



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.

This document is available in Welsh as well as English.

# Knife Angel in Newtown, Powys

## January 2020

### Post Engagement Appraisal



## Foreword

---

It has been an honour for me to have been able to support and sponsor the Knife Angel's first visit to Wales as we welcomed the sculpture to Newtown, Powys, in January 2020. By bringing the Angel to Newtown, Powys County Council and my office made a commitment to conduct 28 days of intensive educational workshops and programmes – but were also the first region to commit to targeting and deputising 10,000 Anti-Violence Champions. This drive encompasses schools and youth groups by allowing young people to stand up against violence and aggression in all forms, not just knife crime. Many schools in Powys visited the Knife Angel and benefited from the workshops arranged – particularly the Crimestoppers Fearless School Talk one, which I fund.

The Dyfed Powys Police force area is the safest place in Wales and England and we have very low levels of violent crime and knife related issues. However, we must not be complacent to current trends and my hope as the Police and Crime Commissioner is for our communities to remain safe and that we take a preventative approach in reducing crime over the long term.

I see this area very much as being the frontline of stopping criminality infiltrating our communities. Our Knife Angel message was about prevention - I am motivated to continually to see Dyfed-Powys as the safest place, and I want our youngsters to feel safe and secure. Any form of violence and aggression will not be tolerated.

During the Angel's visit a knife amnesty bin was placed next to it, encouraging everyone to surrender any knives to save lives. The bin was emptied before the Angel left, and it was full. The British Ironworks has confirmed that they will create a piece from these surrendered blades, which when completed will return to be displayed in Powys.

Whilst no official figures have been recorded for the number of people who have visited the monument, organisers and volunteers estimate that thousands visited throughout the night and day – with many travelling to Newtown from all over the UK.

I hope I can lay claim to have been the first person to have welcomed the Angel in the Welsh language. And I'm excited about what we've been able to achieve here in Newtown and I look forward to welcoming it back to Dyfed-Powys when it will visit Aberystwyth in Ceredigion in 2021.

Best wishes,



Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner



## Introduction

---

The Knife Angel arrived in Newtown, Powys on Friday 3 January, 2020, and stood proudly and impressively outside the Oriel Davies Gallery until Wednesday 29 January 2020. The Knife Angel, created by The British Ironwork Centre in Shropshire, has been touring the UK in a bid to raise awareness of the knife crime crises affecting communities, families and individuals.

The Centre launched their 'Save a Life, Surrender Your Knife' campaign during 2015 and 2016, working with the Home Office and police forces to conduct knife amnesties to collect the material needed for the statue. A total of 200 knife banks were created by the Centre and delivered to various police forces who collected thousands of knives and weapons, which were later delivered to artist Alfie Bradley who had been commissioned to create the Knife Angel.

Alfie first created the structure out of steel before welding knives which had been disinfected and blunted to create the feather-like appearance of the Angel, which was constructed from over 100,000 knives collected by the knife amnesties, including knives from the Dyfed-Powys area.

The sculpture, standing at 8 metres tall, also recognises those whose lives have been blighted by knife crime and acts as a memorial for bereaved families.

The Centre worked closely with numerous charities and families affected by knife crime and violent crime. This was important in order to raise awareness of the devastating impact of knife crime. The Centre also invited the families of those lost to knife and violent crime to engrave messages on the blades to be included on the monument.

The process of bringing the Knife Angel to Newtown was very much a collaborative effort. It was thanks to the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn and Powys County Councillor Joy Jones that the National Monument against Violence and Aggression was brought to Wales for the first time.

Being the first Welsh location to step forward - the first to host the Knife Angel bilingually - in a bid to galvanise the anti-violence and anti-aggression message for the whole community, made the Angel's stay in Newtown a truly momentous occasion.

With the confirmation of the Knife Angel's visit to Newtown came the launch of a very successful month-long programme of intensive youth engagement activity across the town, sharing the anti-violence and anti-aggression message.

This report provides further detail on the vast engagement activity undertaken, as well as the impact felt by the Knife Angel's visit.





**Back row:** Cllr. David Selby, Helen Shayle – Engagement Officer - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cllr. Beverley Baynham, Sergeant Matthew Price, Mary Tudor - Newtown Chamber of Trade, Chief Constable Mark Collins, Cllr. Rosemarie Harris, Dr. Greg Langridge-Thomas – Powys County Council, Gwen Evans – Powys Youth Worker.

**Front Row:** Alfie Bradley – Knife Angel Sculptor, Clive Knowles – Chairman of British Ironwork Centre, Cllr. Joy Jones, Dafydd Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys.

## Governance

In December 2019 the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office was approached by Newtown Councillor Joy Jones to support her campaign to bring the Knife Angel to Powys.

Councillor Jones had previously visited the Angel at the British Ironworks Centre and appreciated the message it attempted to convey to the public. Upon learning that the Angel was touring the country Councillor Jones went about ensuring that Powys was included in its itinerary.

Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn fully supported the Councillor’s campaign, and together they worked with the British Ironworks Centre to ensure that the Angel made it safely to Newtown at the beginning of January 2020.

