



Protect and Support Vulnerable Teenagers

Optimus Education

6th June 2019

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Catch22 Wolverhampton
Violence Reduction Team**

Introduction:

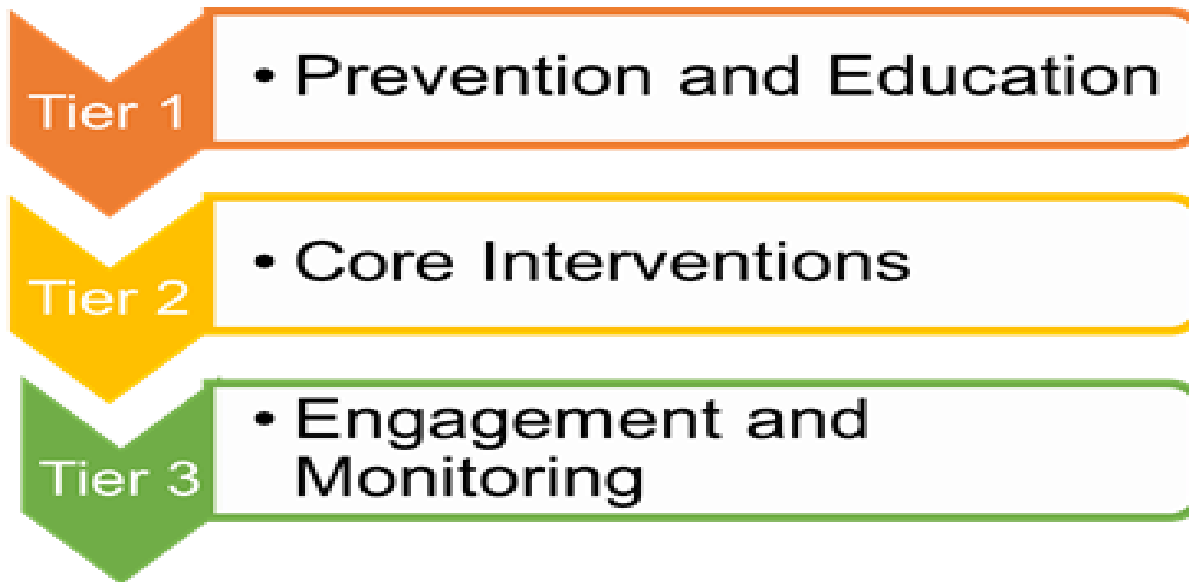
- Name
- Area of work
- One word you think of when you hear 'Gangs and youth violence'

How we do it in Wolverhampton:

- We believe targeting young people before they become affiliated is the best way to prevent future gang members and protect those vulnerable as a result of gang involvement.
- Giving them the right tools to make the correct choices will help steer them away from the Criminal Justice system and towards a positive future.

Wolverhampton Violence Reduction Team - 3 Tier Model

Our model was created from our research and in consultation with our young people to ensure we are able to respond effectively. Our model is made up of three distinct tiers:

