

fearless

Part of Crimestoppers



Be Fearless

A Guide for
Education & Youth Work Practitioners

Contents

About Fearless	What is Fearless?	03
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Reporting Service	Anonymity Promise	04
	Online Form	06
	Intelligence Journey	07
	Reports	08

Introduction

This resource has been created to equip professionals working with young people in Scotland with more information about our charity so that you can feel confident sharing our service with young people.

It can be used alongside our toolkit for education and youth work practitioners; a resource which provides activities to support positive dialogue around speaking up about crime and our lesson plan for secondary schools.

What is Fearless?

Fearless.org is the dedicated youth service from the independent charity Crimestoppers.

Developed through consultation with young people, Fearless aims to break down any barriers that might prevent young people from reporting crime. Whether this is a fear of the process or a distrust of the police, we want to empower young people to speak up. We do this by promoting our unique service that gives anyone the opportunity to speak up to stop crime, 100% anonymously.

Young people can pass information about crime to Fearless 100% anonymously via an online form on the Fearless.org website or by calling our 0800 555 111 phone line, 24/7, 365 days a year.

Young people told us:

“I’m not a grass but if I thought my mate was involved in something serious or someone was going to get hurt... I’d tell Fearless. It’s a good idea”

“Sometimes you want to say something but you can’t... this lets you...”

“I’ve never called 999 but I still know it exists – Fearless should be the same.”

Professionals told us:

“A really valuable addition to our young people’s life toolkit”

“I like that we can mention Fearless for all different crime types... there’s a continuity that the young people recognise”

“We would like to make Fearless part of the DNA of our school.”

Anonymity Promise

Anonymous means that your identity is completely unknown.

Our promise of anonymity is vital to us as it is what makes our charity unique.

We guarantee to young people, and indeed everyone, that:

- ◆ They can give us information about crime without giving their name or any personal details.
- ◆ They will not be asked for their gender or age.
- ◆ We will not record any personal details they might mention.
- ◆ We physically cannot trace their email or IP address as our system is designed to protect their identity.





How does it work?

Anonymous Online Form

On our website, young people will find a dedicated page where they can give information about crime 100% anonymously. On that page, their IP address is scrambled and untraceable.

In order to get as full an intelligence picture as possible, the young person completes a short form.

The form is divided into two main sections: 'THE INCIDENT' and 'THE PERSON(S) INVOLVED'. Each section has a title bar with a small blue icon.

THE INCIDENT

- * What is the crime or incident you would like to tell us about?
Please let us know what happened, and in as much detail as you can remember
- * Where did it happen?
Street, town or postcode
- * When did it happen?
dd/mm/yyyy

THE PERSON(S) INVOLVED

- * What is their name or nickname?
Full name (if known) or any nickname
- * What do they look like?
Facial details, hair colour, tattoos etc
- Do you know their address?
☐ Yes, I know their address
- Do they have access to weapons?
☐ Yes
- Do they use Facebook or any other social networking sites?
☐ Yes they do
- Do they attend a school/college?
☐ Yes they do

We don't ask for their name, address, phone number, school etc.

If these are provided, our specially trained contact centre team will permanently delete these details.

We're a UK wide service, so they should make sure to add the Town or City and not just the street name.

They should put as much information as they can because we can't ask them to come back to them for clarity or to ask for any more details.

When should you not contact Fearless?

In order to maintain our promise of anonymity, we are unable to take information from victims of the crime being reported. They should be encouraged to talk to a trusted adult, go to Police directly or contact Childline confidentially.

We cannot provide an emergency response so if someone is hurt or in immediate danger, ALWAYS dial 999.

What happens with the information we receive?

After we receive the anonymous online form, we create a report that brings together all the information given to us, making sure it doesn't contain any information that could identify the person who has contacted our charity.

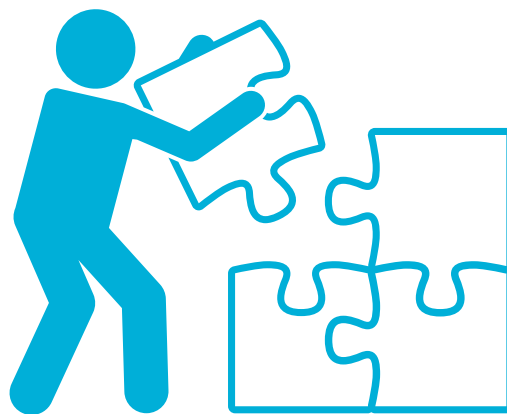
The report is sent to the relevant authority with the legal responsibility to investigate crimes, make arrests and charge people in order to bring them to justice. This could be Police Scotland or an agency such as HM Revenue & Customs.

When the report is given to law enforcement, they need to:

- **thoroughly research the information received in order to act on it**
- **make sure that information is accurate and not given with the intention of 'setting someone up'**
- **have other intelligence that supports the information received from us.**

The police cannot get a search warrant or make an arrest based solely on anonymous information.

Once the information has been researched, law enforcement will allocate this to an appropriate officer or team to deal with. This could mean more research, or action may be taken. It could be the missing piece of the puzzle in an ongoing investigation or a starting point but the information given to Fearless goes a long way to helping make communities safer.



Why is it so important?

Young people tell us that they often don't feel able to speak up about crime for fear of retribution or reprisal. They also worry that they will be labelled a 'grass' and suffer the stigma and social consequences.

Without our promise of anonymity, crime would go unreported.

Anonymised examples of information received from Scotland:



"Two young children are being abused and left alone for long periods of time."

"Young person carries a knife and regularly threatens people with it."



"Class A drugs are being sold from this address."



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Fearless.org

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