Nottinghamshire's Community Safety Partnerships are committed to driving down the possession and criminal use of knives to cause harm on our streets and in our homes.

While we work tirelessly to bring an end to these violent crimes, we also rely on our citizens and communities to be vigilant and intolerant of knife crime. The aftermath of the violence is a pain we all feel and keeping

Nottinghamshire safe is a responsibility we all share.

Knife crime is a complex, multi-faceted issue with a range of challenging obstacles to overcome. To successfully tackle it will require full engagement from all parties with a part to play.

This strategy concerns itself primarily with tackling knife crime, however the benefits of our comprehensive approach will help to more broadly protect our citizens and promote positive lifestyles.

**Analysis and expert input have been used to underpin our approach**

**Our approach has four strands:**

- Identification and management of risk
  - Developing resilient spaces
- Communications and behaviour change
- Communities and the third sector

**We will ensure our procedures are fit for purpose**

**The process will be governed by a newly created Partnership Strategic Group**

## 2 | DEFINING THE PROBLEM

- 'Knife crime' is used as an umbrella term for various crime types facilitated by bladed and pointed implements.
- There are four primary categories of knife crime offending.
  1. Abusive
  2. Instrumental
  3. Impulsive
  4. Dissociated
- This strategy is focused on reducing instrumental and impulsive knife crime.

Knife crime is an umbrella term for a crime that is facilitated or enabled by the use of a bladed or pointed article. Articles can include hunting, combat and kitchen knives, axes, machetes and screwdrivers.

### 1. Abusive

Knives can be used in the commission of persistent and on-going abuses. Such coercive behaviour may occur in domestic abuse and violence or the exploitation of people for labour.

### 2. Instrumental

Knives can be used to improve the likelihood of success in another offence, such as during the commission of a robbery, or as a tool to enforce exploitation, such as in County Lines networks. They can also be used instrumentally to assert status, settle conflicts or retaliate in group or gang cultures that glorify violence. A knife will be part of the orchestration of a premeditated crime.

All of these items can be used to inflict lasting physical and psychological harm to another person; however the articles themselves are only symptoms of other problems that require tackling.

### 3. Impulsive

Some offences will occur spontaneously, perhaps in response to a slight, being threatened or being attacked, possibly during the course of a fight. The use of the blade is not premeditated but the offence requires that a perpetrator be carrying a knife on their person.

### 4. Dissociated

Some acts are committed by people who are not in full control of themselves. This includes offences committed as a result of serious mental health issues, episodes, or the consumption of psychoactive substances, illegal drugs or alcohol.

### Target Selection

If a bladed article is used in and facilitates the successful commission of a crime (e.g. robbery), the possession and use of a blade for subsequent criminality will be added to the offender's informal template of target selection and offending method.

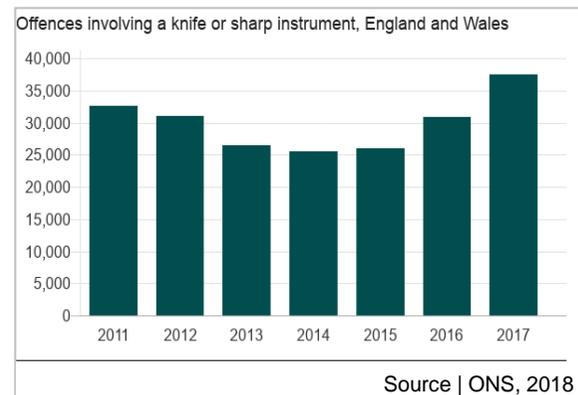
This strategy defines four categories of knife crime offences. Whilst they are all serious and require multi-agency cooperation to solve, *abusive* and *dissociated* knife crime are issues that are managed by parallel structures. The Strategy will therefore focus primarily on addressing *instrumental* and *impulsive* knife crime.

### 3 | CONTEXT

- A nationwide focus surrounding knife crime has affected levels of fear in our citizens.
- News reports about casualties and fatalities as a result of knives and people being caught carrying knives in highly populated places has refreshed our commitment to reducing this problem.
- Nottinghamshire has seen several high profile incidents that have brought knife crime to the fore of the public mind as a high-harm crime type.

Nationally, knife crime has become a visible issue, gaining widespread attention in the media during recent months. Broadcasts featuring casualties and fatalities and reporting the possession and use of knives in the night time economy, public spaces and even schools has resulted in heightened concerns regarding knife crime and the serious harm they can cause.

National statistics show that offences involving a knife or sharp instrument have risen over the last two years, having now reached its highest level since pre-2011.



National leads, including the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, have commented on the need for a refreshed strategic approach to knife crime that adopt a public health approach, citing Glasgow's innovative methods as an example of successful practice.

#### Public health approach

Nationally, there has been a substantial amount of discussion dedicated to the consideration of knife crime as a public health issue. The systematic approach to dealing with such issues is comprised of four primary components:

1. Define and monitor the problem
2. Identify risk and protective factors
3. Develop and test prevention strategies
4. Apply successful strategies broadly

The Home Secretary has affirmed serious violence as a national priority. Locally, the Police and Crime Commissioner has established work streams that have emphasised his commitment to reducing knife crime as one fatality is one too many.

The protection of our citizens from harm is of paramount importance to us and is the responsibility of us all. This strategy symbolises our commitment to refreshing the approach we take to knife crime and its causes, with the aim of breaking the cycle of violence in Nottinghamshire.

## 4 | ANALYSIS

- Nottinghamshire’s knife crime trends are broadly reflective of the national picture.
- Analysis has better informed our understanding of relevant risk factors to monitor before knife crimes are committed.
- Mapping tools have enabled us to find the places where knife crimes are most likely to occur in Nottinghamshire.
- Most knife crime offenders were under the age of 25 (69% County, 63% City).
- In Nottingham City, 50% of offenders were white, 39% black and 6% Asian.
- Input from experts and practitioners have provided an educated basis on which to build this strategy’s approach to tackling knife crime.

Some initial analysis has been performed by Nottinghamshire and Nottingham’s partnerships, which has revealed some key facts about knife crime and its perpetrators.

The analysis facilitates (a) the identification of a cohort of knife crime and carrying perpetrators to target our management and enforcement resources and (b) an improved understanding of the risk factors involved in knife crime offending, allowing us to target our preventative, diversionary and support approaches to those who are most at risk of becoming victims and perpetrators of knife crime in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

ACE is a model developed and widely supported to understand the root causes of violence in individuals and provide appropriate support and intervention. The ACE approach has seen successes internationally in places like Iran, Mexico and Brazil. ACEs can include stressful and traumatic events, abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, bearing witness to domestic violence and being raised with family members who have substance misuse issues.