The planning for the Angel’s visit was conducted in a very short space of time by a small team of staff in the Commissioner’s Office, in conjunction with Dyfed-Powys Police’s local Neighbourhood Policing Team’s Inspector and Councillor Joy Jones.

## Arrival

The Knife Angel arrived in Newtown on 3 January 2020. That morning, the Knife Angel was escorted by a convoy of Blood Bikes and Dyfed-Powys Police motorbikes to its new temporary home outside The Oriel Davies Gallery in The Park in Newtown. It was the first time that the Blood Bikes had been involved with escorting the Knife Angel on its tour around the UK.

At the time, Councillor Joy Jones stated: *"The British Ironwork Centre, along with the artist Alfie Bradley created this important piece to help*

*raise awareness and support anti-violence of all kinds. Powys is the first county in Wales to have a visit from the Knife Angel.*

*"It will be here for the month of January giving people time to visit and appreciate the work that has gone into the monument and understand the message it brings of anti-violence. There will be various education events supporting the visit along with many organisations who are getting involved in this special visit."*



*The Knife Angel entering Newtown escorted by the Blood Bikes and Newtown Roads Policing Unit*

*Photos by Dr. Greg Langridge-Thomas*





## The Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was held on Saturday 4 January in Newtown: Arranged and led by Councillor Joy Jones, and attended by Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police Mark Collins, Dr Greg Langridge-Thomas from Powys County Council, Clive Knowles Chairman of the British Ironworks Centre, alongside representatives from Newtown Town Council, Powys County Council, and Dyfed-Powys Police.

A high number of local residents and business owners attended the Opening Ceremony, where they heard from a number of speakers who

emphasised the importance of the visit, reiterated the key anti-knife and anti-violence messages, and the Commissioner added that he was honoured to be able to support the Angel’s first visit to Wales.

Representatives from a number of the organisations involved in bringing the Knife Angel to Newtown were presented with a National Anti-Violence Award during the Opening Ceremony; nominated by Clive Knowles. This Award was given in recognition of their positive impact upon the county of Powys, addressing a national blight and supporting the UK tour of the National Monument Against Violence and Aggression, the ‘Knife Angel’.



*Pictures taken at the Opening Ceremony for the Knife Angel.*

## Press involvement

Prior to its arrival in Newtown, the Knife Angel attracted media attention; both locally and nationally:

'Knife Angel: Newtown, Powys, to host sculpture', BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-50540121>

'Knife Angel is coming to Newtown', MyNewtown.co.uk

<http://www.mynewtown.co.uk/viewerheadline/ArticleId/15499>

It was good to see a lot of media representatives in attendance at the site throughout the month, giving the Knife Angel's visit and the accompanying messages, deserved publicity.



The Closing Ceremony featured in the local press:

- 'Closing ceremony ahead of Knife Angel's departure from Newtown', Shropshire Star

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/mid-wales/newtown/2020/01/23/closing-ceremony-in-newtown-for-knife-angel/>

Additionally, videos have been made by media outlets and individuals following the month-long visit, which clearly demonstrate how important this visit was to Newtown:

- 'The Knife Angel, Newtown, Powys', by Derrick Pugh at PVPTV News <https://youtu.be/bJOaoRa37G0>
- 'Knife Angel – Powys Standing Up Against Violence!' by Gwyn Cole, Filmmaker <https://vimeo.com/427002814>

The Knife Angel's visit also brought the opportunity for visitors to take part in a public art and photographic competition, run by the British Ironwork Centre, inspiring youth and school involvement. Many of these photos could be seen on social media throughout the month.



## Visitors

Whilst no official figures have been recorded for the number of people who visited the sculpture, organisers and volunteers estimated that thousands visited throughout the night and day – with many travelling to Newtown from all over the UK.

Visitors included local organisations, schools, community groups and members of the public. They came to take part in the range of activities on offer around the sculpture and to see the impressive lights installed to allow the Angel to glow during the night.



### Visitor Locations (not exclusive)

Powys Birmingham  
Bristol  
Cambridge  
Hampshire  
Hereford  
London  
Milton Keynes  
Telford  
Wolverhampton  
Scotland



## Feedback from Attendees

*"So powerful, sending such an important message. Great to see an Angel of peace in Newtown."*

*"Very thought provoking, raising awareness that violence of any form is not acceptable."*

*"Amazing and powerful – well worth the visit."*

*"This is so very powerful in respect of encouraging people to drop the knife. Well done Newtown for hosting the Angel."*

*"The angel is a wonderful tribute to all those who have suffered or been lost due to knives."*

*"Inspiring – everyone should visit the Angel."*



## Activities

A month-long programme of intensive youth engagement activities came hand in hand with the arrival of the sculpture in Newtown, to share the important anti-violence and anti-aggression messages.

The planning of these activities was achieved within one month, once the Knife Angel's visit had been confirmed, thanks to Dyfed-Powys Police Sergeant Matthew Price, Engagement Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Helen Shayle, Powys County Councillor Joy Jones and many other partners.

