



**Knife Angel in Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion
June 2022
Post Engagement Appraisal**



Foreword

It was an honour for me to have supported and sponsored the Knife Angel's second visit to Wales. We first welcomed the sculpture to Newtown, Powys, in January 2020 and more recently to Aberystwyth, Ceredigion in June 2022.

My Office co-ordinated 28 days of educational workshops and engagement activity in the town, alongside numerous partners. Children and young people, local residents, community groups, partners and visitors to the area were all invited and encouraged to take part. Key prevention, anti-violence and anti-aggression messages were shared throughout the month, allowing people, and importantly, young people, to stand up against violence and aggression in all forms, not just knife crime.

Whilst we saw a 105% increase in knife crime in Wales over the last decade, the Knife Angel was not brought to Aberystwyth because of any major problem with this kind of crime in the area. However, we must not be complacent, and my hope as 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.

The Knife Angel assisted in raising critical awareness of knife crime whilst creating a widespread intolerance to violent behaviour within our communities. I am motivated to continually see Dyfed-Powys as a safe place to live, work and study, and I want our youngsters to feel safe and secure. Any form of violence and aggression will not be tolerated.

I am proud about what we have been able to achieve over the last month with the Angel's visit to Ceredigion. 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. The Knife Angel message is about prevention as I am motivated to continually to see the Dyfed-Powys area as the safest place. Delivering the Knife Angel to Newtown and Aberystwyth must be a catalyst to promote key prevention messages. I hope the community here in Aberystwyth, in Ceredigion, and further afield in Dyfed Powys have taken this opportunity to understand the critical key message about crime prevention. I look forward to hearing more about the Knife Angel as it continues to travel across the United Kingdom.



Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Dafydd Llywelyn'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Introduction

The Knife Angel arrived in Aberystwyth on Tuesday 31 May 2022, in readiness for a month-long visit to the town. The Knife Angel, created by the British Ironwork Centre in Shropshire, is touring the UK in a bid to raise awareness of how knife crime affects communities, families, and individuals. The Centre launched their ‘Save a Life, Surrender Your Knife’ campaign during 2015/2016, working with the Home Office and police forces to conduct knife amnesties to collect the material needed for the statue. Artist Alfie Bradley 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. Over 100,000 knives were used to create the sculpture, all collected by the knife amnesties, including from the Dyfed-Powys area.

The sculpture, standing at 8 metres tall, 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 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.

To share the Knife Angel’s key messages of prevention, anti-violence and anti-aggression, a month-long programme of engagement activity was established. This report provides further detail on the engagement activity undertaken, as well as the impact felt by those who visited the Knife Angel and who were involved in this project.



From left to right: Father Liam Bradley, Clive Knowles, Mayor Talat Chaudhri, PCC Llywelyn and Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis

Governance

In January 2020 during the Knife Angel’s visit to Newtown, the Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to host the Knife Angel in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this visit was unfortunately delayed, but together with the British Ironworks Centre, the Commissioner and his team successfully ensured that the Angel made it safely to Aberystwyth at the beginning of June 2022.

The planning for the Angel’s visit was conducted by a small team of staff in the Commissioner’s Office, in conjunction with various partners from Dyfed-Powys Police and the County and Town Councils to name but a few.

Arrival

The Knife Angel arrived in Aberystwyth on the evening of 31 May 2022, after a lengthy journey from Corby. The Knife Angel was erected at Llys Y Brenin Square where it stood proudly for the month of June. This was an ideal location for residents of, and visitors to the town, with an impressive view out towards the sea.

At the time Gweneira, Clerk of Aberystwyth Town Council stated *“When the lorry came round the corner from Wick Road, I had my first look at the Knife Angel, and had to fight to hold the tears in, such was the thrill of seeing the statue”*

“There was much intrigue as the crowds gathered to the square which is usually empty of people. The atmosphere changed from when the sculpture lay on its back to when it rose and turned mid-air - its face sent shivers down my back...impressive in size and menacing in nature



with its body built of knives. There the debate began, and the piece of art-initiated conversations of knife crime - helping to turn the tides on knife crime.” – Kate Rolt, Eco Hub.



Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony, hosted by Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, was held on 1 June at the base of the Knife Angel on Llys Y Brenin Square. The Ceremony was arranged by a small team in the Commissioner's office along with invaluable help from individuals from both Ceredigion County Council and Aberystwyth Town Council. Key community representatives and partners were all invited to attend, and being in a public place, the Ceremony was open to the public.