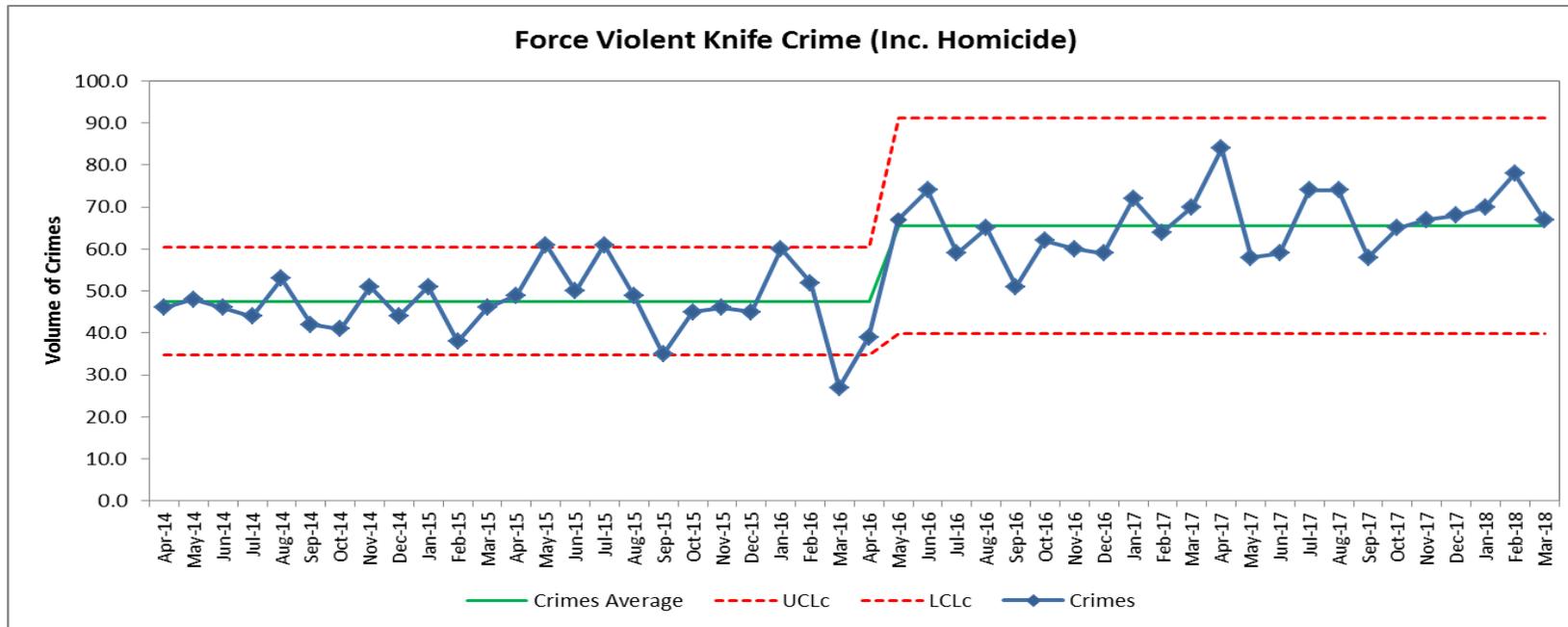
Approaches based on ACEs will vary according to individual experience but broadly advocates the development of trusted relationships with adults, parenting programmes, equipping individuals emotionally with the skills to cope and recover from traumatic experience.

In order to better understand risk factors relevant to the issues involved in knife crime, the case histories of a small sample of juvenile knife crime offenders were analysed, which revealed behaviours exhibited and external factors experienced in the lead up to their knife offending.

Potential Precursor Risk Factors	'A' 16yrs	'B' 17yrs	'C' 17yrs	'D' 16yrs	'E' 15yrs
Links to ASB & Low Level Crime	✓		✓	✓	
Drug Use	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Low Socioeconomic Status / Deprivation	✓			✓	
Volatile / Broken Family / Witness to Dom. Abuse	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lack of Positive Role Models	✓			✓	
Requirement for Social Services Involvement	✓		✓	✓	
School Exclusion / Truancy		✓		✓	
Learning / Mental / Behavioural Challenges	✓	✓			✓

By recognising commonly occurring risk factors in offending histories, we will improve our ability to target preventative messages and support to focus on children and families experiencing similar factors.

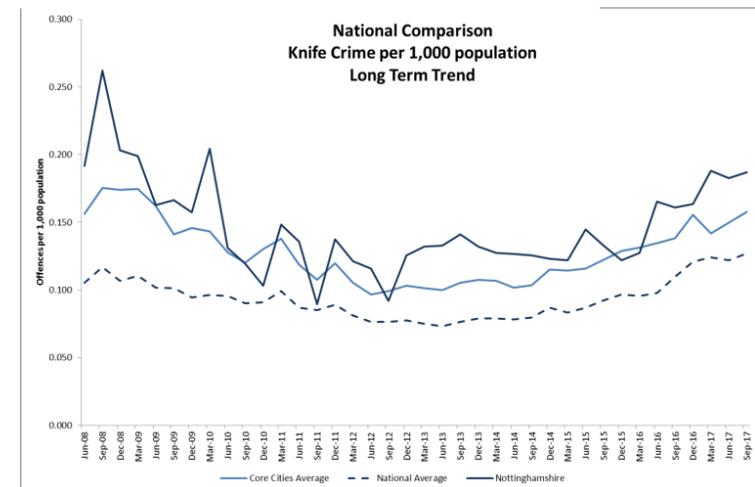
Some detailed analysis of the landscape of knife crime in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham has also been developed by the partnerships.



