

Knife Angel Report

Report of Councillor Richard Cox, Portfolio holder for community engagement

Date: 14 November 2023

Agenda Item:

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Key Decision? NO

Local Ward Members N/A



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 During July 2023 the Knife Angel installation was hosted by Lichfield District Community Safety Partnership and Lichfield District Council.
- 1.2 The Lichfield District Community Safety Partnership co-ordinated 30 days of educational workshops and engagement activity in the district, alongside numerous partners to host the Knife Angel. Children and young people, local residents, community groups, partners and visitors to the area were all invited and encouraged to take part. Key crime prevention, anti-violence and anti-aggression messages were shared throughout the month, allowing people, and importantly, young people, to stand up against violence and aggression in all forms, not just knife crime.
- 1.3 Knife crime is a national issue with increasing levels of knife crime being carried out since the pandemic. Nationally West Midlands is the highest area outside of London for knife crime to occur and it has increased in Staffordshire over the last 2 years. Whilst Lichfield District itself is not high knife crime area local incidents are increasing in frequency and the habit of carrying a knife is becoming more prevalent.
- 1.4 There has been a review of the lessons learned from hosting the Angel, including:
 - recognition of the limited member engagement in agreeing to host the Knife Angel,
 - lack of up-front scrutiny around the impact the campaign would have
 - staffing and resources it required to support the effective co-ordination of the events
 - the impact this additional work had on daily workloads of the Community Safety Officers
 - consideration of the Council representation at the Community Safety Partnership meetings in future.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The committee review and comment on the findings of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the end of April, Lichfield Community Safety Partnership were offered and agreed to accept the opportunity to host the Knife Angel at the end of its stay at Nuneaton & Bedworth in June 2023. This tied in with an existing [anti-violence campaign](#) being planned for delivery in local schools, funded by the Community Safety Partnership in response to increasing youth crime within the district. It also tied in with other campaigns in the community safety partnership delivery plan including domestic

violence; anti-social behaviour; county lines; and crime prevention. [Community safety partnership – Our delivery plan \(lichfielddc.gov.uk\)](https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership-our-delivery-plan)

- 3.2 Alison Cope delivered events in schools between March and September 2023, covering all the main high schools in the district and most of the primary schools. During the month of hosting additional sessions were delivered to school pupils from across the region, with primary and high schools from as far afield as North Solihull and Wolverhampton visiting the site and engaging with partner events.
- 3.3 Funding for the Knife Angel programme of events has largely come from the Police and Crime Commissioner with £10,000 from the Local Tasking Fund and £10,000 from the local Locality Deal Fund. Lichfield District Council has contributed an additional £5,000 to transport, secure and stage events around the Knife Angel.
- 3.4 Much of the funding was directed towards educational initiatives, to address social change in line with the Community Safety Action Plan. Local suppliers also donated and committed their resources to supporting events and activities, such as loan event equipment from Cocker hoop Creative Limited and the Community Champion from Tesco Store in Lichfield being temporarily seconded to assist in running the event stall and campaign activities.
- 3.5 All hosts must sign the ‘Knife Angel Agreement of Conscience’ before a hosting period can be confirmed. This agreement is designed to give guidance over how to get the maximum benefit out of hosting the monument through public involvement, education programmes, and community collaborations. Most importantly, all hosts must commit to utilise the Angel to conduct 30-days of intensive anti-violence education programmes and workshops for their community youth.
- 3.6 All those who volunteer or contribute to the hosting must receive recognition for their support via civic awards which the Community Safety Partnership was contractually obliged to give out. Recognition awards required under the agreement were given to :

Award Recipient	Reason
Street Whyze Project CIC	Active engagement with community at Knife Angel Site and provided inputs to pupils on school visits on site
The Training Initiative	Active engagement with community at Knife Angel Site and Education inputs at schools - The Training Initiative
Two Rivers School	Directed most young people to Knife Angel Site and large involvement in project
Tesco	Knife Bin on their premises and providing Community Champion to support campaign
Morrisons	Hosting knife bins at their stores in Lichfield and Burntwood
Burntwood Leisure Centre	Knife bin on site and providing space for Bleed kit Training, placing staff on bleed kit training, and having a bleed kit on site
B & M	Supported campaign and supported Bleed kit training and taken Bleed kit. Accepted new Defib on building
Lichfield Cathedral	Supported campaign and supported Bleed kit training and taken Bleed kit. Also played an integral part in final procession at the departure event.
MacDonalds	Supported campaign and supported Bleed kit training and taken