Attendees heard from the Police and Crime Commissioner as to why he brought the Angel to Aberystwyth. Mr Llywelyn then invited key individuals to say a few words: Dyfed-Powys Police Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis, Aberystwyth Mayor Talat Chaudhri, Leader of Ceredigion County Council Councillor Bryan Davies, Chairman of the British Ironworks Centre Clive Knowles, and Powys Councillor Joy Jones who spoke of the Newtown experience.

Individuals of all ages attended the Opening Ceremony, hearing from the speakers who highlighted the importance of the Knife Angel's visit, along with key anti-violence and anti-aggression messages. Attendees were noticeably in awe of the Angel and how and why the sculpture had been created, when hearing from Clive Knowles.

During the Ceremony, Clive Knowles presented Mayor Talat Chaudhri with the National Anti-Violence Charter. The Anti-Violence Charter is a plaque which is supplied by the British Ironwork Centre. The plaque is issued to commemorate the host city/ town being an advocate of anti-violence and for them taking the pledge to renounce violence in all its forms. The plaque was created to recognise the host's unrelenting efforts as a National Anti-Violence Charter, as they continue the efforts and programme to educate their youth.

Following the Ceremony, the Commissioner and several speakers and attendees were interviewed by the media, whilst the Commissioner's team engaged with partners and the public in relation to the Angel and the upcoming engagement activities.



Engagement programme

With assistance from numerous partners, the Commissioner's team developed an Engagement Programme for the month. The Programme was updated and added to as the weeks went by, with interest around the project growing and requests for involvement being submitted.

During the Knife Angel's visit to Aberystwyth the Arad Goch theatre and the Aberystwyth ECO hub were used as the dominant bases of activity alongside the Knife Angels site. The ECO hub was used as a pop-up shop where partners and the OPCC could hold sessions surrounding the Knife Angel. Arad Goch theatre gallery was also used as a base for sessions to be held. Arad Goch was also the venue for the closing ceremony in which students from the drama group performed a creative dance routine for attendees. The students based their routine around the Knife Angel and worked alongside their teacher to develop a mind map based around their thoughts and feelings around the Angel.

Kate Rolt from the Eco Hub said, *"The piece of art-initiated conversations of knife crime - helping to turn the tides on knife crime as I hope that Eco Hub Aber proved to be a good point of contact to the public with the Commissioner's Office, and that the space has been of help to people that have been affected by violence."*

Nia Rees from Arad Goch said, *"Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch was delighted to play a small part in this project, and it was a privilege to meet with so many people whilst co-organising the events. It was lovely to welcome people who might not normally come into Canolfan Arad Goch, and to work with new agents and groups. All the activities have been of great benefit to the Community, and I hope that a similar project will follow soon."*

Schools and Colleges

Though a busy time for schools with students sitting exams, many school groups and students, children and young people visited the Knife Angel.

In addition to this, Dyfed-Powys Police's INTACT team worked closely with young people on the key prevention messages brought by the Knife Angel, including students from Coleg Ceredigion. A college media project was run at Arad Goch, where art students received an input from the INTACT team and developed their own pieces of artwork.



Photo credit: @penygloddfa

PCSO Michala Quinn from Dyfed-Powys Police's INTACT team said, *"First year art students from Coleg Ceredigion's Aberystwyth campus visited the Knife Angel. The students reflected on the impact knife crime can have on people and communities. It was a pleasure to be present while these immensely talented young artists produced their breath taking and poignant pieces of art reflecting their artistic perceptions of the Knife Angel and the devastating effect of knife crime."*

Ceredigion Council Community Youth Work and Prevention Team

Throughout the month, the Community Youth Work and Prevention team held interactive sessions at the site of the Knife Angel for 11–25-year-olds, to raise awareness of knife crime victims, the consequences and damage of knife crime, and sessions on restorative practices.

The team used their Mobile Provision – a large van parked up alongside the Knife Angel, to provide an interactive experience linked to knife carrying, through games & quizzes. They delivered a First Aid Session on dealing with knife crime injuries and showed interactive videos on paramedics' experiences treating seriously and fatally injured knife crime victims. There was a focus on preventing young people from carrying knives; vital in supporting the Knife Angel's visit in helping to raise awareness of knife crime victims and the consequence and damage it has. The restorative practices sessions focused on repairing the harm done, to encourage lasting change and prevention.

