

Targeted Youth Support and Youth Offending Services Protocol: For incidents involving Knives and Weapons

Emergency Situation	Non-Emergency Situation
<p data-bbox="383 292 842 320" style="text-align: center;">In an emergency, <i>always</i> dial 999</p> <p data-bbox="129 325 282 354">Examples:</p> <ul data-bbox="129 360 1088 531" style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury with a knife/weapon; • Threatened with a knife/weapon; • A knife/weapon is being openly carried in or near Council premises. • There is good reason to suspect that serious violence is imminent in or near Council premises <p data-bbox="129 536 483 564">What the staff should do:</p> <ul data-bbox="129 571 1088 1222" style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Safety for all concerned – staff, young people and members of the public – must <i>always</i> come first. Do whatever is necessary and appropriate to save life and prevent harm; • Dial 999 immediately, giving clear and brief information (e.g. location of incident; descriptions of those involved); • Follow directions given by the police – over the telephone and on arrival; • Where the scene of a crime has been identified – and it is safe to do so – leave it untouched/undisturbed pending police arrival; • Where witnesses to a crime have been identified – and it is safe to do so – ask them to remain on premises pending police arrival. • Notify line manager or designated manager. • Ensure the risk assessment in relation to direct work with any young people involved, is reviewed with a manager and any relevant professionals; ensure all professionals working with any young people involved are fully informed of all pertinent details. • The service’s General Risk Assessment should then be reviewed by appropriate management to reflect additional risks or learning from the incident. <p data-bbox="129 1228 568 1257">What to expect from the police:</p> <ul data-bbox="129 1264 1088 1565" style="list-style-type: none"> • The police response to an emergency call of the kind considered here will inevitably be highly visible. You should be prepared for the possibility that a number of police units will attend; • Immediate Police priorities will be the same as yours – to preserve life and prevent harm. Once that has been achieved, they will have a range of responsibilities – for example, dealing with suspects, witnesses and evidence. This will be done as sensitively as possible; • They also have an important role in providing reassurance to pupils, parents, staff and members of the local community; 	<p data-bbox="1108 292 2119 355">In a non-emergency situation, there are a number of alternative sources of support available to you:</p> <ul data-bbox="1108 360 2119 499" style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Offending Service Police on 0207 527 7050 • Islington Police Youth Engagement Team – Tel: 0300 123 1212 • Relevant local Safer Neighbourhoods Team – Tel: 0300 123 1212 • The Police Single Non-Emergency Number – Tel: 0300 123 1212 <p data-bbox="1108 504 2119 568">In the first instance, try to contact dedicated YOS Police. If they are unavailable, consider one of the other alternatives.</p> <p data-bbox="1108 572 1256 601">Examples</p> <ul data-bbox="1108 608 2119 1015" style="list-style-type: none"> • Knife/Weapon found in or near Council premises (unless there is an immediate prospect of its being used – in which case, dial 999); • Young person seen in possession of a knife/weapon, but no threat of it being used; young person admitting they are in possession of a concealed knife/weapon. • Information is received from a third party that a young person has brought a knife/weapon into a Council premises including a school (unless there is an immediate prospect of its being used – in which case, dial 999); • Information is received from a third party that suggests the likelihood of serious violence involving young people later in the day/week (unless the threat becomes imminent – in which case, dial 999). <p data-bbox="1108 1019 1464 1048">What the staff should do:</p> <ul data-bbox="1108 1054 2119 1533" style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the line manager or designated manager. • In the case of a knife/weapon being found, provided it is safe to do so, leave it untouched and in situ pending the arrival of police; • In every other case, the situation will need to be dealt with on its merits – following advice provided by the police; • Where potential witnesses are identified, they should be encouraged to remain at the school pending the arrival of police. • Ensure all professionals working with a young person who is suspected of or known to be carrying a knife/weapon are notified on the same working day; ensure that the risk assessment pertaining to direct work with the young person is reviewed with a manager. • The service’s General Risk Assessment should then be reviewed by appropriate management to reflect additional risks or learning from the incident.

- They will cause a minimum of disruption to school life and will consult with you about the longer-term police response to the incident;
- It should be noted that, in any case where a young person is found in possession of a knife or other offensive weapon, the expectation is that they *will* be arrested.

What to expect from the police:

- The non-emergency police response will be much lower profile. In most cases, you can expect to see one, possibly two, officers;
- They can attend at a time and place to suit you – and can discuss with you the most appropriate way to deal with the situation;
- Appropriate discretion can be used – e.g. when/where to speak to a young person about an incident – and individual cases will be dealt with according to their needs;
- You will be fully involved in any ongoing police response to the incident;
- It should be noted that, in any case where a young person is found in possession of a knife, the expectation is that they *will* be arrested.

Presumption: There is an expectation that police officers will be directly involved following any incident where a knife or weapon is seen, used or intimidated by a young person receiving services from Young People's Division