

# Knife Crime in Medway, UK: The Impact of Media from a Youth Perspective

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# ABSTRACT

**Background:** The relationship between young people and the rise of knife crime has been a serious issue that has affected many people's lives. The moral panics that have stemmed from the increase of injuries and deaths as seen in the media, as well as the government response to (Wood, 2010), have undoubtedly made this topic one of fragile nature and has become most memorable for youths in the last decade (Hesketh, 2019). While young people have gone unnoticed (Halsey and White, 2008), this project sets out to examine the issue with young people's perspectives on knife crime, and as well, aims to understand the influence of media on these beliefs.

**Method:** The research project developed a main aim, and this was to analyse the impact of media on a young adult's perception of knife crime. Six interviews were conducted which provided a valuable insight into individuals aged eighteen to twenty-four, who live in an area of high rates of knife crime, the Towns of Medway. The project situates data within a qualitative based framework to really dive into young people's thoughts and feelings.

**Results:** The findings show that the majority of young people when asked, thought that knife crime had increased in their area and that there are negative thoughts surrounding the crime, with some fear present when walking outside of their home. It was found that there is not a significant amount of evidence surrounding how media impacts young people's perception of the crime, however, the study shows that knife crime news frightens young people and it can be suggested that young people think media is the biggest influence in their life at present.

**Conclusions:** This project can be considered as a pilot study for how young people view knife crime in accordance to their media consumption and how these attitudes could be changed. It can be concluded, that mass media and social media do impact how young people view knife crime, including their perception on others and the belief that figures are on the rise.

**Keywords:** knife crime, media influence, perceptions, stereotypes, youth violence

## Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	2
ABSTRACT .....	3
<u>Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION</u> .....	5
Young People’s Voices .....	5
The Impact of Media .....	5
Aims & Research Questions .....	6
Section Signposting .....	6
<u>Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW</u> .....	8
Knife Crime UK .....	8
Defining ‘Youth’ & ‘Knife Crime’ .....	9
Recent Trends in Knife Crime .....	10
The Role of Families & Schools .....	11
Mass Media & Social Media .....	12
<u>Chapter 3: METHODOLOGY</u> .....	15
Rationale to the Study .....	15
Qualitative Approach .....	16
Sampling Technique .....	17
Semi Structured Interviews .....	18
Data Collection & Analysis .....	19
Ethical Considerations .....	20
<u>Chapter 4: FINDINGS &amp; DISCUSSION</u> .....	23
Current views towards Knife Crime.....	23
Correlation to Media Consumption .....	25
Reducing Knife Crime .....	29
<u>Chapter 5: CONCLUSION</u> .....	31
Summary .....	31
Recommendations .....	32
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	33
APPENDICES .....	43
Appendix A – Participant Consent Form .....	43
Appendix B – Interview Schedule and Questions .....	45
Appendix C – Participant Interview Transcripts .....	48
Appendix C1 – Participant Audio Recordings .....	98

# Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

## **Young People's Voices**

Researchers from countries across the world have been generally more interested in the field of young people's voices and their perspectives in the last two decades (Feilding, 2007). It is believed to be important when incorporating developments in social policy and when providing a deeper understanding (Drake *et al*, 2014). Further research has been invested into gaining more knowledge on the reasons why young people commit knife crime, but there has been little opportunity for the subject group to express their personal views on the matter; including the exclusion of young people of school leavers age.

Research has mainly focussed on young people aged nineteen years and younger within the field of knife crime, with such data reflecting upon what causes people to commit crimes and with recommendations of prevention strategies predominantly based upon statistics. Therefore, understanding young people's motives and views on a personal level has been neglected. For example, Tribe *et al* (2018) recently developed research qualitatively on how simulation can contribute to engaging young people on the issue, rather than asking or identifying how these youths actually feel about knife crime and the area that they live in.

## **The Impact of Media**

Media was first introduced in the 1920's when radio and television were more common, post-second World War (Curran, 2002). Many researchers have since conducted studies into the effects of mass media on children and adolescents. Generally, findings have shown that the primary effects of media exposure such as television, music, advertising and the internet, has led to violent and aggressive behaviour patterns, and other high-risk behaviours (Villiani, 2001). However, there are little studies into the 'new media' and how the ever-changing influence of this media exposure impacts young people today, with the power to portray crime figures, stories and information. The project therefore looks into pre-existing literature on the effects of social media and mass media on young people and the consequences this has on their perceptions of the world around them, according to the 'spike' in knife crime.

## **Aims & Research Questions**

There is no specific study, to the best of knowledge, that deals with the town of Medway. Hence, this project aims to fill the under-researched area by providing original data from qualitative interviews, on young people's perspectives on knife crime. This is important to obtain a deeper understanding on how their views are being formed and influenced could lead to strategies of how to tackle the problem of knife crime from a media fuelled stance. In view of the research gaps mentioned throughout this project ([See Chapter 2, p.8](#)), the study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- What are the views of young people in Medway when it comes to knife crime?
- To what extent does media have an impact on youth perceptions of knife crime?
- In view of these connections, what policy reform recommendation can be made to mitigate against the use of knives by young people in Medway?

These questions along with others will subscribe to the purpose of this thesis, which is to make light on young people's views around knife crime and how the media has affected their views. The significant importance of this, is that the research will potentially help to understand what young people know about the issue of knife crime in England, accordingly to what they have seen or heard through media platforms. This could provide data within the field of media's influence on young people's perspectives towards crime and might tackle the issue of knife crime when trying to reduce young victimisation and offender rates, by continuing to support the impact of social influences.

## **Section Signposting**

Following this brief introduction, the next chapter intends to review the current literature on knife crime in order to gather relevant academic material on the issue of young people and violence. Eades *et al* (2007) provides a debate on key terms throughout the project, and the work and findings from authors such as Traynor (2019) and O'Keefe *et al* (2011) have guided the direction of this research project in regards to factors that can influence a young person's views. If it were not for the longitudinal studies conducted by government agencies such as the

Office for National Statistics and crucially Kent Police, then this research could have also taken a different direction and therefore, those mentioned have been most valuable.

The next chapter will be the methodology. This provides a rationale behind conducting this research and an explanation of reasoning for the methods used for the data collecting and analysing. The overall discussion of the data analysis and any identification of correlations, will then be used to form the basis of the findings chapter which follows immediately afterwards.

In the findings and discussion segment, the views, opinions and influencing factors collected from the participants during the interviews will be discussed. It will be found that all six participants have an understanding of what knife crime is and how it affects the area in which they live, as well as the families of victims and offenders. It is interpreted that young people view this particular crime as aggressive and destructive, yet participants had little knowledge on the consequences of carrying an offensive weapon. It will be found that all participants have the same imagery of a young male to be committing the knife crime which reflects what they have seen in the news media. Similarly, the researcher found that participants either believed that anyone can be a victim of knife crime, or that it is the same people who perpetrate the crime. Four out of six participants expressed their fear for walking the street alone, and this is a key finding that can help tackle the 'fear and fashion of knives' as identified in the literature chapter, and portrayed through the media.

Lastly, leading onto the final chapter of this research project, being the conclusions drawn. In this section, there will be a summary on what the data has achieved and a reflection of its implications, with particular reference to what the outcome of these is in relation to the research questions. This will be supported with arguments and conclusions from respected academics that have made publications within the same field of interest. Further, a summary as well as a reflection of these findings will be provided.

# Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

## Introduction

There were many key themes found in the existing literature, these include; complex definitions surrounding knife crime, trends in violent crimes and impacting factors on people's beliefs, one of particular focus for this study being mass media. The direction of the literature research is intended to give some academic context on the issue of knife crime in the United Kingdom, with reasons of importance to study the area of Medway. Next, definitions of the term 'youth' are identified, and the repercussion of the negative connotations attached to the label are followed. The literature review will then conclude by rounding up the arguments presented and reiterate the needs for this study, with extensive knowledge on current qualitative data already published within the field of interest.

## Knife Crime UK

The issue of knife crime has been a concern in the United Kingdom for some time, even as early as the 1860's (Pearson, 1983: 131). Throughout the 2000s, violent crimes involving weapons were increasing, according to most statistics. As suggested by evidence, this pattern started to overturn a decade later (Ministry of Justice, 2013), alongside Europe's decline in violence association on an interpersonal level (Ray, 2011). However, as outlined later in this review, bursts of utmost violence remain, and knife crime incidents and mortality seen at the highest level yet (Golding *et al*, 2008).

In accordance with existing research, it was claimed that the majority of young people who carry a knife, when asked, do so for the purpose of 'self-defence' (Flatley *et al*, 2010). Aside from this, it is evident that there is little knowledge on those who carry knives and those who do not, those who have used knives, their victims and the true perspectives of young people themselves on the contemporary issue (Eades *et al*, 2007). Very little is known beyond the approaches of 'risk factor' involvement towards the crime, and some rigid numerical data graphs that might not be generalisable to young people and their true perspectives and motives.

## **Defining ‘Youth’ & ‘Knife Crime’**

At present, as someone aspiring to represent the Kent Police Service, it is a vital requirement to keep up to date with relevant news. However, it is not just news on crime figures and legislation in the area that are to be continuously reviewed. It is important to understand the community to be served, and this includes being able to listen to vulnerable groups. For example, those aged 18-24 years, also referred to as ‘youths’. This could enable for a more adaptable approach when forming a trusted relationship with all members of the community, as striving to work in the public sector.

Academic studies, media reporting and public discussion use the term ‘youth’ comprehensively (Barry, 2006). Frequently described as a social construction of the period between childhood and adulthood (Muncie, 2009: 4), and linking to misbehaviour and crime. In the United Kingdom, it becomes a complex discussion when offending is introduced, because a child is defined as someone under the age of 18, but the legal age of criminal responsibility is ten. At the same time, a young adult is defined internationally as someone aged between 18-24 and in effect, they are subject to the same rights and responsibilities as an adult (UK Government, 2021., & WHO, 2019). Due to the difficult nature of establishing the true definition, this research will be focussing on ‘young adults’ aged 18-24.

The term ‘knife crime’ refers to a set of complex behaviours and is open to change, therefore making it difficult to settle the debate on the concept. In England and Wales, knife crime is to have possession or to use of a sharp instrument in a violent incident (Eades *et al*, 2007). Today, many definitions have been reviewed since the rise in knife crimes ([As seen in Figure 1](#)). For example, it is now highlighted as a ‘strict liability crime’ (Bedfordshire Police, 2020), making it more serious to carry a knife and when trying to buy one (if you are under eighteen) – intention does not have to be proved (Shaw *et al*, 2011), which is referred to as ‘mens rea’ in law. A disadvantage in the system is that there is a distinction between carrying a knife and using a knife, also, depending on the type of knife and the circumstances of the carrying (PRCI, 2007). For example, it is not a crime to carry a knife under a certain length, nor is it illegal to carry a knife for religious and occupational purposes.

A knife can be ‘used’ beyond carrying in two principal ways: to threaten, or to injure. This covers a range of further sub offences such as mugging, wounding and homicide (Berman, 2012) which are currently classified as ‘knife enabled offences’ (ACPO/Home Office, 2007). Further, using a knife to threaten (Brennan and Moore, 2009) or injure is generally regarded as a crime, except when used in self-defence (in some circumstances). To add to this confusion, some crimes may be committed without the use of a knife, but may still constitute or be recorded as a knife crime. The important issue here is intent, and so, for the purpose of this study, ‘knife crime’ is used in reference to the carrying of knives which are either illegal, for the sole purpose of being used as a weapon, or, where it was carried with malicious intent.

### **Recent Trends in Knife Crime**

Knife crime has become a significant problem since the reveal that there has been an increase of 21%, over almost all police force areas (Straw *et al*, 2018., & Kent County Council, 2019). As seen below in Figure 1, the data shows a steady rise from about 25,600 offences involving a sharp object, to a peak of 40,100 offenses across England and Wales (Excluding Greater Manchester). The increases across police forces have been accompanied by a shift towards younger victims and perpetrators (Office for National Statistics, 2018). But, for 71% of total offenders, this was their first knife of weapon possession offence, which is a decrease, compared to statistics in the last decade (UK Government, 2020). In the county of Kent however, which is situated outside the South East of London, the number of knife crime offences had soared by 152% since 2011 (Office for National Statistics, 2019), the fastest growing rate in the country.

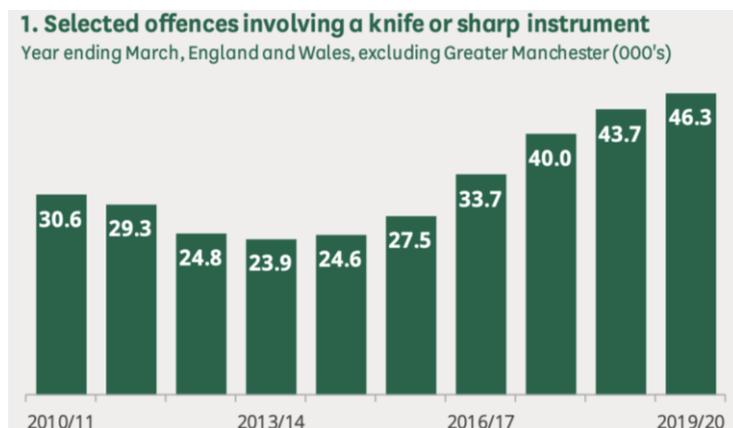


Figure 1: Chart shows the increase of knife related offences over a period of 10 years.

(ONS, Crime in England and Wales)

According to government statistics, knife crime fell by 24% and this is partly thanks to robust policing and target operations (Kent Police, 2020). However, is particularly bad in Medway. Four out of eleven crime report maps label that the 'most dangerous' areas of Kent were situated in Medway (Kent Police, 2019). These included: Medway River, Medway Rochester West, Medway Strood South and Medway Gillingham South. Therefore, it is urgent that there is a need for more knowledge regarding this area.

### **The Role of Families & Schools**

This section intends to justify the importance of the role of parental figures and primary caregivers, those who the individual looks up to as a role model, and who potentially have the greatest influence on beliefs, perspectives and attitudes. It is suggested that when it comes to the behavioural and social development of a child and young adult, the parent plays a crucial role in every aspect of the individual's life, choices and thinking (Hughes, 2014., & Gillibrand *et al*, 2016). Further, when applying this to knife crime, young people believe that the parenting role has an importance in keeping them safe (Nacro, 2019), for example by setting boundaries but having trusted and emotional conversations (Farrington, 2007). However, parents lack social control and supervision of their children due to long working hours, hence why young people are socialising on the streets (Jarman and O'halloran, 2008).

To contributing to a trend that is seen amongst young people who commit knife crime, family poverty can be seen to have increased in the town of Medway and these concentrated areas are where the highest trends appear to be for the crime (Traynor, 2019). It was found that same sex relationships played a factor, for example when a father lives with his son, the son will be less likely to commit crime compared to a son living with a mother (Wong, 2017 & Thomas *et al*, 1996). This is because one parent is absent, and therefore unable to provide adequate supervision and socialisation with the child, and this deficit would result in a higher chance of criminal behaviour engagement (Gottfredson and Hirschi, 1990., & Kroese *et al*, 2019). However, there is yet to be relevant literature on whether family dynamics affect the way that young people view knife crime in particular, although this thesis seeks to understand how the external influence of media consumption affects perceptions, as the researcher mentions next.

Similarly, the education system such as schools and college, are believed to have great potential to help early intervention for crime prevention (Gottfredson *et al*, 2002). Situational crime prevention techniques are implemented, such as giving pupils opportunities outside of the school setting such as after school clubs, and enabling the children to learn from authorities, such as teachers (O'Neill and McGloin, 2007).

### **Mass Media & Social Media**

Another influential factor on young people's perspective towards knife crime is mass media. Mass media is defined as:

*“any form of communication that simultaneously reaches a large number of people, including but not limited to radio, TV, newspapers, billboards, films, books, and the internet.”*

(Wimmer and Dominick, 2014: 2)

Media globalisation has enabled individuals to form connections with others, even from different societies around the world and this level of fast communication has grown rapidly popular and addictive in recent years (Devereux, 2014). Therefore, the media has a huge power without considerable accountability, which can be a dangerous thing because it can be seen to have been destructive in the social aspect of society, for example negatively impacting the way that people think and behave, as seen in terrorist organisations (Bilgen, 2012). However, instead of the blame falling on news businesses, it is believed that young people can be found somewhat accountable for the effects that their media consumption has on them (Ruddock, 2013).

According to recent literature, media coverage appears to have some correlation to the implications regarding the perception of youth crime and the reality of it. Responsible for a large proportion of this misinformation, people believe that there had been an increase in the number of young offenders, and that sixty-four percent of these detailed that their source was news media, despite the decline in crime (Hough and Roberts, 2004). Similarly, the media is selective in its reporting of youth crime, with the most violent offenses making headlines, when these are actually not representing the majority of court hearings (Halsey and White, 2008).

There has been a shift in the fear produced amongst most parents, to worry more for their sons than their daughters (Golding and McClory, 2009). However, there are no concerns at present for the affect this has on young people, or the perceptions of themselves and their future.

Moreover, extensive media coverage on a set crime is believed to cause moral panics, online and offline (Hunt, 1997., & Mason, 2019). A ‘moral panic’ is believed to be the term that describes the widespread fear amongst a population, that has stemmed from potential threats of a mutual interest (Cohen, 1973). This leads to a change of perception and behaviour. The issue, again, with media coverage is that it can be easily misinterpreted, especially because what was an individual’s private trouble, had turned into a public issue (Sacco, 1995). The exaggeration of the phenomenon can lead to advertising of the crime, which might result in an increase of those cases, such as during the knife crime moral panic (Squires, 2009).

One reason for the increase in crime is the excitement as portrayed in the news (McCormick, 1995). Yet, this in many ways can be contradicted, because it does not explain why some people feel anxious from the exposure of violent crimes in the news (Reiner, 2007), and others influenced to follow suit. Therefore, it is argued that the exposure to violent crime figures in news media has contributed more harm than good (Squires, 2009), by playing certain news over and over, media, almost takes the role of a promoter of violent crimes, rather than preventing them.

Similarly, social media can affect young people and have influence on their behaviour and perspectives on knife crime. Social media is defined as any website and application that enables a user to create and share content or to participate in social networking (Oxford Languages, 2020 & O’Keefe *et al*, 2011). This has resulted in a society of young people to have become increasingly closer and with ever evolving technology developments, making social media platforms easily available to us at any point of the day, such as via the use of mobile phones. Research analysis finds that social media contributes largely to conflict, controversy and oddity that changes the understanding and challenges the values of society (García-Perdomo *et al*, 2017). For example, young people “feel they are portrayed negatively by the media and

branded as if they are criminals or trouble-makers” (Kinsella, 2011). Further, suggesting that young people are heavily influenced by media coverage and the ‘glamorous’ famous crime. Similarly, it is suggested that social media can facilitate knife crime. Cressida Dick, the Met Commissioner expresses the dispute between young people where social media has fuelled murders through knife crime. It was said that insults or threats online could make it harder for people to calm down, and that this violence has become normalised (Mayor of London, 2019).