Dyfed-Powys Police undertook a range of activities to engage with the public about the dangers of knife crime during the Knife Angel's visit to

Newtown. Police Sergeant Matthew Price said: *"The Knife Angel's visit to Newtown was an opportunity for Powys to stand together and send a message that the county was standing up against violence."*

*"We had visitors from all over the UK and were able to put on a month long campaign of education and awareness. As a County we have shown what services and schemes are available and just how many people are willing to step up and help."*

*"The key aim around the visit was education, we were able to reach all schools in Powys and offer education programs in the hope of raising awareness and protect future generations."*



Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd taking part in activities.

## School Visits

The Commissioner's Office worked with several schools in the area to organise informative visits to the Knife Angel; 14 schools visited the sculpture. This included Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, who provided the following overview of their visit:

*"There was a variety of emotion in the locality – excitement, puzzlement, sadness, anger, pride. Therefore, when Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd took groups of KS2 pupils aged between 7 and 11 to visit, we witnessed the very emotions in the response of the pupils.*

*"Our first visit was in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner's visit. This was most beneficial as our pupils had so many questions and Mr Dafydd Llywelyn was able to answer them. Many pupils were overwhelmed by the size of the statue – it was massive!*

*"Most questions were regarding the making of the statue. All present were astonished at the number of actual knives which formed the wings of the angel. From a distance, you couldn't see this. Therefore the reaction of the children was a sense of shock. What added to this sense of shock was seeing names on many of the knives – either victims or those who had handed the knives in. This brought*

*the whole message home to everyone who visited the statue.*

*"Many children just gazed in silence at the Knife Angel and held their own thoughts quietly. Some questioned the conflict of both words in the name – how can knife and angel be used together?"*

*"All of our children thought that it was so important that Newtown was chosen to highlight the need for safety as they expressed the opinion that most important events happen either in the South or North – hardly ever in Mid Wales.*

*"Councillor Joy Jones was also present. As a community we are extremely proud of Councillor Jones' hard work in enabling the Knife Angel coming to Newtown. This visit has certainly been thought provoking and hopefully has made all – children and adults realise that the one important virtue in life is love."*

The Commissioner was very pleased to see so many children and young people in attendance, saying;

*"It is pleasing for me to see so many young people take an interest in the message behind the sculpture, and for me to gain an appreciation of their experience and views of violent crime."*



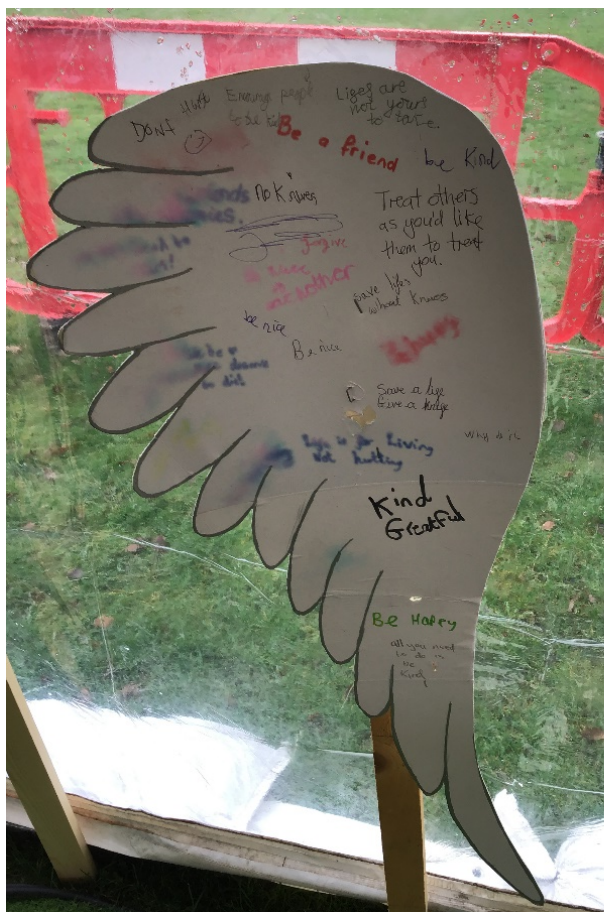


*Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner.*

## Powys County Council

Gwen Evans, a Youth Worker in Powys, arranged a Knife Angel resource document that was welcomed in her youth clubs and local schools, and Powys County Council created a Knife Angel resource especially for those working with children and young people.

A resource *"designed to provide support and a range of activities that will help young people consider the issues surrounding violence and help them to make better, more informed choices."* (Powys County Council)



## Youth Groups

Throughout January, Anti Violence workshops were held at the local Youth Centres, alongside visits to the Angel. The young people participated in various activities promoting positive behaviours and debating the consequences of violence.

The Youth Service worked alongside the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO), the local Soup Kitchen, Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre, and many others, to deliver key messages.

Councillor Joy Jones said:

*"School children have visited, and local youth groups have been involved as the message of anti-violence has been spread through our community. Inside the marquee are messages of hope written by children."*

*Messages of hope written by young people involved in Knife Angel activities.*







## The Buggy Walk

Newtown Integrated Family Centre organised a walk and visit to the see Knife Angel.

28 individuals attended including Cecila Harmon from the Powys Family Information Service, Heidi Bentley and Clair Humphreys from Health,

Magik Parent and Toddler Group and Cllr Joy Jones.

