

Appendix 1 – Report's Recommendations

Recommendation 1

KCC should work with partner organisations to establish a multi-disciplinary, operational group which includes all the relevant, key agencies and whose remit is to ensure the implementation and delivery of strategic objectives to address knife crime and violence through a public health approach. A task that should be given priority is the development of a more efficient and effective information-sharing mechanism to build a more comprehensive picture of gang activities in the county, so that more timely and targeted early interventions can be undertaken.

Recommendation 2

KCC's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education should write to the Secretary of State for Education, on behalf of the Select Committee, and urge him to update statutory guidance to schools to help them manage pupils' poor behaviour and reduce exclusions.

Recommendation 3

KCC should review all the training on knife crime and violence that is currently delivered in Kent schools to assess the extent to which it is informative, consistent and balanced. This evaluation should clarify whether KCC needs to promote and commission the delivery of a high-quality, standardised programme.

Recommendation 4

KCC's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education should write to all Kent schools to encourage them to deliver high-quality knife crime training, from primary school (Year 5 and Year 6) to all types of secondary school.

Recommendation 5

KCC's Children, Young People and Education Directorate should conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the effectiveness of a scheme involving the recruitment and training of volunteers to provide long-term mentoring for young people at risk of offending.

Recommendation 6

KCC's Trading Standards service should devise and evaluate a pilot scheme involving a more proactive approach to the promotion of the responsible sale of knives by local retailers.

Recommendation 7

KCC's Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate should pilot a scheme such as the Youth Zone to extend youth service provision in the county. The pilot should take place in a particularly deprived area of Kent and should be combined with an evaluation to assess its effectiveness and to inform future policy.