Young people believe that they are aware of media perpetuating a myth that streets are not a safe place, and this leads many to feel unprotected if they do not carry a weapon to protect themselves (Barnardo’s, 2019). With YouTube being the most used platform with 82% of young people engaging, compared to popular networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp (Statista, 2020). Valuable data identifies that social networking sites could be influencing young people to have a romanticised perspective on gang culture and violence. In support, the growth of drill music videos on YouTube, has promoted images of gang and street culture, and this can be viewed as a quick way to ‘succeed in life’, ultimately encouraging violent behaviour among young men (Fatsis, 2019., & The Voice of London, 2019). It is clear that there was a prevalent increase in knife crime in 2017 as discussed earlier (Shaw, 2019).

### **Summary**

In summary, and to conclude this chapter, the above acknowledges that many scholars have tried to answer questions surrounding the rise of knife crime in the United Kingdom and the causes, but not many have attempted to assess young people’s views on this (Greer, 2007; Rios and Ferguson, 2020., & Altheide, 1997). The voices of these young people have been neglected, with some exclusion to those who have not committed a crime before and this absence has formed a negative stereotype on youth behaviour, creating distorted image of reality (Wood, 2010). The towns of Medway are an under-researched area, and in review of the literature, it is also important to note that current studies suggest that media impacts young person’s views, and so there is a need for this study, which will highlight the significance of the impact when it comes to violent crimes. The study could help to improve young adult’s lives by changing the way that authorities handle knife crime incidents and by limiting the negative exposure of fake news.

# Chapter 3: METHODOLOGY

## **Introduction**

This chapter will outline the methodology used to collect relevant data. First, the rationale of the study explains the researcher's reflections prior to the methodology and next, the reasoning for a qualitative approach strategy will be discussed. This is followed by the sampling technique section, which contributed to the process of conducting semi-structured interviews, by identifying the most valuable sample group and size. Next, the method itself will be outlined further. There will be a discussion of ethical considerations, including reflexivity, informed consent and any biases that were considered, and throughout, there will be a justification for the choices that were made - with all consideration of the limitations that these posed. Finally, the last section of the methodology explains the researcher's data collection and analysis process.

## **Rationale of the Study**

Since birth, Medway Towns has been the researcher's home. After moving to London for just short of two years for university, and then returning back to Medway, there was a realisation that young people such as myself, felt unsafe and that it did not matter in what area of England. I was made to believe that violent crimes were active on the streets. This initially sparked an interest on violent crimes and since, has recently developed into ideas such as, where these perceptions came from, and whether this fear was a true reflection of the issue. Throughout the initial review of literature on young peoples' perspectives on knife crime, it was found easy to have lost focus on the research questions at hand - because of the wide field of interest. After completion, the review allowed for a development into why young people might feel the way they do about the research subject. Although the literature review predominantly focussed upon factors that could shape a person's belief's, one of most interest to the researcher is how social media and mass media affects these views; which could suggest a correlation of some sort to youth offending. The researcher's aim to identify a pattern in media consumption to youth knife crime is important to the research. The findings of such might be useful in the field because it could potentially help the police and other agencies tackle violent crimes by developing new

methods from the relevant data drawn. These recommendations will be discussed in depth later ([See Recommendations, p.32](#)).

### **Qualitative Approach**

For the purpose of this research project, a qualitative methodological approach was used to gather data information. Qualitative research is a strategy that usually emphasis words rather than quantification, and in this case will be making use of the feature it offers, which is interpretivism (Bryman, 2012). An interpretive approach, in keeping with the study objectives, means to conceptualise a being's current beliefs that sustain meaning in their every-day lives (Creswell, 2007). Therefore, the ontological dimension satisfies as the motion to seek the reality that young people live, which is based on their perception, assumed through the social world continually being constructed through interactions (Lumsden *et al*, 2011). For the purpose of qualitative social research, the epistemological basis relies on how the participants know what they know (Hesse-Biber, 2010), what influences their beliefs? To clarify, the interpretivist approach suggests that the reality is based on our own perception of it. It is noted that with these methods adapted, the study has fostered a particular way of asking questions (Smith and Sparkes, 2016) such as, beginning with words like *how*, *why* or *what* ([See Appendix B, p.45](#)).

This was chosen to better explore the complex attitudes and emotions (Maruna, 2001: 40) that might express young people's perspectives and such an approach. Although more time consuming, this will enable for a flowing conversation that will extract the most valuable information on what is important to them (Wincup, 2017). This approach allowed for the collection of feelings, opinions and attitudes of the sample population, regarding their personal and collective attitudes towards knife crime (Flick, 2009), which tends to be associated with a high level of validity. To contrast, collecting data numerically through statistics and surveys would not have allowed access to this level of in depth understanding (Tewksbury, 2009).

Despite this, the method of qualitative generates large amounts of data that might not be straightforward to analyse, this is described as much as an 'art' as 'science' (Bachman and

Schutt, 2008). To overcome this, the research gathered consent to record verbal interview data and then transcribed, which enabled the researcher to identify important pieces of information to analyse. A second drawback, could be that the findings drawn from the data collected might lack representativeness, due to the small sample size (as discussed later in this chapter). This study is not concerned with generalization (Denzin and Lincoln, 2000), but rather with trustworthiness and authenticity (Lincoln and Guba, 1986). Credibility of this is measured through prolonged engagement with the research participants and during the interpretation phase, one researcher will code and analyse the data which can be confirmed by checking the representativeness of data on a whole (Elo *et al*, 2014). As a result of this, although the findings cannot be used to assume or predict the entire of young people's perspectives on knife crime, the research could have a higher level of authenticity. Further, transferability, which is favourable for the research topic when providing interchangeability outside of the United Kingdom, is up most recognised as a benefit of the research strategy. There are limitations as identified, but these do not undermine that this approach is better suited (Noaks and Wincup, 2004) for the study.

### **Sampling Technique**

It was decided based on research objectives, to try to interview people who were aged over eighteen years and no older than twenty-four. Those aged within the international 'young persons' group, are seen to correspond with the main ages of gang involvement within the United Kingdom, according to the Office for National Statistics (2018). This was also beneficial when trying to avoid the 'interview effect'. The term is used to explain the implication of possible effected responses from the way that the researcher or interviewer displays their body language or verbal intonation such as repetition of key words or phrases (Hansen, 2006).

A second key consideration for the process of sample collection was the geographical context - the participants were therefore from the Medway Towns – because this is where the researcher is situated and also considered as a high area of knife crime rates (Office for National Statistics, 2019). The respondents were known to the researcher, through friends of friends and they were approached because they held certain characteristics. Known as selective sampling, or

deliberate (Braun and Clarke, 2014), the method was a form of non-probability which is explained to be useful to data collection when the participants will contribute to the investigation somewhat. They all conformed within the age range, lived in the Medway towns and had some knowledge on knife crime. They were contacted online via email, and this was followed with an attachment of the interview information sheet and consent form ([See Appendix B, p.45](#)) with clear instructions, if they wish to participate. Six potential participants were contacted at one time, having decided that the small sample would allow for the researcher to dedicate sufficient time to the data analysis stage from these findings. There were an equal number of male and female participants that took part.

### **Semi Structured Interviews**

The qualitative method chosen to gather information was semi-structured interviews and this conformed to the theoretical framework (Sarantakos, 2013). Semi-structured interviews are conducted using pre-set questions as a guide for the conversation of discussion with the participant, while at the same time allowing for the interviewee to divulge as much or as little information as possible, with the aid of on the spot follow up questions (Braun and Clarke, 2014). Also, found to stimulate a rapport, generating feelings of comfortability and openness (Jenner and Myers, 2018). Thus, the interview guide and base questions are not rigorously adhered, enabling depth, but is essential for an effective interview to take place.

It is noted that due to the current circumstance of the coronavirus pandemic and England's restrictions, that semi-structured interviews were carried out via video chat platforms including Skype and Microsoft Teams. These communication technologies have improved the access to participants, by overcoming the physical and financial challenges that sometimes accompany face-to-face interviews. It is acknowledged though, that physical separation could affect the level of intimacy (Weller, 2017). Therefore, when on less of a time constraint it should be had that interviews next time will be conducted face-to-face to increase the likelihood of participant disclosure. Despite this, the research is considered to be on a topic that is less sensitive and the focus group are not regarded as vulnerable members of the population. This is believed to not affect the rapport significantly (Adams-Hutcheson and Longhurst, 2017). Lastly, interviews allowed the participants to present information that may not have necessary have been

anticipated, through the use of a survey for example. Such as some flexibility when probing the participant for more information without the feeling of pressure or coercion.

There were six interviews conducted. The interview questions ([See Appendix B, p.45](#)) created flexibility whilst provided some structure to the interview. This was decided so that the process could remain impartial, unbiased and unaffected by the researcher's previous knowledge about participants (Batty, 2009). There was no need to conduct a pilot study on the questions to be asked, and it was not beneficial to test the practicality of the study, even more so, given the research purpose of gathering people's subjective opinions and beliefs (Percy *et al*, 2015). However, this could pose the limitation of lack of adequate performance from the researcher whom conducts the interviews, because a pilot study could have provided benefits such as a review of the interview question guide (Mohamad *et al*, 2017). Nevertheless, interviewing persons that were already known to the interviewer saved time and resources which proved most valuable methodologically, because if the study had been conducted using a random sample, then participants might not have contributed relevant data to the findings.

### **Data Collection & Analysis Process**

All interviews were voice recorded via a mobile phone device and this was explained to all participants prior to the interviews, consent retrieved at the start of recording. The audio recordings were uploaded to a secure online storage site named Google Drive, to which are linked in the appendices section ([See Appendix C1, p.98](#)) and these recordings were then used to create precise transcripts ([See Appendix C, p.48](#)). This was found most time consuming due to the accuracy of sounds such as sniffing and laughing which could be misinterpreted, however, the primary data was both collected directly and analysed by the researcher. Another difficulty the researcher found from the interviews that took place via Skype was the settings that could not be controlled, for example with participant 3, the recording lacks clarity due to the placement of the recording device to the laptop speaker. Similarly, it was found that the recording retrieved from the participant 5 interview lacked speaker line connection on some occasions which resulted in inaudible answers. Despite this, participants could have felt more comfortable in their own home which might have been beneficial at tackling nerves or researcher safety considerations, as discussed later in this chapter.

From the transcripts, preliminary codes were assigned, and this was in order to allocate patterns and themes (Bendell, 1998) across the different interviews. Afterwards, the themes were reviewed, defined and discussed. Some important quotes were taken directly from the interviews and have been inserted as in text referencing, where they have been interpreted further to uncover meanings. The researcher found it difficult to analyse some data from questions that were asked because on few occasions' participants interpreted the question differently which led the interview onto separate conversations that were still related to the subject of interest. When comparing the data on a whole, the researcher found it time consuming to find a trend or to establish whether there was no pattern in the data. However, it was beneficial that the researcher transcribed and analysed the data because the interpretations might have remained more generalisable.

### **Ethical Considerations**

The British Society of Criminology (2015) refers to research ethics as the moral principles used to guide the research from beginning to end, specifically the responsibilities required of the researcher. The guidelines are of most importance when conducting human research for many reasons, one of such is the safety of the researcher. It was found that there would be no major risk of this being of consequence due to interviews being conducted over a live video call. Within this research, a number of ethical issues were identified and the correct measures were taken to minimise any contamination of the data collected, as well as highlighting the potential sensitivity or vulnerability of the subjects involved.

This research has committed to protecting the rights of those in the study. There was a responsibility towards the participants and this was to ensure that the physical, social and psychological well-being of every individual is not affected by the research – or in other words, to minimise the risk of harm. Before the interviews, all participants were asked to sign a consent form ([See Appendix A, p.43](#)) which acted as a way of informing each individual about the purpose of the project, what they could expect during and after their voluntary participation, how long the duration of the interview would last and they were made aware of their right to withdraw or refuse their participation at any stage, with no obligation to provide a reason. The

ethical principle of informed consent was also followed in this project by confirming with the participant in writing and verbally before and after their interview, that the conversation would be recorded on an audio device, and that they could also reject this at any stage. It was clarified that participant personal information (such as names and other details that could potentially reveal their identity) would remain confidential and anonymous. This is subject to the Data Protection Act 1998, whereby researchers must not constitute to any 'personal data processing' (UK Government, 2021). All participants were assigned a code name that will be used throughout the research.

Vulnerability of the participants were considered and categorised alongside access issues. Originally, this project was interested on young people whom some fell under the age of eighteen years old. This focus group would have posed several ethical difficulties given the time frame and current social restrictions in England. For example, those under the age of eighteen require consent from their parents/legal guardians, or other gatekeepers such as their school institution (Kirby, 2004). Therefore, it was decided to research participants who are over the age of eighteen who can give their consent themselves. All participants had English as their first language, did not have any standing or pending convictions, and did not suffer from any learning difficulties. This research explored other areas of harm such as the interview questions (Wahidin and Moore, 2010). These would not pose any risk to the participants because the research does not involve any direct contribution of past or present experiences, eliminating pressure to recall traumatic events.

The researcher acknowledges their positionality in the study, such personal characteristics that could impact the research and its interpretations (Rowe, 2014., & Holmes, 2020). These include being a young person too, and believing that humans are very much influenced when thinking and acting the way that they do (naturalist). Similarly, a bias noted involved the allocated interpretivist approach, and the association with it, being its subjective nature. This made room for researcher bias, also known as confirmation bias, which could often take place in the interpretation stage of data analysis (Wadams, 2018). The research understood that unconsciously this would be a possibility and could impact the findings negatively, or affect the validity. However, the researcher ensured that there were no strong ideas or patterns influenced by other researcher findings, and that words and phrases spoken by each participant

were highlighted according to the research questions stated at the beginning of this thesis, before interpretations began.

Selection bias was identified at the sampling stage. This may have occurred because Medway has an overall population of approximately 280,894 (ONS, 2019) and a small sample was used in accordance to the time frame allocated for the study. It was acknowledged that there would be an underrepresentation of the target population due to many differential characteristics, such as ethnicity (Hammersley and Gomm, 1997). Therefore, steps were taken to reduce the bias when selected respondents were approached. There were the same number of males and females that took part, and the participants were gathered through friends of friends to increase the randomisation. Another bias eliminated from the study is observation or known as the Hawthorne effect. This bias is used to explain the possible issue of participants that could be aware they are being researched, leading to the alteration of their answers (McCambridge *et al*, 2014). To avoid this, the researcher did not allow the participants to premeditate the questions on the interview information sheet, for example, participants were not disclosed any 'leading information'.

### **Summary**

To summarise, qualitative data was discussed to be the most beneficial when collecting information for young people's perspectives on knife crime, and when analysing what has influenced these views. Six participants will provide sufficient information from semi structured interviews conducted ethically and online, and which will then be interpreted from transcriptions. These methods and strategies were the most beneficial at drawing conclusions, in an attempt to answer the research questions. As well as, the researcher can take away valuable skills from the act of organising and carrying out interviews, as this experience will improve on interview skills in future projects and potential careers when working with different groups from the community.

# Chapter 4: FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

## Introduction

This chapter provides a breakdown of the key findings from six interviews that were conducted to answer three questions as discussed in the introduction to the project thesis. The first part of this chapter discusses participants current views towards knife crime, such as their understanding of the definition as argued earlier by Eades *et al* (2007), and also what their perspective was on knife crime rates in their area of the United Kingdom. Next, findings from part two of the interviews (which consisted of participants current thoughts about the issue) were compared alongside their media consumption, specifically the sources of knife crime that they had encountered online or via mass media. This discussion provides an argument as to whether young people view media as good or bad in the influence of knife crime and if the debate yielded by Fatis, on whether drill music encouraging violent behaviour, is a worthy explanation for the increase of knife crime. Lastly, this chapter discusses what young people believe would help reduce knife crime.

## Current views towards Knife Crime

As previously established by Eades *et al* (2007), the term ‘knife crime’ is open to change and is very difficult to define. Prior to asking participants about their views and source of their views, participants were first asked about what they believed knife crime was. Unsurprisingly, all participants believed that knife crime was a criminal offence. Although, none of the participants recognised that it is legal to withhold a knife on your person if under a certain length or for religious purposes, similarly participants did not make reference to trying to buy or sell a knife to those who are under the age of eighteen. A few quotes from the interviews are as followed:

“if you were to be like if you were to be like carrying a knife and if you were to be using it like threatening or like harm someone” (Participant 1 – Male, 18 years old)

“I believe knife crime is any crime involving er knives basically, whether that’s um murder or you know someone stabbing someone, or just a knife being there” (Participant 3 – Male, 23 years old)

“I believe it is where um there’s people that withheld knives hide knives and they tend to stab people of threaten people with them” (Participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

From the violent terms “threatening” and “stabbing” it can be suggested that participants might have a negative and aggressive perspective of the term and link it solely to the action of using or carrying a knife for the purpose of harming someone else. The term could be seen as one that holds a negative connotation, but, all participants seem to have an understanding that knife crime is dangerous and unlawful. Despite this, when participants were asked about the consequence of carrying a knife versus using a knife to cause harm on someone else, all participants replied that they did not know what the particular sentence or punishment would be for either.

In accordance to existing literature, social media and mass media has a huge power to control what people think (Devereux, 2014) and so when asked if knife crime was a current issue amongst young people, all participants answered yes, which will later be analysed in this chapter as to why they believe knife crime is a significant issue. It was also found that participants believed that knife crime was often reoccurring in the towns in which they lived, four participants explaining that knife crime has increased in the area within the last five years. However, the researcher lacked research into the specific statistics and cases within the area of Medway, due to research predominantly focussing on other major cities in the United Kingdom. The researcher then asked why young people might carry knives, which are similar to literature findings:

“cause the fact that other people carry weapons its then self-defence it’s like a you know a lot of em that’s why a lot more people going about carrying weapons to protect themselves from other people carrying weapons” (Participant 2 – Male, 22 years old)

The data found a predominant trend in that participants explained they thought that young perpetrators carry knives solely for the purpose of protection. This supports existing literature in the academic field, when Flatley et al (2010) found that the majority of youth offenders carried a knife for the purpose of 'self-defence'. Similarly, the views shared express that fear was a motivating factor and that in recent years there have been a migration of gang members from London to their town of Medway. The belief of young people feeling unprotected does not get addressed enough (Nacro, 2019), and with knife possession carrying harsher sentences, young people feel that they are not supported enough to enhance their safety or to reduce their vulnerability.

