



SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

What causes it?
How can we reduce it?
Lessons from research

INTRODUCTION

Every day there are reports about youth violence and knife crime – everyone is concerned about it! The ‘experts’ talk about why it happens and what needs to be done to fix it. It’s hard to understand what they mean or how it relates to you, your friends, or your ‘ends’. Meanwhile, you have to stay sharp, alert and figure out how to keep yourself safe.

This report is for young people and anyone who wants to understand what the ‘experts’ are talking about, where they get their information from, and what it means. It gives you the same information the Government and other authorities use when deciding what to do about the youth violence issue. We have rinsed out much of the jargon leaving the facts – what works, what doesn’t and what’s going on behind the scenes with the Council, Social Services and Police.

Whether you just read the six page summary, delve into the research in Part 2, or dig deeper through the links into the full research reports in Part 3, this information will help you take part in the conversation ensuring you can relate your lived experience in the context of the evidence.

We want to start a revolution. A movement that makes our streets, neighbourhoods, and schools safer for young people, but the only way this will happen is when young people, and those that care for them, have the confidence to join the debate, ask questions and speak their truth to power.

PART 1 SUMMARY

What are we trying to do?

This report defines serious youth violence as violence experienced by those aged 10 to 19, who have been subject to offences such as violent physical attacks, sexual offences, robbery, or gun or knife crime. Serious violence affects young people from across the country. Many people and organisations are looking for solutions. They want to act fast and they want results.

Sometimes, when politicians and other decision makers make changes, they look at what has worked before. We have gone over some of the current research and pulled out the main headline points.

We want you to know what the research says and see if you agree, so you can take part in the conversation.

What have we learned?

Research shows there are many factors that can make someone more likely to be involved in violence (as victim or perpetrator or both).

These include;

1. The parents we are born to and wider family we grow up in
2. The school we attend
3. The friends we make and how they influence us
4. What is happening in the neighbourhoods we live in
5. Wider society attitudes

When we looked at the research about what works, there were three areas we read a lot about that have been tried in the UK and USA and had positive impact. These are;

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

These interventions help parents learn new ways to communicate and nurture their children. They learn ways to interact positively and how to discipline in an appropriate way.

COMMUNITIES TAKING ACTION

Community interventions are about working with whole neighbourhoods to bring about change.

When communities design interventions, they do what works for them, for their environment, culture and other unique factors.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This is about how groups like the NHS, police, and social care work with each other. The best partnerships are when all the groups and the community work together to problem solve and plan how best to tackle issues.



What makes people likely to be involved in youth violence?

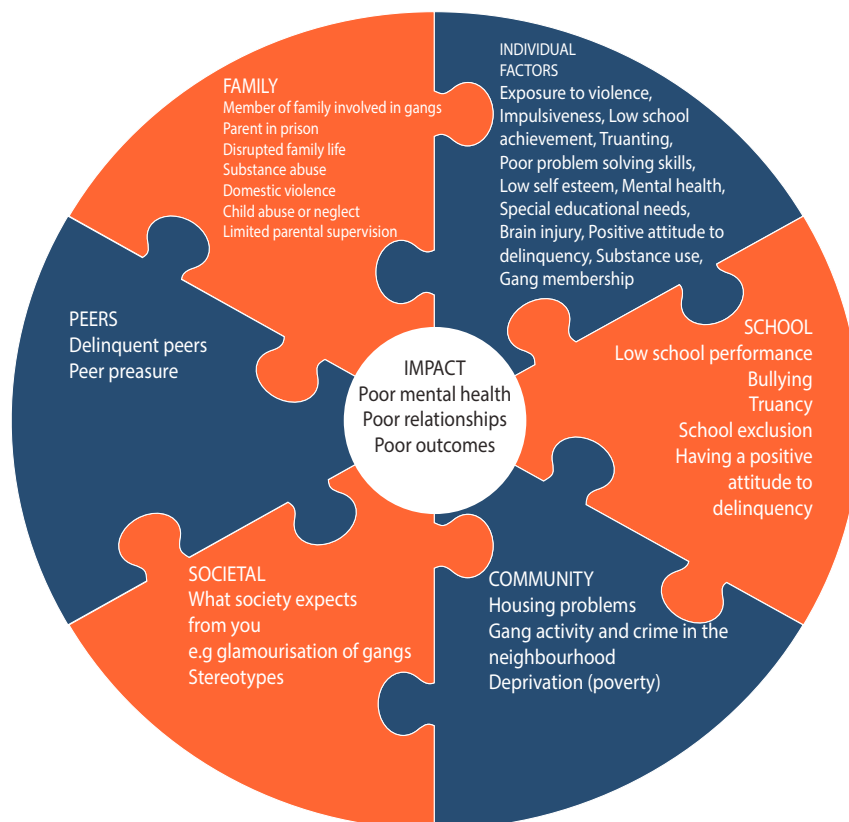
There is no simple answer about why some people become involved in violence. But there are ways we can tell if one person is more likely than someone else to become a victim or perpetrator or both.

This is often described as **risk factors**. This means the types of situations and circumstances that make it more likely for a young person to be either victim or perpetrator of violence. Research also identifies protective factors - the types of situations and circumstances that make it less likely. For example, a young person may have a risk factor of friends who are a bad influence, but they may come from a nurturing supportive home, which would be a protective factor. Each individual person will have their own set of risk and protective factors, unique to them.

Having a large number of risk factors can be an indicator someone is more likely to be either a victim or perpetrator, or both. It doesn't mean they definitely will, but these risk factors can help to identify people in need of support.

We can group the risk factors under the headings of Individual, Family, School, Community, Peers and Societal (to do with the society around us)

Risk factors





How can we reduce youth violence?