Gavin Witte, Community Youth Work Coordinator said *“The Knife Angel brought great discussion points to young people around the knife crime issue in the UK as a whole but also in how it affects us more widely in our local area. It raised their knowledge and awareness of issues such as the law and consequences and how knife crime has a bigger impact on the community than they originally thought such as the effects on victims’ families.”*



Dyfed-Powys Police’s INTACT Team

Dyfed-Powys Police’s INTACT team held numerous and varying sessions and engagement activities throughout the Knife Angel’s visit:

- A Building Community Resilience workshop on the day of the Opening Ceremony, whereby community groups, third sector organisations and community safety partnership members were invited to join a discussion around how community resilience across Aberystwyth and the surrounding areas could be developed. Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors stated *“that they really enjoyed and found it useful to learn more about the topic. It was nice and informal but engaging.”*
- INTACT Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) routinely engaged members of the public at the site of the Knife Angel.
- At the request of the organisation, the INTACT team held a meeting with staff from Tai Wales and West Housing to discuss the Knife Angel, knife crime and its relationship with homelessness and rough sleeping.



- Informal drop-in sessions at the Eco Hub for children and young people to discuss knife crime and serious organised crime. These sessions included games, chalk and colouring items for children and young people to engage with.
- Closed sessions alongside Choices, a behavioural change programme, where they engaged with small groups of young people.
- A 'Why Knives?' workshop, where children and young adults discussed why they may carry a knife, as well as the dangers of doing so.
- The College Media Project, as previously noted.
- A meeting with Aberystwyth University staff to discuss serious violence and organised crime, crime on campus and how to better work together on student safety.
- A Preventing Violence Workshop for university and college students.



Police School Liaison Officers

Officers attended schools across Ceredigion as part of their everyday role and discussed and informed pupils of the Knife Angel and its anti-violence pledge.



Victim Support

Victim Support's Hate Crime Team ran an online session on the role of the Wales Hate Support Centre, as well as how hate and hate-related violence can affect someone, and what support they can access.

Becca Rosenthal, Hate Crime Community Engagement and Training Manager said, *"We were given opportunities to contribute to the programme of events and were able to host our own session looking at the impact of hate related violence and harms in our communities."*

"It is really obvious that the Commissioner and his team had a real focus and dedication to ensuring that the Knife Angel visit to Aberystwyth was both useful and meaningful for the local community and indeed the whole County. Thank you for the opportunity for meaningful engagement and for recognising our contribution".

Fearless

Fearless is the youth branch of Crimestoppers and is a site where young people can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality and report anonymously to Crimestoppers.

During the Knife Angel's visit to Aberystwyth, Fearless engaged young people and partners on the consequences of carrying a knife and how to speak up anonymously to Crimestoppers or Fearless.org.

New Pathways

As part of the engagement programme, New Pathways held a Workshop entitled 'Looking at the effects of trauma and PTSD caused by violent crime' at Arad Goch. The workshop was delivered by Head of Training & Research Debbie Woodroffe and Pete Griffiths, a highly experienced counsellor and trainer.

The workshop highlighted the ripple effect that violent crime has on individuals and communities as well as interventions and techniques that can help to address the issue.

This session was key to engagement around the Knife Angel as those who are affected both directly and indirectly by knife crime can experience trauma.



West Wales Domestic Abuse Service

West Wales Domestic Abuse Service provide a free, confidential service throughout Ceredigion to anybody suffering or experiencing domestic abuse regardless of their age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or financial circumstances.

Staff from the organisation held a workshop as part of the Knife Angel project: *“Why doesn't she just leave?”*. This workshop looked at the myths and views of domestic abuse, how it continues to effect women, men, and children, and support available.

Premier League Kicks

Swansea City Foundation's Premier League Kicks (PL Kicks) programme, funded by the Commissioner, uses the power of football and other sports to create safer, stronger and more respectful communities by developing young people's potential.



Participants of Aberystwyth PL Kicks were accompanied by staff from Swansea City AFC Foundation and Ceredigion County Council's Youth Services, as well as Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed-Powys Police's Superintendent Ross Evans and Dyfed-Powys Police's INTACT team, on a visit to the Knife

Angel.

