

IN4M: Information in 4 Minutes

March 2018

What is a gang?

A gang is a group of people with shared interests, or common identity. A gang doesn't have to be involved in criminal activity, although when we hear the word 'gang' that's what we tend to think. Most young people are not involved in gangs. However, a small number of young people join gangs for many reasons:

***Money *Peer Pressure * Protection *
*Power Respect & status *
* Sense of belonging * Substitute family ***

And it's not just For boys: girls can also be involved, they can be part of gangs themselves or can be used to store weapons, drugs, money or targeted by other gang members in retaliation attacks. Female family members of male gang members can be at risk just through association.

What is knife crime?

Knife crime is any crime that involves a knife – regardless of whether the knife is used to injure someone.

A person can be found guilty of knife crime if they:

- Threaten someone with a knife.
- Use a knife whilst committing another crime.
- Stab or slash someone and cause a physical injury.
- Just carrying a knife could mean up to 4 years imprisonment.

It is illegal to carry a knife in the UK, and you can be arrested, go to court, get a criminal record and/or face a prison sentence if the police search you and find a knife.

What can you do

...if you, or someone you know is involved in a gang?

Although you may be worried, there are plenty of services to help you.

Hugh Baird College have a Student Services Team, based in Balliol Pod, who will listen to any concerns that you may have. The team can also advise you on other agencies who can support you outside college, if this is what you would prefer.

Call in to the Pod at Balliol reception and ask to speak to someone, in confidence.

Useful contacts

G.A.N.G.S: <http://getaway-n-getsafe.co.uk/>

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000.

www.nspcc.org.uk/gangs

ChildLine: 0800 1111.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/>

Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support>

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/>

Knife Crime Information:

www.gov.uk/find-out-if-i-can-buy-or-carry-a-knife

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knives-offensive-weapons/