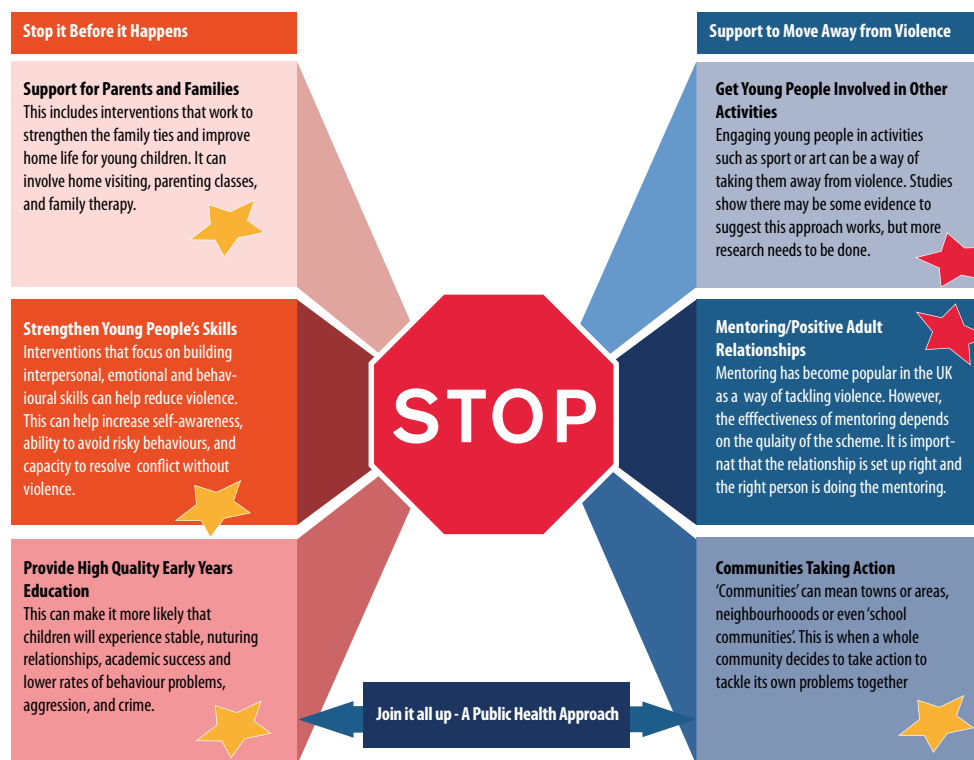
The causes of youth violence are complex and there are no easy solutions or quick ways to reduce it. One way of thinking about it is that there are three main ways to reduce violence:

Stop it before it happens Examples of this are giving support to families and very young children or helping people who are at high risk. This is often called Early Intervention.

Support people to move away from violence such as outreach, youth workers or providing alternative opportunities, such as after-school activities, counselling and training and employment.

Suppression, which is law enforcement and other ways that react to violence to protect the public.

Most interventions fit into one of these categories and research shows that a successful response needs all three to work. The figure below gives you an overview of some of the ways countries and cities have tried to reduce violence that have had an impact. We put a gold star next to the interventions that have strong evidence behind them, and a red star for those that are promising but need further research or that show limited impact*





OK, so what is a Public Health Approach? Can it work?

Glasgow used to be known as “**the murder capital of Europe**”. Determined to do something about it, the police looked at what had worked in other places and found something called a Group Violence Intervention approach. Cure Violence in Chicago and Operation Ceasefire in Boston are other examples. Drawing on ideas, the Scottish Police set up the Violence Reduction Unit. With the police and hospitals working together, they started to treat **violence as an illness** and set out to prevent it; between people in relationships, at home, in schools, the streets and anywhere it could occur. The unit targets people who are at highest risk of being a victim or perpetrator of violence, just as public health officials target those most at risk of disease. They call this the public health model.

Gender and ethnicity: Is it the same for everyone?

Girls and boys can experience violence in different ways. Males commit the majority of serious violence and there has been more research looking at how boys become involved in violence. But girls and women are involved too – as victims, relatives, partners, friends and as perpetrators.

With so much focus on knife crime, other forms of violent crime can become overshadowed and hidden. Sexual violence can have a huge impact on victims damaging physical and mental health, education and future prospects. Women and girls in relationships with or related to someone involved with violent crime can be subjected to sexual violence, either directly from their partners or from rival criminal groups who seek retaliation or favours. This can expose them to additional risks involving sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy. The fear and shame associated with sexual violence and exploitation can make it hard to report or tell someone what is happening and this also keeps the problem hidden.

Our research showed that although more is being done to help both victims and perpetrators of sexual violence, there is still a gap in research around preventing peer-on-peer sexual violence and supporting young people to have healthy (consensual) relationships.

The evidence on links between serious violence and ethnicity is limited but research has found that across England and Wales young people aged 15–24 who were non-white were on average 3.5 times (excluding London) and 5.8 times (including London) more likely to be fatally shot or stabbed than young people aged 15–24 who were white.



Key Facts: Where are we in 2019?

Youth violence is in the news every day but sometimes it is hard to tell how bad the problem actually is and whether it is being sensationalised.

On 7 May 2019, the BBC reported that there have been 100 fatal stabbings so far this year in 2019. These are not all involving young people. In fact, they range from the youngest (14-year old Jaden Moodie) to the oldest (80-year old Barbara Heywood). But almost half of the victims in 2019 have been under 30 and most (87%) were male.

Are things getting a lot worse?

According to Home Office data from 2018, there were 39,818 knife crime offences in 2018 (by people of all ages). This was a two-thirds increase from March 2014, when there were 23,945 offences, and is the highest number since we began measuring. Since 2014, knife offences have gone up every year.

Ministry of Justice data shows that in the year to September 2018, 21,381 people were cautioned, reprimanded or convicted for carrying a knife in England and Wales, most of whom were adults. One in five of these - 4,459 - was under the age of 18, the highest number for eight years.

However, although knife crime is on the increase, it should be seen in context. It's relatively unusual for a violent incident to involve a knife, and rarer still for someone to need hospital treatment.

Most violence is still caused by people hitting, kicking, shoving or slapping someone, sometimes during a fight and often when they're drunk.

Where does it happen? And to who?

