



ALWAYS AN ALTERNATIVE CIO

WHAT'S THE POINT? - PILOT PROJECT



Charity No: 1201213

WWW.ALWAYSANALTERNATIVE.ORG.UK

Background

Always An Alternative CIO is a charity created with the ultimate aim of spreading awareness and reducing knife crime, gun crime, gangs' culture and anti-social behaviour; what we call, current risks to youths. We achieve this by using alternative ways of education to engage the youthful minds of today; inform, mentor and support them with the challenges that young people may come up against.

We have found the importance of engaging with young people early and developing their skill set to reduce the chances of the knife crime, gun crime, gangs' culture and anti-social behaviour, this is achieved through our weekly youth clubs, sport-based activities and our presence within schools.

"Become the person that you needed while growing up"

Introduction

This project was created to increase the life skills (use of kitchen knives) and spread awareness of knife crime amongst looked after children (LAC).

The proposed objective was to trade in standard kitchen knives (knives with a point) with safety kitchen knives (knives without a point) to promote positive use of kitchen knives. The safety knives were donated by Viners to help support the project.

Additionally, to educate our young people, copies of One Knife Many Lives, a book that was written to demonstrate the devastating impact of knife crime, will be given to help spread awareness on the topic. The copies were donated by Limitless Homes and Support, whom we completed the pilot of the no point kitchen knives with.

We asked the members of staff at Limitless Homes and Support and Young People in their care a series of questions, to A, see if the project was a success and B, to get an insight in to knife crime from their points of view.

"We need to stop young people from looking at knives as weapons, instead, tools."

Results and Findings

Young People and staff of Limitless Homes and Support were asked a series of questions, in Two parts:

Part 1; while pointed kitchen knives were still in use

Part 2; after safety kitchen knives replaced the standard kitchen knives.

Additional questions were asked in part 1 about knife crime in general that were not specific to this project, in an attempt to get a better understanding of feelings around knife crime.

Staff and Young People were asked to score their answers 1 to 5:

1 - not at all worried

2 – slightly worried

3 – worried

4 – very worried

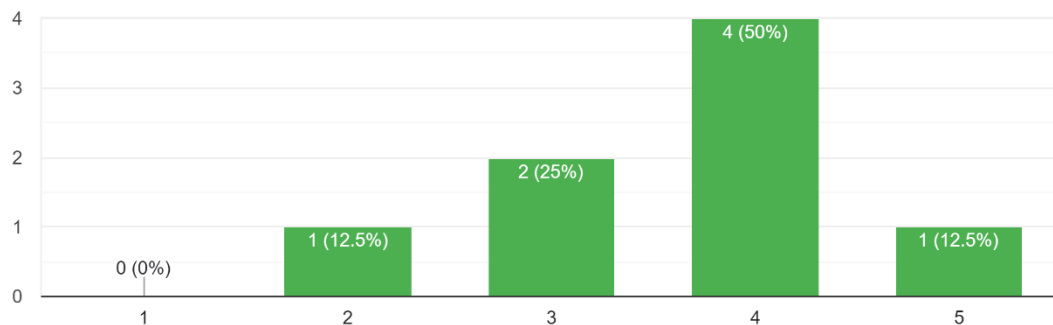
5 – extremely worried

Young people

Question 1 - Part 1 Result

How worried do you feel when other young people have access to, and are using kitchen knives in the house?

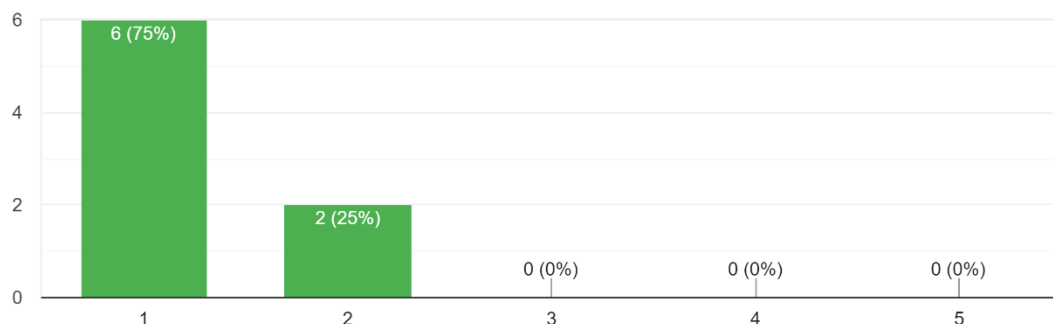
8 responses



Question 1 - Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, how worried do you feel when other young people have access to, and are using kitchen knives in the house?

