



Knife Harm lesson plans for secondary schools

The VVU has a campaign that encourages adults to talk to young people about the dangers of carrying a knife. We found that the campaign was well received by young people as well as adults, so based on these findings have created three lesson plans to educate on the dangers of carrying a knife.

The lesson plans are for use in secondary school settings or for school-aged pupils from Y8 upwards.

The lesson plans should be used sequentially and discuss the psychology of decision making and influence, the importance of a good network of friends and trusted adults, as well as teaching about knife

crime, gangs and making decisions within risky situations.

The VVU worked with [The Training Effect](#) to create the lesson plans based on feedback from teachers and those in the education sector.

We hope they will provoke interest and stimulate discussion among pupils. The lesson plans can be found our [website](#) alongside other [knife harm](#) resources that parents and carers may find helpful.

Essex young people make their mark

Make Your Mark is an opportunity for 11-18 year olds across the UK to have their say and vote on the issues they want to change.

This year ten issues were presented to young people, and they had between 29 January and 8 March 2024 to vote on which of the issues were most important to them.

More than 35,000 young people in Essex participated in this year's Make Your Mark, which was led in Essex by the Young Essex Assembly and the Essex Youth Service.

This 35,000 represents a 26% turnout from the 11-18 year old demographic and within this number were contributions from 75 Essex schools and 90 youth groups.

For Essex young people the top three issues were:

- Health and Wellbeing

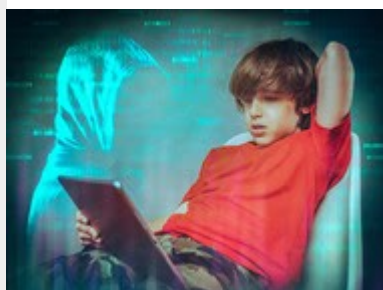


- Jobs, the economy and benefits
- Crime and safety

You can view the full report [here](#)

The results of Make Your Mark will influence hundreds of projects and campaigns, led by young people - for young people - across the UK. In Essex, this means understanding a bit more about what these results mean, which is why Essex Youth Service will be doing a further piece of work to delve into the reasoning behind the results and develop positive solutions to these issues. This will be a co-production piece of work with young people with the aim to provide context to the county wide results.

On a national level Members of the UK Youth Parliament will campaign and research the leading topics, to influence the UK Parliament and their local representatives, ensuring that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers.



Young children and their online space

Ofcom have just released the findings of their annual study of children's relationship with the media and online worlds.

According to their findings 24% of 5- to 7-year-olds now own a smartphone, if this is widened to include tablets that figure rises to 76%. More worryingly the survey suggested that a third of those surveyed use social media unsupervised.

Our colleagues in the [Essex Safeguarding Children Board](#) have lots of advice on how to keep children safe in the online world, how to encourage conversation and dialogue about what young people are viewing and playing, and explaining to parents the importance of showing an interest in what your children are doing online.

With the online world becoming even more accessible to younger and younger children it is vital that we equip parents, carers, teachers and professionals with the tools and skills to be able to support children and young people, and also to understand an ever-changing online world themselves.

To view the full report and headline findings visit: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2024/a-window-into-young-childrens-online-worlds>

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