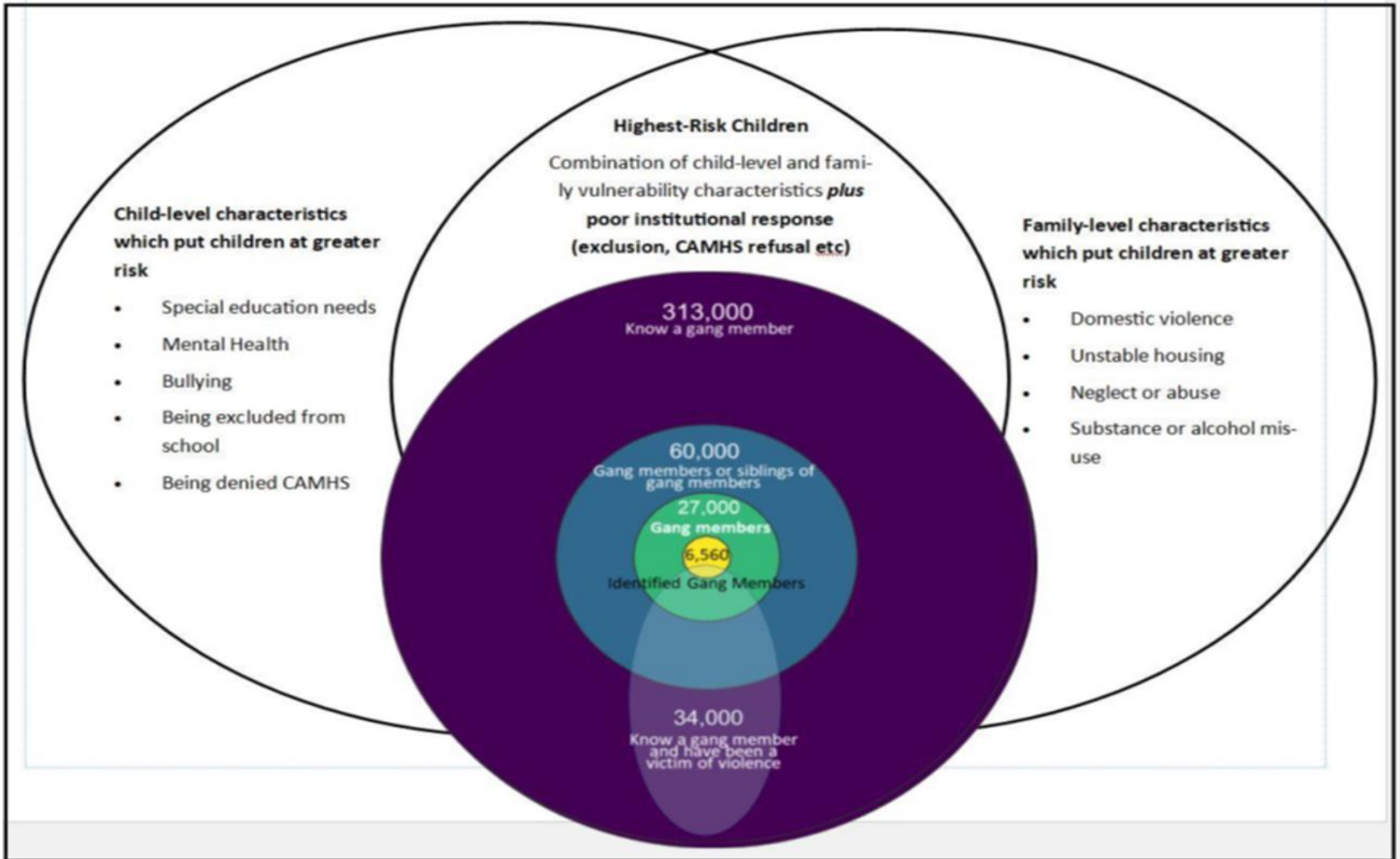


Food for thought.....

‘Last year, the inspectorates of the police, health, probation and children’s services made a joint call to agencies responsible working with children to “learn from the mistakes of child sexual exploitation” by “treating children as victims not perpetrators” and “not to underestimate the levels of criminal exploitation in their local areas”. This report shows that those calls have not been heeded.’

**“Keeping kids safe” – FEB. 2019, Anne Longfield,
Children’s Commissioner for England**

Estimations of children involved in gangs in England (“Keeping kids safe” - FEB. 2019)



Explained in more detail

- Estimates there are 27,000 children in England who identify as a gang member, only a fraction of whom are known to children's services.
- 313,000 children aged 10-17 know someone they would define as a street gang member. Within this group, the following groups are particularly vulnerable: 33,000 children who are the sibling of a gang member
- 34,000 children who have been the victims of a violent crime in the past 12 months and either are a gang member, or know a gang member

Workshop summary

1. Gang definition & Gang awareness
2. Hierarchy of Gang members
3. Warning signs of gang involvement
4. Knife Awareness
5. Social Media & Drill Music
6. Prevention and intervention

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Quiz



Gang Awareness

- Activity 1 – Gang definition

Gang definition

A relatively durable predominantly street-based group of young people who are also engaged in 1 or more of the following

- 1. see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group
- 2. Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence
- 3. Identify with or lay claim over territory (this is not necessary geographical territory but can include an illegal economy territory)
- 4. have some form of identifying structural feature
- 5. are in conflict with other, similar gangs

Wannabe Groups

- Include young people who band together in a unstructured group primarily to engage in activities and exciting, reckless, criminal activity including collective violence against other groups of youths.
- Wannabes will often claim gang territory and adopt gang style identifying markers of some kind.