During the visit the young people took part in interactive activities with the aim of educating and raising awareness of knife crime and recognising the effect of violent crime on families and communities.

INTACT PSCO Michala Quinn said, *“I feel privileged to have been involved in working with young people during the Knife Angel's visit and to deliver this session alongside my PL Kicks colleagues.”*



SAMM National

SAMM National (Support after Murder and Manslaughter) is a registered charity offering support to those bereaved by murder or manslaughter. Since 2013 they've held a rolling membership of 4,000, evidencing the need for long term/lifelong support. SAMM National is

one of the oldest and most established charities working in the field of traumatic bereavement and is one of the only charities providing national coverage.

During the Knife Angel's visit, SAMM National hosted a workshop on the effects and impact of murder, the impact of murder on families, and how SAMM National supports families affected by murder and manslaughter.

Members of the charity wrote poems which were read out by local actor Julian Lewis Jones at the workshop.

Lesley Rees, a trustee of the charity also attended and shared her experience of losing a relative to murder. Lesley emphasised the importance of the Knife Angel's messages.

SAMM National Trustee Rose Dixon said, *"I was very privileged to travel to Aberystwyth to join our SAMM National member Lesley Rees to do a presentation to the Police and Crime Commissioner in conjunction with the amazing Knife Angel. I explained about the reality of murder for the bereaved family and how traumatic the whole process of the police investigation, the court case and the sentencing can be for these people."*

"Being bereaved in this way is very isolating as families will probably never have met another person who has lost a loved one through murder. The overriding ethos of SAMM National is: "You are not alone" as we support the family on this awful and traumatising journey because we have been bereaved in the same way and can truly say "Yes I know what that feels like". Lesley gave a powerful presentation on the effects of murder on her and her family and how SAMM National had helped them."

"I would like to thank Clive from the British Ironworks for his vision in organising the knife amnesty which is where the knives came from for the Knife Angel and to Alfie Bradley for his wonderful sculpture that captures the pain our families experience. Thank you to the Police and Crime Commissioner for his forward thinking in having the Knife Angel in Aberystwyth and for inviting SAMM National to take part in the proceedings."

A Poem written by a member of SAMM National:

"It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life

There was this man from the estate running late, he was running for the bus when he accidentally bumped into this boy and his mate. The boys got mad and what is sad is that one drew a knife and took the man's life.

It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life

Now there's a grieving mother who screams at the skies above her and on her knees at the grave she claws at the earth for the boy who she gave her life to after his birth. She's heartbroken to the core and not sure if she can go on anymore.

It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life

Now there's a grieving father who lays awake at night wishing he tried harder, his guilt is out of control and now he has no soul. He wants to take his sons place be his saving grace.

It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life

Now there's a grieving daughter who's supposed to be getting wed but can't even face getting out of bed, the best day of her life has gone from good too bad because walking her to the altar was supposed to be her Dad.

It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life

Now there's a grieving sibling, a brother who always thought he could protect his Mother and his whole family, but now he's lost in the depths of insanity, he's constantly on the brink and reaching out for that next drink.

It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life

Now there's a grieving sister who feels like she's caught up in a twister because she is missing her big brother who would always pick up the phone and listen, she's struggling to see this is now her reality.

It only takes one punch, one shot, one knife to take one life,

But it isn't just one life that's taken, it's a whole family that is now trying to cope with its heart's breaking."

Knife Angel Anti-Violence Fayre

In addition to the workshops and sessions within the Engagement Programme, the Commissioner's team co-ordinated an Anti-Violence Fayre at the site of the Angel. Partners were invited to host a stall at the event to enable them to engage with the public and advise them of the services they provide. Partners who attended included Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Dyfed-Powys Police's INTACT, recruitment and volunteer teams, New Pathways, Fearless (Crimestoppers), POBL, Hafan Cymru, Llamau, Choices, DDAS, Victim Support, the Council's Community Cohesion Team, as well as engagement, volunteer, and commissioned services representatives from the Commissioner's office.

Detailed below is feedback from some of those who took part:

Daniel Kitson-James from Choices said, *"The Anti-Violence fayre in Aberystwyth ran smoothly. The day went well and raised awareness to the local community about knife crime and where to get support and advice if needed. We had lots of interest from the older community, asking questions about local services and support networks. It was a great opportunity for networking*

with other services to see what they have going on in other areas. Overall, the feel of the day was positive, and the community embraced the campaign.”

