
Developing a Knife Crime/Serious Violence Strategy for Leicester

Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

6th August 2020



Leicester
City Council

Purpose of the Knife Crime/Serious Violence Strategy and Manifesto Commitment



WHAT WE'LL DO

A safe and inclusive city

Labour will:

Community support

- Keep Leicester a welcoming and supportive place for all residents living and working here
- Support residents not able to apply for benefits or receive services with advice and guidance
- Make Leicester a place of refuge for those fleeing conflict across the world, with a comprehensive offer of housing, support and learning
- Support communities to welcome refugees and asylum-seekers
- Develop and support engagement and community cohesion opportunities in our neighbourhoods by supporting the voluntary and community sector to access grant opportunities
- Develop models of improved citizen participation
- Support communities and citizens to participate in running the city.

Community safety

- Work with partners to establish a city-wide knife crime strategy
- Build community partnerships with schools and community organisations to tackle hate crime
- Work with partners to extend the use of restorative justice
- Support our local voluntary sector with a new five-year strategy and local lottery.

- In the **City**, our pledge is to do more to **help prevent and deter** individuals and groups committing acts of serious violence and carrying/using knives.
- To ensure a **collaborative** approach with the **Community, the Violence Reduction Network, Partner Agencies and Voluntary Groups** to understand the causes of serious violence and the use of knives and develop a strategy that defines our approach
- To utilise this joined up, **coordinated approach** to confront serious violence and knife crime and to ensure that we **commit to early intervention, prevention and provision of services**

Violence Reduction Network

Violence Reduction Network (VRN) will prevent and tackle the issue of **serious violence** locally with a particular focus on the **under 25-year-old** age group.

- Population group most at risk of serious violence across LLR are males aged 15 to 19 years in Leicester – in high population density and deprivation areas.
- Given the City has been identified as a priority area there will close working relationship and support for the City's Knife Crime Strategy.
- This will include the development of local serious violence prevention plans.