Urban Street Gangs: USG's

- Are groups of young people and young adults who band together to form a semi structured organisation.
- The primary purpose of which is to engage in planned and profitable criminal behaviour or organised violence against rival street gangs.
- Peer groups get labelled as gangs'

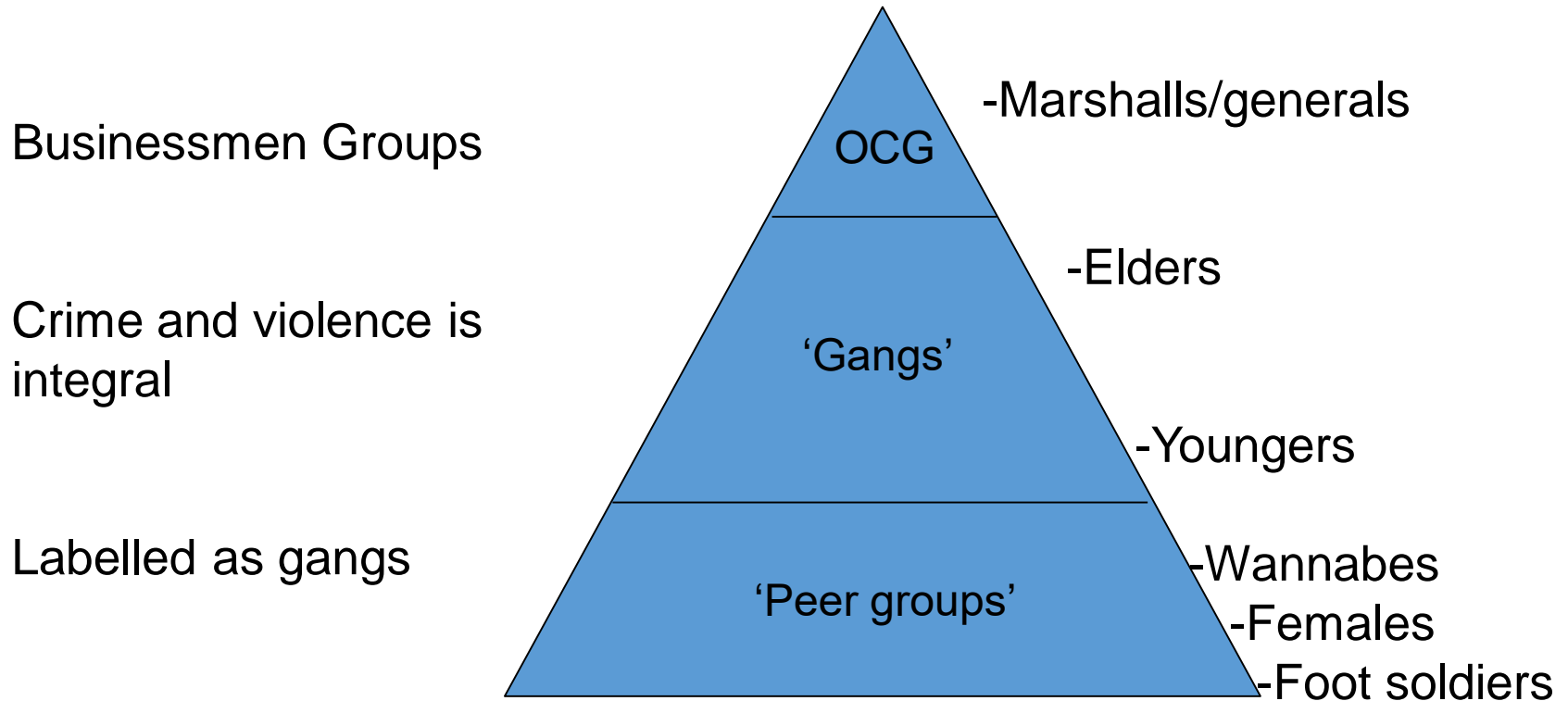
Organised Criminal Gangs : OCGs

- Are groups that exhibit a formal structure and a high degree of sophistication
- They are composed mainly of adults and engage in criminal activity primarily for economic reasons and almost invariably maintain a low profile
- Thus whilst they have a name they are rarely visible!
- Tend to work more quietly – not to bring too much attention to themselves Today's world the younger element of Young People are reckless and bringing attention to OCGs

Females - Gangs

- Groomed – coercion
- Criminality
- Holding weapons, drugs, money, alibis
- Honey Trap
- Lure other females
- Objectification
- Missing episodes