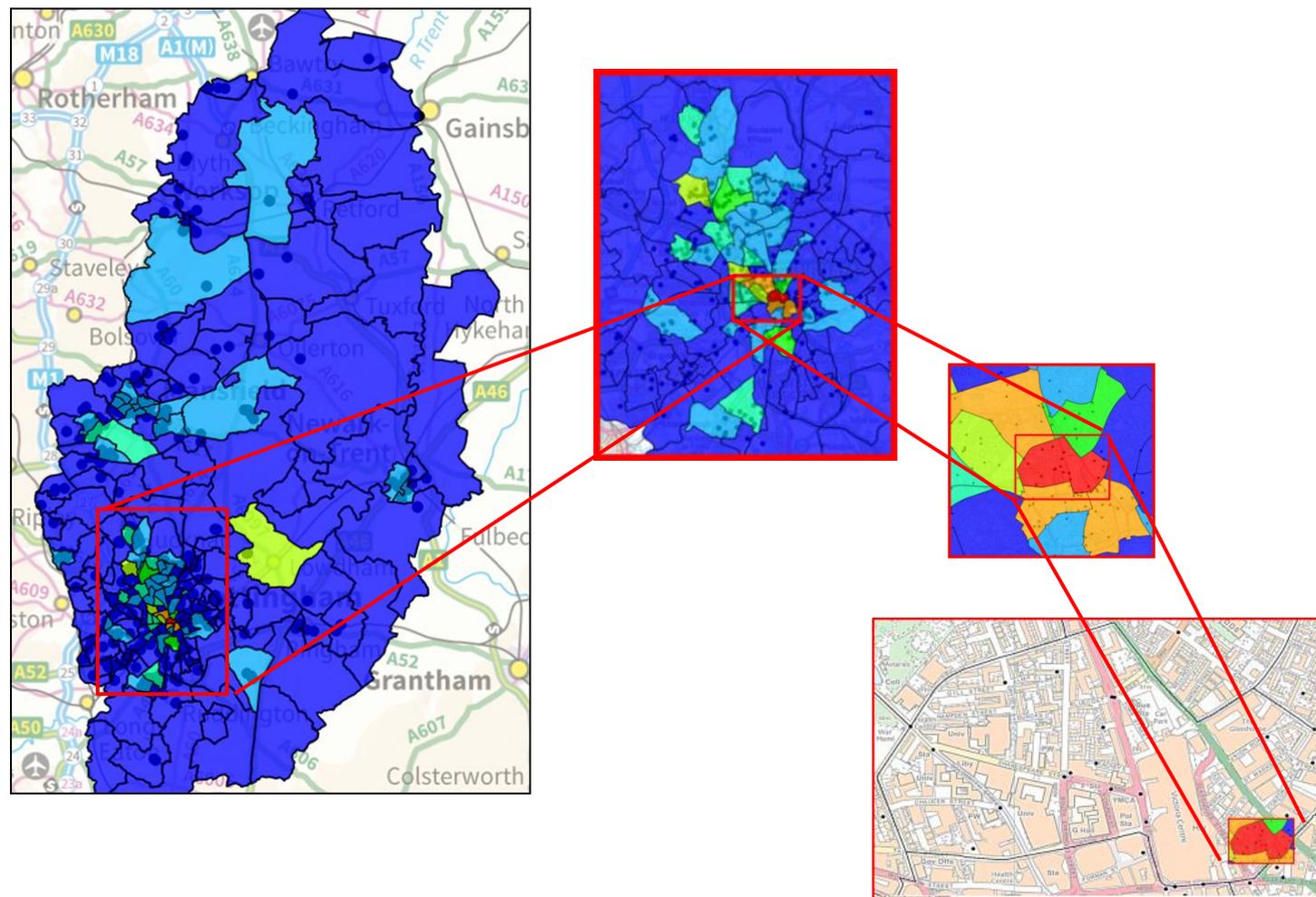
Nottinghamshire has seen an upward trend in violent knife crimes. The latest year has seen an increase in offences of almost 11%, driven chiefly by a 34% increase to robbery and 45% threats to kill.

Knife crime trends seem to mirror those experienced nationally, however Nottinghamshire experiences a higher rate of these offence types than both the national average and the average in the Core Cities.

50% of knife crime offences occur within public spaces, 59% of these being street robberies.



During the period studied, 25% of offenders were found to be 18 years or under and 69% 25 years or under. Choropleth mapping (right) identifies those places where knife crimes have occurred, which identifies the most prevalent hotspot as Nottingham City Centre.



From 2015, Nottingham City – similarly to Nottinghamshire as a whole – has seen an increasing trend in knife crime. The most common crime types facilitated by the use of a knife or blade during this period were:

- (1) Violence with Injury,
- (2) Robbery of Personal Property, and
- (3) Violence without Injury.

Perpetrators of knife crime offences between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 were broken down into demographic categories to help inform the targeted work that will be carried out pursuant to this strategy.

During the period assessed, it was found that 85% were males. It also shows that almost 63% were under 25 years of age.

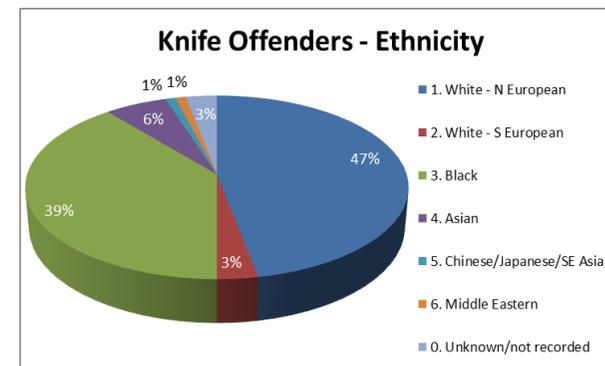
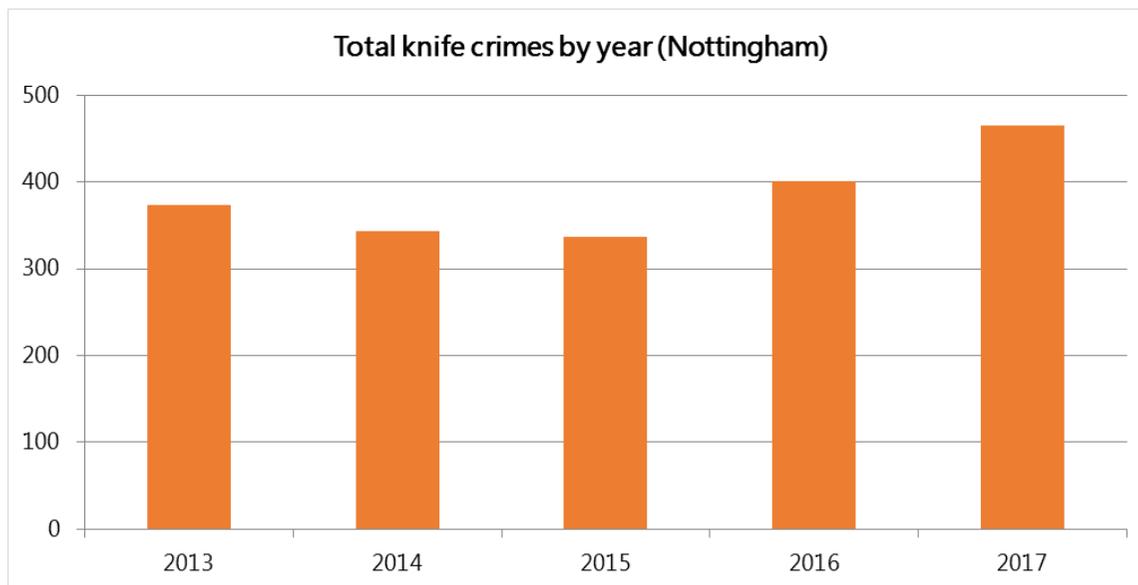
Age	Count	Percentage	Cumulative Freq. %
10-15	30	15.1%	15.1%
16-17	39	19.6%	34.7%
18-24	56	28.1%	62.8%
25-34	36	18.1%	80.9%
35-44	17	8.5%	89.4%
45-54	15	7.5%	97.0%
55+	6	3.0%	100.0%