The walk was organised to learn about the sculpture's origin and meaning, and was followed by craft activities back at the Newtown Integrated Family Centre.



## Fearless

[Fearless is a site](#) where you can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. During January of 2020, Fearless attended the Knife Angel sculpture at Newtown to deliver knife crime sessions to young people from the local schools. The sessions were a great success and run over a period of three days. The sessions included information on the Knife Angel itself, information on the consequences of carrying a knife, a short video from a victim of a knife attack and also who to speak to if they think someone they know may be carrying a knife. The pupils were also informed on how to report crime and their options were discussed with them.

Fearless collected feedback and comments from the young people on the benefits of the sessions which included the following statements:

*"I didn't know you could get in trouble just for carrying a knife."*

A comment from a young person

*"I really enjoyed the session. It really has made me think twice about ever carrying a knife."*

A comment from a pupil from Newtown High school.







Cllr Joy Jones and Dan Evans from Fearless



Young people involved in Fearless activity



Ella Rabaiotti – Wales National Manager  
Crime Stoppers Trust.



Over the course of three days, Fearless delivered sessions to 306 young people. This included 141 primary school children in years 5 and 6, and 165 secondary school children in years 7 to 11.

Number of young people delivered to in total: **306**

Number of primary school children delivered too (year 5&6): **141**

Number of comprehensive students delivered too (year 7-11): **165**

## New Pathways

Jennie Dowsell, Project Coordinator & Trainer for New Pathways delivered a SURE for Mental Health Community Project with pupils from Newtown High School, during the visit of the Knife Angel to Newtown in January 2020.

*Jennie said "I collected feedback from the children after the workshop and they said that they learnt about the brain and how it works (we did a section on fight and flight responses), and they learnt that some emotions are easier to control than others; they also learnt that not all emotions are good or bad, sometimes they can be both or neutral, and that rather than just reacting to an emotion, they can think about it and make a choice about what to do with it.*

*"The part they enjoyed the most was drawing a person on flipchart in groups, and talking about what reactions someone might have when they feel scared or anxious, and drawing these in a creative way."*



## Police Cadets

An all-day event linked to recruitment for Newtown Neighbouring Policing Team, Police Cadets and Special Constables, was held on Saturday 18 January 2020.



It was open to all members of the public to attend, and as a direct result of this, a new Police Cadet has been interviewed.

A recruitment input was also provided to Llanfair Caereinion High School Year 10 pupils on 31 January.



## Girlguiding Montgomeryshire

Girlguiding Montgomeryshire County Secretary Pam Lyons provided the Commissioner with an update on the organisation's engagement with the Knife Angel:

*"In January 2020 I was delighted to be a volunteer when Newtown hosted the Knife Angel on its first visit to Wales. It was an honour to do so and it was lovely to spend time with visitors from far and near giving them information about the Knife Angel.*

*"I am a member of Girlguiding Montgomeryshire so I encouraged members from across our guiding county to bring their units to visit the Angel.*

*"The idea of a poem competition was put to me by Joy Jones which I took up straight away. We had only a short time frame to arrange this in as the winning poems were to be read out at the closing ceremony.*

*"A winner was to be picked from each of the following: Rainbows 5-7, Brownies 7-10, Guides 10-14 and Rangers 14-16.*

*"I sought permission from our County Executive Committee, and we adhered to GDPR and GGUK Safeguarding regulations.*

*"Despite the very short notice there were poems sent in from across the county, and the winners were:*

- 1) Rainbows – Nia, age 6, Bro Dyfi District;
- 2) Brownies – Eva, age 9, Newtown District; and

3) Guides – Betsan, age 10, Bro Dyfi District.

4) There were no entries from Rangers.

*"Each of the girls and their parents were invited to the formal closing ceremony presentation.*

*"Unfortunately, Nia was unable to attend but Eva and Betsan had a lovely time and enjoyed receiving their prize. Betsan received Nia's and delivered it to her.*

*"We were honoured to represent Girlguiding Montgomeryshire at the event."*



### BULLYING

Poem by Nia, age 6

Bullying makes me sad because I don't like it.  
They are being so mean.  
Go away bullies or I will scream.

I don't like bullying,  
It makes me feel down,  
bullying is bad,  
It makes me have a frown.

Bullying is not fun,  
you just end it to stop,  
bullies are not worth crying,  
you just need to let it stop.

Nobody likes bullying,  
It's not good at all,  
It makes me so angry,  
It just makes me fall.

You need to be brave,  
you need to have fun,  
soon the bullies,  
will just run, run, run.

Poem by Eva, age 9

K  
now when enough is enough  
N  
ever use knives in violence  
I  
t's time to stop!  
F  
orever learn the consequences  
E  
veryone has a right to their life  
C  
ommunities are taking action  
R  
ealising  
I  
t  
M  
atters  
E  
nough is enough !!!

Poem by Betsan, age 10



## Newtown Brownies

Here are some examples of the lovely artwork created by Newtown Brownies.



## Community Café Soup Kitchen

---

The Community Café provided free soup, rolls and cakes for a successful community event at the Knife Angel Marquee.