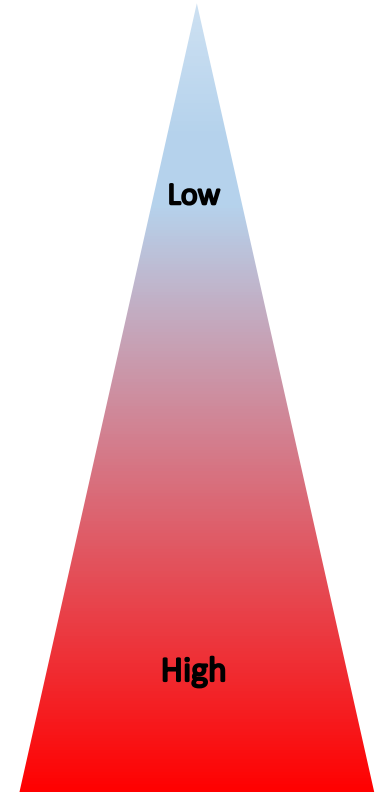
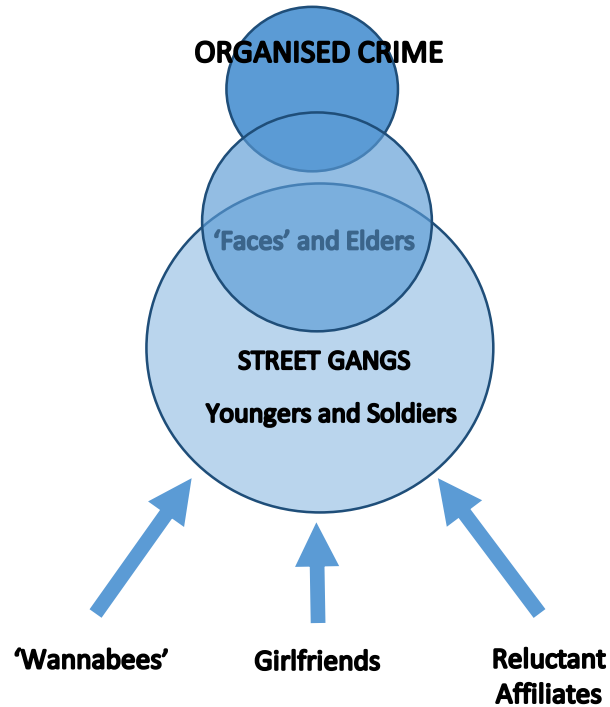
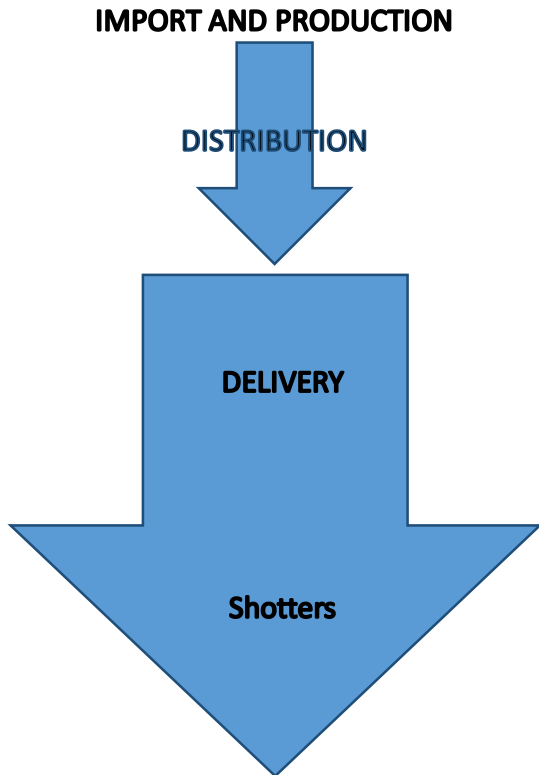
Hierarchy of Gang Members



Drug Activities

Gang Type/Structure

Street Violence



New forms of Violence?

In the West Midlands young people felt that guns and knives were the main use of weaponry, but that guns were conveyed frequently. However, a few had made comments on the use of knuckle dusters and swords in a confrontation.