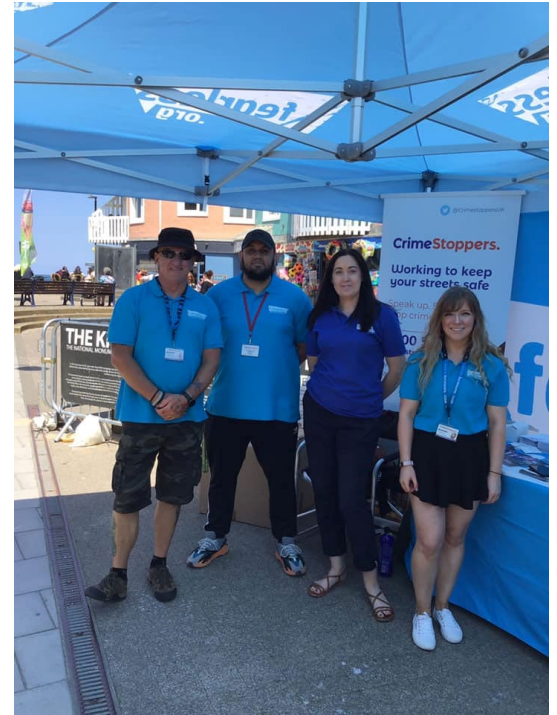
Hayley Fry from Crimestoppers said, *“Knife crime is a persistent and worrying concern in Wales, especially as it impacts particularly upon young people. You can help protect your family by reporting anyone you know who carries a knife, 100% anonymously.”*

“Some people mistakenly think that carrying a knife may protect them. Unfortunately, this is often far from the truth. Carrying and then using a knife shows you are intending to cause someone serious harm - and that comes with a long prison sentence. More knives on the streets only leads to one outcome more people getting hurt. Knife crime can affect anyone, not just people in gangs.”

“We all have the power to help create the type of community we want to live in. We all want to feel safe to walk down the street, not have to look over our shoulder, not feeling we must protect ourselves. Together, we can create a Wales that is safe for everyone.”

“Many people have concerns about reporting knife crime, and they understandably fear retaliation from the criminals they report. Ultimately, we want to let people know that by speaking up, 100% anonymously through Crimestoppers or Fearless.org, you can help stop knife crime.”

“Crimestoppers were happy to support Dafydd Llywelyn the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys. The Knife Angel was a focus point for visitors and residents of Aberystwyth. This



gave Crimestoppers the charity the opportunity to speak with communities about violent crimes affecting Wales and how they can keep the community safer. The event was a great success supported by another organisation. ”

Sarah Baldwin from POBL said, *“It felt positive to be back to some normality meeting and supporting the public and other services again through such a powerful and thought-provoking image as that of the Knife Angel.”*

Adele Jones, Citizens Policing Co-ordinator from Dyfed-Powys Police said *“I’m really pleased that I was able to take part in this event, it was great to see so many people at the site.”*

Feedback from Attendees

Throughout the month a Book of Reflections was available for visitors to share their thoughts and reflections on the Knife Angel.

Below are some quotes taken from the book.

“Very emotional impact. Beautiful, scary, and positive.”

“I worry that there’s a bit of glorifying the knife in this, but in passing it daily and coming to realise that it’s not an ascetic for me (a middle-class mum in a small town) but made in part to shock and awe knife carriers, young men like my nephew who are impressed by a show of might and tattoo-esque aggression maybe. With this in mind I am not critical, and the proof is in the amnesty box – if any knives are being posted then this is a very good thing. Well done for being thought provoking in a difficult space.”

“It gives us a chance to think and reflect on the harms caused by carrying a knife.”

“Very moving. An amazing piece of art.”

“Incredibly moving, a fantastic tool to use to educate our young people about the effects of Knife Crime.”

Press & Social Media

The sculpture received high coverage both in the press and on social media.

Prior to its arrival in Aberystwyth:

- “Knife Angel to go on display in Aberystwyth town centre”, cambrian-news.co.uk
- “Aberystwyth Town to welcome Knife Angel sculpture”, The Ceredigion Herald

It was good to see many media representatives at the site throughout the month, giving the Knife Angel’s visit and the important accompanying messages, deserved publicity.