### **Correlation to Media Consumption**

The next section of the study was concerned with gathering a simple understanding of how young people's media consumption had affected the views that they hold. Mass media and social media could play a part in explaining why young people view knife crime the way they do, according to theories developed by Moore (2014). The influence of knife crime related media that was consumed by participants generated some qualitative data. For example, during the research phase, interviewees were asked what type of person they picture to be committing knife crime. The responses are as follows:

“people who er have their face covered up and the thing that comes to my mind is people wearing sort of tracksuit bottoms, gloves and face covering up black coats with their hoods on carrying machetes” “a male um and that's the first thing that comes to my mind but you know it's not saying it's only limited to men, women can be involved with it too but you can sort of, you never really hear anything about women being involved with it, unless they're the ones being stabbed” (Participant 3 – Male, 23 years old)

“younger men um early teens to even late twenties really in gangs. Um and usually people that are from like a lower class background” (participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

“a young teenage youth ye a youth teenage boy” (Participant 5 – Female, 22 years old)

The responses above indicate that participants predominantly imaged men aged teenage to early twenties to be committing offenses relating to knife crime. According to Hall and Innes (2012) males are more likely to commit violent offenses than females, but they are also more likely to fall victim of the same offenses. This is reflected within the findings where it can be indicated that the participants are aware that males could be at higher risk of involvement with knife crime. Also supporting Padley and Hirsch (2013) who developed research on neighbourhoods with high levels of offending and victimisation. Further, the researcher suggests that there is little focus on women and girls who may be asked to carry knives on behalf of others, for example to be less likely to be stopped by the police (Bailey *et al*, 2020). However, data published from the Office for National Statistics (2010) does not publish the knife crime statistics breakdown by gender. Therefore, the source of young people's views could possibly be from other influences which will be analysed later in this chapter.

One participant refers to young offenders from a "lower class background" falling at higher risk of involvement and this supports Booth *et al* (2008:35) who suggests that knife carrying is linked to those disadvantaged in deprivation. Many studies from authors such as Silvestri *et al* (2009) have analysed quantitative data which, although, does not provide an adequate source as to why people carry knives due to poverty, however has provided a valuable source of data according to the figures of knife crime trends.

It was found that five out of six participants felt that their views on knife crime were most shaped by the media, especially social media. In contrast, one participant felt that their views were shaped more by their personal experiences and that they focussed on their reality due to the idea that what is portrayed on media sources is very different to real life. These findings suggest that most young people could be very much influenced by media and the ideas that are shared. This supports findings earlier discussed by Devereux (2014), with the notion of media communication networking sites becoming increasingly addictive and potentially resulting in a subconscious change of beliefs.

It was later analysed that all participants identified a level of fear that is produced from news reporting on media platforms, specifically knife crime stabbings. Those reports that were

encountered by participants involved serious offenses involving a knife and that resulted in the victim in the headlines having serious injuries or dying from the attack. One response is as follows:

“ye definitely. I think it um makes people a bit more aware of what’s actually going on um around them and it can scare some people” (Participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

A key finding from the qualitative data found that four out of six participants also experienced a level of fear or anxiety when they walk on the streets and notice that a group of two or more were walking towards them. Three of these four participants said that they would typically cross the road before making eye contact and all participants suggested that they would make a prejudgement of the people walking towards them. Some responses are as follows:

“I sort-you sort of take a glance and sort of process what they look like. Might cross the street for example or do something to avoid them” (Participant 3 – Male, 23 years old)

“if it was a couple of younger boys who do like a bit scary um then I would be worried and I probably would cross over” (Participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

The majority of participants make reference to avoiding other people who match their perspectives of those they described to be offenders of knife crime, and as seen through the media on crime reports. However, when Participant 5 was asked what clothing their friends typically wear, it was found that they wear hoodies and a tracksuit, which corresponds with the existing stereotype that a perpetrator would wear the same items of clothing. This opens the idea that perhaps young males or those who wear tracksuits are feared most when on the street. Therefore, Cohen’s (1973) findings on moral panics could be used to explain the moral panic amongst young people.

Participant 2 believes that social media can be seen as neither good or bad and that to some extent and therefore the media should not take blame for any crime levels increasing, as it is out of the platform's control. Ruddock (2013) suggests that people are accountable for their beliefs and actions, despite what is shown on the news, and some young people attempt to form their views objectively, although it can be implied that young people's way of thinking is influenced by media:

“I think a lot has to do with social media and stuff like that um you know kids today know about instant cash they don't know about mortgages and how to live life and what good careers to go into” (Participant 3 – Male, 22 years old)

Fatis (2019) debates whether drill music videos contributed to the rise of knife crime amongst young people in London. However, in Medway, the findings did not produce much data on whether drill music videos influenced participants views on violent weapon crimes because half of participants admitted they had not seen this type of music video. Therefore, the researcher acknowledges that the sample for this study could have been more focussed on young people who had consumed media from as such sources. The three participants that had watched a drill music video agreed that other young people can relate to the music produced and the imagery of lifestyles on the street, just as with most music, using it as an “escape”. It is suggested from responses that gang culture is romanticised in these drill music videos, as can be concluded from the following:

“some of them do talk about drugs, guns, violence” (Participant 1 – Male, 18 years old)

“I think it is quite bad um for the young generation to be watching and listening to them specific videos because they might not even realise what they're taking in” (Participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

Although this data might not be representative because some young people, according to participant 2, believe that music videos can be served to “educate people” and that it only

affects people who are “already messed up in the head”, conforming to the findings from Rigg *et al* (2021) with the idea that people who commit knife crime suffer with mental health issues.

### **Reducing Knife Crime**

Participants were asked if they knew of any knife crime strategies that are in place to reduce the levels in their local area, including those run by Medway Council or managed by Kent Police. It was found that five participants did not know of any strategies put in place to help manage and reduce the issue, and even more, one participant disclosed that a case they had first headedly witnessed destroyed their hope in police duties, due to the police actions seeming like “they couldn’t do much about it” (Participant 4). The lack of knowledge available to young people could be a factor that restricts them in times of need, as supported by Nacro (2019) and the study into seeking people’s views on what can be changed to help young people recognise crime. For example, when participants were asked who they could turn to when they need to, three out of six admitted that they would not know who they could contact. This suggests that young people might be left in ‘the dark’ with when it comes to vital information and help lines, especially regarding ‘ways out of crime’. For example, one participant said that young people:

“are scared to contact the police because they sometimes think they will be in more trouble than the help that they can receive” (Participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

From this response, it can be suggested that young people need more guidance and reassurance that to every problem there is a solution. That the police must continue to work on their relationship with the youth.

Participants were then asked what they thought would help reduce the levels of knife crime in Medway.

“I think education that’s the main thing I think in schools teaching them you know how to conduct themselves in life, the paths they should and shouldn’t go down” (Participant 3 – Male, 23 years old)

“I feel like it’s not spoken about enough um especially in the younger generations, I think it should be spoken about a lot more in schools” (Participant 4 – Female, 21 years old)

It can be seen evident that half of the participants agreed that helping to reduce knife crime in the area should start in school. Preventative workshops have proven to be successful at changing young people’s mindsets, as 70% of those in a study first believed that knife carrying might protect them and their views were altered after attendance (Green, 2018). The education system provides a feeling of ‘togetherness’ for young people, and one participant mentions that it had always stuck in their mind when the police, or other people who have been negatively impacted by an event, would host a talk during assembly. This could give young people the opportunity to share their experiences with a network of people around them (i.e., Teachers) and to understand where to get support or to be able to learn how to prevent being involved in criminal activities.

Further, participants responded that anonymous sources would help reduce the levels of knife crime. The responses suggestions imply that young people might feel embarrassed or scared of talking to someone about a criminal activity that they might be involved with, especially if they feel their ‘protection’ could be at stake, and Participant 4 also suggested that there should be more available crime helplines with access to through online platforms that could potentially enable young people to feel less worried. Secondly, for there to be a trial of surrender knife bins within high risk areas, which are funded via police services or public charities, and have proven successful in areas of the United Kingdom such as Burnley (Robins, 2015).

# Chapter 5: CONCLUSION

## Summary

The overall conclusion from this research project draws upon the potential influencing factor of the media and to what extent this impacts a young person's perspective of knife crime. In some cases, it can be seen that the way that media delivers knife crime news stories, does impact the way that young people think when going about their lives. For example, the way that young people perceive others when walking on the street, and the belief that knife crime rates are higher than what they truly are within the United Kingdom. However, this conclusion may only be used as an authentic outlook from a youth perspective. The researcher might find by expanding the sample size in future studies, the data might be more generalisable.

Another conclusion as suggested by young people's view of perpetrators, is that male youths who particularly wear tracksuits are feared of most, and these stereotypes are usually reproduced and exaggerated by the media. That it is believed that these types of people carry knives more than others and that their motives are driven by the protection of themselves. Therefore, the media can be seen to have ultimately shaped young people to fear other young people during and after the moral panic of knife crime in the United Kingdom. The impact of media from a youth's perspective can be seen as predominantly negative.

On the other hand, one third of participants argue that their perspectives of knife crime have been most shaped by their personal experience or a mix of factors such as family upbringing. So, although the impact of media could be seen as significantly higher than other influencing factors on their perspectives of crime, the studies in the field of violent crimes should be developed so that a comparison of factors could measure the validity of this thesis. Future studies could also look into understanding how these findings can be used by the police and other multi agencies to change and promote young people's attitudes towards crime, with extensive support in having more control over the exposure of news media.

## **Recommendations**

### **FOR KNIFE/CRIME PROGRAMMES TO BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS**

Programmes or lessons devised to education young people on the reality of crime statistics, criminal signs and dangers and how to cooperate with police officers could help build a better trusting relationship with young people's views on anti-social behaviour.

Similarly, talks from people who have experienced negatively from car accidents, and fire rescues stick most in young people's mind. When given the opportunity to hear from an individual or family who has suffered from a knife crime related incident, this could subconsciously allow for students to recognise the consequence of crimes on others

### **POLICE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

The police and community organisations should work together more to improve relationships with young people to overcome negative perceptions. The police should increase their engagement with young people and the communities that they serve to reduce the 'no grass' culture.

### **KNIFE BIN LOCATIONS PUBLISHED ON MEDIA PLATFORMS**

It is encouraged that there are to be more knife bins in Medway and the United Kingdom, where people understand that the scheme is anonymous. Advertisement for the whereabouts of these bins could be posted on social networking sites such as snapchat, and Instagram.

### **AIM TO TACKLE THE CONCEPT OF FEAR AND FASHION OF KNIVES**

Aim to teach young people social skills to prevent anxiety and fear, which could reduce young people from carrying knives. This is by enabling young people to believe they do not need to protect themselves when leaving their home.

Further, it might be beneficial for local music creators to influence young people positively, for example by reducing the 'romanisation' of illegal activities in video's

### **COMMUNITIES TO BE ENCOURAGED TO COME TOGETHER MORE**

As found that most young people have little to no involvement with those of different age groups outside of their family, such as not knowing who their neighbours are, might create a barrier between various types of members in the community. It is recommended that more social events took place to break the negative stereotypes of young people.

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# APPENDICES

## **Appendix A – Participant Consent Form**

### **Title of Research Project:**



Knife Crime in Medway, UK: The Impact of Media from a Youth Perspective

### **Brief Description of Research Project:**

The aim or purpose of this interview will be to ask you questions relating to your views and opinions on knife crime as a young person. You will also be asked questions relating to any influencing factors on these attitudes. I would, therefore, like to invite you to contribute to this research project by agreeing to a one-to-one interview discussion with me via video call. Your contribution and voice would be extremely useful when recommending future research, and for young people who engage in or are at risk of being a victim of knife crime.

I anticipate that this interview will last between 15-35 minutes.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Please be advised that this interview is voluntary and everything you say will be treated confidentially. It is up to you if you decide whether or not to take part. You will be given this information sheet and consent form and if you do decide to take part, you can still withdraw at any time. You do not have to give a reason. If at any time during the interview you feel uncomfortable please feel free to let me know and we can stop the interview. Further, you are under no obligation to answer all of my questions if you would not like to or do not feel that you can and note that there are no right or wrong answers.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for participating in the project, your contribution may be valued in providing a better understanding on young people living in the area of Medway and their views on knife crime. Also, it is hoped to help better the current research within this field of interest and to recognise the need for young people's voices to be heard in academic country wide issues.

### **Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?**

The audio of your activities made during the research will be used only for analysis and for illustration. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings. The recording will be safely stored in a file with a password and will be destroyed once this project is completed.



**Use, Dissemination and Storage of Research Data:**

The data collected will be used to form part of an undergraduate dissertation. The interview will be tape recorded if consent is given, and transcribed with any identifying details removed. The transcript, or extracts from, may appear in my report and in any publications arising from it. All data collected will be stored on encrypted password protected devices and will be completely anonymous. The tapes may be heard securely by my supervisor and others who might be involved in examining the report, and after the recordings will be destroyed.

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*Participants are advised not to discuss anything that would put the researcher or interviewer in a position that would lead to a breach of confidentiality. This includes the disclosure of evidence about a crime you have committed or witnessed. The information provided will be reported to the police, and this could take effect as soon as the interview has ended.*

**Investigator Contact Details:**

**Name:** Alanya Spiller

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166-220 Holloway Rd,  
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**Supervisor email:** [e.larionidou@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:e.larionidou@londonmet.ac.uk)

**Consent Statement:**

I agree to be aged 18 years or over and to take part in this research, and I am aware that I am free to withdraw at any point. I understand that the information I provide will be treated in confidence by the investigator and that my identity will be protected in the publication of any findings. I have read all of the above.

Name .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Please note: if you have a concern about any aspect of your participation, or any other queries, please raise this with the Investigator or the Supervisor via the emails provided above.

## **Appendix B – Interview Schedule and Questions**

### **Brief Introduction:**

- Welcome participant

*“Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Your contribution is very much appreciated”.*

- Confirm information sheet and clarify consent form received
- Check everything is okay, any questions before interview
- Let them know when recording begins and then confirm consent of recording verbally

### **Ice Breakers**

- How are you today?
- How old are you?
- What area of Medway do you live in? (*emphasise that should not share actual address, just the broader area*)
- Do you have any siblings that have lived in your household? (*clarify that no nick/names should be given, brother/sister x years old*)
- What do you currently do for a living?

### **Part 1 – General Knowledge**

- a. What do you believe knife crime is?
- b. Is carrying a knife considered a criminal offence?
- c. What are the consequences if someone is caught carrying a knife? Using a knife to cause harm on someone else? Specific sentence?
- d. Do you think that knife crime is a serious issue for young people living in the UK?
- e. Is there knife crime in Medway? Have you seen cases on news or heard from others?
- f. So, do you think the levels of knife crime in Medway have increased? Since when?
- g. Does Medway have a knife crime strategy?

### **Part 2 - Current Attitudes and Perspectives**

#### **2a – Thoughts**

- a. When you think of knife crime, what person do you picture to be committing the crime? *Gender? Age? Ethnicity? Status?*
- b. What kind of person do you picture to fall a victim of the crime?
- c. Why do you think young people are carrying knives?
- d. What are your personal thoughts on people who commit knife crime?
- e. Why do you think the level of knife crime has increased/decreased/stayed the same?
- f. Do you feel safe living in Medway? Has this feeling enhanced?
- g. Do you trust the police and other agencies (such as authority figures when you were at school) to keep you safe? Why?
- h. The ‘no grass’ culture is thought to prevent police from protecting communities, due to the lack of intelligence given to them by witnesses, especially by those who are known to offenders via friendships. So, as a young person, if your friend or someone

you knew committed a crime, would you report this to the police or act as a witness? Why? *i.e., know it's wrong and they could be in danger, or would not want to get involved as fear of your own protection*

- i. What do you think would reduce the levels of knife crime in Medway and try to tackle the issue? When do you think this should start to take effect? *According to age groups, education in schools, religious education, offering ways out of crime?*
- j. Do you think that young people today have a stereotype or label branded on them by other members in society? What are these? How do they make you feel? Institutional discrimination and impact on knife crime?

## **2b - Gangs and Knife Crime**

- a. Firstly, what is a street gang and are they legal?
- b. Why would young people join gangs? *i.e., excitement, friends, acceptance, money, protection, sense of belonging*
- c. Do you think young people suffer from mental health, making them vulnerable?
- d. Do you think that young people who engage with this culture fantasise about being a part of a gang, with little knowledge about the reality of them? *i.e., county lines, crime, drugs, prison, victim, death*
- e. Do you think that young people who are in a gang are more or less likely to carry a knife? Why?
- f. When you think back to before the coronavirus pandemic and current restrictions, are there any scenarios where you think young people might feel scared or anxious in certain public spaces? *i.e., queuing to go into night clubs, walking the street alone.*
- g. Similarly, if you happen to have walked the street on your own before, how do you feel when a group of two or more people walk towards you? What do you do?
- h. After the age of 18, young people are of 'school leavers age', what kind of support is available to you? *i.e., service help lines, counselling, safe crime report systems*

## **Part 3 – Root of these Views**

### **3a – Media**

- a. How much knife crime news have you encountered online or via television? On what platform have you seen most news on the subject?
- b. What types of crimes have you cited from these sources? Serious or minor?
- c. What is your perception of knife crime according to these sources and to what extent have these perceptions been affected by the media?
- d. Do you think this has shaped your views of the area that you live and knife crime? How did seeing this news make you feel?
- e. Do you think that the media has provided an accurate representation of the levels of knife crime in Medway? Do you think that news publishers such as the BBC should be held accountable for the way that crimes are portrayed, if result in a negative impact of people's mental health?
- f. How do drill/grime music videos make you feel? Do you think they romanticise gang culture and weapons? Or is it just an expression of young people's feelings about the

difficulties they encounter? *i.e., deprivation, poverty, blocked opportunities, streets full of violence etc?*

- g. Without too much detail, have you ever heard about anyone who has experienced threats or harassments through online platforms that involve weapon violence?
- h. If any, what online platforms/campaigns advertise advice and helplines for people who find themselves involved or at risk of violent crimes? Do you think there should be more available support and knowledge on crimes so that young people don't feel helpless? Knife imagery in campaigns, thoughts?
- i. Lastly, would you like to go on your phone for me, and share your screen time? Most used app? YouTube?

### **3b – Family**

- a. How would you describe the area you live in? (*Emphasise should not share specific details that would reveal identity*) *i.e., quiet/crowded, run down/developed? What kind of people make up the community? Based on class, ethnicity, race, criminals, jobs.*
- b. Do you have a fatherly figure present? What is your relationship like with them?
- c. Do you have a motherly figure present? What is your relationship like with them?
- d. How would you describe your upbringing? *i.e., strict or relaxed*
- e. Do you recall your primary caregiver/s ever warning you when growing up about the dangers of walking alone? Was this different to your brother/sister?
- f. Did they say what the danger was? Has anything changed in the last 5 years?
- g. Do you feel that your views have or are becoming less shaped by your parents and more so by social media?

### **Ending Comments:**

- Is there anything else you would like to add?

### **Debrief and End Interview**

*“The recording has now stopped. Thank you for your time and cooperation in this interview”.*

## Appendix C – Participant Interview Transcripts

Acronyms: AS = Alanya Spiller (Interviewer)  
P = Participant

### Participant 1

Date of Interview: 01-04-2021 Transcribed Date: 01-04-2021 Duration: 30 minutes 25 secs
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[00:00:00] Recording Begins

**AS:** [00:00:04] lovely. umm so how old are you?

**P1:** [00:00:06] I am 18 years old

**AS:** [00:00:10] ye n in what area of Medway do you live in? so don't give me the actual address, but just perhaps the broad area of Medway

**P1:** [00:00:18] around abouts Rainham area

**AS:** [00:00:21] Rainham Gillingham yeh?

**P1:** [00:00:22] err yeh

**AS:** [00:00:24] and do you have any siblings that live at your household currently?

**P1:** [00:00:27] I have two

**AS:** [00:00:29] ye two? Brothers... sisters

**P1:** [00:00:30] sisters

**AS:** [00:00:32] and what do you currently do as er for a livin

**P1:** [00:00:35] er I'm I I'm currently going to too to college

**AS:** [00:00:42] yep so you're a student, and you don't work do you?

**P1:** [00:00:45] err no

**AS:** [00:00:47] lovely, so just a little bit of general knowledge ...urm on knife crime. So what do you think knife crime is?