One young person said:

“everyone has burners (guns) round ere, but don’t get it twisted, man will chop you up with a samurai or buss your head with a knuckle duster”

Sports role in tackling gangs & youth violence report ; Craig Pinkney 2018

Reasons for joining a gang:

Desire to belong

Peer pressure

Vulnerabilities

Profitable gains

Protection

Exclusions

School attainment

Dysfunctional family

Neglect

Poverty

Cultural Norms

Rights of passage

Gang Involvement – Activity 4

- Warning signs of gang involvement

Warning signs of gang involvement

Material based signs :

- Having money that can't be accounted for
- Returning home with new possessions & losing possessions
- Multiple phones (trap phone)
- Carrying weapons

School related signs:

- Disengagement from learning
- Violent incidents with other peers in school
- Truanting, exclusions and refusal to attend school

Attitudinal & behavioural signs:

- Not returning home until late at night
- Missing episodes
- Change in language, clothing and street names
- Substance misuse
- Obsession with specific forms of social media

Relationship based signs:

- Having friends or family members who are gang members
- Change of friendship groups
- Withdrawal from family life
- Dysfunctional families & intimidation



If you identify warning signs:

- Have discussions with your safeguarding team
- Refer to a local authority MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) – Civic centre (Completion of on-line Multi Agency Referral Form MARF).
- Have a discussion with Community Police Officers, they are often based in each of the areas across the town/city
- Refer individual to Catch22. (to request a referral form, email debra.thomas@catch-22.org.uk)
- If County Lines (drug lines) is a concern, complete a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to determine whether young person/child can be defined as a victim of modern slavery/ trafficking due to Child Criminal Exploitation.

Background - The Law

It is an offence under Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 for a person to have with him in any public place any offensive weapon without “lawful authority or reasonable excuse”. Section 1 (4) of the 1953 Act defines “offensive weapon” as “any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for use by him or by any other person.”

Under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 it is an offence for a person to have with him in a public place any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed except a folding pocket knife with a cutting edge of 3 inches or less, without good reason or lawful authority.

Under Section 139A of the criminal justice Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to have an offensive weapon or a bladed or pointed article on school premises without good reason or lawful authority.

The above offences are all “either way” offences, meaning that they can be tried /heard in either a Magistrates court or the Crown court depending on the seriousness of the offence.

Mandatory minimum custodial sentences apply if an offender is aged 16 or over.

Context-setting video

Knife Video/Case Study – Marks Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvC884FdpgM>

Knife Awareness

- Explain the “Ripple Effect”
- Consequences physically and lawfully

Ripple effect

A ripple effect is a situation in which, like ripples expanding across the water when an object is dropped into it, an effect from an initial state can be followed outwards incrementally.

As illustrated in Mark's story - when someone stabs another person, many others are affected by the consequences



Knife Awareness

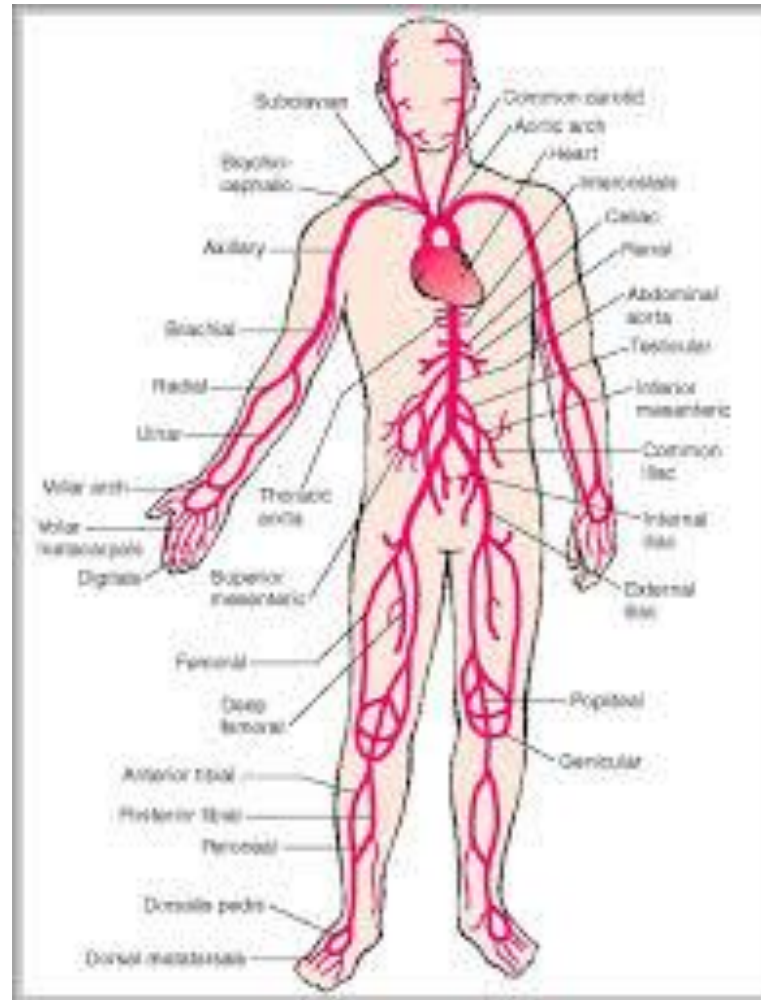
Gang-associated activities and serious violence have had a negative impact on a number of communities across the country, areas which, in recent years were not linked or profiled with such issues. In the past 18 months, there has been a growing number of serious gang-related violent incidents.