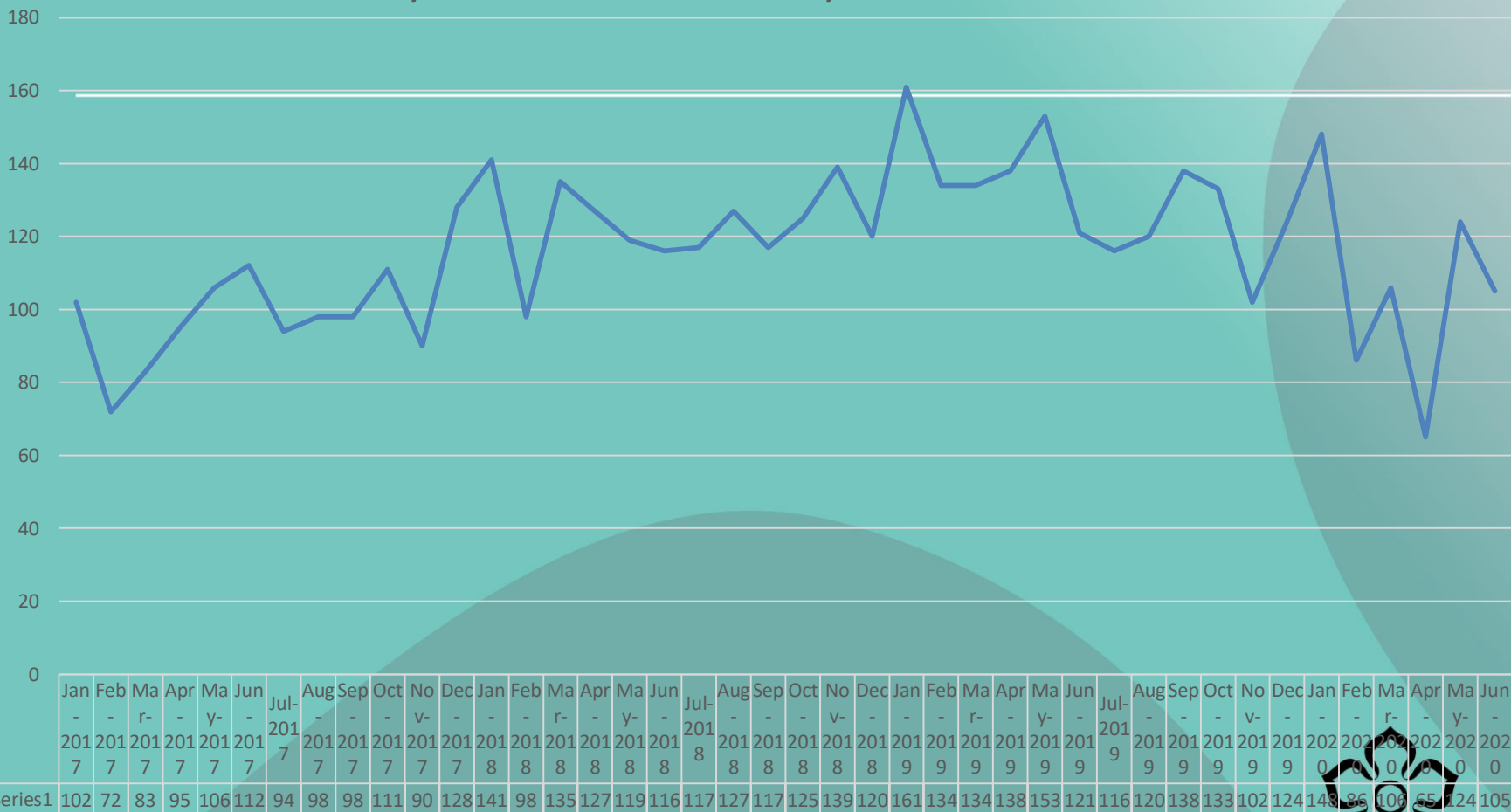


Knife Crime: Police Recorded Crime Data

- Includes any crime where a knife is seen, used or threatened.
- This means Leicestershire Police record crimes where there may have been **no knife present** but just a threat made
- Around 20% of these includes **possession of offensive weapons** where police have proactively targeted or attended incidents where a person is found with a knife
- Leicester has seen an increase in knife crime over three years that peaked in early 2019 and has been declining steadily since



January 2017 - June 2020 City Knife Crime Totals



June 2019 - June 2020 City Knife Crime Totals



Series1

Jun-2019	Jul-2019	Aug-2019	Sep-2019	Oct-2019	Nov-2019	Dec-2019	Jan-2020	Feb-2020	Mar-2020	Apr-2020	May-2020	Jun-2020
121	116	120	138	133	102	124	148	86	106	65	124	105



Timeline of offences across Leicester City (2018 / 2019/2020)

Month	2018	2019	2020	Between years comparison (+ or -)
January	142	161		+19
February	100	135		+35
March	136	133		-3
April	129	138		+9
May	121	153		+32
June	118	120		+2
July	118	117		-1
August	131	122		-9
September	120	139		+19
October	125	133		+8
November	141	101		-40
December	121	156		+35
January	-	161	150	-11
February	-	135	181	+46

Age of suspects and offenders

The top three age ranges of suspects and offenders across Leicestershire in 2018:

Age range	Total
12-17	538
18-24	566
25-34	473

The top three age ranges of suspects and offenders across Leicestershire in 2019:

Age range	Total
12-17	448
18-24	484
25-34	483

Age of victims

The top three ages of victims across Leicestershire in 2018:

Age range	Total
18-24	379
25-34	390
35-44	326

The top three ages of victims across Leicestershire in 2019:

Age range	Total
18-24	348
25-34	412
35-44	311

Methodology

Formation of a steering group & taskforce group

- **Steering group:** strategic partners (internal & external) who promote, highlight and steer the work undertaken to develop and implement the strategy

- **Taskforce group:** recognised key community leads within various local communities of Leicester city. Group members will be able to deliver community related work to support the development and implementation of the strategy

