

SAFER



SCHOOLS

MAY 2022

Welcome to May's newsletter. We hope you all had a very happy and safe Easter break. As usual this newsletter has been designed to support and advise Parents and Carers of **both** Primary and Secondary school children, and therefore trust your personal judgement to share what you feel will be **relevant** information with your child/s.

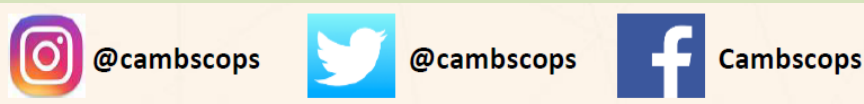


Knife Crime awareness week of action 16th – 22nd May 2022



Operation Sceptre (#operationsceptre) is a National Campaign to target knife related crime by raising awareness amongst communities and to encourage *everyone* to understand the risks and how you can help to reduce these offences and keep people safe.

During the Week of Action, or over coming weeks, your child may receive a presentation in school which highlights the risks and consequences and how they can keep themselves and others safe by reporting any concerns. There will also be advice, updates and key messages posted via the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.



- **THE DANGERS:** Whilst a small minority of young people may feel tempted or pressured to carry a knife/weapon for what they believe to be 'self protection' it is important for them to know this significantly increases the risk of harm to them.
- **THE FACTS:** The Police can stop and search anyone they have reasonable grounds to suspect to be carrying a knife or other offensive weapons.
- **THE LAW:** It is illegal to carry a bladed article in a public place –the maximum penalty for carrying a knife is **4 years in prison and an unlimited fine**. It is also an offence for retailers to sell knives to under 18's.
- **THE CONSEQUENCE:** A criminal record can change your life –it may prevent you getting certain employment in the future and it can prevent travel to some countries.

There is no shame in running away from a situation and it could save your life and stop someone else ruining theirs by making one fatal mistake. If you know someone who carries a knife, call us on 101 or visit www.cambs.police.uk.

Other useful websites include fearless.org/en/Campaigns/Knife-Crime and www.knifefree.co.uk

#LivesNotKnives



Call: 101
Telephone: 18001 101
Visit: cambs.police.uk
Follow: CambsCops
Subscribe: eCops.org.uk

#SaferCambs



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



Summer Water Safety



The past two years of restrictions have meant that more people are spending time outside. It is great that people, especially young people are rediscovering the countryside around them and reaping the mental and physical benefits of reconnecting with nature.

This also means a lot of people are taking to our waterways both inland and coastal for the first time. Sales on stand-up paddle boards were up 100% until they completely sold out in 2020 and water related craft and activities have increased dramatically.

Unfortunately so have the U.K. water related statistics with young people and teenagers featuring very highly.

We can't and shouldn't deter people from going near, on and in to water but we can educate them about the dangers and how to best protect themselves before they venture out.

Here's some safety tips before you go out:

- Do your homework on the area you are visiting before you set off, be aware of wind direction and tides. Water craft can be taken quickly by wind and tide leaving you in deep water and a long way from the bank.
- Please consider what would happen if you were separated from your watercraft?
- Wear the correct personal floatation device: a life jacket or a bouncy aid depending on your chosen activity.
- Make sure your personal floatation device is fitted correctly and suitable for your body weight.
- Tell people where you are going and go with a friend if you can.
- Take a mobile phone or means of contacting others in a waterproof bag if possible.
- Know how to best combat cold water shock: follow the hashtag **#float to live** or visit [cold-water-shock](#)

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue also offer a range of water safety messaging for children and young adults. Their aim is for water safety messaging to become embedded as children continue through their schooling. Please follow this link for more information: [water-safety/](#)

For the younger children, please follow this link to hear the story of how Jet – The Firefighting Dragon learned some valuable water safety advice: [#BeWaterAware #RespectTheWater" / Twitter](#)

If you have any enquiries about water safety message for children and young adults, please contact Cambridgeshire fire and rescue business engagement department bsgservicedesk@cambsfire.gov.uk and they will help you with age appropriate water safety messaging you need.

Enjoy the warm weather but please take a second to think about staying safe near water



On-line Child Sexual Exploitation: Spot the Signs

Parents are being urged to be aware of the signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and online grooming – with phones and social media making it easier for those who prey on their innocence and exploit their trust.