Knife crime tends to be more prevalent in large cities, particularly in London. For every 100,000 people in the capital, there were 168 knife offences in 2017-18, with separate figures, from the mayor's office, showing that young black and minority ethnic teenage boys and men were disproportionately affected, as both victims and perpetrators.

Next highest was Yorkshire and the Humber, with 79 knife offences per 100,000 population, and the West Midlands, 72*.

Girlguiding's Girls' Attitudes Survey 2017 found 64% of girls aged 13-21 had experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment at school or college in the past year.

* These statistics do not include those from Greater Manchester Police because of data recording issues.



Conclusion – so what does this all mean?

For some years now there has been good evidence to show what works in reducing youth violence. This is a combination of acting to support families and young children in the first years of life, then acting so support those who for whatever reason are at risk of getting involved in violence by providing good quality support to them and their family. It is also about supporting communities to help themselves, and government and health agencies working together.

We have seen enough in other countries and cities to know that there are some things we can do that have a chance of working. Although it is not simple and other countries have different cultural factors and gun laws, violence is violence, irrespective of the weapons that are used.

The time for talking is done. Now it is time to take action and put into practice the things we know can work.

PART 2 THE RESEARCH

More detailed information Want to know more? Read on....

In the document you just read, we brought together ideas from over 20 different reports to bring you a summary of the research. We don't expect you to have time to read all these, but if you want to read more, we have summarised ten interesting reports on the next few pages.

We reviewed 46 reports and chose these because they are well researched and together give a good overview of the main contributing factors and solutions for addressing serious youth violence.

In Part 3 we have given you a list of all the reports we found so you can decide if you want to read any of them yourself.

We've also developed a key to help you decide which ones you might want to read.

Look out for these symbols next to our summaries:



What Works to Prevent Gang Involvement, Youth Violence and Crime

A Rapid Review of Interventions delivered in the UK and Abroad.
EIF/Home Office, 2015



What is it about?	This report aims to understand what works to stop young people getting involved in violence and how to help them if they do.
What is the idea?	When we know what activities and projects work in preventing youth violence, we can develop more of them.
What did they do?	They looked at reports and reviews of different activities to prevent youth violence. 67 programmes were studied. 54 were effective and 13 ineffective. All programmes originated in the USA, 33 are also being delivered in the UK.
What did they find?	The most effective programmes aim to bring about positive changes in the lives of young people and their families, and are coupled with counselling.
What worked?	The most effective programmes are skills-based programmes, where young people develop skills to control their behaviour such as; anger management or healthy lifestyle choices. Other programmes that worked were family-focussed where parents were able to develop positive parenting skills. The most successful included group-based counselling (22% reduction in reoffending) and family counselling (13% reduction in reoffending). Other programmes such as; mentoring, community engagement looked promising, but there is not enough evidence to show they work.
What didn't work?	Counselling is variable. The least effective counselling programmes were peer programmes in which a peer (another young person) took the lead. One-off sessions of less than an hour were also ineffective. Computer-based programmes and those that did not have much adult input were ineffective. Interventions that used scare tactics, like prison visits did not work and could make matters worse. There was actually a 2-8% increase in offending. Some people believe in order to progress, young people need to learn discipline. But studies show interventions like military style boot-camps, have no positive impact.
What we liked	The report pulls together information from a lot of studies and reviews and is very thorough. It's good that this report highlights what does not work and what is harmful.
We weren't sure	Because this report had to be put together in a short space of time, they were not able to assess how much impact these programmes and activities were having.
Youth Voice?	The report was about young people and their families. Other than being studied, they had no involvement in this report.

This is it, This is My Life: Female Voice in Violence

Race on the Agenda
2011



What is it about?	Race on the Agenda is a research organisation that focuses on issues impacting on Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. This report examines violence experienced by women and girls.
What is the idea?	When society recognises gang-related sexual violence and exploitation of women and girls, we will be able to create more services to help them.
What did they do?	They researched Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham to find out what services they had in place. Women and girls who had experienced gang violence were interviewed. Men and boys were also interviewed.
What did they find?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gang-related and serious youth violence affects women and girls as relatives, partners and friends and those involved in offending.2. Serious youth and gang-related violence against women and girls is a child protection and safeguarding issue.3. Girls experience gender-based violence and this is not adequately addressed in by current services.4. National and local responses are required to fully address the impact that gang-related and serious youth violence has on women and girls.5. Men and boys need support to understand the consequences of their attitudes and behaviours towards violence against women and girls.
What worked?	ROTA had not designed an evaluation tool so they couldn't officially identify 'best practice'. Two examples of 'promising practice' were; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lewisham Girls & Gangs Forum – where organisations get together to ensure they are focusing on how violence impacts on girls and women• Flixton Girls High School – 'Positive Futures' – the school designed a thoughtful way to respond to girls experiencing or at risk of violence
What didn't work?	At the moment, too often services are designed around men and boys.
What we liked	So much emphasis is placed on young men as perpetrators and victims it was good to find a study looking at it from the perspective of young women. Young women who experience violence are often overlooked and not in a position to report it, so can slip through the net. The report is also good at looking at differences between cities.
We weren't sure	It's not clear how many services there are available to women and girls experiencing gang and youth violence or how someone could assess them. We would like to know more and see it as a research gap to be filled.
Youth Voice?	The youth voice comes through this report really strongly. The quotes help to understand what life is like for girls and boys impacted by violence.

