



YOUNG PEOPLE AND GANGS
INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY OUT

If you or someone you know is involved in gang activity, call the non-emergency number **101** and ask to speak to the **Multi-Agency Gang Unit in Birmingham.**

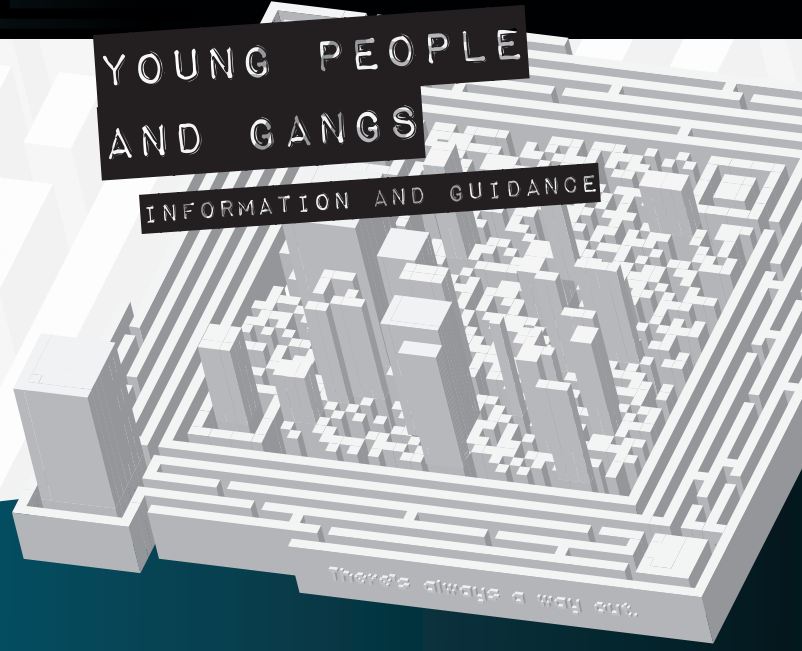
This experienced and dedicated team of social workers, police, probation and Youth Offending Service officers, will assist you in any way they can including the provision of support schemes and access to further education, employment or training.



For more information, simply scan the maze with your mobile device.

If you would like to speak to someone regarding the issues raised in this leaflet, call **101** and ask to speak to the **Multi-Agency Gang Unit in Birmingham.**

If you require this leaflet in another format please contact Birmingham Community Safety Partnership on 0121 464 8344.



BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER CITY
www.birminghamcsp.org.uk

Gang violence is a problem which affects and can sometimes devastate the lives of gang members.

An important area of activity for the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership is tackling gang related violence and its impact on the community.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE JOIN STREET GANGS?

We understand that young people face all sorts of pressures and it may be that you are feeling pressured to follow friends who may be in a gang.

THE FANTASY

Images of gangs on TV, in movies and the media tend to glorify drugs, sex and violence as an acceptable lifestyle. They don't always show the truth about gangs and the destruction that they can cause to those in gangs, our families, friends and the communities we live in.

THE REALITY

Being in a gang puts you more at risk of offending, using or dealing drugs, ending up in prison or worse – **being a victim of violence and possibly an early death.** The 'respect' you feel you are given is only an illusion.

GANGS AND THE LAW

Although there are no laws banning gangs or gang membership, there are laws to prevent the criminal activity of gangs including:

- In court, if an offender is part of a gang, it could lead to a **longer sentence.**
- Drugs like cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy are illegal to have, or carry.
- It is illegal to carry or keep a gun without a licence, including fake or replica guns.
- Police and school staff can search young people for weapons at school.

The law is also very strict on knife possession. It is illegal to carry a knife in public without a reasonable explanation. In the eyes of the law, a reasonable explanation does **not** include:

- carrying a knife for someone else;
- carrying a knife for protection; or
- carrying a knife with no intention of using it.

Carrying a gun or a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and ending up with a criminal record that will affect the rest of your life. Having a criminal record can prevent you from getting a job, going to university or college, or even travelling abroad.

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