

# IN THE ZONE

Welcome to in the Zone, your child will be a participant in a group work day with their year group ran by the Local Authority and Merseyside Police. The "In the Zone" event has been developed to give young people information about subjects that affect young people today. It is hoped that it will give young people the tools to ensure they gain knowledge and skills to keep them safe in the community. Within the fact sheet there are also links for parents and carers to access to gain additional information and support if required.

## Information Sheet

### 'Choose life & not a knife'.– (Youth Justice Service)

The Choose life & Not a Knife Zone is an interactive and informal educative board game that focuses on Reducing Serious Violence and Knife Crime whilst also engaging young people and furnishing them with a knowledge and understanding about the subject matter. The young people who participate in this zone must work as a collective group to navigate their way around the board to reach the finish, but along the way they are faced with a variety of obstacles that provide them with a knowledge and understanding about the law in relation to knife crime, facts and figures, real life scenarios and victim empathy. The main outcome of the session is to raise young people's awareness about the impact and rise in violent and knife crime amongst young people both Locally and Nationally. You can find more information and support in relation to this issue at [www.noknivesbetterlives.co.uk](http://www.noknivesbetterlives.co.uk), alternatively if you have concerns about any young people then you can visit [www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk) for advice and guidance.

### Going Country—(Compass Team)

The Going Country resource being used with students will look at issues around criminal exploitation and county lines. The session will be facilitated by The Compass Team (Wirral's Child Exploitation Team). During the session young people will be encouraged to think about keeping safe in the community and will learn more about topics such as grooming. Criminal exploitation is when a young person is groomed, forced or coerced into carrying out criminal acts for the profit/ gain of another individual. Some examples of things young people may be exploited into doing are drug dealing/ county lines, committing acts of violence and robberies. Over recent years criminal exploitation is becoming more widely recognised and it is important young people from all backgrounds are aware of how this occurs and ways of keeping themselves safe. More information on Criminal Exploitation/ County Lines can be found here: <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/county-lines/>

### Gangs—(Merseyside Police)

Merseyside Police session aims to raise awareness around gang culture and the associated subjects of weapons, criminal damage, drug misuse and police powers and legislation in relation to Gang crime. Through an innovative board game named "GANGS N LADDERS" the young people will make their way around the board, collecting information about the effects of gangs within our communities, and generate peer discussions about gang culture and how the police can tackle gang crime.

We understand that young people may find it difficult to report matters and may not always feel comfortable to speak to somebody face to face, young people can report incidents or pass information anonymously online to the independent organisation Crimestoppers :<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or <https://www.fearless.org/en>

## **Think \* Feel \* Do: Peer Pressure & Substance Misuse (Youth Matters)**

**Think \*Feel \* Do;** explores young peoples understanding on a range of social scenarios they may find themselves in, as a young person living in Wirral. Youth Matters staff have developed this resource to enable young people to explore and discuss the scenarios and think about strategies to support them in the future.

**Peer Pressure** - is feeling like you have to do something just because all your friends are doing it. This resource enables young people to discuss, share experiences, develop strategies and confidence for young people to make their own choices.

**Substance Misuse** - follows on from Peer Pressure. The resource focuses on a particular scenario involving drugs and alcohol, that we are aware young people sometimes find themselves in.

For more information on what Youth Matters offers please follow us on Instagram [\*\*@youthmattersinwirral\*\*](#) or contact us by email – [\*\*youthmatters@wirral.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:youthmatters@wirral.gov.uk)

## **Your Choice' interactive board game- (Anti Social Behaviour Team)**

The 'Your Choice' board game has been designed and developed by Wirral Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The aim of the game is to both promote and encourage positive behaviour amongst young people in an interesting, informative and fun way. Whilst playing the game examples of behaviour which could be classed as 'Anti -Social' will also be featured, this will allow for further discussion around these issues and will also highlight the consequences that may arise if individuals continue to engage in this type of behaviour. Positive or negative behaviour? It's 'Your Choice'.