Community conversations

- With the use of police data and analysis identified eight locations across Leicester City for the delivery of community conversations.
- Each of the community conversations were arranged for a duration of 1.5 hours, and face-to-face sessions took place in a key community facility within the local area.
- The time and date of each community conversation was determined by the availability of the community lead
- Each conversation involved breakout discussions to allow community members to discuss a series of questions

Community conversations

Questions discussed during community conversations:

- What, and where, are the issues within our local area and community?
- Why do you think people carry knives, and become involved in knife crime and other serious violence?
- What are your experiences of the impact of knife crime and serious violence? How has knife crime / serious violence affected your community?
- What more can be done by communities and organisations/services to reduce knife crime and serious violence?
- What are the strengths of our local community in addressing these issues, and contributing to a solution?

Timetable of events

A range of meetings and events have taken place to date to support the development of the strategy.

These include:

- Regular steering group meetings
- Regular taskforce group meeting
- Joint steering & taskforce group meeting
- Several community conversations (further detail provided in following slides)
- Designated Safeguards Leads Forum (Presentation of Knife Crime Strategy)
- Meeting with De Montfort University Students/Volunteers (recognising support for community conversations)
- Victim First- VRN commissioned research
- Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission
- Discussion with families and parents of victims

Some meetings are due to take place; these had been postponed due to COVID-19.

These will include:

- Remaining community conversations
- Meeting with Elected Members
- Meeting with those who have 'lived experience' or are involved in knife crime, and those affected by incidents of knife crime/serious violence
- De Montfort University and University of Leicester – Joint criminology students' session
- Session with experts
- Regular steering group meetings
- Regular taskforce group meetings

Community conversations

Community conversations are led by a member of the taskforce group, who is already involved and leading on community work within their local area.

Community conversations have taken place/are due to take place in the following areas:

- *Belgrave* : Wednesday 4th March 2020 – Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre
- *Braunstone* : Monday 6th July 2020 – Online meeting
- *Beaumont Leys* :Postponed (new date TBC)
- *City Centre*: Postponed (new date TBC)
- *Highfields*: Thursday 12th March 2020 – African Caribbean Centre
- *New Parks*: Postponed (new date TBC)
- *Saffron / Eyres Monsell* : Smaller/individual group sessions
- *St. Matthews* : Wednesday 19th February 2020 – St. Matthews Neighbourhood Centre

Community conversations have also taken place/will take place with other groups which including:

- *Young Peoples Council* – Wednesday 11th March 2020
- *Antoin Akpom Achievement Intervention & Prevention Project* (Online questionnaire)
- *Sessions with hard-to reach groups* –
 - *families/parents of knife crime/serious victims* –Wednesday 29th July 2020 (Online)
 - *Victims or those with lived experiences* (TBC)



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: ST MATTHEWS AREA

Helping to shape the citywide knife crime & serious violence strategy

Let's talk about knife crime

COME AND BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION

Wednesday 19 February 2020
2.00pm - 3.30pm

St Matthews Neighbourhood Centre
10 Malabar Road
Leicester, LE1 2PD

Contact Ruksana Hussain 07466 868 651
for more details



Leicester City Council

Community conversations



Leicester City Council @Leicester_News · 4h
Yesterday in St Matthews we held our first #communityconversation about #knifecrime & it was really well attended. Details of further events across #Leicester coming soon, so you can help shape our strategy on knife crime & serious violence. bit.ly/3BUsd6z @KirkMasterLC



Leicester City Council Retweeted

Leicester City Council @Leicester_News · Mar 13
Another great #communityconversation on knife crime this week – this time, we visited #Highfields to gather people's ideas for our city knife crime strategy.

More events coming soon in Braunstone, New Parks and Beaumont Leys
[@KirkMasterLC](https://twitter.com/KirkMasterLC) [@leicspolice](https://twitter.com/leicspolice) [@FightBach](https://twitter.com/FightBach)



2 3



Leicester City Council @Leicester_News · Mar 6

Earlier this week, [@KirkMasterLC](https://twitter.com/KirkMasterLC) and [@CityMayorLeic](https://twitter.com/CityMayorLeic) joined the community in #Belgrave to talk about #knifecrime and developing a knife crime strategy for #Leicester. Join us in #Highfields at the African Caribbean Centre next Thur, 12 March, from 1.30-3.30pm for our next event.