8 responses



Question 1 Findings

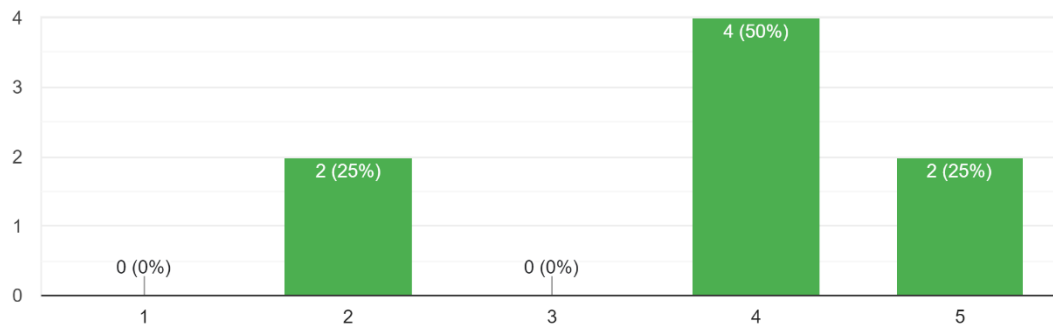
Results show that 87.5% of the young people scored between 3 and 5, with over 60% of them feeling very worried (4) when other young people had access to and are using the standard kitchen knives. However, when using the safety kitchen knives this

dramatically dropped with 75% of them not being worried at all (1) and the other 25% scoring 2.

Question 2 – Part 1 Result

If kitchen knives were left unattended in the home, how likely do you feel that another young person might take, threaten someone, or use one as a weapon?

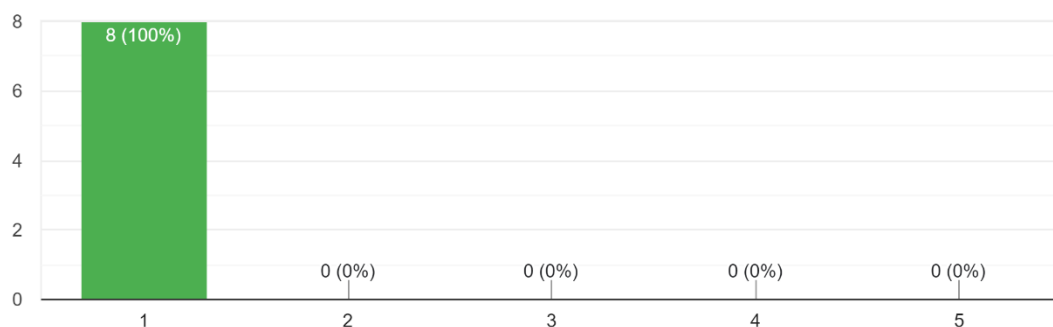
8 responses



Question 2 – Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, if they were left unattended in the home, how likely do you feel that another young person might take, threaten someone, or use one as a weapon?

8 responses



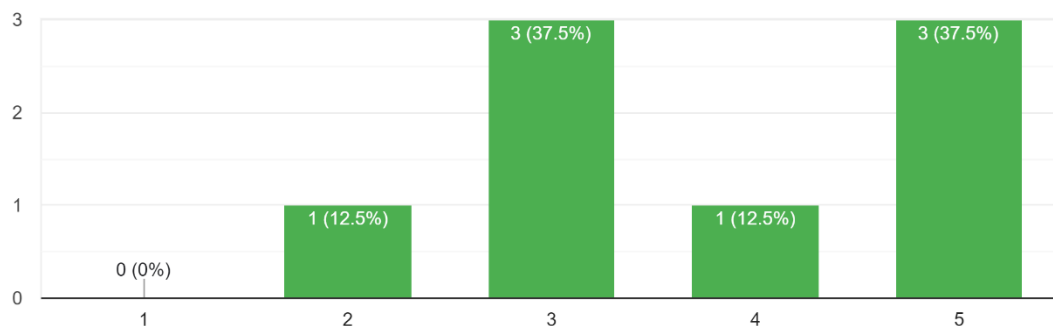
Question 2 Findings

75% of young people were either very worried (4) or extremely worried (5) that another young person might take, threaten someone or use a standard kitchen knife as a weapon. After the implementation of the safety kitchen knives 100% were not worried at all (1); about another young person taking, threatening someone or using a safety knife.

Question 3 – Part 1 Result

How worried would you feel if kitchen knives were stored in the kitchen such as a household?

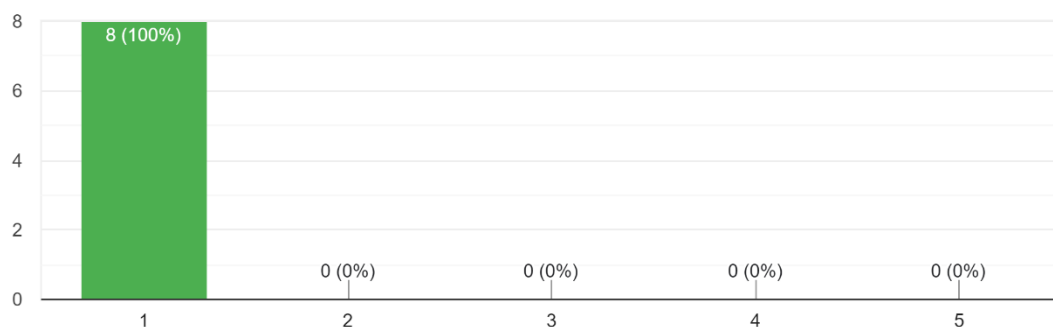
8 responses



Question 3 – Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, how worried would you feel if they were stored in the kitchen such as a household?