**P1:** [00:00:54] umm just um.. I guess urm.. if you were to be like if you were to be like carrying a knife and if you were to be using it like threatening or like harm someone

**AS:** [00:01:06] yep so is that a criminal offense then?

**P1:** [00:01:10] I believe so

**AS:** [00:01:11] ye you think it's a criminal offense. Umm so what do you think the consequence is if someone is caught carrying a knife?

**P1:** [00:01:19] err.. I don't know actually h hhh

**AS:** [00:01:23] no you don't know that's fine. Do you think this differs if someone is caught you know using a knife physically to harm someone?

**P1:** [00:01:32] yeah I think yeah definitely

**AS:** [00:01:35] so would you say that you know sentencing wise, if someone is caught carrying a knife compared to someone using a knife for harm do you think that they differ in sentences? So someone might be in prison for longer?

**P1:** [00:01:49] ye

**AS:** [00:01:51] and would you say that's what one is most likely to have a longer senetence?

**P1:** [00:01:56] umm harming someone else

**AS:** [00:01:58] yep

soo for young people living in the UK at the moment, do you think knife crime is a serious issue? or is it not really a serious issue?

**P1:** [00:02:11] umm I've not really heard much about it like none of my friends and stuff we don't really hear anything about it but I do know from fro from having some lessons in er in er college and stuff like we have been told it is quite bad

**AS:** [00:02:32] ok so would you say there is knife crime present in Medway?

**P1:** [00:02:37] um

**AS:** [00:02:39] have you seen any cases on the news or heard from other people?

**P1:** [00:02:42] I haven't um seen or heard anything about it I just know that it's a thing

**AS:** [00:02:52] so would you know so Medway, Medway Council, Kent Police do you know any knife crime strategies that they have put in place?

**P1:** [00:03:03] um not really probably umm if they were to be like if they were to be err doing some doing some err searching on people and maybe um if they have someone has been caught having er a knife beforehand they would be monitored or like ur stuff like that

**AS:** [00:03:28] so obviously you went to school and was there ever a police officer present at the school or did they ever have you know, metal detector gate around the entrance of the school, anything like that?

**P1:** [00:03:42] um no never had that before

**AS:** [00:03:46] lovely. Um I'm just going to ask you a couple of questions about your current attitudes and perspectives, you know what you think about knife crime. So you know when you think about knife crime, what kind of person do you picture to be committing the crime?

**P1:** [00:04:03] um a guy hhh er

**AS:** [00:04:07] a male?

**P1:** [00:04:08] a male

**AS:** [00:04:10] um what kind of age do you think they will be?

**P1:** [00:04:14] probably be around like um my age around like er around about um 18 maybe like a bit younger a bit older around about that age range

**AS:** [00:04:27] and what kind of ethnic background would they have?

**P1:** [00:04:29] erm any

**AS:** [00:04:35] what kind of status would they hold? Would they be from a wealth background or a poorer background?

**P1:** [00:04:43] definitely poorer

**AS:** [00:04:45] ye so on the other hand you know what kind of person do you picture to fall a victim of these crimes?

**P1:** [00:04:53] erm

**AS:** [00:04:55] the person that perhaps might be on the other end of a knife

**P1:** [00:05:00] probably other males umm like I think maybe like gang related probably or you know stuff like that

**AS:** [00:05:12] so would you say males are around the same age of the people committing the offense at the time?

**P1:** [00:05:18] yeah

**AS:** [00:05:19] so um when you think about these people you know you said they are young people, why do you think that they would carry knives?

**P1:** [00:05:26] um I think some probably um that sort of social thing of like being a threat or trying to threaten someone and or maybe some weird way of er hoping to basically protect themselves from others.

**AS:** [00:05:52] um so as an individual, what are your personal thoughts on people who do commit these crimes? Can you relate to them in any way or?

**P1:** [00:06:03] not really er hhh um I don't really understand why people er wait ye.

**AS:** [00:06:51] lovely. So er you know talking about Medway as an area of perhaps the UK as an area as a whole um, do you think that firstly the level of knife crime recently had increased, decreased or stayed the same?

**P1:** [00:06:29] um. Uh mm I'd say probably stayed the same like I wouldn't imagine it to be increasing like I dunno

**AS:** [00:06:43] like within the last five years would you say?

**P1:** [00:06:47] oo actually maybe aa actually yeh

**AS:** [00:06:51] yeah cos obviously with coronavirus pandemic you think it might have decreased. Um so basically based on that, do you feel safe living in the area of Medway?

**P1:** [00:07:07] um not really I mean ye like not like particularly like erm very safe urm I I think I I I do know that there is that chance of just a guy just comes out of nowhere and what not. But nah I think fairly unsafe I think actually h hh

**AS:** [00:07:32] um do you think you know let's say you're a little bit young um you know you're almost out of school now aren't you so do you feel that feeling of unsafety has enhanced in anyway?

**P1:** [00:07:45] um no I think generally speaking um I think it will probably stay the same really for like a few years or because of course if you're still around those sort of people even after school has finished I still you know yeh

**AS:** [00:08:14] um so another question will be you know how do you feel about the police, do you trust them?

**P1:** [00:08:23] yeah I mean um I think I I I do think that most of them do want to help people I think like of course there is all of this stuff in the media where h hhh they are hated at the moment but I think its just like a few of the few. I think generally they do want to help people and they do try

**AS:** [00:08:47] so you now in regard to knife crime do you think that they will keep you safe if anything were to happen? As a victim or as a young person who has committed the crime ]. Do you think they will keep that person safe?

**P1:** [00:09:02] um.. I think like I i hope so yeah

**AS:** [00:09:13] lovely. So basically, there is such thing as the no grass culture. For example, you know grassing on someone else this that and the other. Um and that culture is thought to prevent people from protecting communities and you know this is due to the lack of intelligence given to them by witnesses and especially those who are known to offenders for example, via friendships. So as a young person, as a friend or someone you knew committed a crime would you report this to the police or act as a witness and why?

**P1:** [00:09:43] um I think I think it depends on the like it depends on the sort of extent of the crime I think if its if its something quite medico where not where if they haven't directly hurt

someone else I think I would sort of hold back something small but I think if its affecting other people quite badly then yeh I would

**AS:** [00:10:16] and why would you?

**P1:** [00:10:18] um I mean its just like even though they are my friend like I would expect them to have or to not hurt anyone really like i-I don't want to be around those sorts of people and I think just because they are my friend doesn't mean like you know like er yeh.

**AS:** [00:10:45] lovely um so you know do you think that young people today have some sort of stereotype or label branded to them by other members of society?

**P1:** [00:10:54] aaa yeh h hh definitely um yurh I mean of course there are thinks like erm chavs and like erm and like road men and stuff and erm that's I I've heard those terms throughout school like constantly

**AS:** [00:11:12] so what kind of people are putting them labels on you?

**P1:** [00:11:15] um its not really per say to me but um g-generally speaking like it's both hhh kids around the same age and of course a and of course older people um just to sort of yeah just to sort of stereotype how you're going to act or how you are acting

**AS:** [00:11:42] do they make you feel any kind of way?

**P1:** [00:11:45] um I hhh I think its funny hhh in my opinion if I am called a chav or a road man but that's just because of who I am h but yeah hhh

**AS:** [00:11:57] would you say that's because that's not who you are?

**P1:** [00:11:58] yeh yeah I think its um its just sort of funny to hear someone say that about me and I'm like 'ahh im not like that' hh

**AS:** [00:12:07] hh so talking about the levels of knife crime currently in Medway, you know, what kind of things do you think should be put in place to prevent knife crime from occurring?

**P1:** [00:12:23] um I think maybe like maybe I mean in like erm in like higher risk areas more like more maybe maybe more police officers or erm t maybe some maybe some more cameras and stuff just to sort of hopefully hopefully deter people from doing stuff

**AS:** [00:12:54] lovely I am just going to ask you some questions relating to gangs and knife crime. So firstly, im going to tlk about street gangs so how would you describe what a street gang is and are they legal?

**P1:** [00:13:11] um I think h a street gang would be I guess just sort of a group of people who um who who generally speaking would wo would be there to sort of commit crimes to like basically help people in their own gang commit them um and maybe even towards other street gangs too

**AS:** [00:13:45] would you say they are legal or or illegal?

**P1:** [00:13:47] um I think having er having a sort of having a sort of group of people where you are like one another is completely legal but I think of course with there actions which they take I think that sort of um that that should be used to sort of er say if they are doing if they are doing illegal things then I say they are illegal

**AS:** [00:14:22] lovely um so why do you think a young person would join a gang?

**P1:** [00:14:28] um social aspect of it. Bragging rights um just to sort of if er just of course cause havoc maybe even if if they want to erm you know ju just maybe like um be with a group of people who might even just understand them and stuff like that might help them out

**AS:** [00:14:55] lovely. Do you think that these young people perhaps suffer with mental health

**P1:** [00:15:00] yeh I think I think generally all kids sort of suffer with mental health and of course t there are h there are different ways kids err deal with it and that's one way which they do

**AS:** [00:15:20] so do you think that perhaps these people are more vulnerable, young people?

**P1:** [00:15:24] um I think to a certain extent yeh I think um yeh

**AS:** [00:15:33] so these young people that you've described er you know that join gangs, and who engage with this sort of culture... do you think that they perhaps fantasies about being a part of gang? With little knowledge about the reality of them?

**P1:** [00:15:47] yeh I think um I think definitely for defineitely for some kids its seen as a sort of er its seen as a sort of like a quite a cool or um because erm some of these gangs don't care about er anything they just do what they want commit crimes and stuff um and they see that as quite cool quite er rebellious and stuff like that

**AS:** [00:16:19] so do you think that young people who are in a gang are more of less likely to carry a knife and why?

**P1:** [00:16:28] um more likely if they are in a gang. One hundred percent um err one because of they to potentially they want to to to basc err threaten other people to basically rob or um t if they are in a sort of gang war or erm having a sort of fight its they to in a way protect or harm the other people

**AS:** [00:17:02] so when we think back to you know because this coronavirus pandemic em you know the current restrictions, before they were all in place, you know we were able to go to night clubs, allowed to walk the street with whoever we wanted, was there any scenarios where young people like yourself might feel scred of anxious you know in public spaces?

**P1:** [00:17:23] erm yeh I mean I think definitely in scenarios where they are where the where there are these people who are who are just who are just simply being loud, shouting maybe even being like be being urm maybe even being aggressive and stuff um yeh

**AS:** [00:17:49] and similarly, you know if you have happened to walk the street on your own before, how do you feel when a group of two or more people walk towards you, you know what do you do?

**P1:** [00:17:58] oh hhh its um its it's quite scary to be fair because um you don't really know what they are going to do so I think depending on um I might even I might um I mi I might cross I might cross the road and stuff um to just kind of get away from them tryin like avoid being close to them in case they go to do something or you know

**AS:** [00:18:30] so would you say that you make eye contact do you don't engage with eye contact?

**P1:** [00:18:35] um nahh I tend to ur just sort of errrr I tend to to to er just sort of look away and try not to just try and just seen as un interested as possible

**AS:** [00:18:56] so obviously after about the age of eighteen nineteen, young people are of school leavers age. And obviously so you say you're in college, you'll be leaving is it next year?

**P1:** [00:19:07] er yeh

**AS:** [00:19:09] so do you know what kind of support will be available to you after leaving school?

**P1:** [00:19:14] um no. h hhh. I I as far as I know sort of know sort of educational support is there I think its just so sort of on whether you whether you go to uni or going go in going to find a job immediately or what not

**AS:** [00:19:35] and in regard to crimes, knife crimes, or counselling anything like that, um outside of school would you know how to access them sort of things?

**P1:** [00:19:45] umm no er never really seen any of that

**AS:** [00:19:51] so would you say that in a way school is under preparing you for the real world?

**P1:** [00:19:58] yeh yeah

**AS:** [00:20:01] so part three of this interview is just going to talk about the root of your views so let's talk about media. So, how much knife crime news have you encountered online via television?

**P1:** [00:20:16] umm

**AS:** [00:20:16] sorry online or via television

**P1:** [00:20:18] umm pretty much none like I I I don't really watch tv or like the er like the news much so like I'm not too sure what's being put on there but whenever I have I've never really seen anything nor online

**AS:** [00:20:41] so you would say that you've never sited any crimes being committed from these sources? Nothing being reported. ok

[00:21:02] let's say theoretically you got the bbc news so obviously when they do publish news stories such as knife crime um you know that means that its out here toe everyone. Now

say like for example that made you feel a certain way, not a very good way, um do you think that the bbc news or news sources should be held accountable for the way that they are making you feel, especially if its impacting someone's mental health? And you know perhaps the news story exaggerated

**P1:** [00:21:35] um I think in the case of if it it if it is the story has been fairly blown out of blown out of proportion. I think they should definitely be held accountable because of course people will panic from that and they um will definitely sort of change how they are outside and um def would wo would like maybe even panic and be scared and stuff for them or for their children or friends and what not

**AS:** [00:22:18] so have you ever watched one of them grime drill kind of music vidoes before?

**P1:** [00:22:24] um not ma ny I think like wu-one or two ma-hh yeah yeha

**AS:** [00:22:38] so you know kind of what they entail. What do you think when you you watch these music videos, do they relate to the music?

**P1:** [00:22:40] um t I think from the ones I have watched I think sometimes yeah urr due to the fact that some of them do talk about drugs, guns, violence and stuff and they'll obviously shown some of that or you know um stuff like that, ye

**AS:** [00:23:01] so would you say that they romanticise gang culture and weapons n you know without recognition for the consequences?

**P1:** [00:23:10] yeah I um I think most of the songs um mad are to sort of um ina-in a way brag to t-to to like to like other people that like they are sort of living this life and um and yeah

**AS:** [00:22:30] um without too much detail, have you ever heard about anyone who has experienced threats of harassment through online platforms that involve weapon violence?

**P1:** [00:23:41] um from my experience... not really, no

**AS:** [00:23:49] alright. Um if any, so what online platforms or what campaigns advertise advise for people who find themselves involved at risk of violent crimes? Are there any you can think about?

**P1:** [00:24:07] um not really no

**AS:** [00:24:13] do you think that there should be more available support and knowledge on crimes? So that young people don't feel helpless

**P1:** [00:24:20] yeh ur I think urrm um ye definitely

**AS:** [00:24:29] um lastly um would you wanna go on your mobile phone for me would you mind sharing your screen time for you know daily average or weekly average

**P1:** [00:24:40] um id say on some days its reached up to about up to about 10 hours at most er on others maybe three or four. I think around about generally about six hours or so a day within a week

**AS:** [00:25:00] lovely. And what's your most used app?

**P1:** [00:25:05] um mostly it is on on er on YouTube and then like eh h like secondly Instagram

**AS:** [00:25:20] lovely em im coming to the last section now of this interview and im just going to talk a little bit about family and households and everything. So um how would you describe the area that you live in right now?

**P1:** [00:25:35] um I mean its alright urr for me it's a house I can its just a hosue to live in so you know me and my two sisters can go to work or college and well you know when college wasn't a thing go to college and uni and err what not and work

**AS:** [00:25:55] and outside of the house, what kind of an area would you describe it to be you know is it quiet is it crowded? Is it rundown?

**P1:** [00:26:03] I think its def its def its fairly quiet where we are, sometimes there are like a few there are there there are a few arguments um in terms of in terms of em people and crowded it is definitely crowded there is like no car spaces um and there's like a lot of people in the area

**AS:** [00:26:32] so do you know about the people that live in ye area do you know based on class ethnicity, race, jobs. Do you know where you know if you could bundle them all together where you would stand in that

**P1:** [00:26:47] no not really I don't know much about that

**AS:** [00:26:54] do you ever speak to neighbours? Do you know who lives around you?

**P1:** [00:26:57] hhh not really hh um im not one to talk to many people

**AS:** [00:27:03] so do you have a fatherly figure present?

**P1:** [00:27:06] er yeh

**AS:** [00:27:08] and whats your relationship like with them?

**P1:** [00:27:10] ur yeh its alright a lot better than other people definitely

**AS:** [00:27:17] and do you have a motherly figure present?

**P1:** [00:27:19] er yeh

**AS:** [00:27:20] and what's your relationship like with them?

**P1:** [00:27:23] decent as well um couldn't ask for anything better

**AS:** [00:27:27] do they live with you?

**P1:** [00:27:28] er no

**AS:** [00:27:30] so when I'm guessing they have lived with you in the past ye? Um how would you describe your up brining with them, was it strict or relaxed?

**P1:** [00:27:41] um relaxed like urr ye pretty relaxed

**AS:** [00:27:47] did you have any boundaries?

**P1:** [00:27:50] um not really I mean I think urr of course in terms of err in terms of urr definitely in terms of like a time to be home and stuff like that general stuff but not many no

**AS:** [00:28:08] and do you recall your primary caregivers ever warning you when growing up about the dangers of walking alone on the street?

**P1:** [00:28:18] urr yeah sometimes like urrr generally speaking I do always hear the whole urm err um the whole like um make sure to like walk under a lights and stuff in a sort of like um ur a so a sort of well a well lit area and um just sort of to make sure you know where you are and stuff

**AS:** [00:28:41] so was that different if you were to go outside in the dark or daytime?

**P1:** [00:28:47] um in the day time I don't really care I think I don't really look out for where I am I mean it sort of depends in what area but um at night its definitely like a lot observant

**AS:** [00:29:05] so when you were growing up um did your primary caregiver. Change what they said to your two sisters?

**P1:** [00:24:14] umm... I wouldn't know? I'm I just sort of never really um know about stuff like that really

**AS:** [00:29:28] um do you feel like your views in general have been more or less shaped by your parents or more so by social media recently?

**P1:** [00:29:39] err definitely social media

**AS:** [00:29:43] do you know why that could be?

**P1:** [00:29:45] um... t it's just with me err I-I um I like to sort of erm read or sort of see stuff about um err I sort of like read or watch stuff uh stuff about urr politics and about sort of views and stuff

**AS:** [00:30:14] lovely. So that's the end of the interview, is there anything else you would like to add?

**P1:** [00:30:17] uh no its all good thank you

**AS:** [00:30:23] lovely I'm going to stop the recording now

[00:30:25] Recording Ends

**Participant 2**

Date of Interview: 02-04-2021  
Transcribed Date: 05-04-2021  
Duration: 33 minutes 44 secs

[00:00:00] Recording Begins

**AS:** [00:00:01] so just to confirm, are you happy for me to record today?

**P2:** [00:00:03] of course yes

**AS:** [00:00:05] lovely. So how old are you?

**P2:** [00:00:07] twenty two years old

**AS:** [00:00:09] an what area of Medway do you live in?

**P2:** [00:00:12] I live in Rainham slash Twydall

**AS:** [00:00:15] do you have any siblings at the current address?

**P2:** [00:00:17] I do, my sister

**AS:** [00:00:18] and how old is she?

**P2:** [00:00:20] she is seventeen

**AS:** [00:00:22] lovely. Um what do you for a living?

**P2:** [00:00:25] urrrm well currently I'm unemployed however, I'm in the process of joining the Royal Navy, prior to covid I was a carpenter but I lost ur I lost a lot of work so

**AS:** [00:00:37] I'm just going to ask you a bit of general knowledge um about crime and knife crime. So what do you believe knife crime is?