While a high proportion of knife crime offenders were under 25, almost 35% of them were under the age of 18, and nearly half of

those were under 16. The preventative necessity of engagement with children of school age is clearly shown by these figures.

Such necessity is further compounded by the anecdotal knowledge that young people may not divulge being a victim of knife crime offences, leading to a dark figure with a potentially comparable number of unidentified perpetrators under the age of 18.

The breakdown in figures by ethnicity revealed that, where ethnicity was known and recorded, 50% of offenders were white (47% Northern European). The second most



prevalent ethnicity for offences was black at 39%, with Asian the third most populous ethnicity at 6%. Other ethnic groups had a relatively small impact on offending.

## 5 | LIVES NOT KNIVES CONFERENCE

- On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a conference to discuss knife crime and our approach to it.
- Practitioners and experts in the fields of youth violence and knife crime were invited to participate in the conference.
- Table-top exercises were used to extract valuable knowledge from these experts and provoke key discussion points for progress.
- The priorities raised by participants have been summarised and published by the PCC.
- We have used this to inform the approach adopted by this strategy and to establish important principles to guide the development of delivery plans.

We are determined to ensure the approaches adopted by this strategy are evidence based and reflect what works. Whilst the analysis exhibited above provides some understanding of the knife crime phenomenon in Nottinghamshire, it only provides a partial story. The knowledge and input of officers and experts with personal experiences in relevant fields is integral to the development of a functional and executable strategic framework.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Nottinghamshire's Police and Crime Commissioner hosted and facilitated the Lives Not Knives conference, which convened key knife crime stakeholders, including representatives of statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations. Also invited were several individuals whose lives have been directly affected by knife crime and its fallout, some



of whom recounted moving experiences to the conference.

The event involved presentations by the Knife Crime Lead – who outlined the partnership's strategic position towards knife crime – and a Principal Analyst from Nottinghamshire Police – who presented trends and key figures in knife crime and associated risks. Presentations were also given by the Director of the College of Policing – who discussed some key national best practice principles – and the CEO of the Ben Kinsella Trust – a charity dedicated to the prevention of knife crime.

Following the presentations, attendees engaged in intense and productive round-table discussions addressing key issues associated with knife crime. The results of these discussions were captured, summarised and published by the Commissioner's Office and have helped shape the content of this knife crime strategy.

Some of the critical considerations identified by the experts and practitioners in attendance are captured here and have been incorporated into the Strategy and emergent delivery plans.



## 6 | OUR APPROACH

- We will strengthen our partnership approach to problem solving using multi-agency risk reduction focusing on knife crime offending.
- We will adapt and apply learning from successful approaches to domestic violence and sexual exploitation.
- Our four strand approach aims to protect citizens with a holistic use of the partnership's amalgamated powers and policies.
- We will reinforce the message that the carrying and criminal use of knives has swift, certain and serious consequences.

We are committed to tackling the serious problem of knife crime. With this refreshed approach as a distinct thematic priority for Nottinghamshire's partnerships alongside such serious crimes as domestic violence and child sexual exploitation, we aim to enact an effective, efficient and seamless approach to reducing knife crime and protecting the citizens of Nottinghamshire.

Since the inception of specific, tailored management structures such as Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE), we have observed positive results in the safeguarding of domestic violence victims and victims of child sexual exploitation. We are drawing from the principles of these structures in the development of an effective approach to knife crime.

Our approach to problem solving will therefore involve a multi-agency risk reduction hub with the bespoke priority of reducing knife crime in our county and city.

We are committed to working closely together. Our Community Safety Partnerships will work in tandem with the third sector to make the most of all of the powers, policies, skills and networks at our disposal in delivering a streamlined service to our communities.

This strategy outlines our four strand approach to solving the issue of knife crime:

### **(1) Identification and management of risk**

Intervene early, divert individuals away from offending, enforce against perpetrators and offer support to victims and their families.

### **(2) Developing resilient spaces**

Enable communities to retake their spaces, advice and regulation checks on high risk premises, and designing out crime.

### **(3) Communications and behaviour change**

Clear, concise and informative communication, and use of effective campaigns to influence behaviour.

### **(4) Communities and the third sector**

Engage and help mobilise our citizens, coordinating our third sector provision, and utilising our third sector's influence in communities.

With the combined effort of all our partnerships and communities, we will deliver a unified approach to tackle this serious issue.

## 7 | STRAND 1

### IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- The entire partnership will work closely to identify, report and address risk factors early.
- We will work with key schools to ensure knife crime issues are addressed appropriately.
- A cohort of high risk knife crime offenders will be developed and case managed by the partnership.
- Diversionary and support mechanisms, with the support of the third sector, will be offered to promote positive behaviour.
- Enforcement will be used to ensure offenders are held to account for the harm that they cause and deter them from carrying weapons.
- Interventions will be three-tiered – universal, specific and bespoke.

#### 7.1 | Early identification

Using our academic and professional knowledge of risk factors indicative of later crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as universally understood procedures and lines of communication throughout our partnerships, we will be able to recognise early warning signs, including ACEs, and engage with those at risk quickly to prevent the escalation of criminality.

Front line staff, including teachers, medical professionals, social services, offender management, uniformed policing and childcare professionals, are best positioned to observe and report these risk factors.

