# Tragedy at Southport: knifeman attacks Taylor Swift-themed dance party, leaving one dead and multiple injured



### Tragedy at Southport: Knifeman Attacks Taylor Swift-Themed Dance Party, Leaving One Dead and Multiple Injured

In a harrowing incident that has shocked the community, a knifeman unleashed a frenzied attack during a Taylor Swift-themed dance party at The Hart Space in Southport, resulting in the death of one individual and multiple injuries. The horrifying event unfolded on Monday, July 29, just before midday, as children attending a primary school holiday club were plunged into chaos.

### Details of the Incident

Emergency services were called to Hart Street, Southport, following reports of a stabbing. The North West Ambulance Service confirmed that eight patients had been treated for stab injuries and sent to Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Aintree University Hospital, and Southport and Formby Hospital. In response to the surge of critical patients, Alder Hey Children’s Hospital declared a 'major incident'.

### Eyewitness Accounts

Eyewitness reports paint a grim picture of the scene. Colin Parry, owner of Masters Vehicle Body Repairs, described the scene as reminiscent of a "horror movie." He recounted how he confronted a 17-year-old male who arrived by taxi but did not pay his fare. Minutes later, the individual launched his attack on the unsuspecting children.

"I was confronted with the sight of children lying on the ground, bleeding profusely," Parry said, still visibly shaken by the ordeal. "It's something out of America, not like sunny Southport."

An 18-year-old local, Alaina Riley, described the panic as parents arrived to pick up their children. Her aunt, who witnessed the events, recounted "little kids running out screaming, covered in blood," and staff members frantically trying to help the injured.

### Emergency Services Response

A swift response from the police and paramedics helped contain the situation. Merseyside Police confirmed they had detained a male suspect and seized a knife. Authorities assured the public that there was no wider threat but urged residents to avoid the area.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer issued a statement condemning the "horrendous and deeply shocking" incident, while thanking the emergency services for their rapid response.

### Community Reaction

The local community has been deeply impacted by the tragedy. Witnesses reported seeing parents and emergency personnel tending to the injured children before they were rushed to hospital. Residents and local business owners have been left reeling from the incident.

Neighbour Michelle Birkby described hearing a young girl shouting, "Mum, I’ve been stabbed," and witnessing a frantic mother trying to get help for her injured daughter. Cheryl Grisedale, who lives nearby, noted the shock and exhaustion visible on the faces of paramedics and police officers at the scene.

### Arrest and Investigation

Later in the day, a 17-year-old boy was arrested in the nearby village of Banks, approximately five miles from the scene of the attack. Police cordoned off parts of Banks, where they believed the suspect had taken a taxi directly to The Hart Space.

As police continue their investigations, the focus remains on providing support for the victims and their families. This incident has left a lasting mark on the Southport community, who now face a long road to recovery.

### Conclusion

This distressing event has cast a sombre shadow over what was meant to be a joyful holiday gathering. As the community processes the trauma and unites in solidarity, authorities continue their investigation to ensure justice is served.