Violence Prevention, Health Promotion

A public health approach to tackling youth violence
2013



What is it about?	Every local area has a health and wellbeing board made up of people from the NHS, social services and others. The job of the board is to keep people healthy.
What is the idea?	A Public Health Approach: If the health services start treating violence as a disease that can be treated like any other illness, there will be more money available for projects, and services for young people. This could help prevent or stop violence.
What did they do?	They looked at health and wellbeing boards in 33 areas to find out how many are looking at youth violence as a priority. The 33 areas were measured to see how they were doing. You can read about your area if it is one of the 33 areas.
What did they find?	The research found evidence that boards are developing a public health approach to gangs and youth violence. 70% mentioned gang and youth violence and 55% included data about the issue.
What worked?	There were some examples of good practice where boards were using data to drive planning. It was too early to tell if it was working.
What didn't work?	The report shows that only 15% of the 33 health and wellbeing boards were prioritising gang violence.
What we liked	The report is a helpful review of progress being made to roll out a public health model to tackling youth violence. The report can be used to hold health and wellbeing boards to account.
We weren't sure	The report mentions youth and gang violence but health and wellbeing boards may be looking at violence in its broadest sense and it was not clear how they could be made to look at the topic of youth violence on its own. This report is now 6 years old.
Youth Voice?	There was no youth voice in this report, although there were references to other reports containing case studies.
Want to know more?	Your local authority will have a health and wellbeing board and they will publish a document called a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Sometimes they shorten this and call it by its initials; JSNA. This report will show what the health issues are in your specific area and what is being done to tackle them. The report will be available on your local authority website.

Safeguarding Children And Young People In Education From Knife Crime

Lessons from London
Ofsted, 2019



What is it about?	This report covers findings from a research project in schools in London. It looks at views of schools, parents and children.
What is the idea?	The idea was to find out what was happening in schools to see what worked and what they could do better.
What did they do?	They looked at what secondary schools, colleges and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in London are doing to keep children safe on school premises and in their community and how they respond when knives are found in school. They developed a survey and had a panel of experts. They received 107 responses to the survey and chose 29 schools to visit.
What did they find?	Young people generally feel safe inside school or college, they are most vulnerable coming and going. They make 5 recommendations that cover; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improving partnership working and strategic planning 2. the use of exclusions and managed moves 3. early help and intervention 4. teaching the curriculum and supporting children to achieve 5. working more effectively with parents
What worked?	The report doesn't highlight anything that would work everywhere. It points to individual schools have done something that seemed to work, for example; one school said they searched learners and found a range of illegal items. They have not found anything in subsequent searches, so feel their approach worked. But other schools did not like searching young people stating; 'we're at school, not in prison'.
What didn't work?	The report shows different areas are interpreting government guidelines in different ways, making the response unequal.
What we liked	The report captures different approaches to knife carrying. For example; some head teachers don't call the police when someone is found with a knife, choosing to explore the issue with the young person. Others have a policy of always calling the police.
We weren't sure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The causes of knife crime may differ across the country. • Schools volunteered to take part in the research. • They didn't look at the causes or solutions to knife crime. • The recommendations only cover what improvements could be made that would help schools to do what they are doing.
Youth Voice?	Young people were involved in this report. They ran 4 discussion groups to seek their views.
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The Ahmun and Wood Review

Ending gangs and youth violence
Lessons from 4 years of Peer Reviews 2016



What is it about?	This report is a response to the Home Office Report - The Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Report – the Refreshed Approach which looks at peer reviews conducted after the 2011 riots. The reviews tested how different areas of the country were working to end gang violence.
What is the idea?	This report strongly recommends that communities should be given more control over how to solve their own problems. It recommends a public health approach is taken to solving serious violence.
What did they do?	They spoke to people who work on the frontline to combat youth violence and people who experience violence. They engaged seriously with communities affected by violence.
What did they find?	<p>They stated that current strategies are not working because they have not understood the problem. From young people’s perspectives, there is no such thing as a ‘gang’. Talking about gangs shows they are out of touch. The issues for young people are more complicated.</p> <p>People in communities that experience violence feel left out of the problem-solving process and like things are being done to them, rather than them being part of the solution.</p> <p>Funding/money often goes to organisations who do not properly engage with communities in crisis, and there is a lack of community representation running organisations or advising the Government, so they cannot respond effectively to violence or its causes.</p>
What worked?	The report proposes that government engages with communities in a different way. It should recognise and support local leaders, it should build on what works at a local level instead of creating new initiatives run by outsiders, it should introduce a Public Health Approach. It also gives some interesting case studies from the UK and USA.
What didn’t work?	Outside agencies imposing solutions on communities. Stigmatising individuals and communities and seeing them as a problem.
What we liked	The report outlines the experience of people from BAME communities and how they are underrepresented in decision-making groups.
We weren’t sure	It is unclear how information was gathered or if surveys or studies were conducted. It is highly critical of the government approach which could indicate bias towards certain ideas and against others.
Youth Voice?	Young people were not included in the design as far as we can tell.
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The London Knife Crime Strategy

Mayor of London
June 2017



What is it about?	This is the Mayor of London's knife crime strategy and sets out how the Mayor, police and other groups plan to tackle the immediate threat to safety posed by knife crime in London.
What is the idea?	If there is a clear plan that everyone can read and participate in, then we will be working together, rather than different people and organisations doing different things and tripping over each other.
What did they do?	They surveyed hundreds of young people, professionals, and community partners. They were particularly keen to ensure the strategy was informed by the 'youth voice'.
What did they find?	Recent data suggests that the majority of knife crime is not gang-related. Gang-flagged crime accounted for 5% of all knife crime with injury during 2016 – down from almost 9% in the preceding year.
What worked?	<p>The strategy sets out the areas of focus;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeting Lawbreakers 2. Offering ways out of crime 3. Keeping deadly weapons off our streets 4. Protecting and educating young people 5. Standing with communities, neighbourhoods and families against knife crime 6. Supporting victims of knife crime <p>The strategy details all the things that are happening under each of the headings. It also gives examples of 'good practice' in each area.</p>
What didn't work?	This strategy does not cover what doesn't work
What we liked	The strategy examines knife crime and how it impacts on everyone, young people, women, nightlife and how it makes Londoners feel about their safety. There is a second that details how progress will be measured.
We weren't sure	Nothing, it was very clear and also volunteered information about how they would measure and monitor progress. It was very transparent. It would have been good if there had been something in the strategy for all Londoners, like 3 things every Londoner can do to help keep the city's youngsters safer.
Youth Voice?	The Mayor's office gathered information and data from the police and other groups. The Mayor met with young people, young offenders and spoke with different groups to gather their views and opinions on the topic.
Can it work?	There are lots of practical suggestions in here that can work
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Serious Violence Strategy