Over 50 people attended to enjoy the home-made cooking, to meet with others in the community and to see the knife Angel.

This was also a great opportunity to promote the Community café and the hot meals that they provide on a weekly basis.

The Community café is a volunteer community group providing meals for people in Newtown every Wednesday at the Methodist Church Hall.

## Multi-Agency Events

---

The Knife Angel's visit commenced with two multi-agency drop in events held at the Knife Angel Marquee, during lunch times.

This was an opportunity for services, including Montgomeryshire family Crisis Centre (MFCC), Youth Intervention Service (YIS), Youth Justice Service (YJS) Detached youth work team, Youth Service, Ponthafren and the Newtown Integrated Family Centre, to work together to provide information and advice about services available for children, young people, families and adults in the Newtown area.

## Youth Club Anti-violence Sessions

---

Anti-Violence workshops were also conducted at the Youth Centres. We used activities from the Resource Pack to explore the young people's attitudes and experiences of violent crime. The groups discussed different types of weapons; with one young person mentioning that he had been asked to carry an improvised weapon for his friend. This discussion led to a debate about the Police, their preconceived attitudes towards some young people, and the court systems.

The young people then reflected on the impact of crime on their families, their communities and their perceptions of acceptable behaviour.

The young people stated that alcohol and drug use were a major factor in the increase of conflict and violence; and admitted that most conflicts within their peer group/homes, turned violent when alcohol / drugs were consumed.

The young people shared personal stories of long-term injuries suffered by family members and older brothers serving time in prison.

A discussion around violence within the home proved to be a challenging session. Activities from the resource pack were used to promote conversations; including asking the young people if it was acceptable to challenge the opinions of people we care about. Local Helpline contact details were shared. The group also reflected on their circles of influence.



## County Lines



**Rhedeg i Drwbwl  
Gangiau Stryd a  
Linellau Sirol**

**Running Into  
Trouble  
Gangs and County  
Lines**



On Tuesday 28 January 2020, the School Liaison Officers (SLO) gave an input to local secondary school pupils on County Lines.

Feedback received from SLOs:

*"The young people seemed to enjoy the input and were engaged and interested and hopefully able to take something away from it."*

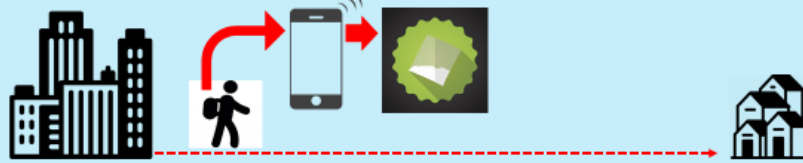
The presentation helped young people to understand what County Lines is all about.

It warned of the risks associated with involvement with criminal gangs.

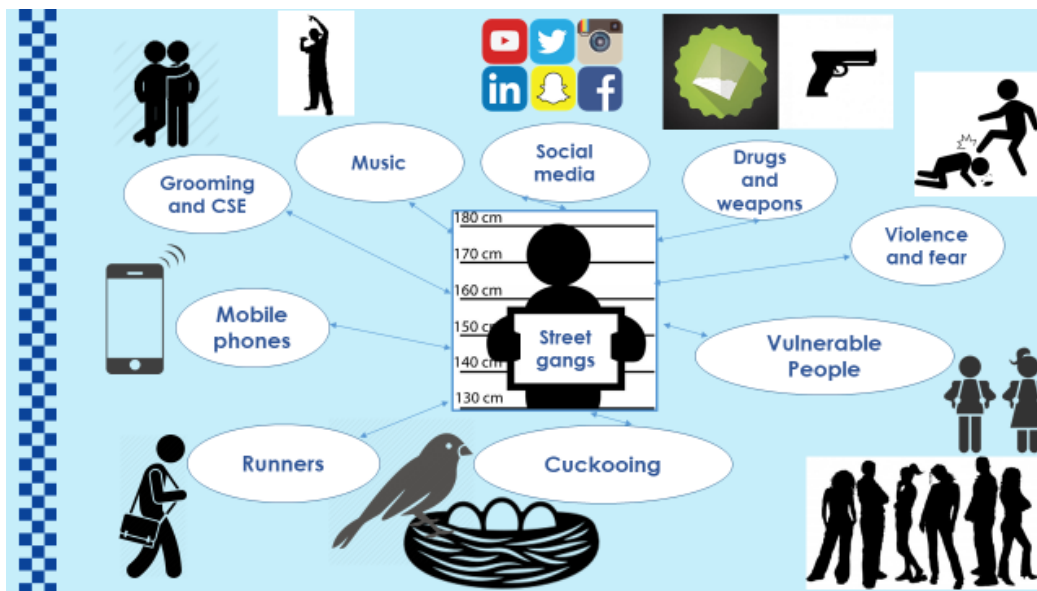
It helped them to identify any signs that people they know may be being exploited by criminal gangs and who is at risk of such exploitation.

Discussions were also had in terms of what someone could do if they were worried about someone they knew, or indeed themselves, being affected by the issues which surround County Lines.

## County Lines...



is a term that describes the organised, illegal movement of drugs, from the big cities into smaller towns and rural areas, by gangs, using children and vulnerable adults.