**P2:** [00:00:45] errr knife crime erm id say... well probably using a knife for a weapon in any way to either you know manipulate a situation or harm someone

**AS:** [00:01:03] an is this considered a criminal offense?

**P2:** [00:01:06] yes

**AS:** [00:01:07] so do you know specifically what the consequence is if someone is caught just carrying a knife?

**P2:** [00:01:12] nope no clue

**AS:** [00:01:14] do you know if there is a specific consequence if someone's using a knife to cause harm on someone else?

**P2:** [00:01:20] I don't know the law like what you get for it but urr of course i-I know it's ur sh-should have a good consequence

**AS:** [00:01:29] so currently do you think that knife crime is a serious issue for young people living in the UK at the moment?

**P2:** [00:01:23] yes

**AS:** [00:01:35] and do you feel like there is currently knife crime present in Medway?

**P2:** [00:01:40] one hundred percent

**AS:** [00:01:42] have you ever seen cases on the news or heard from other people?

**P2:** [00:01:46] yes

**AS:** [00:01:49] so do you think that the levels of knife crime have increased in the last five years?

**P2:** [00:01:54] yes. To my knowledge anyway

**AS:** [00:01:57] and, does Medway have a knife crime strategy? So I will be talking about Kent Police or Medway Council. Do you think there's a knife crime strategy in place to help young people?

**P2:** [00:02:08] possibly, however i-I'm not really too aware with it

**AS:** [00:02:14] so I'm just going to ask some questions about your current attitudes ad perspectives on knife crime. So when you think of knife crime, what kind of person do you picture to be committing the crime?

**P2:** [00:02:26] wh-what kind of stereotypes would I have about it or?

**AS:** [00:02:29] yep so what kind of gender would the person committing knife crime have, their age, ethnicity

**P2:** [00:02:35] hh normally I guess you would think male and you would think probably between the age of fifteen to maybe twenty five

**AS:** [00:02:47] would you say that they're white... black or?

**P2:** [00:02:50] it doesn't matter normally

**AS:** [00:02:51] no and what kind of status would they hold, would they come from a wealthy background, a poor background

**P2:** [00:02:55] normally a more poor I would say

**AS:** [00:02:58] so what kind of person would you picture to fall a victim of the crime, so the other end of the knife?

**P2:** [00:03:03] could be anyone

**AS:** [00:03:05] anyone. Um why do you think that young people carry knives?

**P2:** [00:03:11] um well a lot of people you know do it as er um t a way to show dominance you know what I mean like if you go up to someone if you say you want to mug them or whatever, you won't go up to them with your bare fist they're likely to just whack you one. If you pull a knife out to them they won't think twice about it because one wrong move and you're dead so there's that and then a lot of people also carry weapons cause the fact that other people carry weapons its then self-defence it's like a you know a lot of em that's why a lot more people going about carrying weapons to protect themselves from other people carrying weapons

**AS:** [00:03:47] what are your personal thoughts on people who commit knife crime?

**P2:** [00:03:51] scumbags am I allowed to say that?

**AS:** [00:03:54] ye. Um so talking about the level of knife crime, you said that it has increased in the last five years, um why do you think that it has increased?

**P2:** [00:04:03] uhh just due to the fact of I've lived round this area my whole life, when I was younger you know what I mean I used to as as a ten year old I used to ride my bike I used to go round all the skate parks that kind of thing and I never used to see a lot of trouble, I mean just because I didn't see doesn't mean it wasn't there ut I just never saw it myself. Um but obviously you know iii I've been around quite a lot of knife crime myself the past few years and therefore I'm now personally seeing a massive increase and then obviously you see the figures on the news an that, they're always saying it's rising so it's obviously some kind of er pattern

**AS:** [00:04:46] do you feel safe living in Medway?

**P2:** [00:04:48] I do er purely just for the fact of I know how to defend myself and I know what to do if someone pulled out on me. But for the old Dorris walking down the street ii I wouldn't feel safe for them

**AS:** [00:05:01] would you say that you trust the police?

**P2:** [00:05:03] no

**AS:** [00:05:05] do you trust other agencies, you know when you were at school, did you trust teachers to keep you safe?

**P2:** [00:05:11] I think it's in their best interest to try and keep you safe but a lot of the time they have no clue to what's actually going on and er a lot of the time as well with the way the law is, there is only so much they are able to do in order to protect you anyway

**AS:** [00:05:25] so you said that you don't really trust the police, why is that?

**P2:** [00:05:28] only due to my personal experiences I've had with them um they've let me down on many cases and in attempts where here have been cases where I've actually been attacked and for fighting back and they actually threatened to arrest me, when I was the victim in that case so you know what I mean

**AS:** [00:05:47] thank you. Um so there is such thing as they 'no grass' culture for example like 'I'm grassing on someone else I'm a snitch' an um that culture it's thought to prevent the police from protecting communities and this is due to the lack of intelligence given to them by witnesses. And especially those people that are known to the offender so friendships might come in-between that crime being reported, so as a young person yourself, if your friend or someone you knew committed a crime, would you report this to the police?

**P2:** [00:06:20] honest opinion it all depend on exactly wha-who the person was and secondly on what the crime was if someone had killed someone, then yes probably. If someone had done something out of self-defence then probably not because at the end of the day it depends on my personal sort of view on who's in the right and who's in the wrong

**AS:** [00:06:43] so what would you think would reduce the levels of knife crime in Medway to try to tackle this current issue? you know when do you think this sort of thing should start to take an effect should they be taught in school or?

**P2:** [00:06:57] oh of course yeah it should be taught in school I feel um that punishments hh right hh I think the whole just the erm scheme is wrong and corrupt you know what I mean um the facts of um if you plead guiltily um the sentence if halved straight away well if you get given a four year sentence you know for doing something and then he's pleaded guilty then alright well I think it's a third actually it gets taken off right well you get even less and then you get let off for half the sentence anyway for just good behaviour you know what I mean well you're back out on the street and will just do it again there is no real incentive for people to actually not do something. And as well I think a lot of these people that are committing these crimes especially knife crime well they're young they know that if you know they're classed as being a minor, they could have say so many chances before you know. And it's only the extreme extreme crimes where they get put into a different bracket they get let off so many times and unfortunately at that by that point it emerges in their mentality where I can get away and do whatever I want so um I feel like there is a lot going wrong with the j- the justice system and th-its definitely not going to slow it down anytime soon the way things are going

**AS:** [00:08:11] brilliant answer. Umm so do you think that young people today have some sort of stereotype or label branded to them by other members of society?

**P2:** [00:08:23] what on people who would do that- I think I think especially for other people that cl-they classify all younger people as a problem um you know what I mean um it could be anything from the way people dress to larger groups basically if you see a larger group of eighteen year old males you know walking around with hoodies and that, a lot of people are gunna automatically you know be a bit more on guard just from that you know what I mean um when hhh my personally um experiences with them haven't actually always been that in... ive seen some people with some nice looking clothes ralph lauren shirts all done up but really they're just holding a fucking blade in their pants and pull it out the next thing you know ur so it's yeah hh I dunno how to answer that one um

**AS:** [00:09:22] if I were to say to you that a common label on young people is a 'youth' what kind of connotation, would they be a good thing or would that be a bad thing?

**P2:** [00:09:32] ye hh as as I said a bit earlier on I think there definitely is a younger age bracket you don't so much see the older people you know with a knife crime and things like that but I think all younger people are being kind of put into that bracket where there is only a small minority doing you know that them kind of crimes

**AS:** [00:09:55] how does that make you feel?

**P2:** [00:09:58] when I as younger um it used to wind me up because u-I never used to see myself as really being a trouble maker but I used to get a lot of looks of people you know just from the way I dress or you know being a big group of lads you know what I mean and uhh I was always kind of er a bit of a bigger lump you know what I mean and people would always either only target me because of you know they think oh he's a big guy if I hurt him then I look big you know or a lot of people would fear me for that but you know if was a big teddy bear and a lot of people used to give me funny looks and it used to wind me up but now I'm getting older and that um I guess I dunno I look at other people that way h hhh its weird this things a roundabout

**AS:** [00:10:39] um my next section I was going to talk to you about gangs and that and knife crime

**P2:** [00:10:42] ye

**AS:** [00:10:43] so firstly you know, what do you believe a street gang is?

**P2:** [00:10:51] um a street gang? It could be anything I guess um it could go from um just people that you know are just trying to be trouble makers you know the lads that hang around on the street you know just pissy crimes you know or it could be anything from erm a bit more serious organisations and a lot of the bigger organisations they funnel down using younger people because you know they're hungry and they want to make names for themselves so they say alright here you go here's n ounce of weed sell it off in ten bags for me you know what I mean and they'll be out on the streets doing that and then you know that could go on-filter up to a higher organisation but that's still at the end of the day s-s-treet gangs and that its

**AS:** [00:11:35] so would you say a street gang its self, they are legal?

**P2:** [00:11:38] oh no I don't think they're legal at all um I I think you just get so many types of street gangs you know what I mean its um its hard to really clarify it using that one terms

**AS:** [00:11:55] so why do you think a young person would join a gang?

**P2:** [00:11:59] I think the main incentive would either be money or power. Ur you know what I mean I've with the one that I've dealt with its more likely been a power thing you know look like top dog be the hardest man and want a reputation but i-I know there's a lot of people out there that their skint they haven't got. A lot of money and when you're a younger and when you've got a lot of people saying to you you know I can make you five hundred pound a day for it its easy money as well selling drugs and things like that and um before you know it they're

robbing people and doing all sorts of stuff for easy money you know it's so it can be a money things it can be a power thing um there's so many things that can go into it but

**AS:** [00:12:39] do you think that perhaps young people suffer from mental health which is making them more vulnerable to join a gang?

**P2:** [00:12:50] I'd say no. just on the fact of it you're normally dealing with mental health and that um not you know you normal knock yourself but you normally nine times out of ten try to hide away more whereas if you're going to be putting yourself into a gang then you're going to be putting yourself into uncomfortable situations a lot of the time when you're struggling with mental health or maybe you wanna do the opposite you know hide away and close away rather than be more exposed

**AS:** [00:13:18] and do you think that young people who are in a gang are more or less likely to carry a knife and why?

**P2:** [00:13:24] I'd say so purely just because um you know you could walk into Tesco or Sainsbury's and pick up a knife you know what I mean sometimes they may try to id you but if you're just getting at the end of the day its cutlery its utensils it's something very easy to pick up on it's a lot harder to say pick up a firearm than it is a knife you know what I mean so it's just and again it comes down to that thing of right I'm gonna go and kick someone's door in and tryna take all of their drugs, let's just use that as an example, then you know right ok – and as well the other thing is they che you can buy one for three pound ok and if you do something getting rid of it you know I mean if you're gunna buy something expensive then you don't wanna use it once and have to get rid of It do you yu know what I mean I'm sure once the police aren't knocking on your door you're not gonna want it on you

**AS:** [00:14:11] so are there any you know any public spaces any any situations where when you walk out the door and you feel like you're a little bit uncomfortable and you know if we think about before the coronavirus pandemic something like a night club or perhaps walking the street alone do you feel anxious or

**P2:** [00:12:30] I don't. er as I said I've been I've been in them sort of situations where you know i can handle myself so I don't but um when I've gone for walks with um am I allowed to say Seb no, when I go for a walk with my friend he is quite often very anxious you know what I mean he doesn't want to go round certain places and a lot of the time I may make a little joke and take the piss a bit about it and say oh yeah man up about it because you know I feel comfortable but I know that a lot of people don't

**AS:** [00:15:04] do you think that without your experiences you know without your experiences do you feel like you wouldn't feel ass comfortable?

**P2:** [00:15:11] I don't know it's hard to say, when I was younger I never really used to care too much and things I wasn't t I wasn't um really around any kind of trouble I was a good kid I you know um id say the experiences I have have cha-it doesn't mean I don't worry or that but I process things in a different way every single after what's happened to me, every single person I see I almost do a um t I almost od a um a little check on them you know what I mean I think well um ok could you be a danger if you are what specific parts. These things go through my head it's a automatic thing I do to actual every single person and so when you see a group of lads with their hoods up and they're you know walking down and that I will always concentrate

on them but I will never worry about them ok where people look at their hoods and think oh god they look scary I'm not I'm focussing on things like where their hands are and little things most people don't do that because they haven't been in the situations I've been they haven't know as a said I'm mentioned thing like that guy with the Ralph Lauren shirt and you know he had his hands in his pants and pulled a knife out well you know so know im looking where their hands-w-if I was to go by and say you alright mate well I won't hold my hand to shake my hand id I'd give them a fist bump because they can pull your hand in and give you a stab you know what i mean. There are so many things that go through your head um so yeah eerr it completely changes how you think about things but t yeah I I honestly don't know I honestly don't know if I'll be any different but er say I was never worried about it before hand

**AS:** [00:16:53] so talking about you know when you're on the street and you've got a group of lads coming towards you, have you actually ever crossed the road to avoid that eye contact to avoid that kin-

**P2:** [00:17:03] no no

**AS:** [00:17:06] and obviously after the age of eighteen, young people are of school leavers age so what kind of support is available to you as a school leaver?

**P2:** [00:17:16] in terms of what sorry?

**AS:** [00:17:17] so this can be things such as you know when you were at school you might have received counselling services, service helplines um do you know how you'd be able to reach out to get help now you're out of school?

**P2:** [00:17:31] t yeah um there are things dotted around like on adverts on tv and like when they say call this help line and all sorts of stuff urm I mea what are we talking juat speicifcally on knife crime or anything in general?

**AS:** [00:17:44] anything

**P2:** [00:17:45] any-right so I used my mental health as an example so you know urm during the beginning of this pandemic I was you know my mental health was getting better I was you know very very depressed and that um but I dunno it was weird because almost although it felt like I was getting better I wasn't waking up every morning and tryna kill myself but I was just I was getting to that stage where I was sick and tired of feeling that way so I did I tried to um I called 111 and they put me through to other people and things like that and um yeah I s-s-s-they help was very poor I think you especially this it the kind of only thing I can relate to in terms of your questions but I thought that was very poor I I get the knowledge you get out of 111 they tell you what you can do differently and that's great butt then the actually services out there especially right now they're so over whelmed and that there is definitely not a lot going oner when you're in a school and you're in an environment where you can literally just walk up to someone and say I need help I need this or whatever then I feel like that's a lot easier than as you say when you leave an environment

**AS:** [00:18:57] do you think that perhaps with the current coronavirus pandemic, if you imagine, you said your sister is seventeen, they're obviously doing a lot of online teaching aren't they, do you feel like as a young person that's in school that they can't access the facilities that they would have done you know when you were at school

**P2:** [00:19:12] no no it will cause a lot of problems you know what I mean um I I this this m it's a tough one so my sister now she is now doing a um she's doing n apprentice doing nursery, but due to the pandemic and that it's not like when I did my apprentice I went to work a few days on site a carpenter, I spend one day a week at college doing all my coursework and things like that making sure I'm doing the right things at work its completely different now its pandemic you know she does it all over a computer she never usually talks to anyone and say it's think its definitely a lot tougher for people now than when it was when you were at school because of this pandemic has mucked things up so much so it's a lot tougher

**AS:** [00:20:01] thank you. So part three um I'm gonna be talking kind about the root of these views that you've got and the first part I'm gonna talk about media so if you think about um the television and the news online, how much knife crime have you kind of encountered like from reports that you've seen on them platforms?

**P2:** [00:20:24] sorry can you repeat the question

**AS:** [00:20:26] have you seen have you seen much knife crime being reported on the tv or on the news online?

**P2:** [00:20:32] I see a lot I see on BBC news they report not a lot but a lot more than they used to and its all normally based about knife crime in London. You don't really hear a lot about it in the south east especially Kent and that but you know you you see its definitely floating about out there and its all really based in London

**AS:** [00:20:58] what kind of crimes have you cited from these sources so hav-are they all very serious crimes that are making headlines or do you hear about the minor ones

**P2:** [00:21:08] no to be fair you just normally hear when someone has been killed you know normally its some young black lad in London you know that's when they normally publicise it all over the news you know what I mean um but you don't hear about the. I hear more about the local stuff just by word of mouth you know you don't normally see it on the tabloids or anything

**AS:** [00:21:33] lovely. Do-do you think you know for young people if you do see a lot of that online see a lot of it on tv, do you think that pehaps that would shape your view about the area that you live in?

**P2:** [00:21:47] possibly um I feel like if they published every little thing that was going on I think that people anxiety levels are definitely going to go up a little bit more because there is definitely a lot of it going on I think by not exposing it all is a good thing in many ways because otherwise you know it's weird because around in Medway there's a large group of the elderly it's quite an old especially Rainham is quite an old town and that, but then you've got so many you know young people coming up and that and if they truly knew exactly what was going around them then then they probably wouldn't actually want to go out too much when the pandemic's done a lot to that. But t I know what I'm trying to say I'm just trying to think of how I'm going to say it its weird um t the the whole idea of how crime works is because it's out of peoples site right you imagine urm y let's just say for instance you've trying to have some kind of drug company ye like you know let's use cannabis as an example right well if everyone knew about it you'd only last two seconds before someone reported you the fact that

it can blend into society, means that you know you can carry on but therefore them people just go about their daily lives without going to worry about it do you know what I mean but then people who are doing those jobs may be carrying them weapons. Well if everyone knew exactly what was going on everyone would be paranoid so I I think it's a good thing and a bad thing but I feel like the that people definitely don't really know actually how much is going around around us and there is a lot but whether that's a good thing or not I can't really say I think it's both good and bad to it

**AS:** [00:23:42] so you'd say that the media has provided an under representation of the crimes?

**P2:** [00:23:46] I think they just don't pick up on it as much you know I'm not trying to... the media get to control exactly what most people can see you know and how you think about stuff but I I just think for the most part they actually really don't have an actual clue but only you know you hear about some er as I said m-most the time you just hear about some young black boy getting stabbed up well there is probably hundreds or stabbings every single day but you're hearing about the young black boy ur because one of the whole race thing will cause an outrage and attention and the fact he's young will cause attention but to be fair there is probably you know th-th-there's all sorts going around and stuff especially us in the south east there is loads

**AS:** [00:24:32] so talking about drill and grime music videos and you know ye the music videos um do you think that they romanticise gang culture and weapons?

