



## Event report

Youth Voice Summit for Secondary Schools & Colleges  
UK Youth Parliament's 'End Knife Crime' campaign

16<sup>th</sup> July 2019



## The Background- UK Youth Parliament's national campaign

Every year, as part of the national UK Youth Parliament programme, young people across the UK are encouraged to take part in the Make Your Mark ballot. In 2018, over **1 million** eleven to eighteen year olds from across the UK cast their vote on the issue that was most important to them. This number includes over 24,700 young people from Leeds alone!

At the UK Youth Parliament's annual sitting in the Houses of Commons on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 over 300 Members of Youth Parliament debated the top issues live on the BBC Parliament Channel before voting for what issue they thought should be the 2018/19 national campaign

After much debate, Members of Youth Parliament (including our four local MYPs) cast their votes and a short while after, the Speaker of the House, John Bercow MP announced the national devolved campaign as being "[Put an end to knife crime](#)". Putting an end to knife crime was also voted as one of the top local issues in Leeds.



## Put an end to knife crime campaign in Leeds

**Put an end to knife crime.** Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime, the government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic



We wanted to do something here in Leeds to help children and young people develop a better understanding of the knife crime issue in the UK and how **they** can work to actively reduce the stigma around knife crime here in Leeds.

Local Members of Youth Parliament met with lots of different organisations and services across the city who are working to reduce knife crime and the stigma surrounding it. The Members of Youth Parliament decided to host a Youth Voice Summit for Secondary schools with the aim of increasing young people's knowledge of the subject and also to hear first-hand from others who have been involved in knife crime.

## Youth Voice Summit for secondary schools and colleges

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019, we held annual Youth Voice Summit for secondary schools. Every secondary school and college in Leeds was invited to bring students from any year group. On the day, we were joined by 46 students representing 8 schools and youth groups from across the city;

<b>BARCA Leeds</b>	<b>Horsforth School</b>
<b>Leeds Youth Council</b>	<b>Leeds City College: The Foundry</b>
<b>Farnley Academy</b>	<b>North West Area Inclusion Partnership</b>
<b>Leeds East Academy</b>	<b>Ruth Gorse Academy</b>

## Youth Voice Summit – the programme

The event was organised and hosted by the Members of youth Parliament for Leeds with support from the Voice, Influence and Change Team.

Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Children and Families at Leeds City Council opened the event before the attendees heard spoken word performances from an organisation called Life Experience.



During the morning, attendees took part in three workshops before the afternoon session which enabled them to look at how they will share their learning with their school and what Leeds as a city can do more of to tackle youth knife crime.



## Workshops

All attendees took part in three thirty minute workshops

### Workshop 1: Life Experience

Life Experience are a team of volunteers, hoping to change people's lives through their own experiences of gangs and violence. Two Life Experience volunteers spoke openly and honest to attendees about their experience of knife crime and how it has affected them and their friends and family.



### Workshop 2: First Aid

Leeds Beckett University delivered a tailored first aid workshop which involved attendees learning about basic first aid and what to do should they come across someone who has been stabbed. Young people were able to get hands on with practicing their bandaging and resuscitation skills.



### Workshop 3: Knife Crime Court Case

West Yorkshire Police led an interactive workshop designed to educate attendees about the legal side of knife crime and carrying a knife before asking them to look at different scenarios and decide if the individual should be sentenced or not.



## What can you do in your school to share your learning and raise awareness of knife crime?

Attendees were asked to come up with ideas for how they can actively share their learning and raise awareness of knife crime in their schools and colleges. In September 2019, Members of Youth Parliament will contact all schools and see if they require any support to carry out their actions.

Some of the suggestions included:

- Display Board
- Life Experience Performance
- Via social media
- Make posters
- Delivering assemblies
- Create a play
- Stalls
- Story in the newsletter
- Role plays

- Lessons lead by young people
- Advertising campaign
- Shock tactics (show powerful images)
- Police visit
- Write a report for the school website
- Kahoot quiz
- Set up an online forum
- Debates



## What can Leeds do to help tackle knife crime?

Attendees were asked to think about creative ideas for tackling knife crime in Leeds. The ideas were fed back to Chief Superintendent Chris Gibson from the West Yorkshire Police and Andy Peaden, Head of Leeds Youth Justice Service.

Their ideas included:

Knife Banks in the city	Educate in primary schools
Posters	More stop and searches
Statue	Knife Amnesty (anonymous, free, no arrest)
More events	Billboards about knife crime
Radio podcasts	PSHE Empowerment days and school trips
Set up stalls in Leeds City Centre	Advertise campaign on buses
More activities and groups for young people	Incentives i.e. waterpark, theme park etc.
March of solidarity	No knife street team
Address cultural context within music education	Young people to create a film to be played
Social media	

## Event Evaluations

At the closing of the event, students and staff were encouraged to complete evaluation forms and the following feedback was received:

### “What I liked”

Life Experience x 24	Everything
West Yorkshire Police x 5	The food
Workshops x 9	Sweets on the tables
Speakers x 2	Stalls
First Aid Workshop	Meeting new people
Hearing from the UK Youth Parliament	

### “What could be improved?”

More from Life Experience x 8	Students to give speeches about knife crime
More activities x 2	More attendees
First Aid Workshop more interesting x 4	Showing some knives
Older group	Use of videos
Interaction with others x 4	More workshops x 2
More rapping	More variety of sweets
Visual order of the day	Involve us more, giving our opinions
Use of interactive white boards	Better variety of food x 2
Speakers not to go at end of day	

How would you rate the event overall?				
1 (very poor)	2 (poor)	3 (OK)	4 (good)	5 (great)
0	0	4	16	12
(0%)	(0%)	(13%)	(50%)	(37%)

### What Next?

Members of Youth Parliament will contact all attendees in September 2019 to offer them support in sharing their learning and raising awareness of knife experience. Services in Leeds will continue to work on initiatives to try to reduce levels of knife crime and to tackle the stigma associated with it.