



# What do YOU think about knife crime?

Violent crime is on the rise, gangs are running riot, and Britain's young people are to blame- this is the opinion of the media today. The papers and the politicians believe we are facing a teenage generation with no morals and violent dispositions, but is this really the case? It would be nice to think that this was wrong, but in fact it is partly true. There have been many highly publicised incidents involving young people with knives over the past year, including the death of twenty-three year old Mikey Brown at The Works nightclub in Kingston this June; and the boy arrested on suspicion of the crime was only nineteen. In the same weekend, sixteen year old Ben Hitchcock was stabbed in a gang fight which involved around forty young people.

It seems that it's spiralling out of control and all

our politicians seem to think they know the answers, but what do Kingston's young people have to say?

**“Knife amnesties might take knives off the street but doesn't change the situation.”**

Most of the young people we spoke to do believe that youth crime is on the rise – ‘It's getting out of control’ is how one young person described it – but they all have different views on why it is happening and how we can try and stop it. The most prominent view was that young people carry knives for their image, to ‘look hard’. Some young people truly believe that carrying a knife will ‘give them street cred’. Another view was that ‘people carry knives because it makes them feel safe’. But in reality, going out with a knife is only asking for trouble. Apart from the legal consequences –sentence for carrying a knife without a good reason is up to

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