**P2:** [00:24:47] right um I do but then I also don't. I think to the average h I think right the way I see it is it's almost like a young kid playing call of duty its then they say that's making them a mass murderer because they're killing kids.. well to the odd kid that's already got a psychological problem it may enhance that but you know that kind of music represents a culture and the reason it represents a culture is because that is actually how things are in wo-what they say things like the hood and that well that's what they call it the ghettos you know the hood it's the reason why they're showing all these knives and guns and stuff is because where they're from that's what it's like they're just er a lot fo the public don't like to see that because they think oh no its you know almost fantasising stuff but I think for certain areas it's just like what's it's actually like I think if anything it actually educates people but as it if someone's already a bit messed up in the head then sure It can you know hype them up it can make them think o alright or of you're just a trouble maker it makes them think like I've seen this video they're carrying around a knife well you know screw it I'll do that too. It can do that but I I definitely don't think that's what it's set out to do

**AS:** [00:26:08] lovely um so lets think um grim and drill music videos they kind of come out wasn't too long ago was it a few years ago

**P2:** [00:26:18] yep nope its quite recent thing

**AS:** [00:26:19] hmm so do you think that perhaps they have in a way influenced in a way like through their knife imagery, drug imagery, weapon imagery do you think that's kind of influenced young people to have hang around In large groups

**P2:** [00:26:37] no because they don't this before this culture came about I don't listen to it myself by the way I could maybe list bugzy Malone that's it but I don't listen to it myself but urr I I know for a fact people were still doing all that kind of stuff before it came out

**AS:** [00:26:54] that's a great answer. Um without too much detail, have you ever heard anyone who has experienced threats or harassments through online platforms that involve weapon violence? You can answer yes or no

**P2:** [00:27:14] no

**AS:** [00:27:20] lastly have you got your phone on you?

**P2:** [00:27:23] I do

**AS:** [00:27:24] ye if you go on your phone for me would you mind sharing, so if you go on setting um you know like screen time

**P2:** [00:27:32] what so just go on settings

**AS:** [00:27:34] and it should be under screen time n if you just get up your daily or weekly average

**P2:** [00:27:39] sorry er screen time

**AS:** [00:27:41] that's alright

**P2:** [00:27:42] would it be on or

**AS:** [00:27:46] oh you got er android

**P2:** [00:27:48] mm there's not it doesn't come up with

**AS:** [00:27:54] unable to provide. Um the next section very briefly will be about family so how would you describe the area that you live in? you know if it is a quiet crowded, run down, developed

**P2:** [00:28:09] um my I live in a private close right um but its very very strange where I live because you got my close and if you move what ten houses down. My my close it then all becomes council and it's a very run down area. But if you go ten houses to my left its still really nice is its where I live is right on the border of it um we're also right next to a school so it can get very very busy ur but it's for the most part the actual close its self is quite a nice area its just literally down the road it gets very run down

**AS:** [00:28:48] do you have a fatherly figure present?

**P2:** [00:28:52] a-a- farther figure?

**AS:** [00:28:52] yeah

**P2:** [00:28:53] no not really

**AS:** [00:28:54] so would you say your relationship with them is not the best

**P2:** [00:28:58] ye I I I haven't seen my dad in years an dive got a step dad but we also don't speak at all we're on very bad terms so

**AS:** [00:29:03] and do you have a motherly figure present?

**P2:** [00:29:09] yep ye I love my mum to pieces

**AS:** [00:29:12] love her to pieces so your relationships good with her?

**P2:** [00:29:15] my relationship with her's good

**AS:** [00:29:17] so how would you describe your upbringing?

**P2:** [00:29:25] um complicated

**AS:** [00:29:29] is it strict or relaxed?

**P2:** [00:29:34] mixed. It was strange um my dad was quite abusive uk it was weird um my mum's always been a push over as well and she's always tried to find men to fill that gap. My dad never has. Its been quite troubled but then I managed to do things like I joined the cadets I did things and I had amazing times so it wasn't all doom and gloom but saying she used to take me swimming, karate but yeah i-It was very mixed I had highs and I also had a lot of lows so

**AS:** [00:30:17] do you think you know as a mum dad as a parent, that you know the certain level of requirements or for a child to kind of be so like they can talk with ease to the parent or like have boundaries in place

**P2:** [00:30:37] are you on about what for the child to have to be able to open up to the parents... urm I I personally don't in cos as I say its I've only really got my mum right and a lot of the things that have happened in my life, she doesn't know about, purely because I know if she did know she would just worry all the time so it's simply just out to protect her. I tell her the things that I feel is important so ur you know like without going into detail, when I had the problems with the gangs and all that lot, t I told her about quite a lot of that purely just because I knew that they may not just target me they might find out who she is and target her and my sister we had to completely adapt our entire way of life, we couldn't just go for walks anymore so certain things I've told her but for the most part I try and protect her so I kind of don't feel like I can open up in that way

**AS:** [00:31:38] when you were younger do you ever recall your primary caregiver every warning you, you know when you grew up, about the dangers of walking alone on the street?

**P2:** [00:31:37] no

**AS:** [00:31:38] was this different to your sister? When your sister was growing up, do you think your mum every warned her about walking alone?

**P2:** [00:31:54] yes purely just because I think she was a girl er I think you know that idea of women are ore an easier target and then we also had an incident where my sister was erm surrounded beaten up things like that erm so ye I think very early on with her it was a different case to me

**AS:** [00:32:17] um and lastly, do you feel like your views now in general, do you feeling like they're been more of less sharv-shaped by your parents or social media?

**P2:** [00:32:33] for what sorry?

**AS:** [00:32:34] so your current views now

**P2:** [00:32:37] mm but on w-what subject sorry

**AS:** [00:32:39] mm so this is in general or perhaps if we link it to knife crime if that's easier. Do you feel like your views on knife crime has been shaped by social media or your parents more?

**P2:** [00:32:49] yep. I'd say neither it's been from my own personal experience is don't pfft yeah without sounding, my mum has no clue about anything like that so she without sounding rude her view isn't really valid you know she hasn't been in the positions I've been in and t yeah social media as well they don't have a clue they don't, but the thing is with social media they either really amplify something or they really bring you down. The reality of stuff I it's in real life its actually different to what's on the screen

**AS:** [00:33:28] lovely so that's the end of the interview, is there anything else you would want to add?

**P2:** [00:33:32] t urm... err are you happy with everything then yeah we'll leave it at that then

**AS:** [00:33:42] lovely thank you

[00:33:44] Recording Ends

**Participant 3**

Date of Interview: 06-04-2021  
Transcribed Date: 08-04-2021  
Duration: 27 minutes 23 secs

[00:00:00] Recording Begins

**AS:** [00:00:01] just to confirm, are you happy for me to record?

**P3:** [00:00:03] I am happy yes

**AS:** [00:00:06] so how old are you?

**P3:** [00:00:08] I am twenty three years old. Twenty four this year

**AS:** [00:00:13] what area of Medway do you live in?

**P3:** [00:00:16] err

**AS:** [00:00:16] and I'm just going to emphasise, don't share the actual address

**P3:** [00:00:18] er I live in Gillingham ur but in Gillingham I live in Wigmore

**AS:** [00:00:23] do you have any siblings that live at your household?

**P3:** [00:00:26] I have an older brother

**AS:** [00:00:19] and what do you currently do for a living?

**P3:** [00:00:31] ur I work for the Border Force

**AS:** [00:00:35] so just a bit of general knowledge, um what do you believe knife crime is?

**P3:** [00:00:42] urm I believe knife crime is any crime involving er knives basically, whether that's um murder or you know someone stabbing someone, or just a knife being there

**AS:** [00:00:58] what are the consequences if someone is caught carrying a knife?

**P3:** [00:01:03] it depends on the severity of I suppose how big the knife is because there are laws that if they are under a certain measurement then its legal but... I'm not sure what the actual sentence would be if there is any

**AS:** [00:01:20] do you think that knife crime is a serious issue for young people living in the UK?

**P3:** [00:01:26] I do yes because it's... a lot of the time it's not just carrying a knife, sometimes they will use it for protection if they're a drug dealer for example. But it does pose a threat because you hear of it all the time in the news and on social media of someone stabbing someone and you know being involved in that kinda thing

**AS:** [00:01:52] is there knife crime in Medway?

**P3:** [00:01:54] um yeah id say there is um I personally haven't seen any news about it or know of anyone that has been involved but. It's just you can tell it's going on really

**AS:** [00:02:13] do you think the levels of knife crime in Medway have increased in the last five years?

**P3:** [00:02:17] ur I don't know

**AS:** [00:02:20] um does Medway have a knife crime strategy? So we'll talk about Kent police or Medway Council, do you believe they've got a knife crime strategy?

**P3:** [00:02:29] er I believe they would do but I'm not aware of what that strategy is

**AS:** [00:02:36] so when you do think knife crime, what kind of person do you picture to be committing the crime?

**P3:** [00:02:41] urm the only thing that sort of comes to my mind is the term sort of 'road man' if you want to call it that you know the people who er have their face covered up and the thing that comes to my mind is people wearing sort of tracksuit bottoms, gloves and face covering up black coats with their hoods on carrying machetes and stuff like that. Um I feel as if they're sort of lower on the if you wanna call it gang scale if they're carrying a knife because if you're that higher up then you'd have sort of a fire arm to deal with as your own personal protection

**AS:** [00:03:23] so do you image a male or female committing the knife crime?

**P3:** [00:03:26] er a male um and that's the first thing that comes to my mind but you know its not saying it's only limited to men, women can be involved with it too but you can sort of, you never really hear anything about women being involved with it, unless they're the ones being stabbed

**AS:** [00:03:44] what age do you picture them to be?

**P3:** [00:03:47] I'd say around my age sort of young um anything from sort of seventeen up until I dunno early twenties I would say

**AS:** [00:04:00] what kind of person do you fall a victim of the crime? The other end of the knife

**P3:** [00:04:05] um anyone really um you see on the news it's not usu-just a particular person sits um well anyone who happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time tends to be the main thing you hear but I'm sure there's other sources of um you know gang violence and stuff like that of the two suspects and offenders knowing each other really

**AS:** [00:04:35] so you said that young people you believe tend to commit knife crime an why do you think these young people carry knives?

**P3:** [00:04:42] I think they carry it for protection and to sort of intimidate people um I feel as if they're already involved in the world of crime whether they're in a gang or they're you know a full time drug dealer and you know they're have their weapon be that a sort of machete or a

small knife, on their person for protection, not saying they have to use it um but they at least they can intimidate someone if they're you know trying to mug someone you know if they pull out a big machete they're more likely to get a result out of that

**AS:** [00:05:18] what are your personal thoughts on people who commit knife crime?

**P3:** [00:05:22] I don't like them hh I think they're a scum at the end of the day, um but that sort of goes with me about any criminal because at the end of the day if you're carrying a knife, hh apart from wanting to intimidate someone, you want to kill them at the end of the day like i-I don't believe in the sentence of um assault with a deadly weapon, because if you stab someone you want to kill them at the end of the day

**AS:** [00:05:51] do you feel safe living in Medway?

**P3:** [00:05:54] I do where I am. Um if I was in a let's say not lower class area but a lower end area where there's more crime and it's a bit you know cheaper shall we say, then I would feel a bit scared. But where I am now personally I do feel safer, however I don't want to live in Medway for any longer than I have to I want to move out of the area

**AS:** [00:06:25] did you feel safe living in Medway whe you were younger

**P3:** [00:06:29] I did yeah because I didn't know anything about it. When. I was younger all I knew was going to the park going to school um going to cadets and that was about it really um I was never exposed to the crime world if you will. But now I'm older and understand it more I am aware it goes on and even when I'm walking someone where and there's you know a group of people sometimes I think oerr they're a bit dodgy especially without being stereotypically or prejudice sort of round gypsie campsites as well if I'm ever walking somewhere and there's sort of a camper there I sort of avoid it as I want to stay away from it really

**AS:** [00:07:13] do you trust the police and other agencies to keep you safe?

**P3:** [00:07:18] I do yes. I feel as if the majority of the police officers are good and they do look after you but you do hear of some stories where police officers are being a bit dodgy but I do feel as if I'm safe

**AS:** [00:07:37] so there is such thing as the 'no grass' culture for example you know you won't snitch on your friend, um but that whole culture its thought to prevent the police from protecting communities, because of a lack of intelligence given to them. So say like as a young person, if your friend or someone you knew committed a crim, would you report this to the police?

**P3:** [00:08:00] um probably not it depends on the severity of the crime if they've murdered someone or you know did something really really bad then yeah I would have to report it because it's the right thing to do. But if it's something small um I don't know like driving without insurance for example then I or you know er taking drugs or something like that then I probably wouldn't, not probably I wouldn't report it or anything

**AS:** [00:08:37] if you knew one of your friends was carrying a knife, would you report that to the police?

**P3:** [00:08:41] I wouldn't report it to the police no, but I would ask them why they're carrying it and why they feel the need to carry it er mainly for their own safety and wellbeing but I feel well if they're carrying that then what kind of situation are they in. and I'd either do the best I can to get them out of that situation or if it becomes too bad sort of cut them off and move on with my life really

**AS:** [00:09:09] do you think that young people today have a stereotype you know a label branded to them on-a by other people in society and what are these labels?

**P3:** [00:09:20] I think they do I think there's a big divide between the older generation and the younger generation sort of my age um you know a lot of people think the younger generation are the ones doing all the crimes and you know just being criminals at the end of the day um but yeah that's about it really but I don't really know what sort of categories they would fall into

**AS:** [00:09:52] so would you know any of these labels on young people?

**P3:** [00:09:54] the only one that comes to mind if road man that's er quite a common thing you see it a lot on social media um but you sort of think of those as wanna be gangsta's and stuff like that sort of haven't got a name for themselves but think they're quote on quote mr big bollocks at the end of the day

**AS:** [00:10:16] lovely. O what do you think would reduce the levels of knife crime in Medway? Erm you know try and tackle the issue

**P3:** [00:10:25] I think education that's the main thing I think in schools teaching them you know how to conduct themselves in life, the paths they should and shouldn't go down um I think people have just got a fear of the police and stuff like that and um a fear of everyone else. If you can teach them at a young age the rights and wrongs of life rather than like Pythagoras's thrum then I feel as if we'd all be better off but I feel in terms of limiting the amount of knives and stuff like that it can't really be done at the end of the day because there's only do many police officers that can search people. And if they're found one they're just go and but another one from Tesco it's not hard

**AS:** [00:11:13] so you mentioned gangs earlier and how that possibly links to knife crime, so what is a street gang and are they legal?

**P3:** [00:11:23] um I'm not sure what a street gang is I'd say they're a gang that sort of works on the street um but I would say they're not illegal personally um I might be wrong but I'm not sure if there are any laws that prohibit them from being a gang

**AS:** [00:11:44] so going by gangs being a group of people why do you think that young people might want to join street gangs?

**P3:** [00:11:54] I think a lot has to do with social media and stuff like that um you know kids today know about instant cash they don't know about mortgages and how to live life and what good careers to go into. All they know is well I can sell these drugs or I can do this for someone and I can get instant cash for that and that's all the know and social media has a big influence on that because you know you'll see a lot of the moped thieves in London and they'll post um videos online and go oh I just got free BWM and thousands tonight you know I've just made

fifteen grand and people go ooh I want a bit of that and then you get more people involed in gang violence and knife crime

**AS:** [00:12:39] thank you. So when you think back to before this current pandemic at the moment you know we were allowed to go wherever we wanted, etc. um are there any scenarios in the pubic space where you think or you think young people might feel scared or anxious?

**P3:** [00:12:57] um I'm not sure really um I don't really go out in public places really I just mainly go to work and go for a drive and stuff like that or see my girlfriend but no I'm not really aware of any open spaces um I'd say mainly the secluded spaces you know alley ways and stuff like that round the back of shops or even sort of council estates and stuff like that not to out a prejuidice on them but I sort of feel as if it goes on a lot there

**AS:** [00:13:32] is that during the night time or day time?

**P3:** [00:13:34] I'd say more night time um well I'm not sure actually um at the end of the day it could happen at all sorts of times you know I dare say they don't do more at night because there's less people around if they wanted to ship drugs for example or whatever they're doing in the dark as there's not a lot of people but then I suppose if they're doing that then they're more likely to get pulled over and not blend in to the crowd

**AS:** [00:14:06] so would you say in public spaces you, in the back of your mind, you're aware that it's a possibility or that to happen to you

**P3:** [00:14:16] i-it's in the back of my mind, it's never something I think about like I say I don't normally go to many public spaces I mainly just go to work and see my girlfriend and if I do go to public spaces its usually down the coast for a walk or you know I never really go to the park anymore or go anywhere like that it's like I don't really notice it to be honest

**AS:** [00:14:40] if you have happened to walk on the path or street and you know a group of two or more people are walking towards you, what do you do?

**P3:** [00:14:50] I sort-you sort of take a glance and sort of process what they look like mainly and then you get an idea if they're a bunch of fucks you know looking like it then you might cross the street for example or do something to avoid them, but if it's for example just three normal people then you wouldn't probably just walk by them and stuff like that but it all de- for me personally it all depends on what they look like you can get a rough idea of you know should I make action or should I just carry on where I'm going

**AS:** [00:15:30] can I ask, what kind of clothing do your friends wear?

**P3:** [00:15:32] so hh my friends just sort of wear jeans and t shirt and stuff like that um you know if we're that's just what I see them in really

**AS:** [00:15:44] do they wear hoodies?

**P3:** [00:15:46] no I my best mate does um but he's a mechanic so his one is usually dirty and greasy and stuff like that you know he usually wears his mechanic gear and it says the company that he works for on their um but no in the winter sometimes even though I'm partial to a hoodie but never no I don't really see them in them that much to be honest

**AS:** [00:16:14] so after the age of eighteen young people are of school leavers age, I'm just wondering if you know what kind of support is available to you if you were to find yourself you know in trouble, for example when you were at school you could have gone to the teacher but now you're outside of school do you know who you could turn to?

**P3:** [00:16:34] um parents, any public authority um for example police you know border force if that makes any to do with your situation or mainly just call 111 because that's a non-emergency line you can get some good information on there about what situation your in what necessary steps you can take to get out of it and what support you have there, but I feel as if not many young people know that. And I feel as if they take matters into their own hands at a young age really

**AS:** [00:17:08] thank you um part three of this interview is just going to be about the media and family. So how much knife crime news have you encountered online or via the television?

**P3:** [00:17:21] quite a lot um I don't really go on social media much and if I do I'm mainly looking at motorbikes and cars because that's mainly just sort of my passion I don't really follow a lot of people. Um but every now and then you'll see something come up um and its about you know someone's put up a photo of someone's face and they'll say in the little description about the photo they'll be you know so and so is stabbed at age blah blah blah an I used to see that quite a lot and then I unfollowed a lot of people so I don't really see it a lot but well I dunno it depends sometimes you do sometimes you don't

**AS:** [00:18:07] on what platform would you say you'd seen the most news on the subject?

**P3:** [00:18:12] Instagram. Instagram is the main thing um there's a page I follow and they do put you know you want to see meme's on there, funny videos and all that, but every now and then they'll put up a photo of someone who's just been arrested or a video of a gang doing something um and they're not they say they're not supporting it er in the little description of whatever media they're putting up and they're just sort of raising awareness about it and I think they're doing that for I think mainly the views rather than raising awareness and making them feel safe

**AS:** [00:18:57] so what's your current perception of knife crime according to the sources that you've seen it on you know, do you think it's quite serious or is it a minor issue?