8 responses



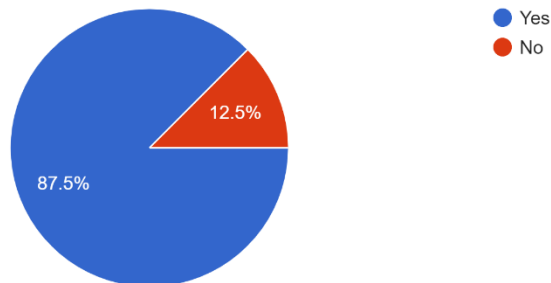
Question 3 Findings

87.5% of young people scored 3-5, worried to extremely worried if standard kitchen knives were left in the kitchen such as a household. When the safety kitchen knives were implemented, 100% of the young people were not worried at all when they were left in the kitchen.

Question 4 – Part 1 Result

Are the kitchen knives in the home locked away?

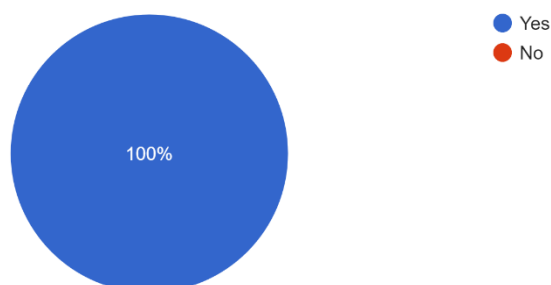
8 responses



Question 4 – Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, have you had more access to them?

8 responses



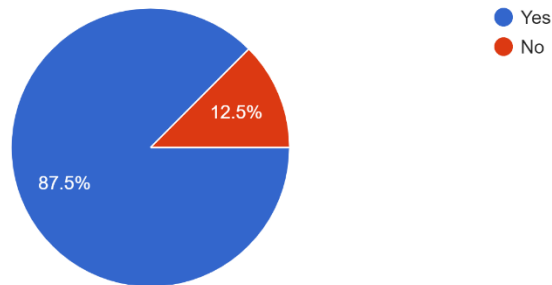
Question 4 Findings

Standard kitchen knives were locked away and the young people had to ask to use them, signing them in and out. (One young person said that kitchen knives were not locked away, however they are.) Once the standard kitchen knives were replaced with the safety kitchen knives, young people had access to them when they needed them.

Question 5 – Part 1 Result

Do you look at kitchen knives as a weapon?

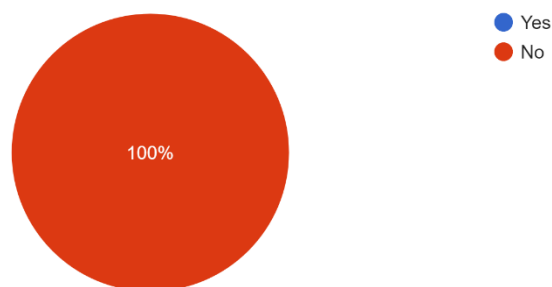
8 responses



Question 5 – Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, do you look at kitchen knives as a weapon?

8 responses



Question 5 Findings

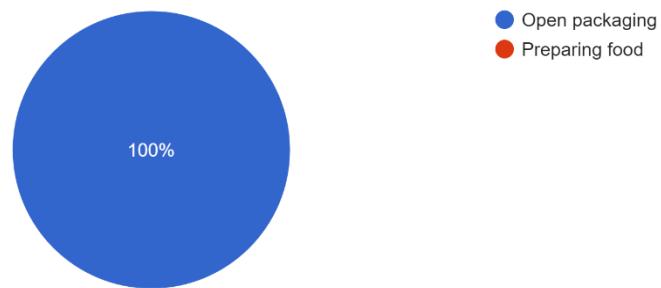
This question found that 87.5% of young people looked at standard kitchen knives as a weapon but all of the young people said that they did not see the safety kitchen knives as a weapon.

"Thinking about it, it's the point that makes it a weapon." – Young person

Question 6 – Part 1 Result

What do you use the point of a kitchen knife for?

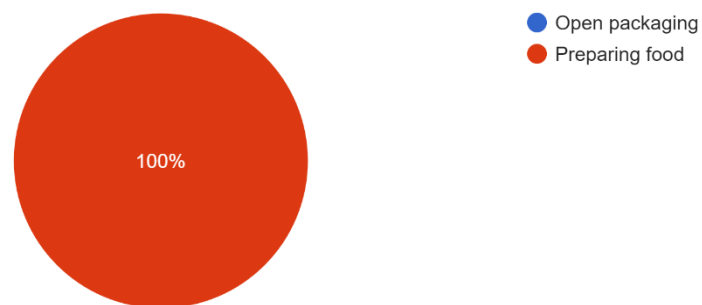
8 responses



Question 6 – Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, what do you use a kitchen knife for?