	Bleed kit
The Garrick	Supported campaign and supported Bleed kit training and taken Bleed kit
Pathway Project	Supported campaign and supported Bleed kit training and taken Bleed kit
Beverley and Mark Brindley	Attended three Community Outreach Days, speaking to members of the public about their experiences. Have a successful foundation providing education and training. Mark and Beverley Brindley – The James Brindley Foundation
Kristy and Rob Freckleton	Attended the launch event, supports Streetwhyzed education and attended the knife angel site doing inputs for school groups Oliver Freckleton: Son's fatal stabbing 'destroyed' family - BBC News
Harvester	Inspirational young man who wrote raps on 'ditch the blade' campaign, performed 3 times over the course of the month.
Natalie Quiroz	Victim of knife crime who actively engages with schools and public. Campaigns against knife crime. Home Page - Natalie Q Inspire
Clive Knowles	Chairman & Founder - British Ironwork Centre Award to the British Ironwork Centre Chairman for creating the Knife Angel
Councillor Richard Cox	Award to the District Council for their support in hosting the Knife Angel and staffing for events
Ben Adams	Award to the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner for providing funding for the engagement events

- 3.7 Four knife bins were installed as part of the project and to date almost 300 knives and weapons have been surrendered, including a firearm. The bins will continue to operate and be emptied by the police as a lasting legacy from the campaign at Morrisons and Tesco supermarkets and Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- 3.8 Bleed kits have been provided to key locations and venues in the district and training events were held at George Hotel and Burntwood Leisure Centre to all staff and volunteers who may be called on to use them in an emergency to save lives. A city centre defibrillator was also installed and launched as part of the campaign at B&M on Market Street. This compliments the existing defibrillators on the Barclays Bank building and Richer Sounds.
- 3.10 Visits to schools in the district to continue with the anti-violence messaging will continue and are co-ordinated and reported via the Community Safety Partnership Meetings, which take place monthly at the operational level and quarterly at the Strategic level. Shadow portfolio holders have been invited to attend these meetings in future.
- 3.11 Members have indicated their wish to review knife crime statistics before and after the Knife Angel visit. Links have been included in the data assessment and relevant web links sections of this report, however, specific data on just knife crime in Lichfield is not available (only all crime). Knife crime data is collected and reported by each policing constabulary. It is recognised that the Knife Angel events are not necessarily likely to have an immediate impact on knife carrying culture but is instead a long-term strategy to reach younger people and children to prevent them carrying knives in the future.

Alternative Options	1 To not review the effectiveness of the Knife Angel visit. This will leave the Community Safety Partnership open to criticism regarding committing resources to the event.
Consultation	1. O&S members have fed in their queries regarding the hosting of the Knife Angel
Financial Implications	1. None from the review. Funding was provided via PFCC and using existing property service budgets (to provide transport, security, lighting, and power etc to site)
Approved by Section 151 Officer	Yes
Legal Implications	1. None from the review
Approved by Monitoring Officer	Yes
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	1. The Community Safety Partnership Annual Action Plan is a statutory requirement that reflects the District Council's Strategic Plan 2020 to 2024 and will be a key feature to support delivery of Lichfield 2050.
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	1. None, review of the Knife Angel event will not impact individual rights but should raise awareness of the impact and consequences of violent crime.
EIA logged by Equalities Officer	Yes Equalities Officer confirmed not required.
Crime & Safety Issues	1. The campaign was developed to positively impact on our duty to prevent crime and disorder within the district (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1988).
Data assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data sets for Knife Crime and ONS have been provided for member review in relevant web links below. 2. SPI data shows that Stowe has the highest incident of crime within the district with 140 incidents per 1000 population against a district average of 50. Social Progress Index Lichfield Tableau Public it does not specify violent or knife crime in the data sets. 3. It will be some years before the impact of the Knife Crime and Anti-Violence campaign can be evidenced from data due to the targeting at such young audiences.
Environmental Impact (including Climate Change and Biodiversity).	1. Frog Lane was chosen due to the accessibility by other modes of transports from across the district and wider afield.
GDPR / Privacy Impact Assessment	1. None

	Risk Description & Risk Owner	Original Score (RYG)	How We Manage It	Current Score (RYG)
A	The Knife Angel event provides no long-term benefit to the district	Yellow (material) or Green (tolerable) as determined by the Likelihood and Impact Assessment.	Base line data from before the visit and assess these measures in future data tracking.	Green (tolerable) as determined by the Likelihood and Impact Assessment.
B				

Background documents

[Community safety partnership – Our delivery plan \(lichfielddc.gov.uk\)](http://lichfielddc.gov.uk)

Relevant web links

[official 'Knife Angel on Tour' page.](#)

[Knife crime statistics - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](http://parliament.uk)

[Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](http://ons.gov.uk)

[Alison Cope | Anti-Violence Campaigner](#)

[Activities - SCVYS Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services \(staffscvys.org.uk\)](http://staffscvys.org.uk)

[Mark and Beverley Brindley – The James Brindley Foundation](#)

[Home Page - Natalie Q Inspire](#)