Some of the information and advice shared included:

Gangs from big cities have a distinct gang culture; a lifestyle around enjoying a certain status, drug dealing, music, fashion, sex, making videos to promote the lifestyle, acts of violence and other criminal activities. Some young people are attracted to this.

Girls may get involved through relationships and boyfriends. Gang members will often take over the drug dealing already

going on in the new area, being prepared to use extreme violence to get what they want; which is to sell drugs to the people living in these areas. (They sell the drugs through the use of specific phone lines).

They will often do something called **cuckooing**; a vulnerable person is targeted, such as a drug user, and they take over the individual's home as a centre for their criminal activity.



## Closing Ceremony

On Saturday 25 January, a Closing Ceremony took place to mark the departure of the Knife Angel. Hundreds of people attended to take part in activities.

The Closing Ceremony ended with a very moving candlelit procession through the town, with participants carrying battery tea light candles or torches to light their way as part of the procession.

Councillor Jones said: *"It was amazing. The whole day has been something else. A tremendous amount of people turned out. There were flowers and wreaths put down at the side of the angel. It was stunning."*

Clive Knowles, Chairman and Founder of the British Ironwork Centre added: *"Powys was the first host who brought a procession through the town,*



*involving a number of notable officials."*

Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn said: *"I hope I can lay claim to have been the first person to have welcomed the Angel in the Welsh language. And I'm excited about what we've been able to achieve here over the past few weeks."*

*The Dyfed-Powys area is the safest in Wales and England; we have low crime rates, low levels of violent crime and certainly low levels of knife crime, but we are not immune."*

*"I see this area very much as being the frontline of stopping criminality infiltrating our communities."*

*Our Knife Angel message is about prevention - I am motivated to continually to see the Dyfed-Powys area as the safest place, and I want our youngsters to feel safe and secure. Delivering the Knife Angel to Newtown must be a catalyst to promote key prevention messages."*

*It would be remiss of me not to thank Councillor Joy Jones, for being a local community leader that pushes the boundaries and gets things happening on the ground."*

*I hope the community here in Newtown, and further afield in Powys, take this opportunity to understand the critical key message about crime prevention in particular relating to serious violence and knife crime. Any form of violence and aggression will not be tolerated."*



*The Candlelit Walk during the Closing Ceremony*





## Knife Amnesty

A further success of the Knife Angel’s visit was the placement of a knife amnesty bin next to the imposing figure, encouraging everyone to ‘surrender knives to save lives’. The bin was emptied before the Angel left, and it was full. The British Ironworks has confirmed that they will create a piece from these surrendered blades, which when completed will return to be displayed in Powys.

Clive Knowles stated the following: *"This was the first time for a host to support the launch of using the National Monument Against Violence and Aggression to initiate an amnesty and surrender to run parallel to the dates of hosting the Knife Angel. The results of doing so were incredible, in that there was a very large collection of lethal knives and firearms taken off the streets. That success moving forward can inspire the rest of the United Kingdom."*

Discussions are ongoing to commit the blades recovered from this Amnesty to create a Powys Anti-Violence Sculpture.



Photos by Dr. Greg Langridge-Thomas

## Scrutiny

---

One of the positive impacts of the Knife Angel's visit was the heightened awareness of knife crime, and this provided the ideal opportunity for the matter to be considered and discussed by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Out of Courts Disposal Panel.

The Panel independently assesses, scrutinises and quality controls the use of out of court disposals (such as cautions, community resolutions and youth restorative disposals), by Dyfed-Powys Police.

They can make recommendations, feedback on individual cases to officers, communicate findings, promote best practice and identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the Force or other agencies involved.

In their meeting on 27 January 2020, whilst the Knife Angel was in Newtown, the Panel considered 9 youth Out of Courts Disposal cases related to knife crime; deciding that 5 had been dealt with appropriately, and 4 of the cases were deemed as having been dealt with appropriately with reservations that the outcome reached was correct.

The Panel also considered 13 adult Out of Court Disposal cases, deeming that 2 had been dealt with appropriately, 6 appropriate with reservations, and 5 inappropriately. The cases deemed inappropriate were due to too much leniency, and the

Panel felt they should have resulted in a charge or a conditional caution.

The Panel raised concerns about inconsistencies in the application of guidance regarding how young people caught carrying knives or weapons are dealt with in different counties. The Commissioner attended this Out of Court Disposal Panel's meeting and has since raised the Panel's concerns with the Chief Constable at Policing Board, a three-weekly meeting where the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account. The Chief Constable has committed to progressing the matter.

The Knife Angel's visit to Newtown has also provided Dyfed-Powys Police with an opportunity to review the impact of the sculpture and the engagement around it on crime statistics in the local area. They will now be able to assess whether there has been a reduction in knife crime in the area, and review how the campaign and educational opportunities for local people has impacted crime statistics.