**P3:** [00:19:05] I think it's quite serious personally um you know if you compare if to gun crime in America um the reason why we have a lot of knife crime over here is cause our gun laws are quite strict. However in America their gun laws are quite open so you don't see as much knife crime out there and I can guarantee if our laws were the same as America it would be more talking about gun crime than knife crime. Not saying there aren't guns in use, however, because we can get access to knives to easily, you know if you're in a gang just one phone call at the end of the day you're over eighteen you can just go to Tesco and buy a knife it's a simple as that um you know just a regular kitchen knife will do, anything really

**AS:** [00:20:01] so you said that with the media you know they tend to publish stories for likes and the views. Do you think that news publishers should be held accountable for the things that they post? You know the way that crimes are portrayed

**P3:** [00:20:18] I do yeah because there is a lot of like click bait ur that goes on you know you see a news source or a tweet or post about something and it will be the worst story you know so and so stabbed fifty five times and all this lot and then when you read into it its not as deep as you think It will be or not as bad um but they just I personally think that as long as these social media pages and news sources are getting views and are getting likes then urm that's all they really care about at the end of the day

**AS:** [00:21:00] have you ever watched urm a grime music video?

**P3:** [00:21:04] no I have never watched a grime music video

**AS:** [00:21:08] do you know what they entail? Like have you ever come across one?

**P3:** [00:21:12] oh I think I have once I think I listened to the song shut down by Skepta if you can call that grim urm but it just seems like a lot of, as I've mentioned before, roadmen just standing round in a group not showing their faces with money about everywhere um rapping about whatever um and I think that um influences people to be like that because they see their favourite artists singing about this and they think ye I wanna be like that and then it's a domino effect it just goes on to more s-sinster things

**AS:** [00:21:53] without too much detail, have you ever heard about anyone who has experienced threats or harassment through online platforms that involve weapons?

**P3:** [00:22:03] um ye I have um obviously without going into too much detail um you know I have ex-not experienced but I do have heard of people that have gone through that unfortunately

**AS:** [00:22:20] um have you got your phone to hand?

**P3:** [00:22:23] I do yes

**AS:** [00:22:26] do you have access to your screen time?

**P3:** [00:22:28] err yes

**AS:** [00:22:30] is it alright if you get it up for me. so if you have it um I was wondering what was your average daily or average weekly usage on your mobile phone? Whats your most used app? ...so what's your screen time for YouTube?

**P3:** [00:23:12] er would that be today?

**AS:** [00:23:14] on average a week or on average daily

**P3:** [00:23:17] urm average daily for YouTube is about an hour

**AS:** [00:23:29] and what's your most used app?

**P3:** [00:23:31] my most used app urr it doesn't tell me it will probably be YouTube to be honest

**AS:** [00:23:40] ye no problem. Urm the next section is just going to have a bit of information

about your family um and your current household you know where you live. So do you currently have a fatherly figure present

**P3:** [00:23:57] I do yes

**AS:** [00:23:58] and what's your relationship like with him?

**P3:** [00:24:00] I'd say it's good um my mum died when I was younger so it's just been me my brother and farther um my brother sort of did his own thing but I sort of spent a lot of time with my dad so from that we have quite a strong bond

**AS:** [00:24:20] thank you. How would you describe your up brining?

**P3:** [00:24:23] um strict I would say, I'd say it's good because my dad's educated me on what I'm not supposed to do in life basically um but it's with my farther it's mainly been his way or no way so that has unfortunately impressions been imprinted with me so I'm now like that with my life which I don't really like to be honest

**AS:** [00:24:54] do you feel like there should be some kind of happy medium with raising children, do you think it's important for the child to be able to go to the parent and talk to them about anything?

**P3:** [00:25:08] yeah um I feel as if there should be. Unfortunately, I don't really have that with my farther um I sort of deal with my problems on my own although he does keep saying if there is any problems let me know. He does come up to me a lot and say you know are you alright you know you look a bit down lately but you know I prefer to deal with it on my own and I feel yeah children should be able to go up to their parents with any problems that they have

**AS:** [00:25:36] do you ever recall your dad warning you of the dangers of walking alone on the street

**P3:** [00:25:42] yes all the time even now he does it he used to work for the NHS on the forensic psychiatry ward working with high class sex offenders and paedophiles and um coming from prisons. Um to yeah we would always be educated on the dangers of people and going out and even now before going to work he'll say let me know when you get there, if he's ever out he'll text and say is everything is alright, if I'm ever out he'll text and say is everything alright so yeah it's been absolutely massive with my farther

**AS:** [00:26:25] did your father ever say what the danger specifically was?

**P3:** [00:26:27] ye he when we were younger he wouldn't go into as much detail as he does now. But he would always you know it was mainly paedophiles and sex offenders he was concerned about mainly before that's who he used to work with so yeah before we go into specifics

**AS:** [00:26:51] do you feel like your current views generally, do you feel like they are becoming less shaped by your parents and more so by social media?

**P3:** [00:27:00] um I'd say it's a bit of both I'd say it's mainly my father but social media does come into play quite a bit to be honest

**AS:** [00:27:13] brilliant so that's the end of the interview, I was just wondering if there were anything else you would like to add?

**P3:** [00:27:18] no nothing really

**AS:** [00:27:22] thank you

**P3:** [00:27:23] that's ok

[00:27:23] Recording Ends

**Participant 4**

Date of Interview: 08-04-2021  
Transcribed Date: 08-04-2021  
Duration: 15 minutes 31 secs

[00:00:00] Recording Begins

**AS:** [00:00:01] are you happy for me to record today?

**P4:** [00:00:03] yes

**AS:** [00:00:05] so how old are you?

**P4:** [00:00:07] twenty one

**AS:** [00:00:09] um what area of Medway do you live in?

**P4:** [00:00:11] er Rainham Gillingham

**AS:** [00:00:13] do you have any siblings that live at your household currently?

**P4:** [00:00:16] ye I have an older sister and a younger brother

**AS:** [00:00:21] and what do you currently do for a living?

**P4:** [00:00:23] I work for the police

**AS:** [00:00:27] so a bit of general knowledge. What do you believe knife crime is?

**P4:** [00:00:30] so I believe it is where um there's people that withheld knives hide knives and they tend to stab people of threaten people with them

**AS:** [00:00:41] is carrying a knife considered a criminal offense?

**P4:** [00:00:45] yes

**AS:** [00:00:47] so what are the consequences if someone is caught carrying a knife?

**P4:** [00:00:53] so they can be charged for um having a weapon um and they can actually be sent to prison for it as well depending on how many occasions they have been caught having that weapon

**AS:** [00:01:05] does this differ from using a knife to physically cause harm on someone else?

**P4:** [00:01:09] yes it does

**AS:** [00:01:13] do you think that knife crime is a serious issue for young people living in the UK at the moment?

**P4:** [00:01:18] ye I feel like it's not spoken about enough um especially in the younger generations I think it should be spoken about a lot more in schools' um when children become teenagers because they are not really aware of the issues it can actually cause

**AS:** [00:01:33] is there knife crime present in Medway?

**P4:** [00:01:36] yes there is I have heard of knife crime actually happening in Medway as well

**AS:** [00:01:42] have you heard this from cases on the news or from other people?

**P4:** [00:01:45] so I've heard from other people um I've heard a lot of it on social media as well that's happening in Medway

**AS:** [00:01:51] so would you say that the levels of knife crime have increased?

**P4:** [00:00:55] yeah definitely

**AS:** [00:01:58] and when we talk about let's say Kent Police and um Medway Council, do you think that they've got some kind of knife crime strategy in place at the moment for young people?

**P4:** [00:02:08] I think they do but I don't think its er a strong enough strategy that they have

**AS:** [00:02:15] when you think about knife crime, what kind of person do you picture committing the crime?

**P4:** [00:02:22] er generally it will be younger men um early teens to even late twenties really in gangs. Um and usually people that are from like a lower class background

**AS:** [00:02:26] what kind of ethnicity would they have?

**P4:** [00:02:38] it can be any eth-any ethnicity

**AS:** [00:02:42] what kinda person do you picture to fall a victim of the crime? So the other end of the knife

**P4:** [00:02:47] er the same people... involved really um as well it could be anyone depending wrong person in the wrong time sometimes um but generally anyone could be a victim of it

**AS:** [00:02:58] why do you think that rr young people are carrying knives?

**P4:** [00:03:02] I think that sometimes they want to protect themselves and erm I think other times they think they want to be like become a threat to people. Um they may think that it gives them more power um and stuff like that

**AS:** [00:03:15] what are your personal thoughts on people who commit knife crime?

**P4:** [00:03:18] um I think it's very bad for them to be committing knife crime I don't think they're aware of what the circumstances that will come from them doing something or even carrying a knife

**AS:** [00:03:29] so do you feel safe living in Medway?

**P4:** [00:03:33] to an extend ye

**AS:** [00:03:45] why's that?

**P4:** [00:03:37] um I wouldn't necessarily think that I could be a victim of knife crime I try to stay out of them sort of areas

**AS:** [00:03:46] would you trust the police to keep you safe?

**P4:** [00:03:50] yeah

**AS:** [00:03:51] why's that?

**P4:** [00:03:52] ur they do have certain things in place to keep people safe I think sometimes it does vary. More could be done um but when there's not really much evidence of it sort of going on it's very hard to control that sort of situation

**AS:** [00:04:07] if your friend or someone that you knew um was carrying a knife, would you tell the police?

**P4:** [00:04:13] ye ye

**AS:** [00:04:16] why's that?

**P4:** [00:04:17] cause it could be dangerous as well as they might not even intend to use the knife but if they was in like the wrong mood or got angry they may use it just because eit's there

**AS:** [00:04:30] so what do you think would reduce the levels of knife crime in Medway? To try to tackle this issue

**P4:** [00:04:36] I think speaking about it to the younger public um to make them aware of the consequences that it could have of having a knife um and I think more awareness really as whole so that people do know it happens more than it being hidden all the time and then it being a shock when it does happen um so I think that they should definitely speak about it a lot more than what it is spoken about

**AS:** [00:05:01] when you were at school, did you ever have someone coming in to speak to you specifically about knife crime?

**P4:** [00:05:06] no

**AS:** [00:05:09] were you aware that knife crime might have been taking place when you were at school?

**P4:** [00:05:12] er in the younger years no, er as I got in through my older years ye but I didn't see it as a big problem. Um and its not until n ow that you realise that it is actually quite common thing to happen

**AS:** [00:05:26] do you think that em young people today have a stereotype or label branded to them by other members of society?

**P4:** [00:05:33] ye definitely

**AS:** [00:05:35] would you know what kind of labels or names that er are used?

**P4:** [00:05:39] ye I think um certain people are put into groups of gangs and stuff like that and can be categorised from what they wear. I know a lot of people tend to wear like Nike Adiadas tracksuits and stuff like that and they can be categorised just because they are wearing specific brand of clothing or they are in a certain place or look a certain way

**AS:** [00:05:57] so the next part of this interview is going to talk about gangs and knife crime. So... do you know what a street gang is?

**P4:** [00:06:04] yes so a street gang is um three or more people that form a known group um like they're known to the police or known to the public as sort of a gang of such

**AS:** [00:06:15] are they legal?

**P4:** [00:06:17] I wouldn't say they're illegal. Um but they can be seen as dangerous

**AS:** [00:06:22] why do you think that young people might join a gang?

**P4:** [00:06:25] they want to feel like theyre important to something or they wanna feel like they're protected by people and sometimes I don't even think they mean to be part of a gang I think it just happens because they can't get away from it.

**AS:** [00:06:36] do you think that perhaps these young people suffer from mental health, making them vulnerable?

**P4:** [00:06:41] I think they do but I don't think they are aware of the mental health issues that they have until like a later stage or life and I think as well like they probably try n like think they don't have any problems and then they end up becoming worse and they can get involved in other things too

**AS:** [00:06:59] do you think that young people who are in a gang are more likely to carry a knife or m-less likely?

**P4:** [00:07:06] er I think it is very varied on age um I think say in a gang of thirteen to twenty years old, I think the older people tend to carry a knife and the older people will look up to them and then when they become a certain age they feel like they need to carry a knife too. So urm I think age can definitely vary um but I think it does depend on how protected they feel really or how much strength they have

**AS:** [00:07:32] are there any scenarios where you think that yourself or young people might feel scared or anxious? When you go outside in public spaces

**P4:** [00:07:42] ye so er I think that um when it's quite dark and in certain areas like highstreets and n stuff that are quite familiar with having a few dodgy people of such around them, it is a bit scary. um especially through alleys and like through street corners and stuff say if you saw um like a group of people with their hoods up or someone with their hood up, you could think that they could be involved in something dangerous that you don't want to be a part of and you can't always avoid it

**AS:** [00:08:09] n similarly, you know when you walk on the path or the street outside your home, how do you feel when a group or two or more people walk towards you?

**P4:** [00:08:21] it does generally depend on ur the way I perceive them um I know its not good to judge people ur but depending on their character depends on ur how I feel really because say if it was an elderly couple I wouldn't really feel threatened. But if it was a couple of younger boys who do like a bit scary um then I would be worried and I probably would cross over

**AS:** [00:08:45] so after the age of eighteen as you know, people are of school leavers age. Do you know what kind of support is available to you if you were troubled or involved in a crime you know like if you were at school you could have gone to your teacher, could of got counselling. But after school, do you know where you would turn to?

**P4:** [00:09:02] no n-not really obviously I think a lot of people do are scared to contact the police because they sometimes think they will be in more trouble than the help that they can receive um so a lot of people just tend to keep it to themselves and dig themselves a bigger hole

**AS:** [00:09:19] how much knife crime news have you encountered online or via the television?

**P4:** [00:09:25] um not much really at all

**AS:** [00:09:29] have you ever seen any knife crime news?

**P4:** [00:09:31] ur I've seen a little bit um on the tv and um on the news sometimes I think on two occasions that is um but no it's not really something that would come up on there

**AS:** [00:09:42] if you can recall, what types of crime have you sited from these sources like have they been serious or have they been very minor cases?

**P4:** [00:09:51] so um a lot of the time they actually end up with the person being stabbed the victim um is actually dead a lot of the time because I think it gets taken too far um before anything can be done. So the on the two occasions that I've seen um one was like passed away and the other one was seriously injured

**AS:** [00:10:11] do you know if that was in Medway or in the UK I general?

**P4:** [00:10:15] ye I know that ur one was in Gillingham and one was in Chatham

**AS:** [00:10:20] do you think that seeing this shaped your views in the area that you live in?

**P4:** [00:10:14] ye definitely. I think it um makes people a bit more aware of what's actually going on um around them and it can scare some people

**AS:** [00:10:34] so obviously you say that you're currently in the police um, and looking back now you're saying that you've seen two cases of knife crime in the news, do you think that the media has provided an accurate representation of the levels of knife crime in Medway?

**P4:** [00:10:47] no no I don't

**AS:** [00:10:51] do you feel like news publishers such as the BBC should be held accountable for the way that crimes are portrayed?

**P4:** [00:10:58] ur to a certain extent, I do. I think things get very twisted and it is down to the publisher as well, but I don't also think they have enough information to publish anything. I think they just go on what they know rather than what they need to know to be honest

**AS:** [00:11:17] have you ever watched um a grime music video?

**P4:** [00:11:20] yeah

**AS:** [00:11:22] do you think that romanticise gang culture and weapons

**P4:** [00:11:26] I think its ur a sort of escape for those people who are in gangs. Um and they see it if they um get known from making this specific music then it could be a way out for them. But I think it does um coerce other people into thinking that they can be like them, and do the same sort of things that they do and get away with it as well um so I think it is quite bad um for the young generation to be watching and listening to them specific videos because they might not even realise what they're taking in. like they might just subconsciously think like things that they don't realise how bad it actually is

**AS:** [00:12:03] without too much detail, have you ever heard of anyone who has experienced threats or harassments online that involve weapons?

**P4:** [00:12:12] no

**AS:** [00:12:17] do you think that there should be more available support and knowledge on crimes? So that people don't feel helpless if they find themselves involved in a crime

**P4:** [00:12:25] yeh I think there should be um more anonymous sources they can go through um I know there is some that they can. But I don't think they're very aware of it and again I think if it was more advertised then they may even feel safer and may even ve more willing to get help in those situations

**AS:** [00:12:42] where do you think this kind of advertisement should be placed? Should it be placed in public spaces online or...

**P4:** [00:12:47] ur I think it should be published on social media because I think ur that is what the generation we're in uses more of now a days I think It could be in public but I don't think

they would really take much notice of it unless it was like a big like event or a big poster really but on social media if they can see it on there then they may be more familiar with it

**AS:** [00:13:08] um and lastly would you like to go on your mobile phone for me and share your average screen time

**P4:** [00:13:14] yeh. My average err daily average is six hours and 5 minutes

**AS:** [00:13:21] what app do you use the most?

**P4:** [00:13:23] erm probably Instagram and snapchat

**AS:** [00:13:31] lovely. Thank you um and the last section is just going to be a quick little interview about family. So... how would you describe your upbringing?

**P4:** [00:13:43] um I wouldn't say I've had the best of up brining but I think it as taught me a lot in the long run um about who I am and what I am capable of doing

**AS:** [00:13:51] do you have a fatherly figure?

**P4:** [00:13:53] yes I do

**AS:** [00:13:53] and what's your relationship like with him?

**P4:** [00:13:56] I've got a really good relationship with my dad

**AS:** [00:13:58] tt and do you have a motherly figure present?

**P4:** [00:14:00] ye

**AS:** [00:14:01] and what's your relationship like with them?

**P4:** [00:14:03] it's really good now um there have been times it has been quite bad and stuff but now it's very good I'd say

**AS:** [00:14:10] do you recall your primary caregiver every warning you when growing up about the dangers of walking the street alone?

**P4:** [00:14:16] ye um when I was a younger teenager I did get warned that there are some people who to stay away from. Especially walking through alleys and being aware that people could be following you and stuff like that um. But I feel like I didn't really take notice of it when I was younger its more as I've got a bit older now, that I've sort of realised it more and I'm more aware of it

**AS:** [00:14:39] was this different to what was said to your brother

**P4:** [00:14:43] ur no I think it was the same really

**AS:** [00:14:48] did they ever say what the danger was?

**P4:** [00:14:49] er not specifically no, erm they have mentioned like people following you men as such um people tryna take your things but nothing in depth really jus the normal things you would really hear about

**AS:** [00:15:03] and do you feel like your current views on everything, do you feel like they are becoming less shaped by your parents and more shaped by social media?