The Opening Ceremony featured in the local press. BBC Wales conducted interviews on behalf of BBC 1 Wales, S4C, BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Cymru with Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre, Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis, and the Mayor of Aberystwyth Council Talat Chauhdri. The Opening Ceremony also featured in the following articles:

- “Aberystwyth Town welcomes Knife Angel sculpture as Police promote anti-violence”, The Ceredigion Herald
- “Aberystwyth: Knife Angel highlights crime's 'devastating impact'” - BBC News

Additionally, articles and interviews were published during the visit, demonstrating how important this visit was to the town:

- “Sister of murder victim to give talk in Aberystwyth today”, cambrian-news.co.uk
- “Last chance to see knife angel in Aberystwyth”, cambrian-news.co.uk
- “Bwrw Golwg - Gwenfair Griffith yn trafod Angel y cyllyll, digio gyda Boris Johnson a chofio Bruce Kent”, BBC Sounds

Below are some examples of social media posts platforms:



@taibarcud @taibarcud · 06 Jun
Ydych chi wedi bod i ymweld â'r **Angel** Gyllyll yn eto? Have you been to visit the **Knife Angel** yet? It is on display at Llys y Brenin square in **#Aberystwyth** until the 29th of June as a physical reminder of the effects of violence and aggression. A very powerful sculpture!



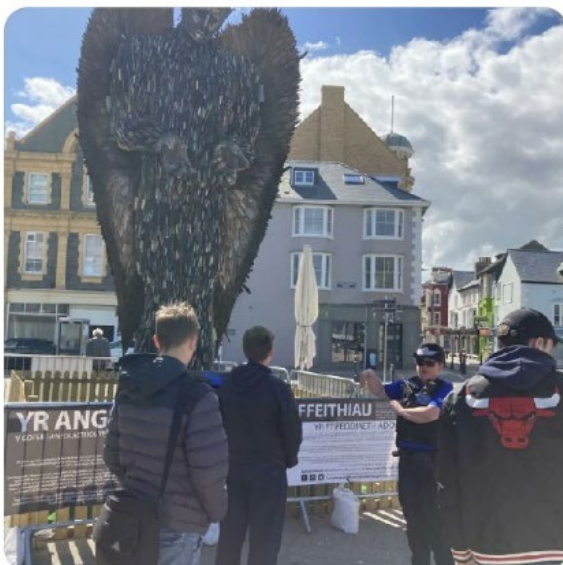
New Pathways
@newpathways_

Lisa and Ellen were out in the sun today at the **#KnifeAngel** in Aberystwyth, raising awareness of our sexual violence support services. It was great to be there alongside other great support organisations. **@DPOPCC** **#TraumaSupport**



GICeredigionYS @GICeredi... · 21 Jun
Rydyn wedi bod yn rhan o fynd â grwpiau i'r Digwyddiad Cyllell **Angel** yn **Aberystwyth**! Bydd y digwyddiad yn cael ei gyflwyno tan ddiwedd y mis!

We have been involved in taking groups to The **Knife Angel** Event in **Aberystwyth**! The event will be delivered until the end of the month!



Carmarthenshire LGBTQ+ Project
@CarmLGBTProject

If you're in Aberystwyth before the end of the month, check out the 'Knife Angel' situated in the town centre. Its a towering monument standing up against all forms of violent crime. Link follows.

9:24 · 23 Jun 22 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Likes



Carmarthenshire LGBTQ+ Pro... · 6d

Details of events Police & Crime Commissioner here:
[engagement-programme-160622.pdf](#)
(dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk)



Closing Ceremony

On Wednesday 29th June, a Closing Ceremony took place to mark the departure of the Knife Angel from Aberystwyth.

The Ceremony was held at Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch and was well attended with representatives from all key partners involved in the project.

The Commissioner opened the Ceremony and invited the following individuals to say a few words: Dyfed-Powys Police Superintendent Ross Evans, Harri-Evans Mason and PCSO Michala Quinn from Dyfed-Powys Police's INTACT team, Lesley Rees from SAMM National who read a member's poem on the effects of murder, the Mayor of Aberystwyth, and Clive Knowles.

Clive Knowles was presented with a number of certificates in recognition of the national monument against violence and aggression by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed-Powys Police, Ceredigion County Council, Aberystwyth University, Coleg Ceredigion, the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of Dyfed.