HM Government
2018



What is it about?	This document is a Government strategy looking at serious violence. It was aimed at councils and multi-agency partnership boards to get them to “up their game”.
What is the idea?	If the groups responsible for dealing with violence improve what they are doing, there will be better outcomes for everyone and a reduction in serious youth violence
What did they do?	<p>For this strategy, they looked at the following areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs 2. Early intervention and prevention 3. Supporting communities and partnerships 4. Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response <p>The strategy promotes a new balance between prevention and law enforcement.</p>
What did they find?	On youth violence, they found 11 early interventions that were effective in reducing violent behaviour. They found that knife crime had risen and speculated if this had anything to do with the reduction in police stop and search.
What worked?	Interventions focused on building character based skills, and non violent norms seem to be more effective than punishments.
What didn't work?	Scared Straight: which tested whether bringing young offenders to meet adult offenders in prison would put them off a life of crime. The research showed that participants were between 1.1 and 2.6 times more likely to commit a crime than similar peers who did not take part in such a programme.
What we liked	The strategy recognises that the problem of serious violence is not just a police matter and that it requires all agencies and the community to get thinking about what they can themselves do to help prevent violent crime happening in the first place and how they can support measures to get young people and young adults involved in positive activities
We weren't sure	Nothing. This strategy is packed with information
Youth Voice?	There is no youth voice in this report
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Social Media as a Catalyst and Trigger for Youth Violence

Catch 22 and University College Birmingham,
2017



What is it about?	This report explores links between young people's use of social media and serious youth violence.
What is the idea?	Social media is being used to incite violence. If we can understand what is behind this and how it happens, we can prevent it.
What did they do?	Over 6 months, they analysed social media accounts (56 Twitter accounts, 31 Snapchat accounts, 79 Instagram accounts and 23 Periscope accounts) and talked to young people about social media use. They also held focus groups with professionals.
What did they find?	Online activity that is provoking face-to-face violence comes in a variety of forms: music videos that taunt and provoke young people and groups, photos and videos of young people trespassing into areas associated with rival groups, photos and videos displaying acts of theft from young people, and photos and videos displaying real-life violence. When disrespected online, some young people feel they have to retaliate in order to defend their (perceived) status and reputation. 96% of 13–18-year-olds use social media platforms and nearly a quarter of teenagers aged 13–17 are 'almost constantly' checking their social media accounts. They recommend that all people working with and caring for young people should be given up-to-date training to keep pace with the evolving social media platforms. They should also use social media themselves, so they are competent and fully knowledgeable on how the different platforms work. The Home Office should provide comprehensive guidance on what constitutes appropriate and acceptable use of social media
What worked?	The report is addressing a new phenomenon and making recommendations that include gathering more evidence, so it is too early to say what works and what doesn't.
What didn't work?	It is too early to say if the recommendations work or not.
What we liked	It identifies several measures aimed at preventing young people harming, and being harmed by, other young people as a result of activity on social media.
We weren't sure	How the recommendations could be implemented on a national scale and who would be responsible for driving it?
Youth Voice?	Yes.
Can it work?	The recommendations in this report need to be tried.
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It Can Be Stopped

A proven blueprint to stop violence and tackle gang and related offending in London and beyond, Centre for Social Justice, 2018



What is it about?	This report looks at youth violence and proposes a new model that would focus on both law enforcement and community support by way of Group Violence Intervention (GVI).
What is the idea?	When we know what works to address youth violence, we can do more of it and keep more young people safe from harm.
What did they do?	They pulled together a panel of experts and reviewed available research. They looked at a range of issues including stop and search which they covered in length.
What did they find?	<p>They found that violent crime affected people from BAME communities more than others. Across England and Wales young people aged 15–24 who were non-white were on average 3.5 times (excluding London) and 5.8 times (including London) more likely to be fatally shot or stabbed than young people aged 15–24 who were white.</p> <p>Across England and Wales, non-white 15 to 24-year olds account for just 18 per cent of the population – but, excluding terrorist attacks and domestic abuse cases, they make up 44 per cent of homicide victims, 52 per cent of fatal stabbing victims, and 76 per cent of fatal shooting victims.</p> <p>Notably, they found that there has been a 80% reduction in stop and search. There are also disparities in some of the existing research, for example, the report states that the myth of racial disparity in stop and search must be challenged as pressure groups and activists are citing racial disparity ratios that are methodologically flawed and that the failure of most police forces, the College of Policing, and the Home Office to openly challenge or improve upon these flawed statistics has allowed this to go unchallenged and enter the mainstream consciousness.</p>
What worked?	The methods this report promotes have worked in the USA. Improved law enforcement alongside a new Safer Streets Group Violence Intervention (GVI) that worked in Boston (USA) Cincinnati, and Glasgow.
Can it work?	Yes, it worked in Scotland and the USA
What we liked	This report is brave and courageous. It attacks the difficult subjects head-on and does not hold its punches. It is packed with evidence and well-thought out solutions to youth violence. This is one of the most comprehensive reports we reviewed.
We weren't sure	Where this report has gone and if it is to be included in the YV Commission recommendations.
Youth Voice?	Yes.
Can it work?	Yes, and it should be given the opportunity to work in England
Want to know more?	<p>Your local authority will have a health and wellbeing board and they will publish a document called a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>Sometimes they shorten this and call it by its initials; JSNA. This report will show what the health issues are in your specific area and what is being done to tackle them.</p> <p>The report will be available on your local authority website.</p>

