

## AGENDA

### SELECT COMMITTEE - KNIFE CRIME IN KENT

**Wednesday, 12th June, 2019, at 10.00 am**

Ask for: **Gaetano Romagnuolo**

**Medway Room - Sessions House**

Telephone **03000 416624** -  
**gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk**

*Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting in the meeting room*

#### **Membership**

Mr P V Barrington-King (Chairman), Mrs S Chandler, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr A Cook, Mr P C Cooper, Mr D Farrell, Mr A R Hills, Mr K Pugh and Mr A M Ridgers

Please note: that the unrestricted part of this meeting may be filmed by any member of the public or press present.

By entering into this room you are consenting to being filmed. If you do not wish to have your image captured please let the Clerk know immediately.

#### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

*(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)*

1 Apologies

10:00 - Dr Erin Sanders-McDonagh (Senior Lecturer in Criminology,  
10:45 University of Kent) (Pages 3 - 6)

11:00 - Mark Pearson (Chief Executive Officer, Excelsior Safeguarding)  
11:45 (Pages 7 - 10)

12:00 - James Whiddett (Operations Manager, Trading Standards, Kent  
12:45 County Council) and Oliver Jewell (Principal Trading Standards  
Officer, Kent County Council) (Pages 11 - 14)

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

*(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)*

Benjamin Watts  
General Counsel (Interim)  
03000 416814

**Tuesday, 4 June 2019**

**Kent County Council**  
**Knife Crime Select Committee**  
**Biography**

**Dr Erin Sanders-McDonagh**

**Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Kent**

Dr Sanders-McDonagh received her PhD at the University of Nottingham in 2010 and has been working as a senior lecturer in Criminology at the University of Kent since 2016. She was the Director of Studies for Criminology from 2016-2019, and is a member of the British Sociological Association, a fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and works with the British Association of Social Workers.

Dr Sanders-McDonagh has published widely and is the author a wide number of articles in internationally acclaimed journals. She is the author of two books and writes for a number of news organisations including The Conversation. Her work has appeared in a number of international news outlets including Wired, the Telegraph, the Irish Independent, and the Irish Examiner, and she is a regular contributor to BBC news.

Dr Sanders-McDonagh has led on a number of research projects related to domestic abuse and homicide, sexual violence and child sexual exploitation, youth offending and gangs in London, working directly with young people who are affected by violent crime. Most recently, she has completed a project with the New Horizon Youth Centre in London, working with their dedicated Youth Offending Project team in the best ways of tackling re-offending and improving the lives of young people who are gang-affiliated. She spent three years working with the team and has interviewed over 100 young people as part of the project. Her work has explored issues related to knife crime, County Lines and exploitation of young people.

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# **Kent County Council**

## **Knife Crime Select Committee**

### **Hearing Day 3**

**Wednesday, 12 June 2019**

#### **Witness Guide for Members**

*Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.*

#### **Themes and Questions**

**Dr Erin Sanders-McDonagh, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Kent**

- Please introduce yourself and provide an outline of the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- In your view, what are the main reasons behind the reported increases in knife crime offences in Kent?
- Please discuss the cycles of vulnerability and approaches to working with known offenders.
- In your view, what can be done to prevent young people from becoming involved in gangs?
- In your opinion, in what ways can Kent County Council help to reduce the incidence and impact of knife crime in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, that you wish to bring to the Committee's attention?

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**Kent County Council**  
**Knife Crime Select Committee**  
**Biography**

**Mark Pearson**

**Chief Executive Officer, Excelsior Safeguarding**

Mark is CEO of Excelsior Safeguarding, a 'not-for-profit' organisation established to provide effective help and support to vulnerable young people and adults affected by group violence, drugs and other forms of criminal exploitation. He previously served with Kent Police for 30 years; in the last 5 years of service he was the Lead Police Officer on the Margate Task Force. He has advised government ministers, think tanks and directors, and successfully project managed a Department for Communities and Local Government funded initiative to drive innovation around gangs, drugs and exploitation.

Mark's areas of expertise include:

- geo-mapping of contextual safeguarding risks
- peer group/social network analysis of adults and young people at risk from exploitation
- delivery of certified 'need to know' gangs and exploitation training on behalf of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board to partners across Kent and other counties
- provision of multi-agency Family Support Panels for young people, their siblings and parent/carers affected by gangs and other forms of exploitation

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#### **Themes and Questions**

##### **Mark Pearson, Chief Executive Officer, Excelsior Safeguarding**

- Please introduce yourself and provide a brief outline of the roles and responsibilities of your post.
- Please explain the main reasons why young people may commit knife crimes.
- To what extent is early intervention effective in tackling knife crime?
- Please discuss “County Lines” and their impact in Kent. What can KCC do, in your view, to help tackle this issue?
- What are the most effective initiatives and strategies that can be implemented to deal with knife crime?
- In your view, what can Kent County Council do to help reduce the incidence and impact of knife crime in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, that you wish to bring to the Committee’s attention?

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**Themes and Questions**

**James Whiddett, Operations Manager, Trading Standards, Kent County Council**

**Oliver Jewell, Principal Trading Standards Officer, Kent County Council**

- Please introduce yourselves and provide a brief outline of the roles and responsibilities of your posts.
- Please explain how KCC's Trading Standards service helps to prevent the sale of knives to persons under the age of 18.
- Please discuss the importance of multi-agency working to help prevent the sale of knives to persons under the age of 18.
- Please explain how knife crime has impacted on Trading Standards, and whether this has had an impact on the Service's resources.
- What initiatives have already been implemented by Trading Standards to tackle daily operational issues around knife crime?
- In your opinion, what are the most effective initiatives and strategies that can be implemented to deal with knife crime?
- In your view, what can Kent County Council do to help reduce the incidence and impact of knife crime in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, that you wish to bring to the Committee's attention?

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**Kent County Council**  
**Knife Crime Select Committee**

**Briefing**

**Sale of Knives: Voluntary Agreement by Retailers**

Updated: 7 February 2018

Tesco, Lidl UK, Amazon UK, Wilko, Argos, Morrisons, Asda, Poundland, Sainsbury's, John Lewis, Waitrose, Boots, Aldi, Co-Op, B&Q, TK Maxx and Debenhams have agreed to adhere to the following principles:

- Retailers will apply their policies for age-restricted sales, such as Think 21 or Challenge 25, to ensure age verification checks take place. Knives will only be sold (or supplied) once they are satisfied the customer is aged 18 or over. This will include proof of age checks for in-store sales, collection or point of delivery situations.
- Action will be taken in-store and online to remind customers and staff that knives are age-restricted products. This means that knives will only be sold (or supplied) once age verification has taken place. Supervisory support to be provided where appropriate.
- Retailers will ensure knives are displayed and packaged securely as appropriate to minimise risk. This will include retailers taking practical and proportionate action to restrict accessibility and avoid immediate use, reduce the possibility of injury, and prevent theft.
- All staff selling or approving sales of knives will be provided with training, with that training being refreshed at least once every year. This includes all staff involved in the sales transaction up to and including delivery. The principles above will be applied as relevant to each retailer's business model.
- Amazon requires that all third-party sellers on its marketplace comply with the law on the sale of knives, including clearly listing products as for over 18s and requiring age verification on delivery. Those who do not are subject to action including potential suspension.

Ebay is committed to a safe online marketplace and currently prohibits the sale of all knives on ebay.co.uk, with the exception of cutlery.

**Source:** Home Office, online, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers>

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