The inter-disciplinary risk reduction approach will support these individuals and their families with emotional care, mental health needs assessments, specialist education and practical skills, employment, drug treatment and other provisions necessary to help build prosperous, pro-social lives and reduce the likelihood of offending.

We will work alongside parents – who know their children best - to recognise risks and protect their children, removing any stigma associated with parenting support and empowering parents to raise and appropriately respond to emergent risks to ensure children are appropriately safeguarded.

#### 7.2 | Cohort management

Analysis conducted as part of the development of this knife crime strategy has revealed the identity of those offenders known to have committed knife crimes. This, alongside officer knowledge and referrals made by field practitioners with concerns about individuals, will be used to develop a cohort of people who will be closely case managed on an individual basis.

Information and input will be sought from all partners to develop an initial assessment to establish and monitor the respective risk of cohort nominals according to offending behaviour, peer groups, parenting and other relevant risk factors. Emergent variables, such as new associations and loss of housing, will be monitored and recorded on their cases.

Case records will contain the work that has been done previously, what impact this work had on the behaviour of each individual, and what steps to take next to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

Cases and updates from all partners will be shared seamlessly to ensure practitioners can adapt their provisions and deliver effective interventions based on individual needs. We will utilise effective current systems such as ECINS to deliver this activity.

### 7.3 | Diversion and support

Diversion from offending and support mechanisms that encourage reintegration into society are important to desistance.

#### Desistance

Desistance theories are varied but are all aimed towards the self-identification as 'reformed', which requires the desire to change to come from within. This can be helped with the support of consistent workers with a genuine commitment to helping the individual, who will support individuals to forge positive social bonds, build stable relationships, obtain housing and find gainful employment, all of which could be compromised by recidivism.

We will establish Early Intervention Case Work Panels and introduce targeted youth support. In service of this, we seek to obtain Home Office funding for (a) dedicated Targeted Youth Support case workers to introduce assertive outreach in key locations and (b) recruit promote Social Media Youth violence influencers/mediators.

We also endorse the use of 'teachable moments' – times in an offender's life when they are most receptive to appreciating the damage criminality can cause and the positives of leading a legitimate life. Redthread have embedded youth workers in hospitals, where they strive to encourage young

people who have sustained serious injuries to reflect on their choices and make a positive decision to turn their back on dangerous lifestyles. We will encourage similar operating models in other places where teachable moments may occur, such as custody suites and pupil referral units.

We intend to work closely with the third sector to gain the benefit of their unique expertise in relating to offenders, understanding their needs and delivering effective diversionary programmes. This includes sports and leisure, education and training to give offenders the opportunity to improve their skills, take control of their lives and self-identify as reformed. For young people, particularly children, we will encourage an emphasis on interventions with a strong education component, helping them to develop skills that enable them to take advantage of legitimate opportunities and build successful lives.

Further to personal development, the partnership can offer advice and support with aspects of life that provide a feeling of stability, such as secure housing, steady employment and stable relationships (including the development of conflict resolution skills). We will promote evidence based practice at every opportunity to equip our young people to make positive changes.

### 7.4 | Enforcement

A necessary component of deterring individuals from offending and reducing the likelihood of recidivism is a clearly understood sense of consequence for one's actions. We must and we will enforce against those in our society who break the law, bring harm to others and have no intention or desire to change their behaviour. We acknowledge that enforcement alone will not singularly reduce the threat of knife crime; however it remains irrefutably vital to deterrence, punishment through the courts and producing opportunities to engage and rehabilitate.

A zero-tolerance, universal policy will be applied wherein knife carriers will be arrested, charged and brought before court. This response will be consistent and clearly communicated to emphasise the certainty of the consequences for carrying a knife or bladed instrument.

Carrying a knife or committing a knife crime will bring criminal proceedings against an individual. In partnership with other agencies, these proceedings will be further underpinned by the innovative use of civil tools and powers.

These civil tools will be used to prevent reoffending by increasing the potential consequences for offenders (including potential loss of home), reducing an

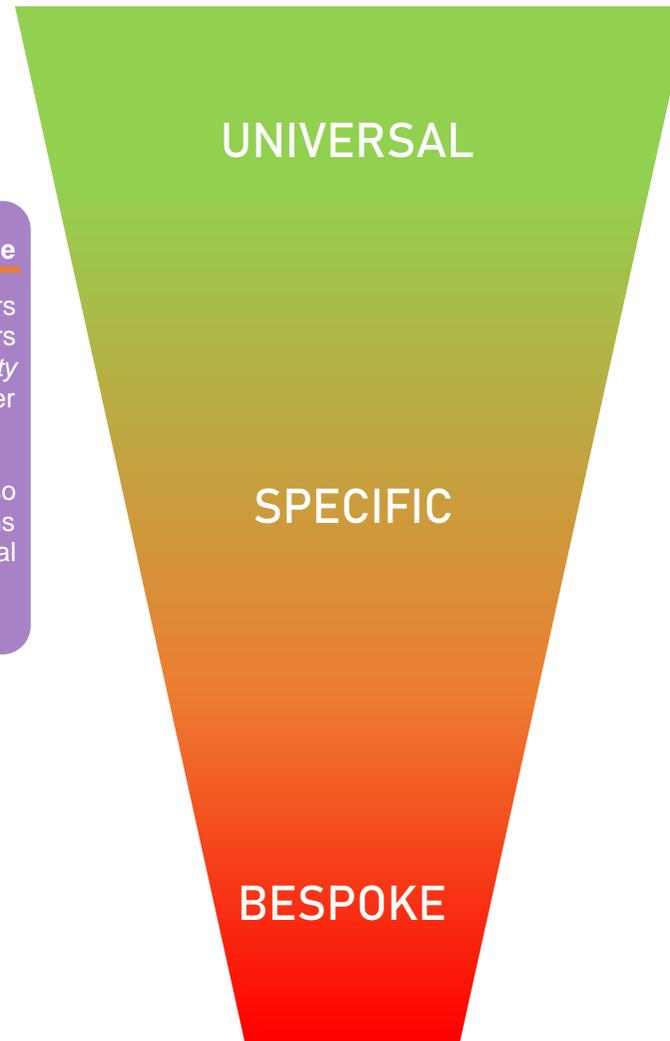
offender's exposure to high risk factors (such as associations with offenders) and enforcing offender engagement with positive activities, including skills development programmes and productive, non-violent conflict resolution training.