LeicestershirePolice and Willy Bach

3 5

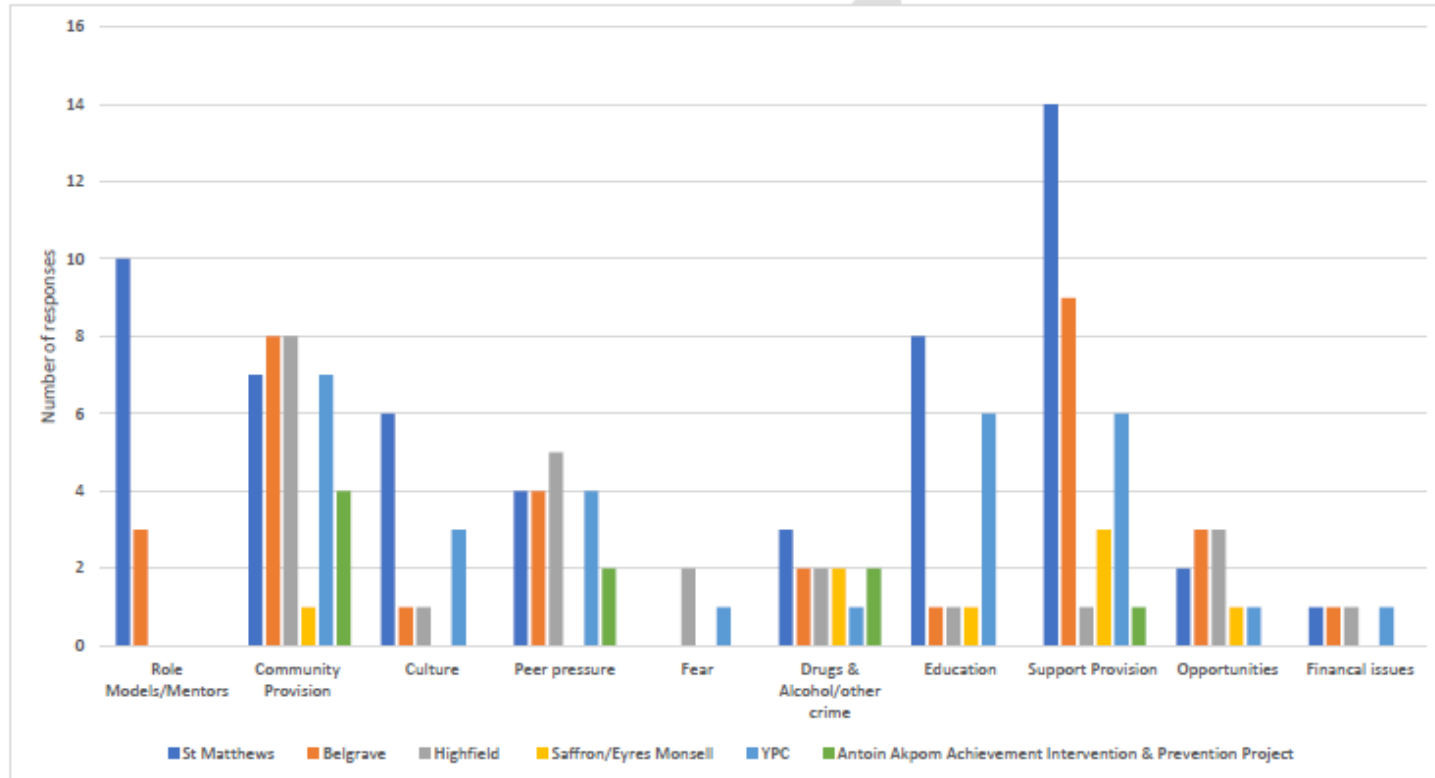


Most popular responses

- What, and where, are the issues within our local area and community?
 - ***Lack of community provision, lack of support provision, peer pressure***
- Why do you think people carry knives, and become involved in knife crime and other serious violence?
 - ***Fear, peer pressure, culture (eg generation gap, social media influences etc), lack of role models/mentors***
- What are your experiences of the impact of knife crime and serious violence? How has knife crime / serious violence affected your community?
 - ***Fear within community, negative perception of the local area, violence & other related crimes, lack of role models/mentors***
