



Operation Eastwood

Evaluation

A yearly evaluation of Operation Eastwood is carried out and in the calendar year of 2021, the EIC's worked with 56 young people who were referred to Op Eastwood. Of these 56, only 2 children reoffended in any way that related to weapons or violence, giving Op Eastwood a 96% success rate of children who did not go on to reoffend. Compared to the national recidivism rate of around 38% in young people, this demonstrates the effectiveness and success of Op Eastwood.

Op Eastwood also takes a holistic approach to children and will deal with any other issues identified. For example during one session, a young person made threats towards another youth who they believed had made racist remarks towards them. The EIC then also delivered a one punch violence intervention with the original child, whilst also working with the second child and delivered a hate crime intervention. The original child's parent provided feedback that their child had benefited hugely from the sessions and had been in no further trouble at school since working with the EIC. Knife crime is not an isolated issue and young people are often found to have other factors which have affected their behaviour. To ensure that all such issues affecting a young person are addressed wherever possible, it is common for the EIC's to address issues such as peer to peer violence, ASB and hate crime during these sessions, so while the lessons plans set out above are a template, they are often made bespoke according to the needs of the child.

The referral process is open to any child that has displayed concerning behaviour and referrals are around 69% male and 31% female

Op Eastwood is also supplemented by knife crime inputs from School Liaison Officers who will deliver presentations to wider classes or year groups. This means that while we work specifically with identified individuals, we are also able to proactively work with their peers and prevent a culture of violence or use of weapons from developing.