Whilst the debates continue, we take very seriously the need to critically explore how interventions could address some of the root causes of youth violence and gang associated activities. Over the years we have seen much research into some of the factors that may influence a young person to become involved in aging associated activities and violence

- Is there a safe place to stab someone?
- This was a genuine question from a young person. The perception is that stabbing someone in the backside could be a safe place to inflict an injury.
- There isn't a safe place to stab someone. A stab wound inflicted anywhere on the body could lead to a massive life threatening bleed.

Biology

- Is there a safe place to stab someone?



Reasons for Carrying a Weapon

- Fear of being attacked by other young people
- Protection
- Street credibility
- Sense of belonging
- Revenge
- To be fashionable
- Boredom
- Peer pressure or being bullied into it
- Drugs
- Poor conflict resolution skills
- Financial motivation
- Territory
- Lack of self-worth
- Lack of opportunity
- Social Exclusion
- To gain respect
- To prove a point
- To rob someone
- For the 'buzz'
- Poor decision-making skills
- To be part of a 'macho' culture

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Types of Weapons



Types of Weapons



Types of Weapons



Types of Weapons



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Types of Weapons



Consequences

- Custodial sentences
- Tags
- DBS
- Court orders
- Labelled
- Physical harm – death
- Mental health / Trauma
- Family at risk
- Gang Injunctions

Negative psychological outcomes

- Sleepless nights
- Sweating
- Loss of appetite
- Emotional
- Mood swings
- Loss of purpose
- Withdrawn
- Need for attention
- Anger
- Rage
- Constant need to be around people
- Overly sexualised behaviour

Social Media

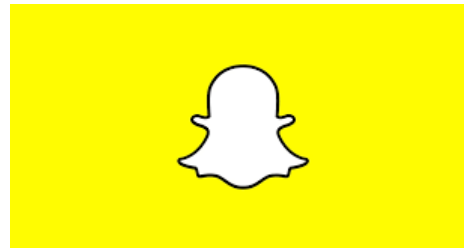
- Social Media Platforms
- Connection between Gangs and Social Media
- Live Social Media Applications November 2017 – always evolving and changing
- Some can't be traced – used in riots
- Recruitment
- Job Offers

- Social Media and video shares are enabling instant messaging about who has said what, who has committed what 'offence', who has engaged in what 'disrespect' and how to gather together for what punishment.

- So the difficult conversations with young people have to tackle how to interrupt cycles of revenge.

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The main social media platforms



Instagram





Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret



LinkedIn



WhatsApp



Vine
Tinder



Path



YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr



Introduction to Drill Music

- Reality and Consequences
- Violence
- Selection of Videos
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toupivpKpPM>

Drill music – Trap?

Interviewer: So what things happened after this music video was uploaded?

Mark: Shootings and stabbings.

Chris: People from other ends have got to retaliate.

Mark: People from [Estate A] came to [Estate B] and there was some serious problems.

Focus group: young people.

Sarah: Over the course of a week there were a number of different stabbings and shots fired as result of a couple of videos they put up against each other; as one video goes up and then a response video and so forth, it just raises the tension and makes things happen probably a lot quicker.

Group interview: police officer

0:07 / 4:42



Drill music videos

1. Vast majority reflecting violence in real life, however, significant minority act as much as a call to violence as a comment on it.
2. Violent intent is the exception rather than the norm; most young people attempting to use music as a way of escaping life on road.

