

# Year 9 PCSHE Topic 1 – Peer Influence and Gangs

<p><b>Key Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gangs:</b>a group of people that are committing illegal acts together.</li> <li>• <b>Coercion:</b>the act of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.</li> <li>• <b>Identity:</b> being who or what a person is.</li> <li>• <b>Peer Influence:</b> when you choose to do something that you wouldn't usually do because you want to feel accepted and valued by your friends.</li> <li>• <b>Drug dealing:</b> an individual or group who sells illegal drugs.</li> <li>• <b>Criminal responsibility:</b> the age at which a child may be arrested, prosecuted, tried in a court of law.</li> <li>• <b>Manipulation:</b> to influence or control someone to your advantage.:</li> <li>• <b>Support Network:</b> the people in your life that you can trust and can help you to achieve your goals.</li> <li>• <b>Exit Strategies:</b> a way to escape</li> <li>• <b>Bullying:</b> Doing something that harms another person (physically, emotionally etc.):</li> <li>• <b>Career prospects:</b> The chance of future success in a job.</li> <li>• <b>Stop and Search:</b> a law that gives a police officer the power to stop and search an individual if they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect someone could be carrying: illegal drugs, a weapon, stolen property, something that could be used to commit a crime.</li> <li>• <b>Joint Enterprise:</b> a if a persons' presence, actions or knowledge lead to a murder or assault then they can be charged even if they didn't directly do anything.</li> </ul>	<p>KPI 1: What is a gang?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A gang is usually considered to be a group of people who spend time in public places that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See themselves (and are seen by others) as a noticeable group</li> <li>• Engage in criminal activity and violence</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The specific crimes and behaviours relevant to each individual gang will vary, however it is important to be aware of common trends in gang. Common features of gang membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being engaged in criminal activity and violence, usually starting with petty crime and developing to selling drugs, stealing phones or stabbings.</li> <li>• Laying claims over specific territory, often a postcode or estate</li> <li>• Wearing an identifying feature, often an item of clothing worn in a particular way e.g., turned up trouser leg, bandana, a specific colour</li> <li>• Usually in constant conflict with other gangs and unable to enter another gang's territory</li> <li>• Gang activity is rapidly moving online; encrypted messaging services are used to organise criminal activity and communicate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gang membership is decreasing in age, with children as young as 11 recruited into gang life</li> <li>• Young gang members (usually aged between 12-17) are often used to transport drugs through a network to sell in less well-policed areas, this is known as maintaining or crossing 'county lines.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KPI 2:</b> Signs of someone being in a gang:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wearing gang symbols/clothes or tattoos</li> <li>• Risk taking behaviours</li> <li>• Mixing with well known gang members</li> <li>• Members have a lot of money/expensive clothing without a clear source of income.</li> <li>• Using nicknames</li> </ul> <p><b>KPI 3:</b> Reasons why people join gangs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of belonging and/or identity</li> <li>• Protection</li> <li>• Enjoying risk taking</li> <li>• To get respect</li> <li>• Looking for a glamorous lifestyle</li> <li>• Expectation to join from friends</li> </ul> <p><b>KPI 4:</b> Laws around knife crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession of a knife has a 5-year prison sentence, even if it is not used.</li> <li>• You can be arrested, charged and sent to prison if someone you are with stabs another person.</li> <li>• The police can stop and search someone if they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect they are carrying illegal drugs, a weapon, stolen property, something which could be used to commit a crime.</li> <li>• It is illegal to sell knives to anyone under 18.</li> <li>• You can be charged with a crime if you are over the age of 10.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KPI5:</b> Consequences of being in a gang:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being subject to threats, blackmail and violence</li> <li>• Being exploited and forced to commit crimes</li> <li>• Being arrested, including for crimes committed by the gang that they have not directly committed under the law of joint enterprise.</li> <li>• Not being able to leave or cut off ties with the gang</li> <li>• Having their safety or the safety of friends and family threatened.</li> <li>• Risk of physical harm, rape and sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Risk of emotional abuse.</li> <li>• Risk of severe injury or being killed.</li> <li>• Abusing drugs, alcohol and other substances.</li> <li>• Long-term impact on education and employment options.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you need further support...</b></p> <p><b>Home/School Support:</b> Friends, family members, teacher, tutor, Mr Ogden, Mrs Jones, Mrs Loveridge, Mrs Aston, Mr Hayward.</p> <p><b>Reputable Organisations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Better Medway: <a href="http://www.abettermedway.co.uk">www.abettermedway.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Medway Youth Service (Local advice and support): 01634 33228, <a href="mailto:youth.enquiries@medway.gov.uk">youth.enquiries@medway.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Childline (Free confidential and emotional support for young people): 0800 1111 <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Crimestoppers (Anonymous crime reporting service, independent of the police): 0800 555111 <a href="https://crimestoppers-uk.org/">https://crimestoppers-uk.org/</a></li> <li>• Fearless Site (providing non-judgmental information and advice about crime and criminality): <a href="https://www.fearless.org/en/give-info">https://www.fearless.org/en/give-info</a></li> <li>• Victim Support (A charity working to support people who have been the victim of crime) 0808 16 89 111, <a href="http://www.victimsupport.org.uk">www.victimsupport.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Runaway helpline (A confidential support service for young people in conflict at home): Call or Text 116 000 <a href="http://www.runawayhelpline.org.uk/advice/gangs">www.runawayhelpline.org.uk/advice/gangs</a></li> <li>• Young Minds (A charity offering support for the emotional health and wellbeing of young people) <a href="http://www.youngminds.org.uk">www.youngminds.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
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