- What more can be done by communities and organisations/services to reduce knife crime and serious violence?
 - ***Improve education/provision of information, increased community work and improved community facilities/hubs, provide variety of support services***
- What are the strengths of our local community in addressing these issues, and contributing to a solution?
 - ***-Leads already involved within community work and can create collaborative/communication links***

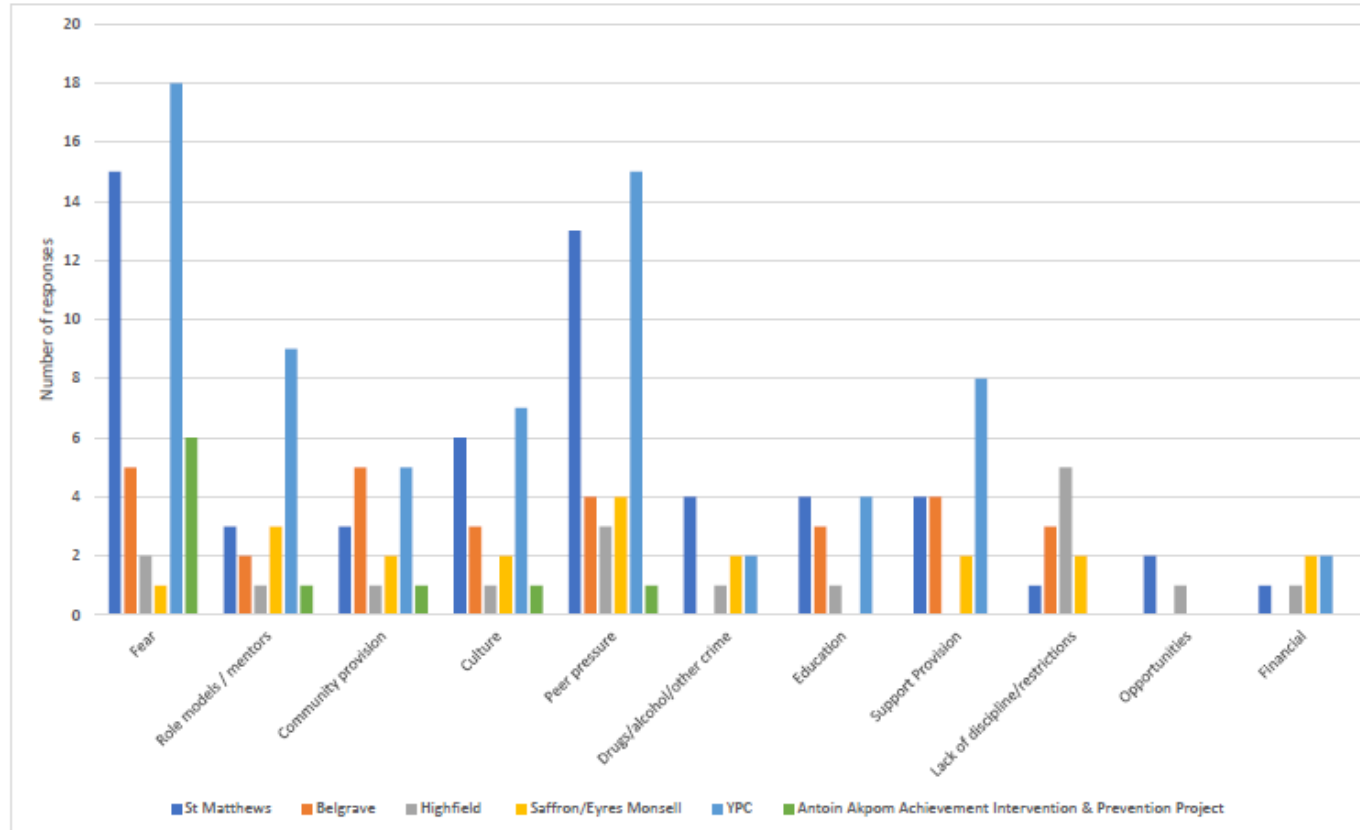
Community conversations – outcomes to date

Question 1: What, and where, are the issues within our local area and community?