▶ ⏩ 🔊 0:07 / 4:42



Joint Enterprise



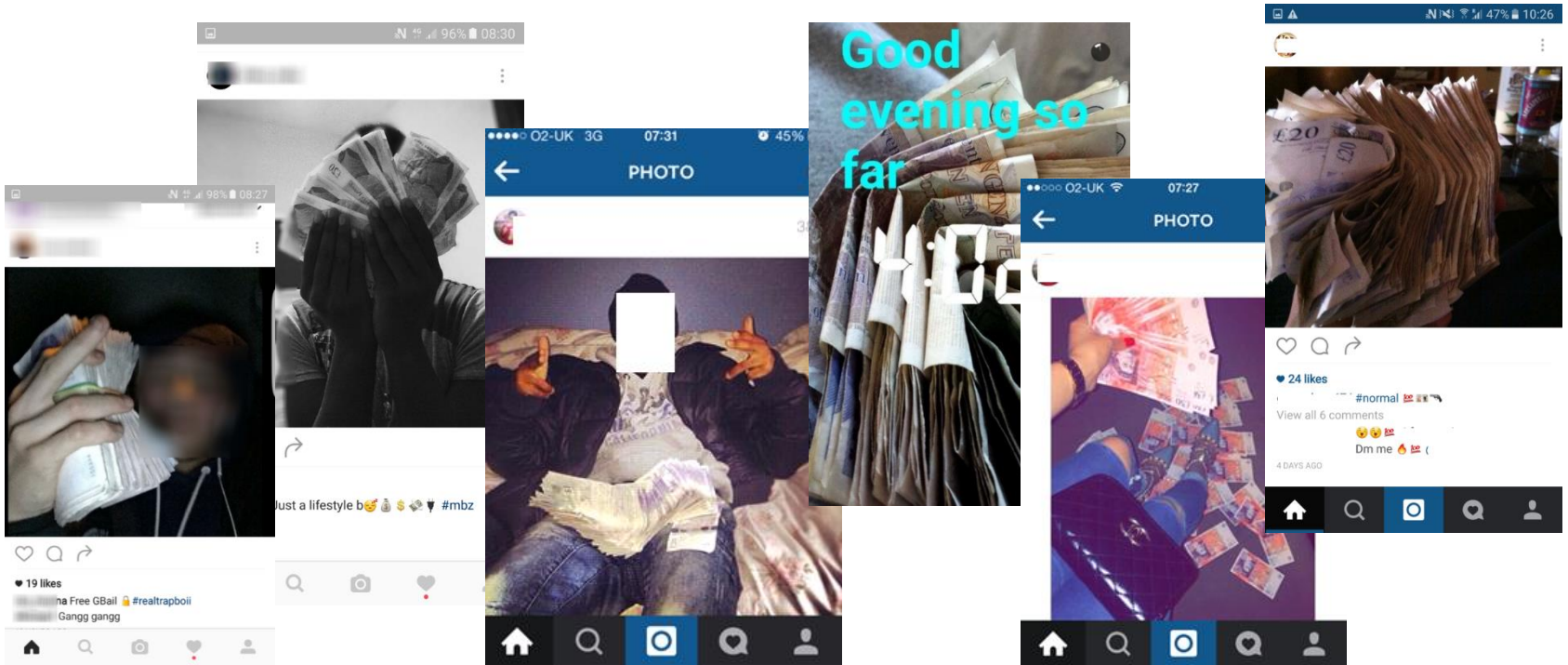
JOINT ENTERPRISE

The law states that a person can be charged in such circumstances if they encouraged, assisted or could have foreseen the crime — even if another person carried out the act.

So even if you are only present when a stabbing takes place, it could still mean you are equally responsible, even if you have not committed the stabbing yourself!



Negative implications of Social Media for education and employment



STOP AND THINK!



Prevention & Intervention

- What can you do?

Prevention & Intervention – What Can You Do?

What should be done?

- Is it just more police officers on the streets?
- Is it asking parents to be watchful of kids taking knives from the kitchen?
- Is it tightening prohibitions on stores selling knives, or embargoes on being able to get machetes on-line?
- Is it more youth clubs, sports and diversionary activities for disaffected and bored youth?
- Stop & Search

All of these are important, but there is no one strategy.

So is the call then for earlier, preventative work in schools?

What can schools do?

- Implement programmes aimed at gang and violence reduction
- Ensure that all staff have a good understanding of the causes, indicators and consequences of gang involvement
- Establish close working-relationships with families and wider stakeholders
- Keep pupils safe; appropriate security
- Robust information sharing

What can parents/carers do?

Spend time with young people; evening and weekend activities, - Know who your young people's peers are, - Empathy, - Engage positively with schools, - Set clear and appropriate boundaries, - Have a good understanding of the causes/warning signs/consequences of gang involvement

What can the police do?

- Provide court and custody awareness days
- Serve criminality notices to gang-involved young people
- Implement gang injunctions
- Visit schools
- Consultations with gang-involved young people
- Build a better relationships with young people in the community

What can voluntary, charity and social enterprises do?