The Commissioner awarded all partners involved in the project with a certificate of thanks and recognition of their hard work, including:

- Dyfed Powys Police
- Theatr Cwmni Arad Goch
- Aberystwyth Tourist Information Centre
- Aberystwyth Town Council
- Dyfed-Powys Police's INTACT Team
- Ceredigion County Council
- New Pathways
- Aberystwyth Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Fearless
- Dyfed-Powys Police Ceredigion Schools Programme
- Aberystwyth University
- West Wales Domestic Abuse Service
- Premier League Kicks
- SAMM National
- Choices
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- ECO Hub Aberystwyth
- Environmental Services and Highways Team at Ceredigion County Council

- POBL
- Llamau
- Victim Support Hate Crime Team
- Goleudy
- Coleg Ceredigion
- Radio Aber
- DDAS

Powys County Councillor Joy Jones from Newtown was also awarded the National Anti-Violence Charter by Clive Knowles at the Closing Ceremony, in recognition of the Knife Angel's previous visit to Newtown in January 2020.

The Ceremony ended with Force Chaplain Volunteer Samantha Jones leading attendees in a prayer and a moment's silence to remember those affected by knife crime and violent crime. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the Angel's time in Aberystwyth and its important prevention and anti-violence messages.

Dyfed-Powys Police Superintendent Ross Evans said, *"We are proud to have had the opportunity to host the Knife Angel in Aberystwyth this year. Although we don't consider that we have a knife crime problem in the county, we are keen to keep it that way. The Angel has the ability to draw people in and take a moment to reflect which is quite powerful. This has helped us to start many positive conversations with people about policing and public safety. I believe it has helped us to increase the trust and confidence in the local police and partner agencies. I would like to thank everyone in the town for their support during the month. Thanks also to the sculptors and the Police and Crime Commissioner."*

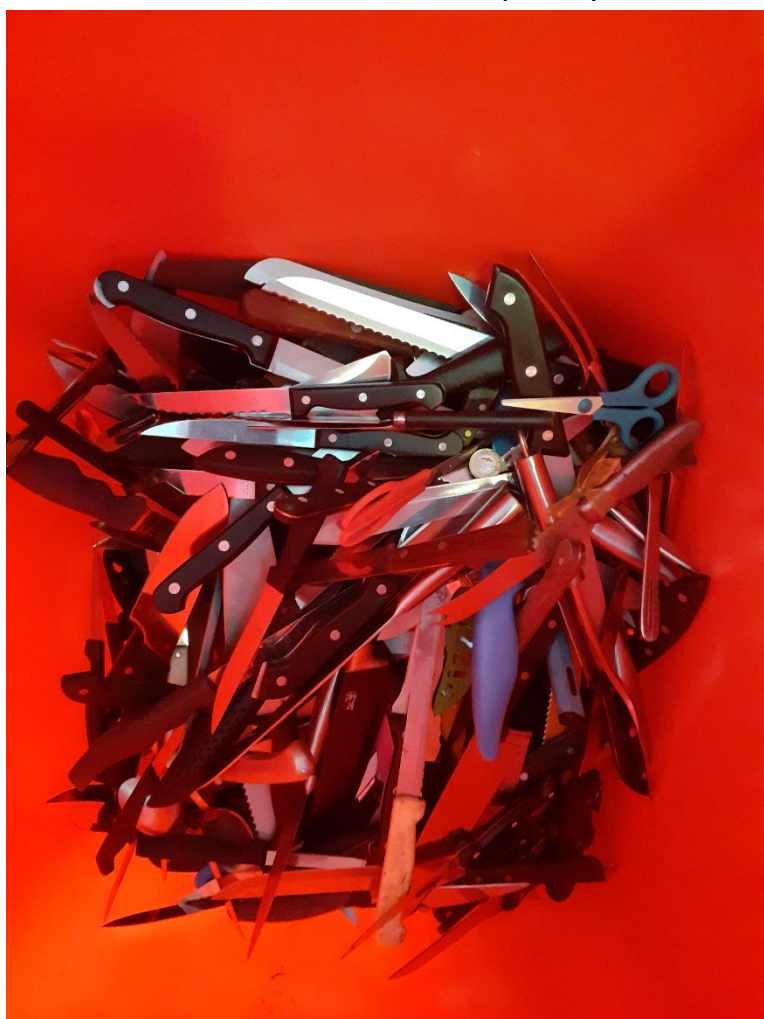




Knife Amnesty

A Knife Amnesty Bin travels with the Knife Angel and is placed in front of the sculpture for the duration of the visit. Through engagement on site and on social media, residents were encouraged to 'surrender knives to save lives'.