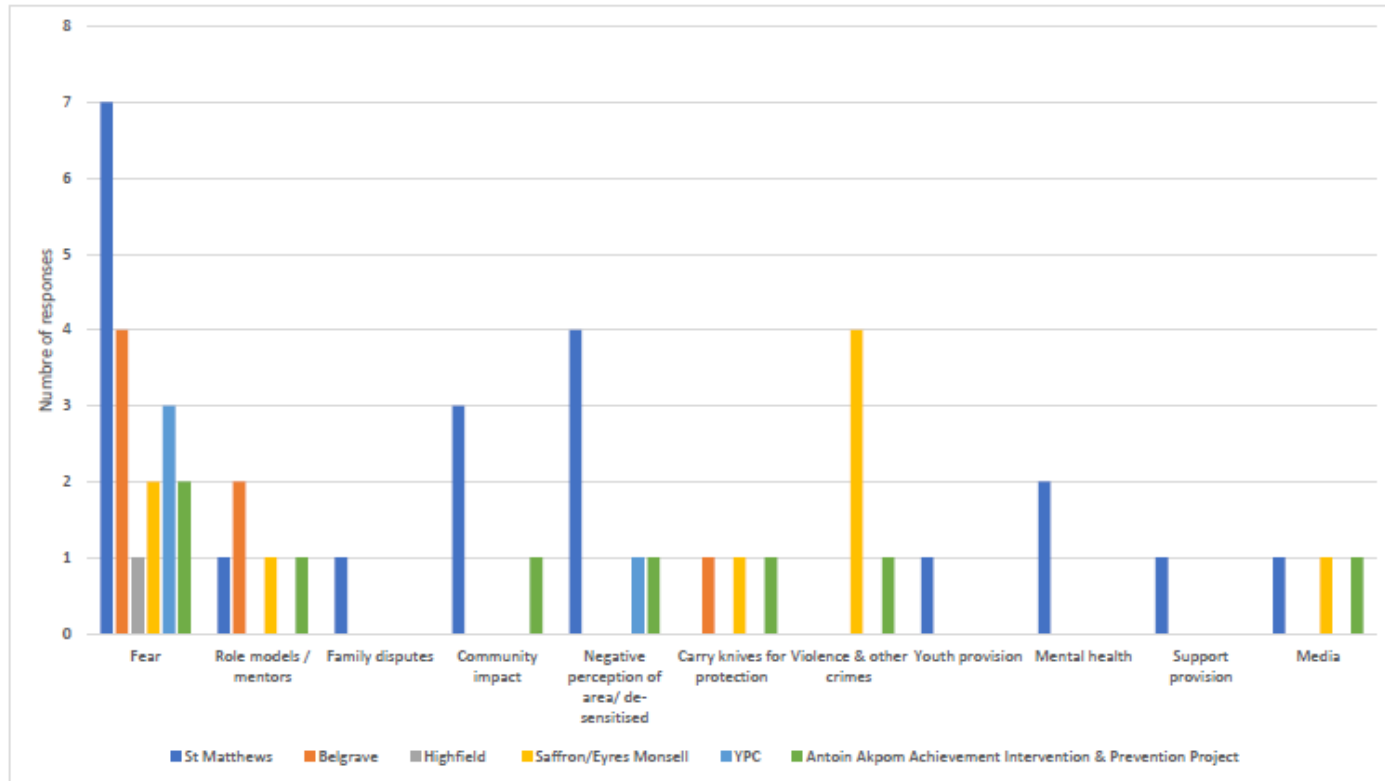
Community conversations – outcomes to date

Question 2: Why do you think people carry knives, and become involved in knife crime and other serious violence?



