Knife Crime Fact Sheet

- **Q: Is there any time when carrying a knife would not be against the law?**

  A: *Carrying nearly any type of knife is a crime. Even if you are carrying a knife and it is not used, this is still a crime and if someone is found carrying a knife, in England, this can mean up to four years in prison.*

- **Q: How old does someone need to be to purchase a knife?**

  A: *A person must be over the age of 18 to purchase a knife. This includes any cutlery.*

- **Q: What if someone is carrying a knife for work?**

  A: *They would need to be over the age of 18, and would need to be able to prove that they use it for work.*

- **Q: Do most young people carry a knife?**

  A: *Most young people do not carry a knife. Sometimes it can feel like it is happening more often than it is, through stories we have heard, or posts on social media.*

- **Q: Can I carry something different instead of a knife?**

  A: *Carrying a sharp item that you are planning on using in a way that could threaten, or harm someone else, could still be classed as a weapon and could be against the law.*

- **Q: What happens if someone is stabbed?**

  A: *It's important to remember there is not a safe place on the body to stab someone. Any stab wound could be serious on any part of the body. If a knife is used, this can result in injury, or in some cases, someone dying.*

- **Q: How old do you need to be to be held responsible for a crime?**

  A: *In England a person can be charged with a crime from ten years old. Children under the age of 10 will be given a different consequence if they commit a crime.*

- **Q: How would someone know that I was carrying a knife?**

  A: *The police have the power to stop and search any person if they believe that person could be carrying something, or doing something against the law.*

- **Q: How long would someone go to prison for if they commit a knife crime?**

  A: This depends on a few different things, like if that person has committed a crime before, how serious the crime was, and how old they are. This would be up to the judge and jury.

- **Q: If someone commits a crime under the age of 18, what happens?**

  A: If a young person commits a crime under the age of 18, they usually go to youth court which is different from adult court. From there, the judge and jury decide what will happen next.