8 responses



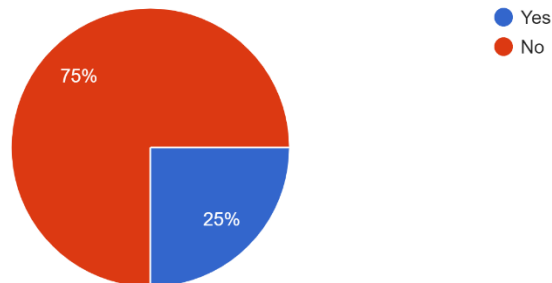
Question 6 Findings

100% of the young people asked, used the point of a knife to cut food packaging and not to prepare the food itself.

Question 7 Result

Where you aware that there are kitchen knives without points?

8 responses



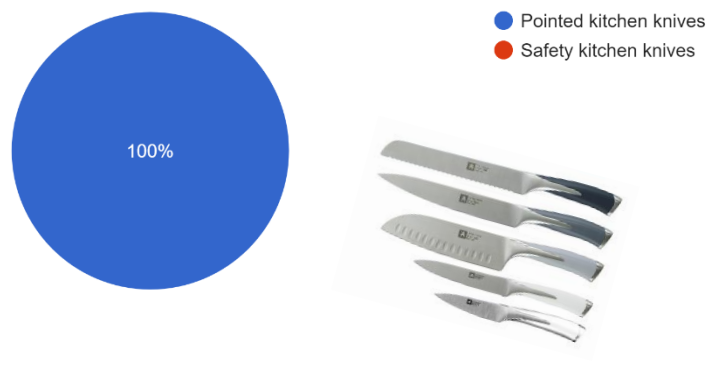
Question 7 Findings

25% of young people had heard about safety knives, but had not used one.

Question 8 Result

Which image makes you feel worried?

8 responses



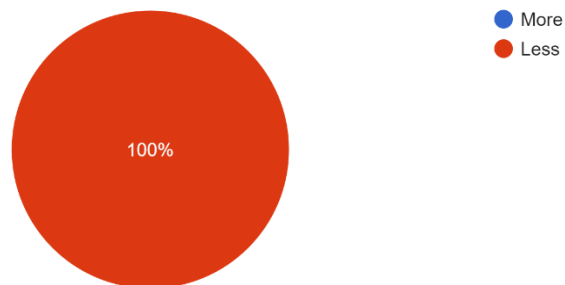
Question 8 Findings

This shows that all of the young people asked were more worried about images shown to them of a standard kitchen knife and a knife with no point.

Question 9 Result

Do you think young people are more or less likely to carry a knife with no point?

8 responses



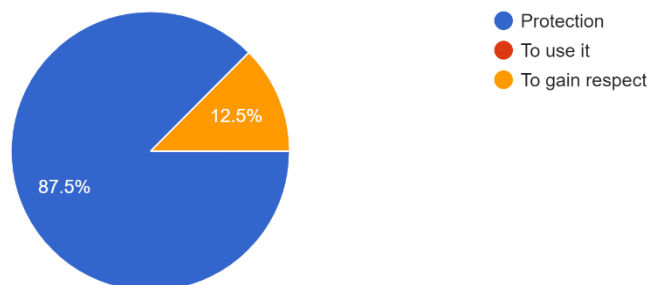
Question 9 Findings

All of the young people felt that other young people would be less likely to carry a safety kitchen knife (with no point).

Question 10 result

What do you think is the main reason for young people to carry a knife?

8 responses



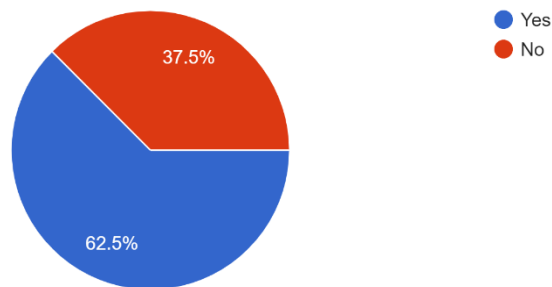
Question 10 Findings

87.5% felt that young people carried knives for protection, 12.5% felt that they did it to gain respect and none of the young people felt that others actually carried it to use it.

Question 11 Result

Do you or anyone you know carry a knife?

8 responses



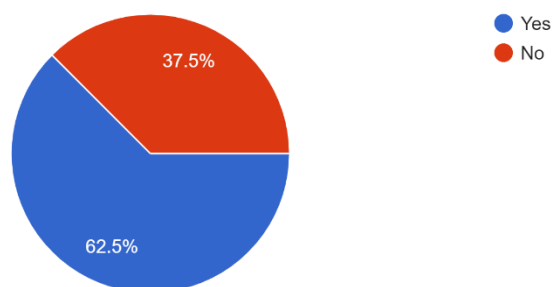
Question 11 Findings

62.5% of the young people asked, have or know someone that carries a knife.