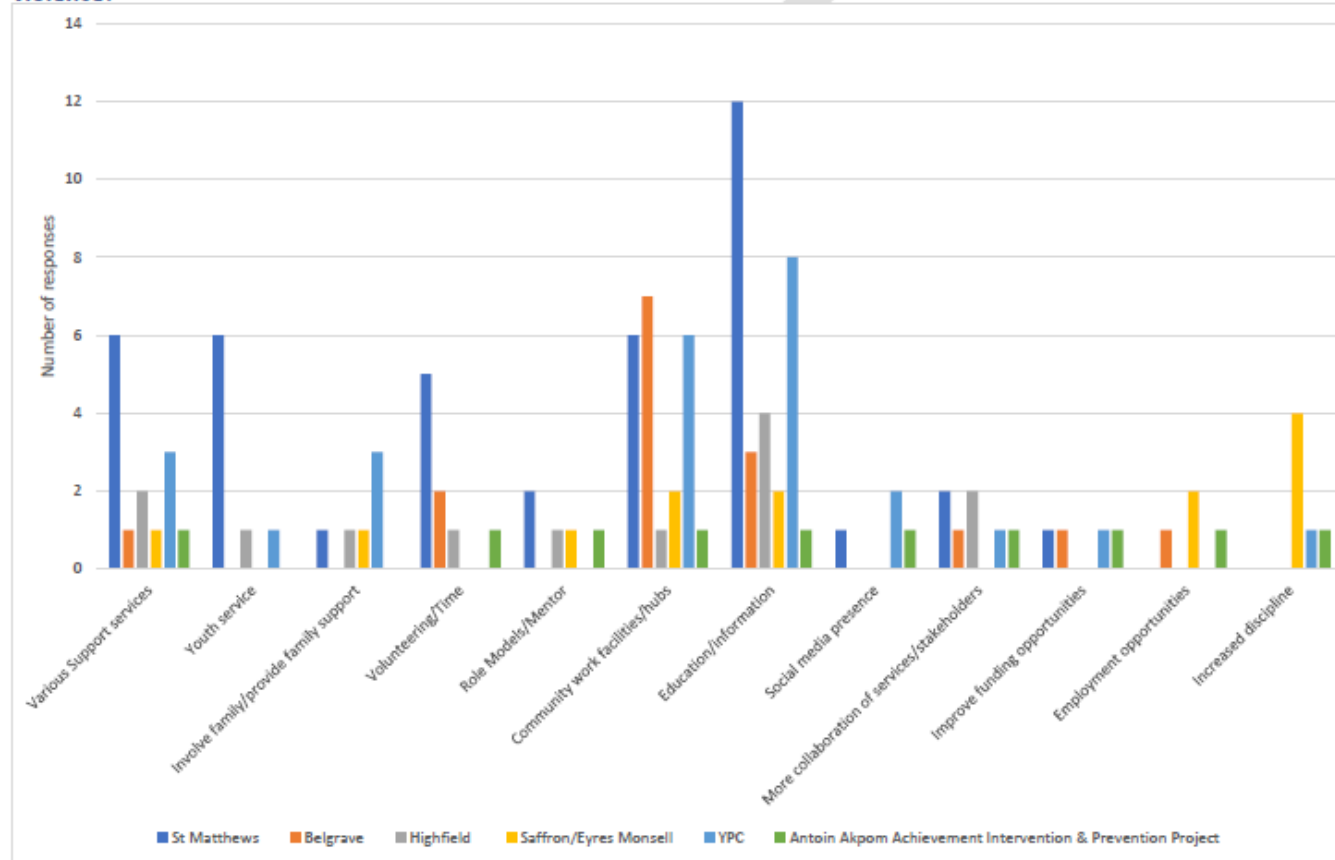
Community conversations – outcomes to date

Question 3: What are your experiences of the impact of knife crime and serious violence? How has knife crime / serious violence affected your community?