Youth Work Inquiry Final Report

All Party Parliamentary Group
2019



What is it about?	All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Youth Affairs is a group of Members of Parliament who look at issues around youth work.
What is the idea?	They wanted an understanding of the current situation in the UK
What did they do?	They heard from youth workers, representatives of youth organisations, youth centres, local councils and young people.
What did they find?	<p>There has been a reduction in services that anyone can go to. 95% of the Governments funding goes to the National Citizen Service, which is a programme open to teenagers aged 15-17. There is less Council funding available and gaps are picked up by voluntary groups and charities. These organisations can be staffed by volunteers, and there needs to be more professional youth workers leading the work.</p> <p>LONG TERM STRATEGY A number of people wanted a long-term strategy for youth services. There is a tendency to look to schools to meet young people’s needs but 85% of a young person’s waking hours are spent outside school.</p> <p>TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS The inquiry heard that for some young people, the relationship they build with a youth worker could be one of the very few trusted non-judgemental relationships they have with a responsible adult. Central funding was cut from £1.028bn in 2008/09 to £0.388bn in 2016/17 – a nominal reduction of 62.25%. Spend per head declined from £175 to £65, a 63% reduction, or £110 shortfall.</p>
What worked?	<p>This report makes a number of recommendations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There should be a minister responsible for young people. 2. There needs to be greater investment in youth work and services 3. The Government should make it clear what Local Areas need to do and what should be done by volunteers and professionals 4. There should be a way to check what is working and what isn’t
What didn’t work?	The report does not cover interventions and what works or doesn’t.
What we liked	The report was eye-opening. It explained the relationship between Councils and youth charities and explained how they are filling the gaps in services the Council is not able to provide due to cuts.
Youth Voice?	Young people presented to the inquiry
Can it work?	The report makes a good case for increasing funding for services.

PART 3 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Methodology: how did we do it?

There is so much research about what works and what doesn't work in reducing serious youth violence. We wanted to make the research accessible to young people.

As we did this, every day on the news there were more incidents and more opinions about what should be done. Our report focuses as much as possible on facts, and not on opinions.

We asked ourselves a set of questions about each research report:

- Is it relevant? Does it have something to say about youth violence in the UK in the past ten years?
- Is it a good piece of research? Is it designed well? Is it reliable?
- Were young people involved? Either in the design of the research or consulted at any point? We have called this Youth Voice.
- Is it useful? Does the research make recommendations that are practical and could work?
- Is it innovative? Does it tell us anything we didn't already know?

We gave each report a score, depending on how well it scored against this list and have only included findings from the ones that scored highly in this summary.

There is a list of all reports we used at the back of this document on page 22. Some reports we have used have been looking at new ways of solving serious violence, and some have been trying to understand how well what we are already doing is working. We have tried to find the research that has the most useful things to say that can help young people to understand what works in tackling serious violence, and what doesn't.

This is a very complicated and fast changing area of research so where we are unsure about something, we have said so and where we think more research needs to be done, we have said that too.

Because of the breadth of the topic, we have purposefully not looked at research around gangs and gang-related violence or drug-related violence such as county lines.

One other thing to remember is that just because something works in one place and time (e.g. in London in 2016) does not mean it will always work everywhere. Again, this is why at no point in this report will you see us suggesting we have the answers.

If you have any questions at all you can contact us at hello@mobilise.org or tweet us at [@mobilisepublic](https://twitter.com/mobilisepublic) – our inbox/DMs are always open.

APPENDIX B

A guide for adults using this report

When opening a discussion about any difficult subject, young people need to be intellectually and emotionally prepared for what's coming. It is important to keep in mind that some (if not all) the young people taking part in the workshop may have lost a family member or close friend to violence, or may have their own lived experience. They may have trauma associated with violence, so the topic needs to be covered with care.

For those young people who don't have direct experience of violence, the topic could evoke fear and anxiety.

Preparation and after care will be crucial to ensuring young people get closure on the topic or referred to appropriate services if the topic leads them to make a disclosure that requires safeguarding interventions.

KNOW YOURSELF

We are all products of our society and culture. Before facilitating a discussion about any sensitive topic, it is important that you consider your own biases or confusion surrounding the issue. How have you come to know what you know or think what you think? Do you have your own fixed ideas that might unconsciously influence the flow of discussion?

SELECT THE PARTICIPANTS

Don't present this or any other difficult topic to a group of young people without preparation. When arranging a workshop on youth violence, let young people know in advance what it is about and invite them to participate if they wish to. Respect their wishes and don't coerce or encourage people who are not enthusiastic about exploring the issues. They may have trauma or previous experiences they don't wish to disclose.

SET THE STAGE

Establish a supportive atmosphere with ground rules for discussions. In order for young people to express their opinions and participate in discussions about the sensitive subject of youth violence, they need to feel safe and not fear ridicule or retaliation for comments they make during the discussion. Explain in advance that it is going to be a difficult discussion and it's ok if anyone needs to take a break or some time out. Prepare the group for what they are about to discuss and work with them on setting the ground rules for the discussion.

BE PREPARED

Be prepared to deal with tense or emotional moments. When discussing sensitive issues or difficult topics, it is very possible that some students will get angry or upset. If this happens, remain calm and try to turn it into a learning experience. Make a commitment to follow up with any young person who has become emotional during the session and where appropriate, refer them for appropriate support.

DON'T START WITH A BLANK PAGE

As this evidence review shows, there is already strong evidence of what can work to reduce youth violence. Therefore, it is problematic to approach young people and ask them to think about solutions without giving them some of the evidence first. This report (especially Part One) should give you enough to be able to present them with the evidence so they can have an informed conversation, using this to reflect on their own experience.