Question 12 Result

Have you or anyone you know thought about carrying a knife?

8 responses



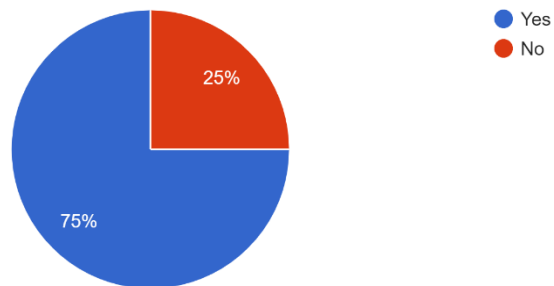
Question 12 Findings

62.5% of the young people asked, have or know someone that has thought to carry a knife.

Question 13 Result

Do you think that social media fuels knife crime?

8 responses



Question 13 Findings

75% of young people asked felt that social media fuels knife crime.

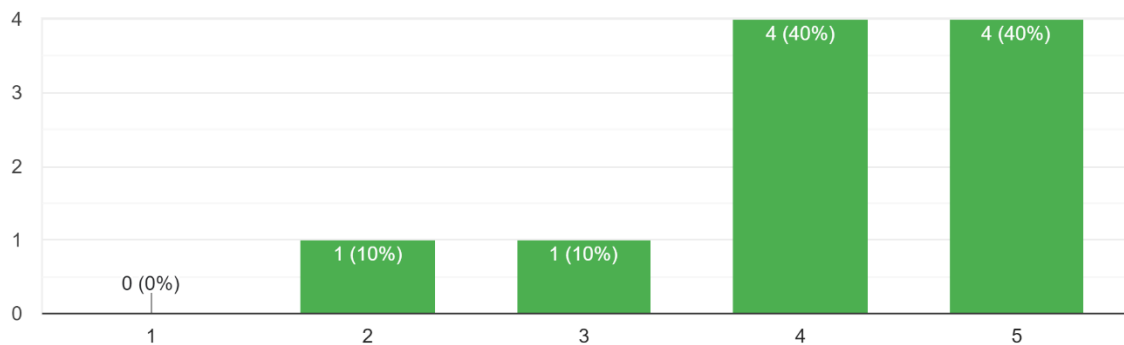
"I do, they wind each other up by sending pictures and videos. When normally they would not see each other. I've seen people post some mad stuff!" – Young person

Staff

Question 1 - Part 1 Result

How worried do you feel when young people have access to, and are using kitchen knives in your place of work?

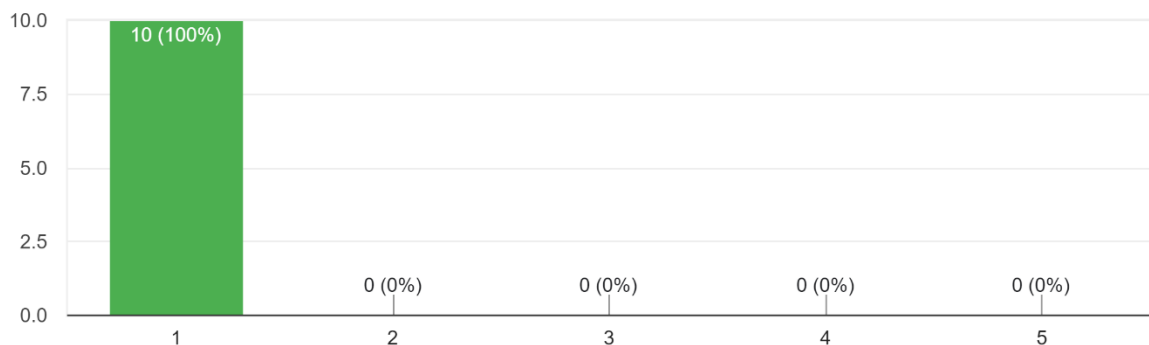
10 responses



Question 1 - Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, how worried do you feel when young people have access to, and are using kitchen knives in your place of work?

10 responses



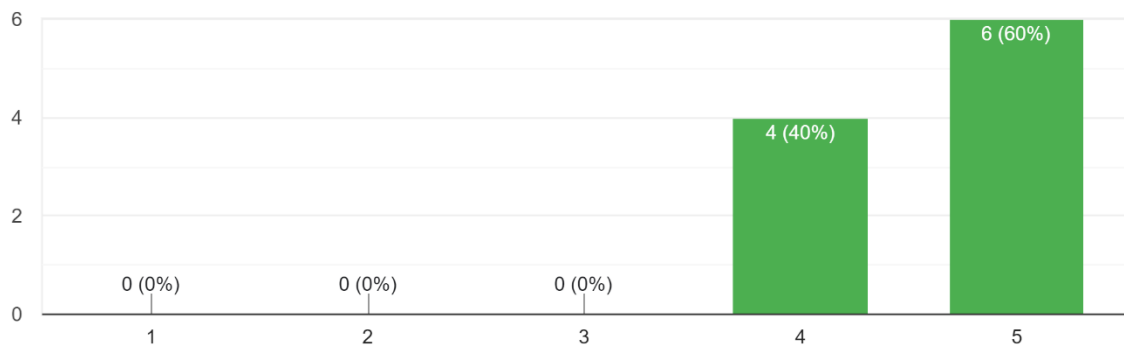
Question 1 findings

This shows that 90% of the staff asked were worried (3) to extremely worried (5) when young people had access to standard kitchen knives. However, 100% of staff were not worried at all when the young people had access to, or used the safety kitchen knives.

