

POLICE:NOW
INFLUENCE FOR GENERATIONS

The background image shows an outdoor school event. In the foreground, a long table is covered with numerous bowls of fresh fruit, including oranges, apples, and grapes. A man in a dark shirt is standing behind the table, possibly serving. In the background, a young man with a blue backpack is walking away from the camera. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a bright sky.

Making an impact in local schools

PC Josh Ives,
Cambridgeshire
Constabulary

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'We hope our work in local schools will have a lasting impact on crime'

Some of you will know me from the partnership work I complete at our local schools and council, or perhaps you've seen me running around Huntingdon.

As part of the problem solving team, I work with partner agencies to tackle long term problems in and around Huntingdon.

The team has recently had two new 'Police Now' officers join us following their training, bringing our team to one police sergeant, five police constables, and seven police community support officers (PCSOs).

The aim of this monthly article is to keep you updated on what we are doing in the local area. Whilst we publish a lot on our social media pages, we do appreciate that not everyone has access to these and they are often very short. We are hoping that this column will give us an opportunity to explain our powers, actions and what we have planned for the future. This month I wish to talk about the anti-knife campaign we ran for between January 14-16.

with **PC Josh Ives**, of Cambridgeshire police



Despite taking into account new crime recording standards, Huntingdon has followed a similar trend to the rest of the UK demonstrating a rising number of recorded violence and weapons offences.

Our officers work tirelessly to respond to these incidents and investigate thoroughly, however we recognise that 'firefighting' individual incidents is not the complete answer.

It is because of this that I organised a 72-hour operation in January that involved a combination of education and enforcement.

The team of PCSOs attended five primary schools and both secondary schools in Huntingdon, delivering talks on personal

safety. The talks ranged from what we as police do, bullying, and peer pressure for the younger age groups through to carrying knives, how to report crime, and staying safe out and about, for the older year groups.

At one of the secondary schools the talks were supplemented by a portable knife arch - a metal detector - that encouraged students to talk about the subject to the PCSOs attending. The feedback so far from the schools and students has been great.

The second stage of our operation involved the police constables patrolling across Huntingdon and Godmanchester on foot and bicycle whilst in plain clothes. Officers conducted a number of stop searches utilising our powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and the Misuse of Drugs Act.

As a result of these powers, a quantity of weapons and illegal drugs were seized and offenders processed. In addition to this officers were able to increase our intelligence picture of the area



Police officers spoke to students about the threat of carrying knives.

which may allow for future operations and warrants to be authorised. Meanwhile, a knife amnesty bin was erected at Huntingdon Police Station to allow people to hand in unwanted knives anonymously.

Unfortunately, operations such as this cannot be maintained long term due to the strain they have on limited resources and other requirements of our team. However, it is hoped that the talks completed, alongside the

enforcement, will have a long term impact on violence and weapons offences. If you are concerned with people you know carrying knives or other weapons, you can report via 999, 101 or anonymously via the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website. Don't be disappointed if you don't get an immediate police response as the information will likely add to our intelligence picture supporting warrants and searches.