



14 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Hertfordshire Police are grateful for the positive relationship they have with our local secondary schools. It is in this spirit that we are pleased to announce the following joint project.

We are fortunate here in Welwyn Hatfield to live in a safe borough. Yet, our world is more connected than ever before and this brings new challenges for young people now, and in the future.

Whilst the vast majority of the borough's teenagers would not even think about carrying a knife, the chances of them hearing stories about knife crime in the media, from friends, or online, is very high.

We believe the best way to help keep young people safe is by being proactive and talking to them about the issues. For that reason, we are staging a series of events at every secondary school in the borough to listen to our teenager's concerns – hear how they feel – and give them greater confidence to make the right choices in the years ahead.

The sessions will focus on drug and knife crime, featuring guest speakers with first-hand experience of the potentially fatal consequences, and will include practical experiences of screening and searching in schools, eg the use of knife wands and detectors, to ensure that our young people are aware of the strategies used to keep them safe.

We believe this approach will be a successful follow up to the well-received Paul Hannaford Presentations from last year. We hope it will also reassure parents/carers of our commitment to being proactive in raising awareness of issues for our young people.

This project/initiative is part of a much wider package of measures the borough's Community Safety Partnership has been and will be putting in place across the borough, including information sessions for parents during the 2019/20 academic year.

The events will be taking place across all 6 local secondary schools between 20 June and 5 July and specific dates for each school are confirmed below:

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 20 June | Stanborough School |
| 21 June | Monk's Walk School |
| 24 June | Chancellor's School |
| 27 June | Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School |
| 3 July | Onslow St Audrey's School |
| 5 July | Ridgeway Academy |

Should you have any questions in the meantime, or would like to know more about the support available for parents/carers to help keep young people safe, please contact either your child's Headteacher or email the community safety team based at the borough council on feelsafe@welhat.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



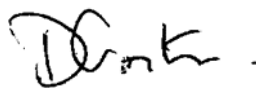
Rob Bridge
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Chief Executive



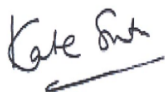
Tannis Perks
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Welwyn Hatfield Chief Inspector



A Wood and T Nickson
Co-Headteachers
Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School



D Croston
Headteacher
Chancellor's School



K Smith
Headteacher
Monk's Walk School



D Bullock
Headteacher
Onslow St Audrey's School



J Whelan
Headteacher
Ridgeway Academy



M John
Headteacher
Stanborough School