#### Deterrence

Deterrence in punishment requires *certainty* – offenders must be sure they will be punished – *celerity* – offenders must be apprehended and processed quickly – and *severity* – the punishment must be serious enough for the offender not to want to repeat it.

Punishments must be consistently administered so offenders are clear about the consequences of their actions and know that the punishment invoked by the Criminal Justice System is fair and just.

Where appropriate, we will encourage the use of restorative justice mechanisms between offenders and victims of knife crimes both (a) to bring offenders face to face with the reality of the harm and lasting damage caused by knife crime and (b) to provide victims with some measure of closure and control over the administration of justice.



#### 7.5 | Tiered intervention

Similarly to HM Government's Serious Violence Strategy 2018, the enforcement, diversion and support provisions will be three-tiered.

Universal interventions are mechanisms that can be applied to all individuals in the cohort and those who are showing risk factors. These include developing life skills in young people, providing opportunities for employment and supporting parents.

Specific interventions will be used to target thematic issues that can apply to at-risk individuals, including family intervention, providing positive and relatable role models, supporting children exhibiting risk factors like school exclusion.

Bespoke interventions will involve approaches tailored to an individual's unique needs and situations, such as engaging at teachable moments, prevention of criminal exploitation and use of the National Referral Mechanism, supporting frequent missing children, and 'through the prison gate' engagement.

## 8 | STRAND 2

### DEVELOPING RESILIENT SPACES

- We will target environmental improvements and place management to areas where knife crime is most prevalent.
- The partnership will engage and support communities to build community cohesion and encourage citizens to enjoy their neighbourhoods.
- High risk premises – particularly in the night time economy – will be identified for support.
- Premises refusing to engage with efforts to make their venues safer will receive targeted regulation and enforcement.

#### 8.1 | Target hardening

Analysis has revealed several key hotspots for where knife crime has been perpetrated. The mapping performed will allow us to determine where target hardening measures are most needed and will be most effective.

In addition to this, the 2017 Respect for Nottingham Survey suggested that only 50% of respondents felt safe in Nottingham City Centre after dark, the lowest level since 2013. Whilst we are committed to an intelligence-led approach to target hardening, we also feel it is our responsibility to reduce the fear of crime by increasing the perception of security in places people feel most vulnerable.

#### Target hardening

Steps can be taken in places and premises to reduce the perceived opportunity to offend by increasing the perception of effort and risk involved in offending.

Measures can be both physical changes, including erecting barriers, increasing natural surveillance in an area, and management of spaces, including security workers and surveillance equipment.

We will do all within our power to reduce the opportunities to carry knives in our city, towns, neighbourhoods, public spaces and schools.

We will utilise both physical improvements and environmental management tools to increase the likelihood that knife carriers will be caught. Such steps will include the intelligence-led deployment of our substantial CCTV infrastructure, improving natural surveillance, and traffic barriers and calming measures.

#### Crime Pattern Theory

In our routine activities, there are three components of the spaces through which we move. *Activity nodes* are centres of activity where people spend most of their time, including home, work and leisure facilities. *Pathways* are the routes we traverse between *activity nodes*, which are often fixed in our routines. *Edges* are barriers that can be both physical, such as walls or rivers, and perceived, such as gang territory boundaries.

We intend to better manage *activity nodes* and commonly used *pathways* in such a way that likely perpetrators and victims don't converge or feel that the risk to them by offending is too high.

Additional methods will be used in order to make public spaces clean and attractive to promote a community ownership and defensible space. We will encourage citizens to own and enjoy such public facilities in their neighbourhoods.

In pursuit of this strand, the third sector can contribute to the sustainability of sporting,

fitness and leisure programmes that take place in our public spaces and venues.

### **8.2 | Licensing and regulation**

Nottingham City Centre, with its successful and vibrant night time economy, presents special challenges that we must face and overcome.

The partnership will conduct analysis using a sophisticated and innovative risk matrix to identify those premises in the city (and also the county) with the highest risk.

The partnership is determined to utilise its respective powers and policies to ensure that the high risk premises identified are managed and protected appropriately. Licences for these premises will be checked and their compliance will be tested.

These premises will also be encouraged to take appropriate steps to mitigate their risk, including enrolment on Pubwatch and Best Bar None schemes. Premises will be inspected to offer advice regarding design and layout that could reduce the risk to customers using the venues.

Targeted regulation and enforcement will be brought against high risk venues that do not engage with recommendations made by the partnership or make any effort to improve the safety of their venues, as the managers of these venues will be knowingly neglecting the safety of their customers; our citizens.

We will periodically update our assessment of high risk venues to maintain an up to date picture of risk, establish the performance of previously high risk venues, and proactively work to reduce displacement of the issues to other premises.



## 9 | STRAND 3

### COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- We will involve and listen to our communities to ensure the messages we promote have a strong impact and influence behaviour in a positive way.
- Our partnership will coordinate their communications to deliver united messages about knife crime.
- Campaigns will take advantage of various media platforms and physical events to reach a broad audience.
- We will overcome the challenges posed by social media and utilise it to communicate effective messages to our target audience.
- We will adopt best practice behaviour change methods in a long-term approach to encouraging cultural change.



#### 9.1 | Coordinated communications

The partnership will develop and deliver important and pertinent messages in a clear, concise and informative way. These will include the medical and criminal consequences of knife crime, and the support and educational services available for rehabilitation.

Various media will be employed to broaden our platform as far as possible, including social media, print, television, advertising on public transport, in public and private facilities, and presentations at community events.

We will face and adapt to the new challenges posed by social media. We will learn how to

engage and better influence our target audience in hard to hear communities using the media forms they will be most exposed to, using social media to communicate our message in an emotive and impactful way to deter knife crime offending.

Educational workshops will be delivered by members of the community who have been through the CJS and have been reformed through their efforts and family members of victims who have been killed as a result of knife crime and associated lifestyles.

We also understand the importance of reassuring communities when a knife crime occurs near them. We are committed to assessing the impact knife crime incidents

have and keeping community leaders informed of what is happening to spread messages of reassurance to citizens, utilising the networks available to the partnership to communicate with communities. We will also listen and have full regard to the feedback of our citizens following such incidents.

## 9.2 | Behavioural change

Behaviour change is a long term objective we aim to instil in knife crime and knife carrying perpetrators, those who are risk of committing knife crime, and those who are involved in lifestyles associated with knife violence.

We intend to utilise principles set out by the Behavioural Insight Team's 'EAST' and Cabinet Office's 'MINDSPACE' frameworks to construct a comprehensive package of influential communications to discourage people from carrying knives.