**P4:** [00:15:12] ye definitely I think you see a lot of videos online now of things that have happened to sort of other people who are similar to your age and you realise how real it really is

**AS:** [00:15:24] lovely. That's the end of the interview is there anything else you would like to add?

**P4:** [00:15:27] no

**AS:** [00:15:29] thank you

[00:15:31] Recording Ends

**Participant 5**

Date of Interview: 10-04-2021 Transcribed Date 10-04-2021 Duration: 14 minutes 31 secs
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[00:00:00] Recording Begins

**AS:** [00:00:00] just to confirm for the recording, are you happy for me to record?

**P5:** [00:00:03] yes

**AS:** [00:00:04] lovely. So how old are you?

**P5:** [00:00:07] twenty two

**AS:** [00:00:08] and what area of Medway do you live in?

**P5:** [00:00:11] Rainham

**AS:** [00:00:13] do you have any siblings that live at your household currently?

**P5:** [00:00:16] yes

**AS:** [00:00:18] and what do you currently do for a living?

**P5:** [00:00:22] urr [Inaudible] inspection of fruit

**AS:** [00:00:25] thank you. Um so when we talk about knife crime, what do you believe knife crime is?

**P5:** [00:00:33] um... I'd say criminal activities related to the use of knives

**AS:** [00:00:40] thank you. Would you say that er what you've just discussed is a criminal offence oh ye you did didn't you hhh hh

**P5:** [00:00:49] ye

**AS:** [00:00:50] um do you know what the consequence is if someone is caught just carrying a knife on them?

**P5:** [00:00:55] no

**AS:** [00:00:57] and do you know what the consequence is if someone is u-o caught using a knife to cause harm on someone else?

**P5:** [00:01:05] no

**AS:** [00:01:07] so do you think that knife crime is a serious issue for young people living in the UK at the moment?

**P5:** [00:01:13] yes

**AS:** [00:01:15] and, is there knife crime present in Medway?

**P5:** [00:01:19] yes

**AS:** [00:01:20] have you seen cases on the news or have you heard from others, about knife crime?

**P5:** [00:01:29] yes

**AS:** [00:01:31] lovely thank you. Erm sooo, when you think about knife crime, what kind of person do you picture to be committing the crime?

**P5:** [00:01:42] um I'd say a young teenage youth ye a youth teenage boy

**AS:** [00:01:49] and what kind of ethnicity would they have?

**P5:** [00:01:53] err I wouldn't say there is a specific ethnicity

**AS:** [00:01:58] thank you. Um what kind of person would you picture to fall a victim of the crime? So the other end of the knife

**P5:** [00:02:06] um I'd say the same sort of age, relating in the same group or sort of different gang in Medway or something

**AS:** [00:02:19] and why do you think that these young people are carrying knives?

**P5:** [00:02:24] urr I think they probably use it as protection for themselves but sort of use it to warn off other people as well

**AS:** [00:02:35] so why do you think oh do you think that level of knife crime in Medway has increased, decreased or stayed the same?

**P5:** [00:02:45] um what recently?

**AS:** [00:02:27] ye like in the last five years

**P5:** [00:02:50] um I'd say an increase

**AS:** [00:02:54] increase. Thank you. Um do you feel safe living in Medway?

**P5:** [00:03:01] um to an extent yes, but there is always that part that you sort of do feel unsafe

**AS:** [00:03:10] ye completely. Um would you trust the police, to keep you safe, if you ever needed them to?

**P5:** [00:03:18] no

**AS:** [00:03:19] no, how come?

**P5:** [00:03:22] um I'd say hh from a situation where someone was stabbed outside my house and they did attend like the my house but from their actions it sort of didn't seem like they could do much about it

**AS:** [00:03:39] ye I understand. Blimey. Um do you know if any ot-you know you said someone got stabbed outside your house, do you know if it was just the police that attended or did any other type of service come?

**P5:** [00:03:55] er no I believe it was just the police that attended

**AS:** [00:03:57] arr. Um so say like um so like someone you knew like your friend you know was carrying a knife or committed knife crime, would you report that to the police?

**P5:** [00:04:13] it think hh I try to talk reason with them first and if I thought it was a serious matter then I would report it to the police

**AS:** [00:04:20] brilliant thank you. And what do you think would reduce the levels of knife crime in Medway to try to tackle the issue amongst young people?

**P5:** [00:04:32] I'm not sure. I think maybe initiative like I know I think it's in Burnley they have a knife bin collection in public so you can just sort of go and um surrender their knives so I think something like that might help or if they knew that the police were actually able to protect them I guess

**AS:** [00:04:56] that's actually a brilliant idea, that actually is a really good idea, um so you know, as you're a young person yourself and you've grown up to be one, um do you feel like young people have a stereotype or label branded on them, by other members of society?

**P5:** [00:05:17] I'd say a certain age like e-people sort of my age don't but I'd say between fourteen and seventeen, people do stereotype them as that especially if you see people going around your town acting a certain way you just sort of assume that all of them are like that

**AS:** [00:05:41] mm. do you know what kind of labels they would be given?

**P5:** [00:05:47] um... do you know I'd say they sort of don't really care about other like they're not considerate of other people um and I don't think they think about the consequences of their actions like they think about sort of carrying a knife but they don't think about the harm that can be caused to them or other people from doing that

**AS:** [00:06:09] thank you. Um so you mentioned about gangs earlier, um why do you think that young people would join a gang?

**P5:** [00:06:18] um I'm not sure if its maybe from peer pressuring if like one of their friends is sort of hanging out with another person, and they sort of get known for being sort of the 'Gillingham gang' or the 'Chatham gang' um, I don't know maybe it gives them the sense of group protection so they think if they stick together then they're be safer somehow

**AS:** [00:06:41] mm. and do you think that these young people who engage with the culture, do you think that they fantasies of being a part of a gang with n-little knowledge of the reality of

them or do you think that they know the reality of gangs and the consequences of being in them?

**P5:** [00:06:57] um I mean to an extent I think they do know what it is, but I think they think it in their head it's a good idea, but realistically they don't think it through properly

**AS:** [00:07:10] mm. was that...

**P5:** [00:07:12] I think it's sort of an age thing maybe, they think, they're naïve in a sense

**AS:** [00:07:17] yeahh. Completely. Um so if you think back before covid and before you know we had these restrictions to stay home, are there any scenarios where you think that young people may feel scared or anxious in public spaces?

**P5:** [00:07:37] um, what do you mean young people involved in knife crime or just young people in general?

**AS:** [00:07:44] erm, young people in general

**P5:** [00:07:48] um trying to think

**AS:** [00:07:56] I can give you an example if you want?

**P5:** [00:07:57] ye sure

**AS:** [00:07:59] um so it's researched that some young people suggest that when they even queue up to go to the night club, some of them genuinely feel a bit scared and anxious with other people around them so that will be in a public space um and I was just wondering if you've ever experienced feeling scared or anxious um when you go outside at any point

**P5:** [00:08:20] um I mean hh I think it depends on sort of how do I say, what sort of has happened to them in the past, say for example if someone knows someone who has been um say stabbed or something then they're obviously going to be more anxious, personally I wouldn't say it makes me anxious but I get as a young person, how it could do if you know someone who has been attacked if you see what I mean

**AS:** [00:08:46] yeah that's a really good answer, I can see why they might feel a bit paranoid about what could happen and could imagine it in their head okay if this happens I'm going to do this. Um so similarity, if you know like when you're walking like up a street or on a path, if you see a group of two or three or more people walking towards you, what do you do, do you continue walking towards them?

**P5:** [00:09:12] um I'd say it depends on the age personally. I think I think I would be more anxious personally if it was younger people um as like I've said they're quite naïve um I would continue walking the way I was going but I would feel very anxious about it

**AS:** [00:09:30] mm um so the next section is just going to be talking about the media. So you've mentioned that you've possibly seen or heard a little bit of crime news, I was just wondering if you've encountered that online like on your mobile phone or via the news television?

**P5:** [00:09:53] um I'd say mostly on my phone because I'm usually just scrolling through Facebook for example, the KMFM comes up and it will show you a story about it rather than on the tv

**AS:** [00:10:06] thank you. Um so when these knife crime stories get published and you can see them, i-do they tend to be serious of minor incidents that get reported?

**P5:** [00:10:19] umm I don't know id say it's a mix It's hard to sort of tell because it could say um someone got stabbed here but you don't know the extent of the injuries if you see what I mean, its hard to tell whether they're serious or not because you don't know the scenario personally

**AS:** [00:10:42] thank you. Do you think that in this case, the news media have provided an accurate representation or the levels of knife crime in Medway?

**P5:** [00:10:53] no I'd say that there is they're reporting much less than there actually is

**AS:** [00:10:59] do you think that maybe you know in regard to crime and the police, if they had like one website or one database that could enable everyone to see exactly what crimes are being reported at every second, do you think that that would be beneficial?

**P5:** [00:11:15] I don't think so, because I think that personally the people that are committing these crimes don't care about stuff like that really, they don't check it and they don't care about their actions

**AS:** [00:11:27] so it would do more harm than good really

**P5:** [00:11:29] yeah I think its all good to sort of post all the um all the evidence if you see what I mean, but I don't think that it would shock them as they don't really care

**AS:** [00:11:41] mm. um have you ever watched like on YouTube a drill or grime music video?

**P5:** [00:11:50] no

**AS:** [00:11:51] no that's fine. Um... um on your phone, do you know on average kind of your screen time is? Daily or weekly?

**P5:** [00:12:08] erm I think it will depend on the day if I'm at work or not. I think if its on the weekend day id say it's maybe like hh four hours a day but if it's the weekend it might go up to sort of eight

**AS:** [00:12:23] what would you say that your most used app would be?

**P5:** [00:12:27] um is say it will probably be some sort of social media like snapchat or messenger or other than that it might be ticktock

**AS:** [00:12:40] lovely thank you. Um so a bit about you and your family, how would you describe your upbringing? From when you were born up until now

**P5:** [00:12:53] um I'd say it was quite a normal up bringing I would say erm I originally lived in Gillingham before I moved to Rainham, um I'd say it was definitely more rough in Gillingham I don't think I really noticed it at that point

**AS:** [00:13:10] lovely. Do you ever recall your primary caregiver warning you erm about the dangers of walking alone?

**P5:** [00:13:18] no definitely not

**AS:** [00:13:20] was this different to your brother or sister?

**P5:** [00:13:25] um I think it depends on age I say because obviously when I was younger it was a bit different they used to say be careful who you talk to and things like that. But I remember when I was younger I would sort of go to the park with my friends near my house and that was fine but id say when my brother was younger it was a little bit different because the times were different

**AS:** [00:13:47] thank you. Um and lastly, in general like on everything, wh-would you say that your views are becoming less shaped by your parents and more so by social media?

**P5:** [00:14:03] um I I mean I guess so. But I don't think that my parents have ever really sort of had an input in that necessarily, I think it's just you hear stories from people about knife crimes or you see sort of a report now and then but I think sort of over the past sort of couple of years I've become more aware of it I'd say

**AS:** [00:14:29] lovely thank you

[00:14:31] Recording Ends

**Participant 6**

Date of Interview: 16-04-2021 Transcribed Date: 16-04-2021 Duration: 9 minutes 25 secs
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[00:00:00] Recording Begins

**AS:** [00:00:00] err just to confirm, are you happy for me to record?

**P6:** [00:00:02] yes

**AS:** [00:00:04] so, how old are you?

**P6:** [00:00:06] twenty one

**AS:** [00:00:07] and what area of Medway do you live in?

**P6:** [00:00:10] Chatham

**AS:** [00:00:11] what do you currently do for a living?

**P6:** [00:00:13] er travel insurance

**AS:** [00:00:17] so generally what do you believe knife crime is?

**P6:** [00:00:22] erm hhh god Alanya I don't know

**AS:** [00:00:27] that's fine ye you don't know

**P6:** [00:00:28] like is it just when like juss like people have knives on them n they get into an argument and then they stab each other or people just carry them around for protection

**AS:** [00:00:43] yep so it's all about your personal views and thoughts, if you don't know it's fine

**P6:** [00:00:46] right

**AS:** [00:00:48] mm do you know what the consequence is if someone is caught carrying a knife?

**P6:** [00:00:51] no

**AS:** [00:00:53] erm do you think if someone is caught carrying a knife?

**P6:** [00:00:58] I think it should be yeah, is it?

**AS:** [00:01:00] erm so typically um if the blade und-er-over a certain length then it is a criminal offence in the UK um but obviously for religious reasons certain people are able to carry a knife in public

**P6:** [00:01:12] oh right

**AS:** [00:01:16] so do you think there is knife crime present in Medway?

**P6:** [00:01:20] yeah h hhh a lot

**AS:** [00:01:23] have you ever seen cases on the news?

**P6:** [00:01:25] ye and on Facebook

**AS:** [00:01:28] have you ever heard from other people um about knife crime in the area? Or has it mainly just been from these sources

**P6:** [00:01:34] urr normally like if a friend or someone has seen it on social media and then they're like oh my god did you see like this happened or whatever

**AS:** [00:01:43] would you say that the levels of knife crime in Medway have like the last five years, do you think they've increased, decreased or stayed the same?

**P6:** [00:01:50] increased

**AS:** [00:01:53] thank you. So he you think about knife crime, what kind of person so you picture to be committing the crime?

**P6:** [00:01:59] er young, gangs, groups of boys typically

**AS:** [00:02:03] what kind of status do you think they'd hold?

**P6:** [00:02:08] like what do you mean?

**AS:** [00:02:09] so would they come from a poor background or we-

**P6:** [00:02:12] poor normally ye like a troubled upbringing normally a lot of them go into gangs don't they

**AS:** [00:02:18] um and what kind of person do you picture to fall a victim of the crime?

**P6:** [00:02:22] anyone really

**AS:** [00:02:25] why do you think that young people are carrying knives?

**P6:** [00:02:29] some say protection but, I don't think that that's a very true like it may make them feel like more protected like if anything did happen but if anything did happen then they're sort of, they're gonna be in the wrong if they use it, do you get what I mean

**AS:** [00:02:50] do you feel safe living in Medway?

**P6:** [00:02:53] no h hhh

**AS:** [00:02:55] lovely but um you know if something were to happen if you feel happen like if you feel you were every troubled and needed to talk to someone, do you feel like you could go to the police and trust the police with that?

**P6:** [00:03:04] mm ye

**AS:** [00:03:07] if your friend or someone that you knew was carrying a knife or was carrying a knife with the purpose of harming someone, would you tell the police? That you knew that was happening

**P6:** [00:03:22] probably I'd speak to them directly and tell them like they shouldn't be blah blah and see what they said um but I don't think if they if th-hh it would be hard like ye id go to them straight away but then if they're not gonna do anything about it. I don't think I'd go straight to the police cause like nothing has happened, do you get what I mean

**AS:** [00:03:44] um and young people in society today you know sometimes they get branded as a youth

**P6:** [00:03:50] mm humm

**AS:** [00:03:51] do you think un know that we get labelled as anything else? Have you ever heard any names we've been called growing up or have we got kind of a stereotype branded to us?

**P6:** [00:04:02] umm no uh I don't really know

**AS:** [00:04:08] that's fine um so mentioned early you know you mentioned gangs. Why do you think that young people might join a gang?

**P6:** [00:04:16] so that they're not ever at risk I mean I know like gangs versus gangs a lot of the time but like I feel like if someone was in a gang they'd feel more like secure than if they were had a couple of friends who were just like didn't walk around with knives on them and things

**AS:** [00:04:34] thank you. Um and as a young person yourself, have you ever personally felt scared or anxious in situations like outside the house in public and if so wh-like where were you?

**P6:** [00:04:47] ye like if I walk past a group of boys a group of sort of people my age younger, to be fair any groups of people that look intimidating a get quite scared but um yeah normally around Chatham town is qu-I don't like walking around there

**AS:** [00:04:12] would you say that the clothes they wear?

**P6:** [00:04:14] ye it shows a lot hh hh

**AS:** [00:04:17] thank you. Erm so when you have seen knife crim on the news, do they show serious incidents or minor incident?

**P6:** [00:04:30] like like I nor-h its normally on the news like major isn't it like when someone actually dies from it but like on Facebook you'll see like every now and then like someone was stabbed amount times but they're alright but they're usually like the major ones isn't it on the news

**AS:** [00:04:50] do you think that when like the BBC report the most serious cases, do you think that has an impact on young people and the way they perceive knife crime in the area?

**P6:** [00:06:00] I don't know um I dunno

**AS:** [00:06:06] thank you. Um on average like when you think about your phone and how much you use your phone, what do you think your most used app is?

**P6:** [00:06:19] mmm Instagram or ye Instagram or Facebook normally

**AS:** [00:06:30] thank you. Erm and just a little section about your family, so how would you describe your upbringing?

**P6:** [00:06:37] erm sort of like standard ur-council estate which was hard because then people sort of put you in a category like you're not really going to do anything like well in life. Um but yeh grew u; on a council estate and moved council house to council house for all my life really

**AS:** [00:07:04] did your primary caregiver ever warn you about the dangerous of walking alone on the street when you were younger?

**P6:** [00:07:11] er ye ye I wasn't really allowed to go anywhere on my own unless it was like with an older friend that lived on our road to go to the shop or something but ye going out on my own I wasn't really allowed to do that

**AS:** [00:07:24] did they ever say what the danger was?

**P6:** [00:07:26] jus-not really not a specifically just talk to strangers like you don't really who is about and what they're doing

**AS:** [00:07:36] um and lastly, do you feel like your views generally on everything not just knife crime, but do you feel like these views are becoming les shaped by your parents and more so by social media?

**P6:** [00:07:48] ye definitely I think like anything really like me and my parents-like have disagreements about things like sometimes I feel one way and they could feel a completely different way because I've read something on social media that they haven't, so ye I would definitely day that

**AS:** [00:08:06] how do you think that um wo-like ur-medway and the UK how do you think they should tackle knife crime amongst young people? Um you know should we go more towards educational routes or should we advertise knife crime help schemes on social media platforms?

**P6:** [00:08:36] maybe the educational like going into schools and like you know talking to them and like I know when I used to be in school and we'd get some li-a police office or someone come in and like talk to us when it was like a big assembly no one would like really listen but when it was like smaller groups it was a lot better so ye maybe like going into schools in like smaller groups and that talking to them that way

**AS:** [00:08:50] would you say that if someone came in and spoke to small groups of you at school about the experien-negative experience they've had about perhaps a knife crime incident in their family, do you think that that would kind of stick in your head-

**P6:** [00:09:05] yeah definitely a thousand per cent it's especially at that age like I think when you're told something like that it sticks with you like I still remember things that I've like been told at school before that I've like big things and they stick with you for ages so yeah I do think that

**AS:** [00:09:20] ye completely I think that's really valuable, thank you

[00:09:25] Recording Ends

## **Appendix C1 – Participant Audio Recordings**

Interview with P1 (Audio File)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jveRXdNjNVRk60zNOssaglqo9GXy8f6/view?usp=sharing>

Interview with P2 (Audio File)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MoTi0B0qDhK12pR9P0FH67p23Sai2rw1/view?usp=sharing>

Interview with P3 (Audio File)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CxKoJU6c-AVxhuWvasLqLJM\\_xYOYX6yP/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CxKoJU6c-AVxhuWvasLqLJM_xYOYX6yP/view?usp=sharing)

Interview with P4 (Audio File)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fQSVcVvk8Rb7RVH\\_Iz0DVfg7toFUOxZZ2/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fQSVcVvk8Rb7RVH_Iz0DVfg7toFUOxZZ2/view?usp=sharing)

Interview with P5 (Audio File)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q8IrCEK1OcpCfM2ZRLVcHihkyM26HVA/view?usp=sharing>

Interview with P6 (Audio File)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E83dKfYtN68FoBAuXedajURwEOIttRk2/view?usp=sharing>