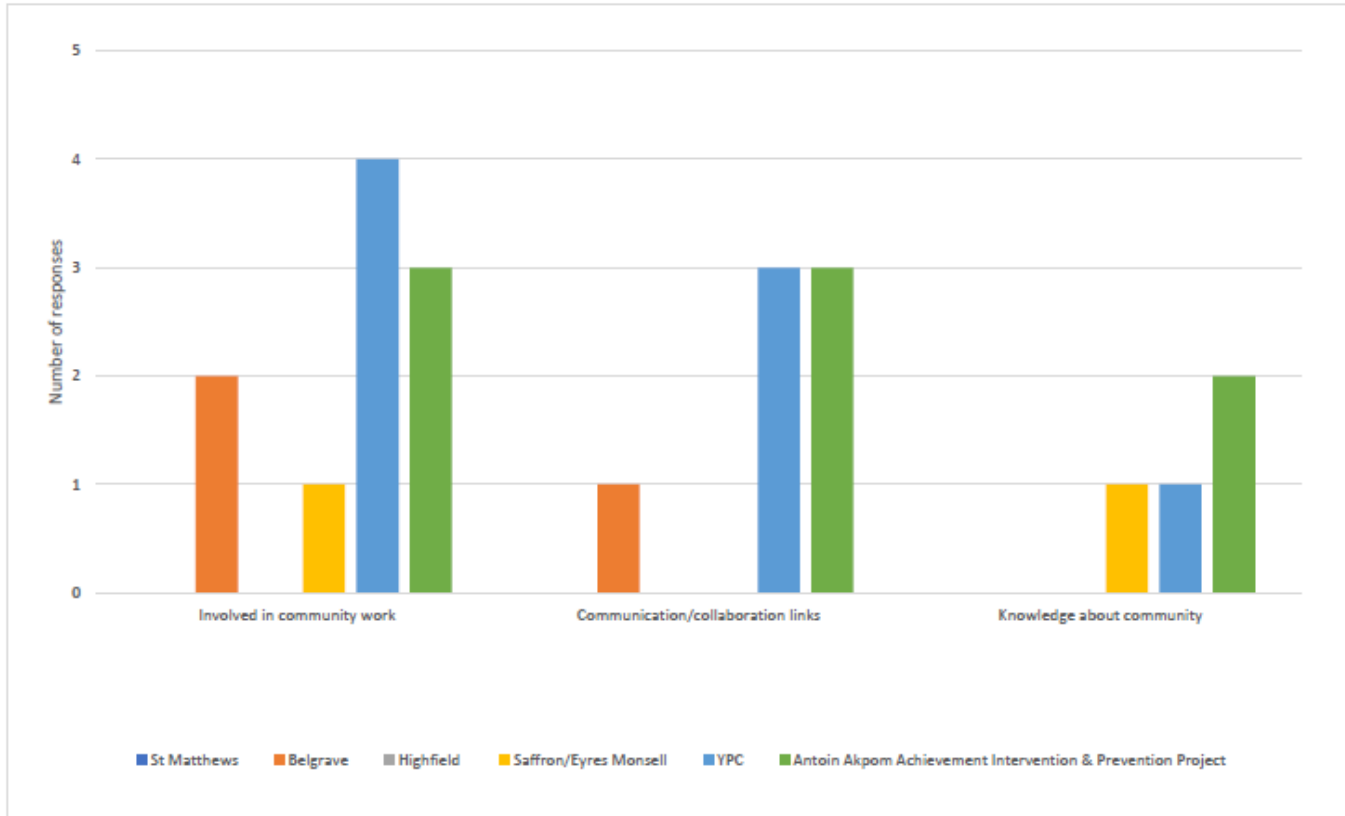
Community conversations – outcomes to date

Question 4: What more can be done by communities and organisations/services to reduce knife crime and serious violence?



Community conversations – outcomes to date

Question 5: What are the strengths of our local community in addressing these issues, and contributing to a solution?



Next steps

- Complete remaining community conversations and various meetings
- Develop and finalise the knife crime & serious violence strategy document
- The development of the strategy will inform a list of recommendations and commitments; these will be used to shape a deliverable action plan

ANY QUESTIONS?