One of the key principles in this approach is the use of appropriate messengers. Those delivering messages should be relatable and influential to the target audience. This can include celebrities and people who have been through similar experiences. Peer mentoring wherein mentors have been through similar difficulties to mentees is said to have a positive impact on the thought

processes and choices made by young people at risk. We will encourage third sector providers offering peer mentorship to engage further within communities to improve uptake among those individuals experiencing difficulties.

In order to fully understand the messengers we should use and the motivations behind knife carrying and knife crime that we need to address to effect sustainable change, we must listen to those who are involved in these activities. We are committed to speaking and working with those at risk to better understand their needs and drivers. This will not only better equip our targeted support but will help us to tailor our communications to

influence these people and those in similar situations.

The proposed package, which aims to produce a long term cultural shift away from knives and knife violence, will be challenging and complicated but will produce some of the most substantial benefits by virtue of the way they approach the problem. It will be our intention, along with our partners and the cooperation of influential and relatable individuals, to make the possession and use of a knife unattractive to those who would be most at risk.

# #LivesNotKnives



## 10 | STRAND 4

### THE THIRD SECTOR AND COMMUNITIES

- We want to help build resilient and cohesive communities to help socialise children with healthy lifestyles and stigmatise knife carrying.
- The third sector can act as a bridge to help partners understand and meet the needs of hard to hear communities.
- We will review the third sector's provision to ensure there are no gaps or overlaps in our collective partnership services.
- We will support the voluntary and community sector to form a cohesive, collaborative sector of providers.

#### 10.1 | The Third Sector

Third sector diversionary and support provision are a vital component of our overall strategy. The ability of the third sector to make meaningful connections with young people, particularly those who don't wish to engage with statutory agencies like the Police and council, is critical to being able to understand and support some of our most vulnerable and at risk citizens.

We will encourage evidence-based third sector provision, favouring providers who can prove the positive impact they've already had. We will also encourage the proliferation of new and emerging providers whose approach is based on principals like ACEs and teachable moments.

Peer mentoring is effective when mentor and mentee have shared experiences, such as childhood abuse, parental bereavement, growing up without control, and immersion in gangs from young age. Shared experience can be a relatable platform to guide young people on a journey out of crime and delinquency into productive and pro-social activity.

The third sector can also help to mobilise the community and build resilience against knife

crime, knife carrying and other activities that puts communities at risk.

The third sector plays a vital role, bridging the gap between official organisations and hard to hear communities so that their voices can be heard and their needs can be met.

We recognise the importance of a good relationship with third sector providers; and we will work towards developing a more coordinated third sector that complements existing provision and fills in gaps in service.

This also means that our commissioning model will be adapted to look both at the impact providers have had on the problems we wish to address and how well they fit in with the offer of other agencies. The joint commissioning group forms an important component of the governance structure of this strategy and will decide where best to allocate the resources we have available. This rigorous commissioning process will support a joined up approach to working with young people based on cooperating to maximise the positive impact of different methods of working.

## 10.2 | Communities

We want to build resilient and cohesive communities of people who help one another. Communities should be able to take pride in their neighbourhoods. Everyone has a duty to safeguard children and young people and we want our communities to be equipped to provide a moral sense of right and wrong.

We will encourage the mobilisation and empowerment of our communities to take action and come forward both as moral leaders and as guardians of the public realm. We want people to come together in integrated and inclusive communities to make places look and feel safer.

We will utilise the the well established links our partnerships have in the community, including local policing provision, local councillors, cohesion and engagement professionals, housing officers and teachers, to reach and listen to the concerns and needs fo citizens. We will use this to inform partnership decisions about how best to deal with the problems our neighbourhoods face, fostering a relationship of trust with our citizens that their concerns will be heard and responded to when voiced.

We want to work with communities to cultivate relationships with a greater number of respected groups who we can

call upon to deliver messages about the dangers of knives in a relatable way and to reduce the harm they cause.

We also want to be able to identify key individuals with wide networks in our communities so that our messages following major incidents can reach as broad an audience as possible, allowing us to promote reassurance and vigilance across a wide base and receive feedback to help inform and target our approaches.

We want to ensure that we can listen to our communities and also that our citizens feel that they have a voice in decisions made locally, allowing the improvements and crime reduction initiatives to be informed by the cultural understanding already heavily embedded in our neighbourhoods.

## 11 | ENSURING OUR PROCEDURES ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE

- This is a golden thread running throughout our strategy, ensuring our processes are robust and will continue to be fit for purpose in the future
- Methods of best practice will be observed and adapted to reduce knife crime in Nottinghamshire.
- We will undergo frequent self-evaluation of our approach to learn, maintain and build upon what really works.
- Training and information will be delivered to front line partnership staff and citizens.

### 11.1 | Methods of best practice

We will draw upon methods of best practice, such as Glasgow's widely praised and highly successful Community Intervention to Reduce Violence model, in our approach to reducing knife crime.

Whilst learning from best practice models nationally and internationally, we will embed our own methods of best practice by continual evaluations of our cases to identify which protective factors and influencers are most effective at preventing reoffending and how to embed them in offenders.

Plans, reporting mechanisms and partnership procedures will be subject to consistent self-reflection and assessment to enable the strategy to have maximum impact.

### 11.2 | Guidance and training

In order to identify and report warning signs and risk factors as early as possible, we will be providing training to front line staff across the partnership in what to look for, such as ACEs, and who to report concerns to.

Communications and information will therefore be widely promoted to our citizens to empower them to act when they think someone is at risk of being a perpetrator or victim of knife crime.

We will actively promote the use of Crimestoppers as a vehicle for collecting and

developing intelligence about those who commit knife crime.

The protection of our young people is everyone's responsibility and we all have a part to play.

### 11.3 | Evaluation and review

We are committed to delivering evidence based practice and reinforcing what works in reducing knife crime. We want to ensure our policies are fit not only for reducing knife crime now but preventing it in the future.

Robust performance measures will be established to measure the effectiveness of interventions and services. We will frequently revisit, review and evaluate our methods and their outcomes to determine what works and improve what doesn't.

We will actively seek feedback from stakeholders both within and without the partnership structure to support the review and evaluation process and help us gain a better understanding of the impact our methods have had in communities.

