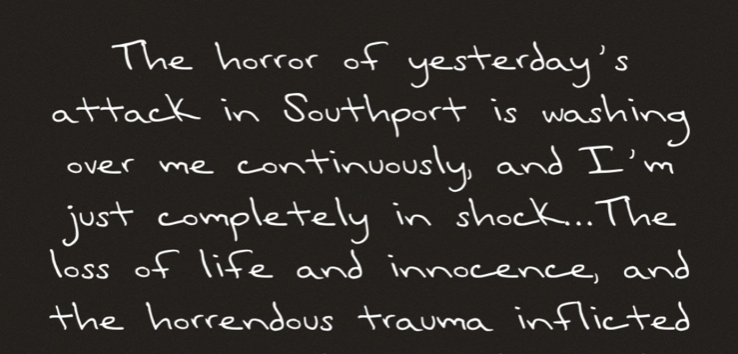
# Taylor Swift 'completely in shock' after fatal knife attack at Southport dance class



Taylor Swift has reacted in a story on her Instagram to the horrific knife attack at a children’s holiday club themed around her music in Southport resulting in the deaths of two children and leaving six other youngsters and two adults critically injured. A 17-year-old boy, whose identity remains confidential for legal reasons, has been detained on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

The tragic incident occurred at a fully-booked club offering a dance and yoga workshop as well as bracelet-making activities. Witnesses described the venue as quickly turning into a "scene from a horror movie" as the attacker infiltrated the premises. Emergency services were alerted at 11:50 a.m. on Hart Street, Southport, where they discovered multiple casualties.

The singer, currently on her Eras tour, stated: “The horror of yesterday’s attack in Southport is washing over me continuously, and I’m just completely in shock. The loss of life and innocence, and the horrendous trauma inflicted on everyone who was there, the families, and the first responders. These were just little kids at a dance class. I am at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families.”

Merseyside Police Chief Constable Serena Kennedy confirmed that officers arrived swiftly at the scene where they found numerous individuals, predominantly children, suffering from severe stab wounds. The attack is not believed to be terror-related and the motive of the assailant remains unclear.

Medical facilities such as Alder Hey Children’s Hospital declared a major incident and urged the public to avoid unnecessary visits to the emergency department to allow focus on the critically injured. The North West Ambulance Service dispatched multiple resources including 13 ambulances, air ambulances, and specialist response teams to assist the victims.

In addition to the official responses, grassroots community support has emerged with a JustGiving page, set up by the Taylor Swift UK & EU Facebook Group, raising over £37,000 for the victims and Alder Hey Children’s Hospital. The page aims to assist with funeral costs and support for the affected families.

King Charles and the Queen have also extended their heartfelt condolences, expressing profound shock at the incident, while the Prince and Princess of Wales echoed sentiments of deep sorrow and empathy for the affected families.