- Safeguarding: Catch22 will operate a 'buddy system' with keyworkers having interventions with clients. This is followed by a working policy procedure for 'Lone Working'.
- Risk adverse: where Catch22 has a different relationship with clients as oppose to statutory agencies e.g. police , YOT etc.
- The safeguarding of our clients are paramount e.g. a yp contacted his keyworker to say that another pupil had said to him that he was going to get people to come and shoot him, so, we contacted the school to ensure that the information had been relayed to them, of which it had and they then contacted the police.
- Recreational activities including mentoring
- Deliver bespoke school programmes
- Multi Agency Interventions
- Social Services – partnership working with the 'Return Interview officer' when a young person goes missing and is picked up
- Specialist Services

Acid attacks and treatment

- Acid attacks are very rarely deadly, but victims may be left scarred, blinded, otherwise disabled and heavily traumatised
- The substance used is usually sulphuric acid (“vitriol”) or nitric acid. Less commonly, hydrochloric acid may be used, which is less damaging to victims
- Worldwide, some 80% of victims are women, according to Acid Survivors Trust International, with perpetrators often believed to be family members or men seeking revenge for sexual rejection
- In the UK, men are more likely to be victims than women, which is believed to be due to gang violence. Reportedly, gang members carry acid concealed in a drinks bottle, where police are more alert to conventional weapons such as knives or guns
- London is the UK’s centre of acid attacks – Metropolitan Police figure show over 1,800 assaults with a corrosive substance since 2010, with figures still [rising year on year](#) and 454 assaults reported in 2016
- If you are the victim of an attack, remove contaminated clothing, try to wash the acid off with copious amounts of water as quickly as possible and seek first aid. Neutralising the acid with an equivalent alkaline substance risks a chemical reaction that may give you thermal burns as well as acid burns.
- There has been over 1,800 assaults with a corrosive substance since 2010, Metropolitan Police figures show, with figures still rising year on year and 454 assaults reported in 2016.

Gang exit strategies

- Education
- Employability
- Mentoring – key working
- Training
- Advocacy
- New relationships – support network
- Referrals – support – drugs – safeguarding – sexual health - housing

Latest figures – April 2019

- The number of knife crime cases up by 20% over the last year ⁽¹⁾
- The number of children caught with knives at school has increased 5-fold in 6 years ⁽²⁾ (between 2012/18, 375 children have been caught with a bladed weapon at schools in the West Mids.)
- 48 people have been stabbed to death so far in 2019 ⁽¹⁾
- 1,182 people were either cautioned/convicted by WMP in 2018 for possession of a knife/offensive weapon ⁽¹⁾
- More than 100 pupils under 18 years of age were caught with a knife /similar weapon at a school in the West Mids. in 2017/18 ⁽²⁾ (23 were caught in 2012/13)
- 1 in 4 cautioned/convicted were children according to the data ⁽¹⁾
- The figures show 1 eight year old and 2 nine year olds were caught with blades in school grounds last year ⁽²⁾

and in the West Midlands⁽²⁾...

The data reveals that the highest number of reports of Black Country pupils carrying knives over the 6 year period (2012/18) came in

- 33 in Wolverhampton
- 32 in Sandwell
- 31 in Walsall and
- 15 in Dudley.

The ages of those stopped for having a knife on school grounds were

- 80- 14 year-olds
- 76- 15 year-olds
- 69- 13 year-olds and
- 60- 12 year-olds.

Offences committed by older teenagers caught with knives was smaller in comparison, with

- 28- 16 year-olds and
- 13- 17 year-olds.

There were also caught between 2012/18

- 2- 8 year-olds
- 5- 9 year-olds and
- 13- 10 year-olds.

References and Resources

- http://wolverhamptonscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_prot_ch_spec_ci rc.html#gang
- HM GOV Guidance
- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288804/Safeguarding_children_Gang_activity.pdf
- Catch22 Research
- <http://www.catch-22.org.uk/expertise/gangs/research-projects/>
- Dying To Belong
- <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/publications/dying-to-belong>
- Gangs & Sexual Exploitation Report
- <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/inquiry-child-sexual-exploitation-gangs-and-groups>
- No Knives Better Lives
- <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018>

Thank you for listening...takeaways..

What have you taken away from this session?

Q & A's

Find out more about Catch22 Wolverhampton Violence Reduction Team

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