The bin was emptied twice during the month, with a number of knives being taken on each occasion and stored safely at Aberystwyth Police Station. Lethal weapons have been taken off the streets and possible harm prevented by doing so. The knives will be handed over to the British Ironwork Centre and hopefully utilised to create a further meaningful sculpture.



Legacy

Increased awareness

Bringing the Knife Angel back to Wales for the second time highlights the Commissioner's commitment to crime prevention and reducing violent crime. Multiple organisations held sessions throughout the month-long engagement programme, ensuring increased awareness through collaboration. This approach allowed all ages, especially young people, to stand up against violence and aggression in all forms, not just knife crime.

Increased Visitors

It is estimated that hundreds of individuals visited the sculpture across the month, both during the day and at night. Although no official figures have been recorded, it was identified that many were specifically travelling to the well-known tourist destination to see the Knife Angel.

Mayor's note

Mayor of Aberystwyth Talat Chaudhri thanked the Commissioner and all those who worked on the Knife Angel's visit: Above all the ironworkers who created it, and all involved in the educational activities to raise awareness about the lifelong, tragic consequences of violent crime.

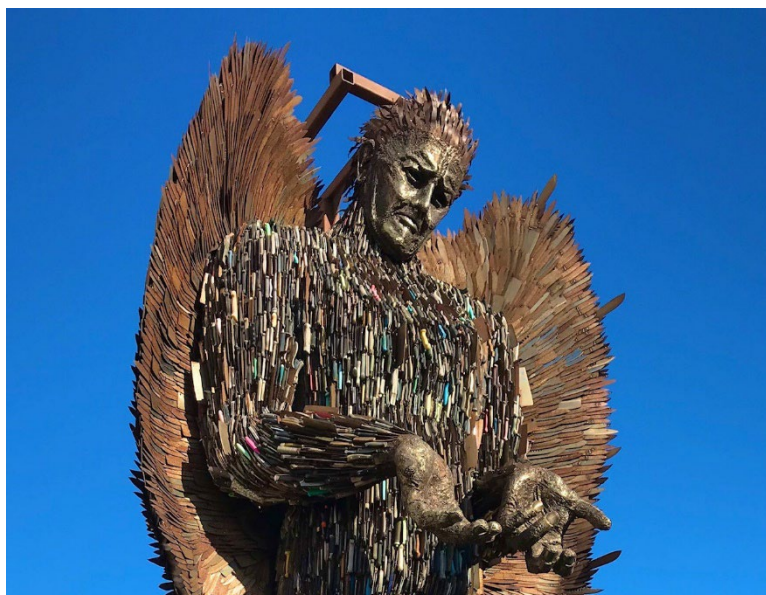
The Mayor said, *"Although Aberystwyth is a low-crime area, violence affects everybody, and that Aberystwyth stands in solidarity with all victims and their families everywhere. He said that it was a challenging and sobering piece of public art, as it is meant to be, but that every one of the many thousands of knives that had been handed in and every conversation that the Knife Angel inspired could mean a life and a family saved such a tragedy. During its successful visit to Aberystwyth, it was a focus of public attention that drew visitors and created debate about violent crime and how to prevent it"*.

Future Partnership

The month-long engagement programme saw a lot of partnership working and networking. Relationships and contacts made as a result of this project will continue to evolve following its completion.

As a result of a meeting held during the Knife Angel visit, Dyfed-Powys Police’s INTACT team and Aberystwyth University will be working closely alongside each other moving forward in order to create better relationships around information sharing and intelligence, as well as integrating training for staff and students on Knife Crime and County lines. In order to do this, they also hope to explore opportunities for joint roles between the Dyfed-Powys Police and the University. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) both advocate for stronger relationships between Police and Higher Education providers to enhance knowledge exchange, collaboration, and partnerships.

Harri Evans-Mason said “Partnerships in tackling Serious Violence are key. Taking a whole system approach under a public health lens will enable partners to build resilience to the most serious harm in communities”.






Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner


Heddlu Police
**DYFED
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