



GET A LIFE, NOT A KNIFE

Police in Ayrshire are urging people to 'Get a life, not a knife'.

As part of the nationwide Safer Scotland campaign, police in Ayrshire have arranged for an eye-catching ad trailer to tour around the area warning people of the dangers of knife carrying.

This is part of the next phase of the campaign, which follows on from their knife amnesty where 298 knives were surrendered to Police Offices in East Ayrshire.

During the second phase of the year long campaign the public are urged to report knife carriers to their local police officer or call Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111.

Strathclyde Police Chief Constable Willie Rae visited the area, along with Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson, and met some local youngsters who are backing the campaign.

He said:

“During Strathclyde Police’s four week Operation Blade in 1993 more than 4,500 weapons were surrendered throughout Strathclyde. In the 12 months that followed, murder rates fell by 26 per cent, attempted murder by 19 per cent and serious assault by 14 per cent. I appeal to anyone who carries a knife to think twice and think about how their actions could impact on people such as young Luke and Calvin of Kilmarnock who are part of the wider society whom we aim to protect.”

Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson stated:

“We have given those involved in violence a chance to bin a knife and save a life. However, for those who have ignored the pleas of Ayrshire people, the message is clear – the police will continue to step up their efforts during the enforcement phase, aided by the Lord Advocates changes to prosecution policy, to clamp down harder on those who persistently carry knives.”

Ayrshire Division’s Chief Police Officer, Divisional Commander Hamish Cormack added:

“Young people who carry a blade are literally living on a knife edge. While they may not actually intend to use the knife, they are putting themselves in a position where they could potentially kill someone or have the weapon turned upon them. Thankfully, knife possession is rare in Ayrshire schools, however, if you know of someone who takes a knife to school, it is important that you tell someone.”

East Ayrshire’s very own MSP Margaret Jamieson stated:

“A lot of blame is levelled at young men for carrying knives, however in some areas, teenage girls are known to carry weapons for their boyfriends in the belief they won’t be searched - with the recent issue of hand held metal detectors to Police all hidden weapons will be detected.”

Luke Hamilton (12) and his brother Calvin O’Neill (7) of Kilmarnock who met the Chief Constable on Friday, were delighted to add their voices to the campaign by shouting, “Get a life, not a knife”

PICTURED from L-R: Chris Howe, Community Warden, Jonathon McClymont, Community Warden, Cathy Jamieson-The Justice Minister and MSP for Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley, Margaret Jamieson-MSP Kilmarnock & Loudon, Hamish Cormack-Ayrshire Divisional Commander, Willie Rae-Chief Constable, Luke Hamilton (12) & Front: brother Calvin O’Neill (7)