## Legacy

### “The Knife Angel put Newtown on the Map”

Councillor Joy Jones, who was instrumental in bringing the Knife Angel said:

*“When I first saw the Knife Angel I knew that it needed to come to Newtown. Having seen the impact that violence has first hand, I wanted to bring the Knife Angel to Powys to show that violence has no place in our county.*

*“I was so proud of Newtown and the whole of Powys for coming together to stand up against violence, and to show that violence has no place in our communities. The Knife Angel was a symbol to all showing that all forms of violence and crime more widely will not be tolerated in Powys, be it domestic violence, county lines, or bullying it has no place, the Knife Angel was a symbol of that.*

*“The Knife Angel put Newtown on the map, and people from all over the UK came to see it, people took a chance to stop and to reflect on their lives, and how their decisions and actions can impact others. If the visit of the Knife Angel to the town makes one person think before doing something violent, it will have been worth it. The Knife Angel brought a real buzz to the town, with there being a constant stream of people viewing the sculpture. This helped local businesses to record their busiest January in many years.*

*“The whole community came together and we had activities everyday educating, informing, and inspiring people to speak out against hate and violence. One of the standout moments for me was speaking with groups of children and having them open*

*up about the violence they had seen and the impact that it had on their lives. It was clear that violence does not just affect those it is done to, but the whole family.*

*“The Knife Angel’s visit to Powys made such an important statement to so many, that Powys stands up against violence.”*

### Increased Awareness

Being the first Welsh location to step forward in a bid to galvanise the anti-violence and aggression message for the whole community, made the Angel’s stay in Newtown a truly momentous occasion.

By bringing the Angel to Newtown, Powys County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner made a commitment to conduct 28 days of intensive educational workshops and programmes – but were also the first region to commit to targeting and deputising 10,000 Anti-Violence Champions.

This drive encompasses schools and youth groups by allowing young people to stand up against violence and aggression in all forms, not just knife crime. Many schools in Powys have visited the Knife Angel and benefited from the workshops arranged – particularly the Crimestoppers Fearless School Talk one, which the Police and Crime Commissioner funds.

## Increased Visitors to Newtown

Whilst no official figures have been recorded for the number of people who have visited the monument, organisers and volunteers estimate that thousands have visited throughout the night and day – with many travelling to Newtown from all over the UK. This has had a significant impact on the economy of Newtown and will hopefully encourage visitors to consider Newtown as a potential location to revisit in future.

## Community Groups

Several community groups were asked for their comments on the Knife Angel after it left the area and its legacy:

*'Didn't realise there was so much knife crime, a very strong message'.*

*'It makes you think about how many lives have been lost and families ruined, a powerful statue and so very clever'.*

*'It was very pretty'.*

*'It looked nice but did make me think that knife crime was a bigger thing than I thought it was'.*

*'It was a lovely piece of art work and it was a privilege to look over it most nights'.*

*'it sent out an important message that knife crime is the wrong path to take'.*

As the days turned darker and the crowds left, young people would visit the statue, reading the messages left on knives, discussing them with their peers. The calm and reflective atmosphere provided a space to engage with the young people, predominantly to listen to their understandings and thoughts on the Knife Angel and its significance, but also to promote our service and offer support, signposting and to listen.

The Knife Angel's visit to Powys promoted opportunities for discussions around conflict and violence, both within the home and within the community. Its legacy has left young people with an awareness to challenge the opinions of others, including those they care about, and to share their concerns. They have a better understanding of the dangers of carrying a weapon, and the effects drugs and alcohol have on society.

## Mayor's note

County Councillor and Mayor of Newtown David Selby provided the Commissioner with his closing views on the Knife Angel's impact on Newtown:

*"The Knife Angel was a striking addition to the town during its stay with us. It brought visitors to the town and became a focus of discussion and thought. The type of discussions within the community about crime and violence are not likely to have taken place without its presence amongst us.*



*"For many being next to it was a moving experience for others it was a impressive statute, very few were neutral about it. It therefore achieved its aim to facilitate discussion and debate."*

### Planning for the Future

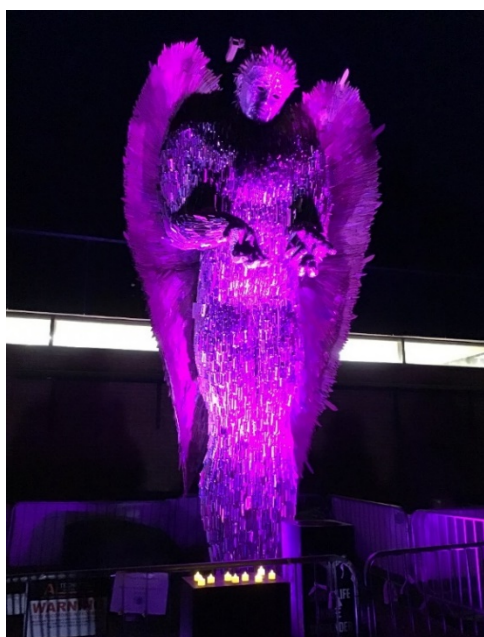
The Commissioner and the British Ironwork Centre have confirmed that the Knife Angel will return to the Dyfed-Powys area in 2021 when it will visit the nearby town of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion.