APPENDIX C

Full list of research reports used in this report*

1. What works to prevent gang involvement, youth violence and crime: A rapid review of interventions delivered in the UK and abroad
<https://www.eif.org.uk/report/what-works-to-prevent-gang-involvement-youth-violence-and-crime-a-rapid-review-of-interventions-delivered-in-the-uk-and-abroad>
2. This is it, This is My Life: Female Voice in Violence Race on the Agenda 2011 by Carlene Firmin, MBE
https://www.rota.org.uk/sites/default/files/webfm/researchpublications/ROTA_FVV_FINALREPORT_2011_LR.pdf
3. Violence prevention, health promotion: A public health approach to tackling youth violence October 2013 by Catch 33 and mhp health
<https://cdn.catch-22.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Catch22-Dawes-Unit-Violence-prevention-health-promotion-October-2013.pdf>
4. Knife crime: safeguarding children and young people in education March 2019, No. 190005
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/785055/Knife_crime_safeguarding_children_and_young_people_110319.pdf
5. The Ahmun and Wood Review Ending gangs and youth violence Lessons from 4 years of Peer Reviews 2016
<http://yvcommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/final-egve-report-200716.pdf>
6. The London Knife Crime Strategy, Mayor of London June 2017
https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac_knife_crime_strategy_june_2017.pdf
7. Serious Violence Strategy, HM Government 2018
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf
8. Social Media as a Catalyst and Trigger for Youth Violence Catch 22 and University College Birmingham, 2017, by Keir Irwin-Rogers and Craig Pinkney
<https://cdn.catch-22.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Social-Media-as-a-Catalyst-and-Trigger-for-Youth-Violence.pdf>
9. It Can Be Stopped: A proven blueprint to stop violence and tackle gang and related offending in London and beyond 27th August 2018 by The Centre for Social Justice
<https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/core/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CSJJ6499-Gangs-Report-180911-FINAL-WEB.pdf>
10. Youth Work Inquiry Final Report All Party Parliamentary Group 2019
<https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/APPG-Youth-Work-Inquiry-Final-Report-April-2019-ONLINE.pdf>
11. London Serious Youth Violence Board – Final Report – March 2011 ISBN:978-1-85494-204-3
<http://yvcommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/London-Serious-Youth-Violence-Board-Final-Report-2011.pdf>
12. Product of a Postcode – Evaluation of the Fight for a Better Life Pilot – 2017 By Michael Abiodun Olatokun FRSA
<http://yvcommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Product-of-a-Postcode-Fight-for-a-Better-Life-2017.docx>
13. STUCK: Current approaches to the design and delivery of interventions to address gang-related violence in Birmingham A RESEARCH REPORT – August 2012 By Brap uk
<https://www.barrowcadbury.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/stuck-brapresearchreport1.pdf>
14. Reducing gang related crime – A systematic review of ‘comprehensive’ interventions EPPI-Centre report no. 1704 – August 2009
<https://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/Default.aspx?tabid=2444>
15. Social media, young people and mental health – Centre for Mental Health Briefing 53 – September 2018 By Ross Stephen and Rhys Edmonds
https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/CentreforMentalHealth_Briefing_53_Social_Media.pdf
16. Kensington & Chelsea Council – Safeguarding young people in and around carnival – London Councils
<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018%2010%20K%26C%20Safeguarding%20and%20Carnival.pdf>
17. MOPAC Report to the Police and Crime Committee – 4 October 2018
<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=240&MID=6508>
18. Crime Statistics for England and Wales – The nature of violent crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2018 Appendix tables
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/thenatureofviolentcrimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018>

*NB we read other reports, but these are the ones deemed sufficiently relevant and reliable for their findings to be included in this summary and that together provide a useful overview of the topic, given that we could not include all research.

19. Crime Statistics for England and Wales – Trends in CSEW victims of crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15 – preferred measure, from year ending March 2010 to year ending December 2018
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesappendixtables/yearendingmarch2018/appendixtablesyarendingmarch2018.xls>
20. Case Study: The Boston Gun Project and Operation Ceasefire
http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/71705/file-2141494158-pdf/DOCUMENTS/CaseStudy_TheBostonGunProjectAndOperationCeasefire_2005.pdf?t=1431722966085
21. The Young Review – Improving outcomes for young black and/or Muslim men in the Criminal Justice System – Final report By Author: Jess Mullen, Clinks
https://www.equalcjs.org.uk/sites/default/files/clinks_young-review_report_dec2014.pdf
22. Does Communities that Care work? An evaluation of a community-based risk prevention programme in three neighbourhoods – Iain Crow, Alan France, Sue Hacking and Mary Hart – 2004
<https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/dspace-jspui/bitstream/2134/2506/1/1859351840.pdf>
23. The evaluation of three ‘Communities that Care’ demonstration projects – Joseph Rowntree Foundation November 2004
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/evaluation-three-communities-care-demonstration-projects>
24. 7 COMPREHENSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE INTERVENTIONS.’ Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. 1998. Violence in Families: Assessing Prevention and Treatment Programs. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press
<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/5285/violence-in-families-assessing-prevention-and-treatment-programs>
25. Office of National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2018 Crime against households and adults, also including data on crime experienced by children, and crimes against businesses and society
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/crimeinenglandandwalesyearendingmarch2018>
26. Lewisham Council – A partnership approach to addressing violence and vulnerability – Concerns around violence, drug dealing and criminal exploitation – London Councils
<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/crime-and-public-protection/borough-crime-case-studies/lewisham-violence-and>
27. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – Universal community-based social development interventions for preventing community violence by young people 12 to 18 years of age (Protocol) Gavine A, MacGillivray S, Williams DJ – 2014
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD011258/epdf/full>
28. Harrow – Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Delivery Plan – 2018 – 2020
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s150970/Community%20Safety%20VVE%20Strategy%20Annual%20Refresh%202018%20Latest%20Draft.pdf>
29. Item 4d, Appendix A Serious Violence Affecting Young People in London Progressing a Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention and Reduction – GLA Health Team, GLA Strategic Crime Team, and MOPAC
<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngovmb/documents/s62526/Item%204d%20Appendix%201%20-Serious%20Violence%20Affecting%20Young%20People%20in%20London.pdf>
30. London Borough of Camden – YOUTH SAFETY TASKFORCE REPORT – 2018
<http://news.camden.gov.uk/download/590879/camdenyouthsafetytaskforcereport-september2018.pdf>
31. Gangs, Youth Violence and Crime – Project Oracle synthesis study 03/13 October 2013 – Dr Simon McMahon
https://project-oracle.com/uploads/files/Project_Oracle_Synthesis_Study_03-2013_Gangs_and_youth_violence_HQ.pdf
32. Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board – Young People at Risk Strategy – 2017-19
<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/34150>
33. The Mayor of London – A Safer City for All Londoners – Police and Crime Plan – 2017 – 2021 Greater London Authority 2017
https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac_police_and_crime_plan_2017-2021.pdf
34. Public Views of Policing in England and Wales 2016/17 Research report for Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) FINAL VERSION – 2017
<https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2017-12/public-perceptions-of-policing-in-england-and-wales-2017.pdf>
35. Social Media and Mental Health in Schools – Jonathan Glazzard and Colin Mitchell – 2018 ISBN : 9781912508167
<https://www.criticalpublishing.com/social-media-and-mental-health-in-schools>

36. Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges – Advice for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads – Department for Education
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719902/Sexual_violence_and_sexual_harassment_between_children_in_schools_and_colleges.pdf
37. Child Abuse & Neglect 29 (2005) 1233–1248 – Sexual violence and youth in South Africa: The need for community-based prevention interventions
https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/norms.pdf
38. Social – GlobalWebIndex’s flagship report on the latest trends in social media – 2019
<https://www.globalwebindex.com/reports/social>
39. #StatusOfMind – Social media and young people’s mental health and wellbeing – Royal Society for Public Health
<https://www.rsph.org.uk/uploads/assets/uploaded/62be270a-a55f-4719-ad668c2ec7a74c2a.pdf>
40. SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS: A PRACTICE GUIDE – Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board
<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/34107>
41. INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework Ending Violence Against Children: How to define and measure change. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) July 2018 ISBN: 978-92-806-4975-8
<https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/UNICEF-INSPIRE-Book.pdf>
42. Community Intervention to Prevent Violence – Translation into Public Health Practice – Ned Calonge MD MPH. 2005 American Journal of Preventive Medicine
<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/sites/default/files/publications/viol-AJPM-c-community-interventions-into-ph-practice.pdf>
43. Waltham Forest Citizens Commission on the Civil Society Response to Youth Violence – COMMISSION REPORT MARCH 2019
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/newcitizens/pages/3301/attachments/original/1557393603/Final_Report_-_Newham_Citizens_Civil_Society_Youth_Commission.pdf?1557393603
44. From Postcodes to Profit – How gangs have changed in Waltham Forest – May 2018 Andrew Whittaker, Len Cheston, Taja Tyrell, Martyn Higgins, Claire Felix-Baptiste and Tirion Havard
https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf/file/0018/128205/postcodes-to-profit-dr-andrew-whittaker.pdf
45. Youth Justice Statistics – 2017/18 England and Wales – January 2019
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/774866/youth_justice_statistics_bulletin_2017_2018.pdf
46. Office of National Statistics – Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, by police force area, English regions and Wales, percentage change for year ending December 2018 compared with selected periods from year ending March 2011
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdecember2018>



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Acknowledgements

The Consortium members are:



UK YOUTH – @UKYOUTH

UK Youth is a leading national charity committed to ensuring all young people are empowered to build bright futures, regardless of their background or circumstances. They sit at the heart of a national network of 3,536 youth organisations and support 1.5 million young people. Together with their network, they offer support, advice and training to equip young people with the vital life skills needed to engage in education, volunteering and employment.



MOBILISE PUBLIC LTD – @MOBILISEPUBLIC

Mobilise is a social purpose business and since 2006 we have provided services to local authorities, housing associations and third sector organisations. Our social purpose is to change the relationship between citizens and the public services that serve them, in order to encourage more active and engaged communities. We specialise in engagement, empowerment and co-production to work with communities and agencies at the local level. We have a strong track record of supporting innovation, working with organisations to deliver change, and supporting them to undertake evaluation and review.



MY LIFE MY SAY – @MYLIFEMYSAY

My Life My Say is a youth-led, non-partisan charity on a mission to empower young people to participate in democracy, by creating spaces for dialogue across communities and generations, and by providing young and socially excluded citizens with the tools to lead change within society. Their Democracy Cafe events have been recognised by many high-profile institutions as a unique and innovative methodology for consulting youth views. They offer consultancy services to Governments, corporates, and third-sector organisations to help them be more inclusive in their products and services, and last year they were awarded the UK Government's National Democracy Change Maker Award."



DARTINGTON SERVICE DESIGN LAB – @DARTINGTONSDL

Dartington Service Lab reimagine the way services and public systems are designed and delivered in order to improve the lives of children, families and communities. They do this by taking a scientific approach coupled with an inclusive process that involves the people who use and deliver services. The research unit has operated in many different formulations over its 50-year history: starting life in Kings College, Cambridge then moving to Dartington in the late 60s, with offices subsequently established in London, Glasgow, Madison and San Sebastien. They work with those that are willing, in partnership with them, to try new things in order to improve the outcomes of children, families and communities.



CENTRE FOR YOUTH IMPACT – @YOUTHIMPACTUK

The Centre for Youth Impact is committed to working collaboratively to progress thinking and practice in impact measurement in youth work and provision for young people. Their vision is for all young people to have access to high quality programmes and services that improve their life chances. They aim to work in collaboration with others to test, learn and build momentum behind the impact agenda, across organisations working with young people.



BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL – @BYCLIVE

The British Youth Council work across the UK and world to empower young people through their programmes, training and awards. This includes their flagship programmes like the UK Youth Parliament, Youth Select Committee and UK Young Ambassadors; and recognising the work of young people through the Youth on Board Awards. They empower young people aged 25 and under to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. They support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.

COUNCILLOR HAMZA TAOUZZALE – @HAMZA_TAOUZZALE

Councillor, Queen's Park Ward and Shadow Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Digital. Hamza was elected to the Council in May 2018 and is the youngest Councillor ever to sit on Westminster City Council. Previously Hamza was a Member of Youth Parliament when he represented the young people of Westminster. Hamza has always been an active member of the community and has a strong desire in fighting for what's best for the community. He is also currently studying Politics at Goldsmiths University.

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