

Tackling The Knife Crime Epidemic

	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Criminal Justice	Mandatory 5 year prison sentences for possession of a knife in a public place.	Investment in prisons to increase capacity and to reduce early release with a view to retraining and rehabilitation whilst in prison.	Creation of a register that includes subjects for ten years post release. Probation Service to be given powers to conduct spot checks at any time within 10 years of release, allowing them to act on intelligence in order to take preventative action if required.
Policing	Increase stop and search by allowing searches without the requirement for reasonable suspicion.	Urgent recruitment of dedicated neighbourhood officers who do nothing but patrol heavily populated areas during normal waking hours, i.e. all day, every day.	Reestablishment of trust and respect in the country's police forces. Free from unhelpful or restrictive doctrines, well-meaning or otherwise, that inhibits delivery of their primary duties.
Social Inclusion	Urgent investment in youth services. Simply funding disjointed youth centres is insufficient. The education service needs to create a network of youth centres in every town as part of the education system. These could use existing school facilities such as assembly halls and gymnasiums to create leisure activities that could link in with the education system, thus providing diversion from crime as well as additional curriculum support.	Youth centres to run family sessions where families can be encouraged to socialise together. This would give hard working parents a way to spend an evening out with their children without spending any of their hard earned money, as well as helping to educate and inform parents about emerging social issues.	Increase in apprenticeship schemes, prioritising access for those who go through this youth centre process in order to encourage uptake.
Education	We had <i>Say No to Strangers</i> . We had <i>Say No to Drugs</i> . Now we need <i>Say No to Knives & Gangs</i> from an early age. When children are impressionable, the fear of the consequences of knives and gangs would be a good start. Children are most receptive in the early years of their education.	Provision of special vocational courses to those who don't make college grades. Encourage young people to continue their education. When they leave school, and have nothing else to do, they're far more likely to become involved in gangs.	Youth Employment Schemes up to the age of 25 with jobs in Government organisations as well as corporations. By the time people reach this age, they're far less likely to become a part of a gang or be easily swayed by the prospect of a life of crime.