Child sexual exploitation involves situations, contexts or relationships in which a person under 18 is given something, such as food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts or money in return for performing sexual activities or having sexual activities performed on them.

It can also involve violence, coercion and intimidation, with threats of physical harm or humiliation.

Sexual exploitation of children can start through the use of technology, without them immediately realising. For example, they might be persuaded to post images on the internet or via mobile phone without immediate payment or personal gain.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, with a particular vulnerability of the child or young person being used against them. This can make the young person feel as though they have no choice but to continue the relationship.

Signs of a child or young person being in an exploitative relationship can vary. Some examples are:

- going missing from home or care
- physical injuries
- misuse of drugs or alcohol
- involvement in offending
- repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancies or terminations
- absenteeism from school
- deterioration in physical appearance
- evidence of online sexual bullying
- evidence of vulnerability on social networking sites
- emotional distance from family members
- receiving gifts from unknown sources
- recruiting others into exploitative situations
- poor mental health
- self-harming
- thinking about or attempting suicide

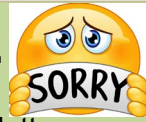


If you suspect a person of carrying out child sexual exploitation, or think someone you know has been a victim, or may be soon, report this to us online or call us on 101, no matter how small or insignificant you believe your concerns might be. **One report could change a life.**

For further information & support please follow: www.ceop.police.uk or [Thinkuknow Parents and Carers](#)



AN APOLOGY FROM US...



Further to the article in last month's newsletter, we understand that we may have caused some confusion regarding the use of mobile phones whilst driving. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the legislation.

The revised legislation (which came into effect on March 25th, 2022) now makes it an offence to have any interaction with a phone whilst handheld, unless in the case of an emergency when it is necessary to call 999 and it is unsafe to stop, or to make a contactless payment whilst the vehicle is stationary, for example at a fast-food outlet. You can use devices with hands-free access (for example using Bluetooth or voice command) if you do not hold them at any time during usage.

We would like to highlight however that if a driver should choose to interact with their phone whilst it is in a cradle, for example, thereby not being handheld and without using Bluetooth or voice command facility, they may commit other offences, such as driver not in proper control. Our advice would always be to avoid any direct interaction with a phone whilst driving due to the significant level of distraction this can cause.

Smoking in vehicles with children: The Law

To protect children from the dangers of second-hand smoke, it is illegal to smoke in cars and other vehicles with someone under the age of 18.

The Children and Families Act 2015 made smoking in cars with children an offence. The law makes it clear that it's illegal to:

- Smoke in a private vehicle with someone under age 18 present
- Fail to prevent smoking in a private vehicle with someone under age 18 present
- The law doesn't apply to a convertible car with the roof completely down but does apply to all vehicles 'wholly or partly enclosed by a roof', and still applies:
 - If you have windows or a sunroof open.
 - If you have the air conditioning on.
 - If you sit in the open doorway of the vehicle.
 - The rules do not apply to e-cigarettes.

Failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free private vehicle in England and Wales risks a fixed penalty notice of £50.



Instagram Account Security: two-factor authentication

Instagram is one of the most popular social networking sites with over one billion monthly active users from all over the world. It's a fun way to share your best photo moments with friends and family.



Unfortunately, such popular social media platforms are targets for hackers and scammers who are successfully gaining access to other people's Instagram accounts. To reduce the threat of becoming a victim of a cyberattack Instagram are urging people to safeguard their accounts by putting some additional security measures in place and this includes the **two-factor authentication**.

Please follow these practical steps:

- Use a strong unique password for Instagram only – use 3 random words and character with upper and lower case, including numbers, for example ElephantmonKeywindOw23\$
- Then enable two-factor authentication which sends a text to your mobile. [What's two-factor authentication and how does it work on Instagram? | Instagram Help Centre](#)

For more useful tips on securing your Instagram account, please follow this links [hacked.com/how-to-secure-your-instagram-account/#](#)

Call: 101
Telephone: 18001 101
Visit: [cambs.police.uk](#)
Follow: CambsCops
Subscribe: [eCops.org.uk](#)

We would love to hear your feedback & comments.
You can contact the team via our email
Schools&CYP@cambs.pnn.police.uk

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