Question 2 - Part 1 Result

If kitchen knives were left unattended at your place of work, how likely do you feel that a young person might take, threaten someone, or use one as a weapon?

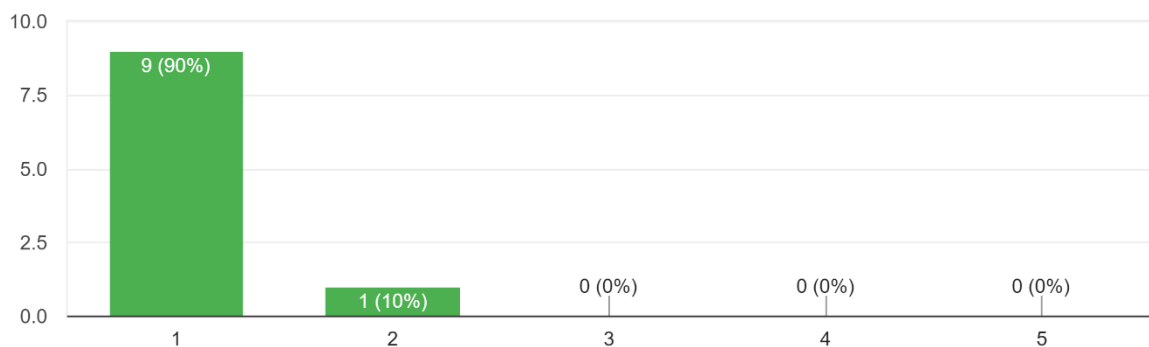
10 responses



Question 2 - Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, if they were left unattended in your place of work, how likely do you feel that a young person might take, threaten someone, or use one as a weapon?

10 responses



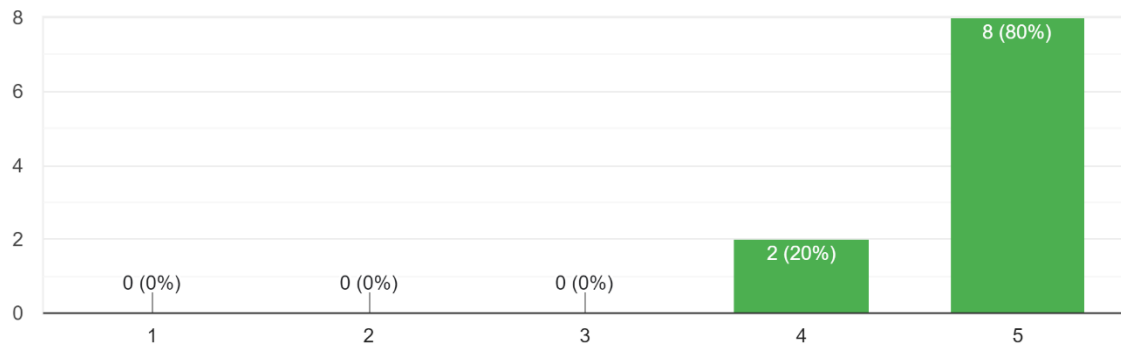
Question 2 findings

40% of the staff were very worried, while the other 60% were extremely worried that a young person might take, threaten someone or use the standard kitchen knives as a weapon. This worry was significantly reduced with the implementation of the safety kitchen knives: 90% were not worried at all and only 10% slightly worried that, a young person might take, threaten someone or use the standard kitchen knives as a weapon.

Question 3 - Part 1 Result

When in your place of work, how worried would you feel if kitchen knives were stored in the kitchen such as a household?

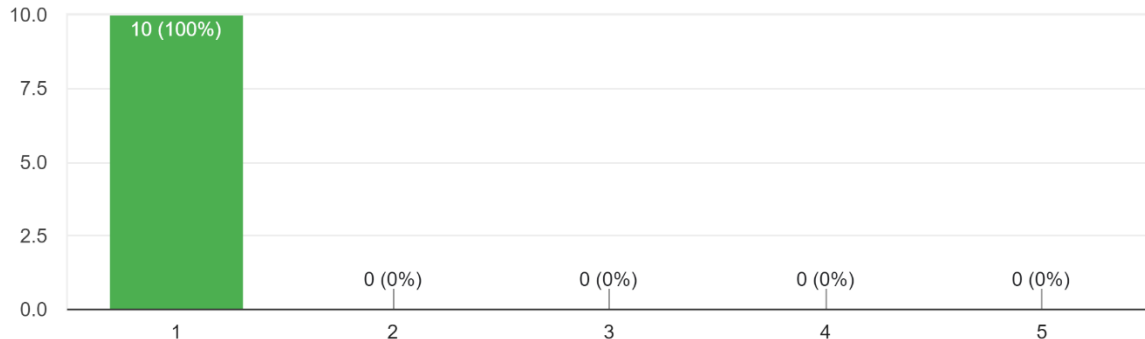
10 responses



Question 3 - Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, how worried would you feel if safety kitchen knives were stored in the kitchen such as a household?