### Dyfed-Powys Police's Annual Awards

The team who worked collaboratively to ensure the Knife Angel's successful visit to Newtown have been nominated for the Commissioner Partnership Award at Dyfed-Powys Police's Annual Awards. Unfortunately the ceremony has been postponed due to COVID-19, but the group were successful in being shortlisted for the Award.



*The changing light display of the Knife Angel*



## Document received from Mary Tudor, Chamber of Trade



### Knife Angel Powys Project January 2020



PCC Community Development Fund  
Outputs Data as at 31/01/2020

**Facebook KAP Public Page - 1065 Members** (was more, is now private and some members removed)

**Facebook KAP Organisers Private Group - 26 Members** (was more, some members have left)

**Knife Angel Powys Contributors = 50 including the following...**

#### Organisers

PCClir Joy Jones  
DPP&C Commissioner - Dafydd Llywelyn

British Ironworks Centre  
DPP&C Commissioner's Office  
Dyfed Powys Police  
Newtown & Llanllwchaearn Town Council  
Newtown Chamber of Trade  
Powys County Council

#### Schools

Banw CP  
Cedewain, Newtown  
Hafren CP Junior, Newtown  
Ladywell Primary, Newtown  
Llanbister Primary  
Maesyrrhandir Primary, Newtown  
Maldwyn Day Nursery, Newtown  
Newtown High  
Penygloddfa Primary, Newtown  
St Mary's Catholic Primary, Newtown  
Treowen Primary, Newtown  
Welshpool Church in Wales Primary  
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd & Cylch Meithrin, Newtown

#### Sponsors

AITechnical, Newtown  
Bear Lanes Management, Newtown  
CSS Security, Newtown  
Frank Moore's Photographs, Newtown  
Graham Flooring & Cladding, Welshpool  
H18-Pdw Photography, Newtown  
Morgans Of Newtown (Builders Merchants)  
Oriel Davies Gallery, Newtown  
Rory Evans Ghost Stories (Fundraising for MFCC)  
Unison  
Ustrike, Newtown

#### Youth Groups

Abermule Cubs  
Girlguiding Montgomeryshire  
Montgomeryshire YFC  
Newtown Army Cadets  
Newtown Brownies & Rainbows  
Newtown Youth Club  
St Johns Cymru, Caersws  
St Johns Cymru, Newtown

#### Organisations

Fearless  
Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre (MFCC)  
New Pathways (SURE - Mental Health Workshop)  
Newtown Community Cafe  
Newtown Integrated Family Centre  
Newtown Policing Team & Cadets  
Ponthafren Association  
Powys School Liaison Officers  
Powys Youth Services  
Pupil Referral Unit

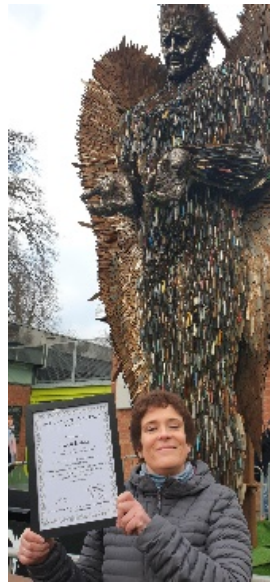
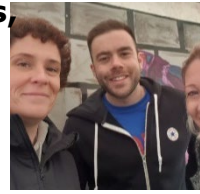
#### Visitor Locations (not exclusive)

All over Powys & Wales  
Birmingham  
Bristol  
Cambridge  
Hampshire  
Hereford  
London  
Milton Keynes  
Telford  
Wolverhampton  
Scotland

KAP PCC CDF Information



Document received from Gwen Evans, Powys Youth Worker



**THE FACTS**

**THE EDUCATIONAL LEGACY**

- A group in the making
- Involved 143 Police Constables in the UK
- Built from over 100,000 blades removed from UK Streets
- Sends a clear message
- Created by the British Network Centre alongside artist, Alfie Bradley
- Now the National Memorial of knife crime victims

Visit to find out more about the Knife Angel! Please visit: [britishnetworkcentre.co.uk/show-areas/the-knife-angel-official](http://britishnetworkcentre.co.uk/show-areas/the-knife-angel-official)



**I Support Anti Violence Powys**

A resource designed to provide support and a range of activities that will help young people consider the issues surrounding violence and help them to make better, more informed choices.

**THE KNIFE ANGEL**

THE NATIONAL MONUMENT AGAINST VIOLENCE & AGGRESSION

THE HISTORY

SAVE A LIFE  
DONOR YOUR KNIFE

Anti Violence Powys Knife Angel in Newtown Jan 2020

Throughout January 2020 the monument was displayed in Newtown. During this time Anti Violence workshops were held at the Youth Centres and visits to the Angel. The young people participated in various activities promoting positive behaviours and debated the consequences of violence.

The Youth Service worked alongside Neighbourhood Policing, PAVO, the local Soup kitchen, Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre and many others to deliver the message alongside creating a resource pack for those working with young people.

Councillor Jones said: "The sculpture has attracted people from all over, a way to remember and pay respects to the many victims of knife crime and other violent crimes that may have affected their lives.

"School children have visited, local youth groups have been involved as the message of anti-violence has been spread through our community. Inside the marquee messages of hope written by children."