## 12 | GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY

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- The Strategy Group will oversee the strategy and receive performance updates.
- The Delivery Group will design and deliver the tactical plan, advise the Joint Commissioning Group and deliver interventions.
- The Joint Commissioning Group will identify specialist and targeted services to fulfil the needs of the programme.
- The Third Sector and Community Group will ensure that available provision is understood across the partnership and provide a channel for citizens voices to be fed back into the partnership.

The Government's Serious Violence Strategy outlines a clear role for PCCs and for CSPs in offering strategic leadership and coordination. This governance model reflects that steer while providing a delivery mechanism that facilitates connectivity and clarity.

### **12.1 | Partnership Strategic Group**

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The role of the Partnership Strategic Group is to oversee the delivery of this strategy and support the delivery plan with mainstream resources. It will provide strategic direction regarding exceptional risks or issues and receive strategic performance updates from the Knife Crime Lead in line with the terms of reference. The Strategic Group Chair will provide regular update reports to the Commissioner's Strategic Resources and Performance Meetings, Safer Nottinghamshire Board and Nottingham CDP Board.

### **12.2 | Delivery and Communications Group**

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The Delivery and Communications Group will design and implement a detailed tactical delivery plan. The group will maintain an understanding of risks and barriers to delivery and ensure these are overcome or escalated to the Partnership Strategic Group. It will advise the Joint Commissioning Group as to the needs of the programme, tracking emerging issues and ensuring partners' activity is coordinated. The group will design

and deliver interventions including communications messages. There will be two Delivery Groups; one to service Nottinghamshire and one for the City of Nottingham.

### **12.3 | Joint Commissioning Group**

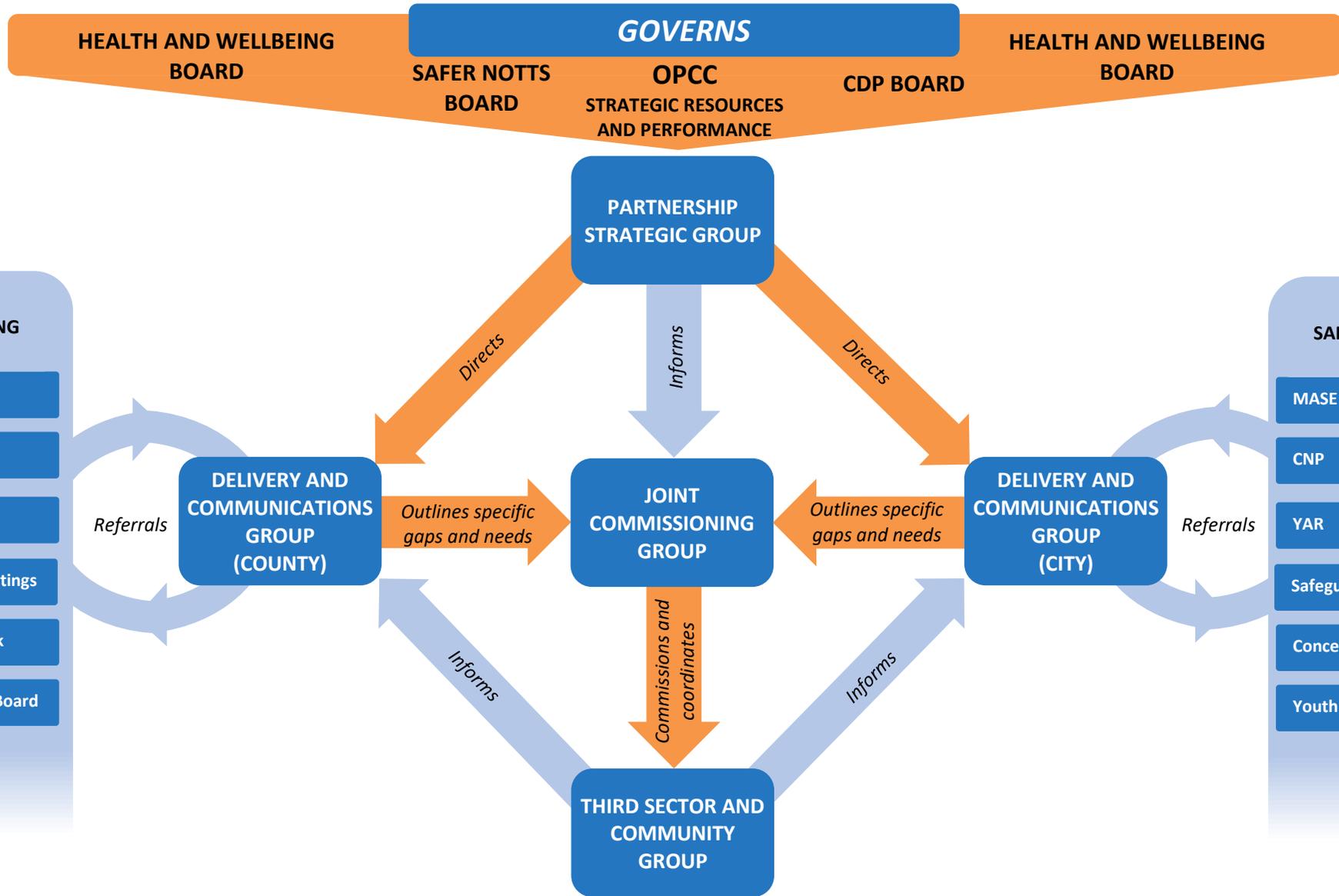
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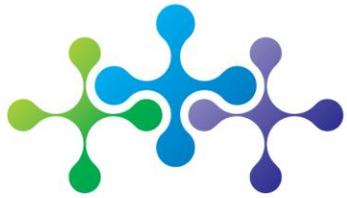
The Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) will develop a commissioning model to meet the needs of the Strategy. The JCG will identify the requirements of specialist or targeted services for which third sector provision is required. The JCG will ensure that commissioned services are delivered to target and to budget as well as ensuring feedback and advice from the Third Sector and Community Group is reflected in commissioning arrangements.

### **12.4 | Third Sector and Community Group**

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The Third Sector and Community Group will work to ensure that the diverse range of provision available to citizens and especially young people is well understood both by partners and by the sector as a whole. The group will work to bring providers together to better enable them to work collaboratively rather than competitively so that the best use of resources can be made. The group will also ensure that a rolling programme of service user, citizen and community feedback and advice is available to the delivery structure, ensuring that the voices of communities are heard and acknowledged within decision making.





Nottinghamshire

## **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

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**Facebook:** Nottinghamshire-PCC

**In an emergency always dial 999**

**In non-emergency situations dial 101**