10 responses



Question 3 findings

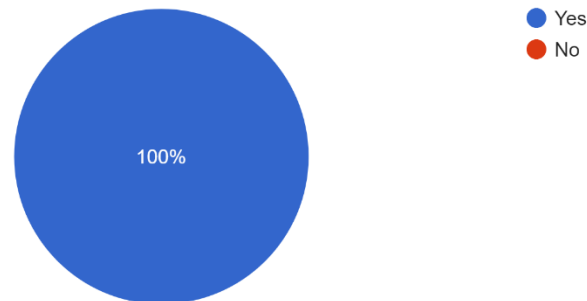
20% were very worried and 40% were extremely worried of the thought of the standard kitchen knives being left in the kitchen. Subsequently, with the safety kitchen knives 100% of the staff were not worried when they were left out and accessible.

"Some of our young people can be very volatile and I would always worry if they had a kitchen knife and became triggered. The safety knives remove all worries." - Staff

Question 4 - Part 1 Result

Are the kitchen knives in your place of work locked away?

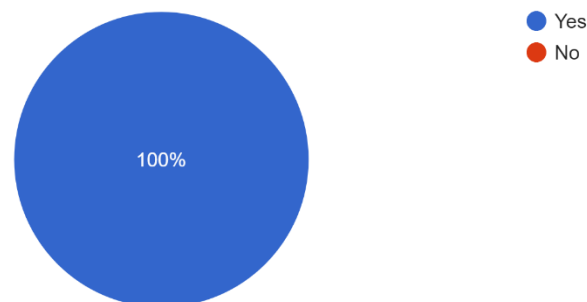
10 responses



Question 4 - Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, are they more accessible to young people?

10 responses



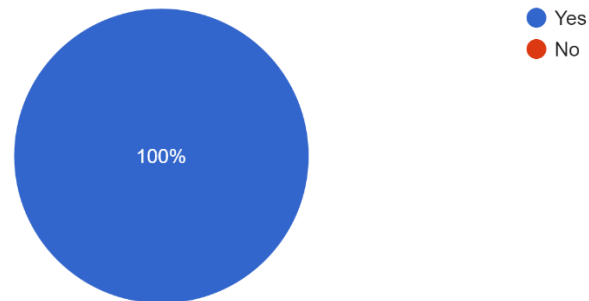
Question 4 findings

We found that the knives were locked away from the young people. But the use of the safety kitchen knives meant that they were no longer locked away and were accessible to young people.

Question 5 - Part 1 Result

Do you look at kitchen knives as a weapon?

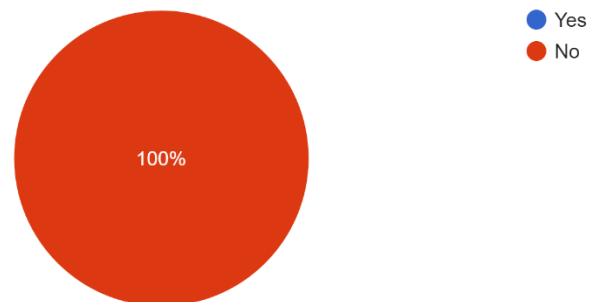
10 responses



Question 5 - Part 2 Result

Do you look at safety kitchen knives with no point as a weapon?

10 responses



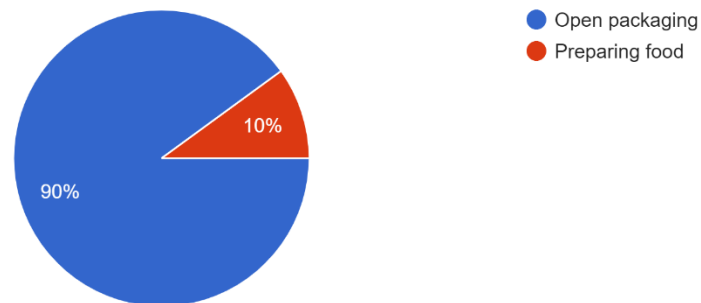
Question 5 findings

This suggests that staff looked at standard kitchen knife as a weapon when in the workplace, but, when they did not see the same when the safety kitchen knives were in use.

Question 6 - Part 1 Result

At your place of work, in the kitchen what do you mostly use the point of a kitchen knife for?

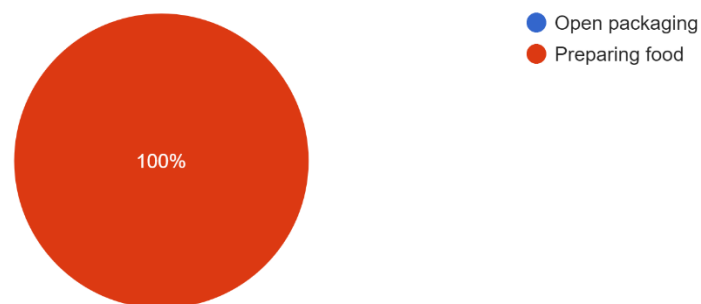
10 responses



Question 6 - Part 2 Result

Now that you have safety kitchen knives with no point, how have you used them?

10 responses



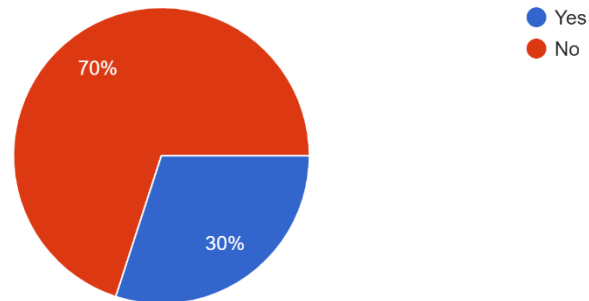
Question 6 findings

When in the work place 90% of staff only used the point of the standard kitchen knife to open packaging. When using the safety kitchen knives other items were used to enter food packaging.

Question 7 result

Were you aware that there are kitchen knives without points?

10 responses



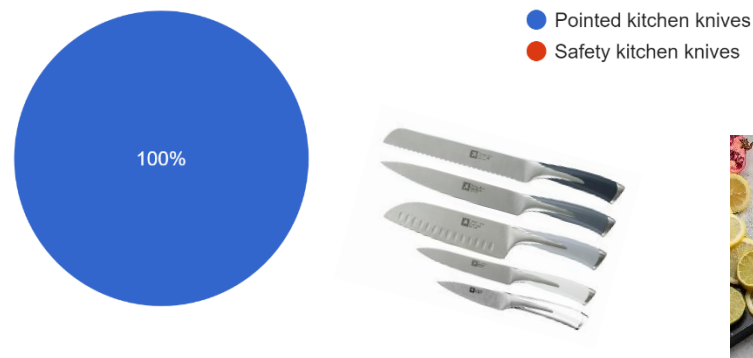
Question 7 findings

This shows that only 30% of the staff were aware of the safety kitchen knives.

Question 8 result

Which image makes you feel worried?

10 responses



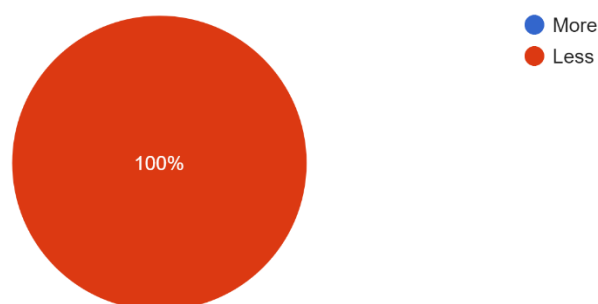
Question 8 findings

This shows that all of the staff asked were more worried about images shown to them of a standard kitchen knife and a knife with no point.

Question 9 Result

Do you think young people are more or less likely to carry a knife with no point?

10 responses



Question 9 Findings

All staff felt that young people would be less likely to carry a knife with no point.

Conclusion

To conclude, the introduction of the safety kitchen knives drastically reduced the worries from staff and young people at Limitless Homes and Support. It also enabled the young people to safely access kitchen knives, breaking down the barriers of the stigma around knives being weapons, due to knife crime. Young people now, have more independence around the use of knives; preparing food; enhancing their life skills.

This project also shows that the point of a kitchen knife is mostly used to open the packaging from the food, and not to prepare food.

By taking the point from the kitchen knives, we reduce the likelihood of them being used as a weapon. Also, young people do not see the knife as a weapon and state they will be less likely to take one to protect themselves.

We understand that for the most part, young people felt that others carry knives to protect themselves and social media fuels the current problems with knife crime.

Overall, this project was a huge success and the implementation of safety knives is an initiative that everyone can benefit from.

Staff can risk assess around having safer use of kitchen knives. Young people feel safer and more independent in their own home; they don't have to come and ask permission to use a knife, removing the stigma attached to knives as weapons.

We really need to ask ourselves *"what is the point?"*

We need to stop young people from looking at knives as weapons, instead, tools.

Moving forward

These initial findings are collated from a small sample of young people and staff. This project needs to be replicated on a larger scale to include more voices to capture a true image of the benefits of using safety kitchen knives.

A clear message needs to be agreed upon and set around the reality of carrying a knife for protection and the implications of showing knives and sending threats on social media.

This project is an icebreaking initiative and opens the doors to tackling knife crime in a preventative, safe, engaging and positive way.

We can all work together to coproduce a preventative approach within our homes and communities to create a safer place and further independence for our young people.