

What can YOU do to support your child?

Talking and listening – encourage the young person to talk to you, tell them about your concerns and about gang culture so they can see the risks themselves, ask them questions and listen to how they talk and what they say, be prepared to learn, encourage them not to associate with gang members or 'wannabes', encourage them not to identify with gangs or pledge allegiance to a specific gang, encourage them not to hang out where gangs hang out, nor to accept lifts from gang members in cars, nor attend social events arranged by gangs, nor tag any gang graffiti, nor use gang hand signals

Monitoring attendance – monitor non-attendance and share with parents and carers, check-in with them regularly, encourage them to make contact

Setting rules and boundaries – impose and monitor curfews, increase reporting and appointments, consider limiting or monitoring access to social media, educate the young person about gangs, and the risks and consequences including carrying weapons or drugs, show interest in their friends and social activities, respect their privacy and feelings but be fair and consistent

Getting savvy – listen to their music and be aware of the lyrics, use the internet to research, view YouTube video clips that are educational to both parents and young people in respect of gangs, search the meaning of new slang words, be aware of high profile gang activity and murders in the press as this may be spoken about or you may recognise names or they may tell you a friend has died or gone to prison

Gang Structure

There are different roles and levels of authority within gangs.

These roles include:

- **Teenies** – generally those under the age of 10 – below the age of criminal responsibility – who are used to carry drugs and weapons, or move parcels between older members
- **Runners, Shotters** – generally aged between 12 and 15-ish, those who move drugs between older members, sell drugs in the streets, arrange street deals, stay in 'trap' houses where drugs are sold or made
- **Youngers** – generally aged under 18, they have some level of authority over teenies and shotters, are street dealers of class A or B drugs, can set up trap houses, recruit teenies, runners and shotters, report directly to elders
- **Links, Baby Mama, Bae, Wifey** – girls used by members as girlfriends, used for sex, exploited, they will carry or hide weapons, drugs and money for members of any age
- **Elders** – generally aged over 18, they are in charge of running street operations and trap houses, deal in larger amounts of class A and B drugs, facilitate purchase of firearms and other weapons, have authority over street dealers and youngers, respected
- **Faces, Olders** – those at the top or higher end of the chain, limited contact with street level operations, not often seen or known by street level members
- **Street names** – Street names are generally used and often, other members will not know each other's real names. This creates a reputation – a '**rep**' – as names can be chosen because they represent a threat or talent, but they are also used so gang members can't be identified.

We Help Each Other Learn
We keep each other safe



Ramsden Hall Academy Support for parents GANGS



Tel: 01277 624580



'County lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs.

Dealers use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as **'deal lines'**, to take orders from drug users. Heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine are the most common drugs being supplied and ordered. In most instances, the users or customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

Young people will rarely say that they are running a **"county line"** or "country line". They are more likely to say they are **"running a Line"**, **"going cunch"** or **"Going O.T."**, which stands for **'over there'**, **'out there'** or **'outta town'**.

'Cuckooing' is a term that is used to mean taking over the property of a vulnerable person or an abandoned building – sometimes referred to as a **'bando'** or a **'spot'**. The property is used as a place from which to run the dealers' drugs business.



Useful contacts

Neighbourhood Police – to find details of your local team and find out more about the work they are doing in your area, search your postcode at www.police.uk.

Crimestoppers – a free, confidential service

Freephone: **0800 555 111**

Web: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Family Lives – gives advice on all aspects of the parenting role and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Freephone: **0808 800 2222**

Web: www.familylives.org.uk

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) – runs a wide range of services for both children and adults, including a national helpline and local projects. Their helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Freephone: **0808 800 5000**.

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

Victim Support – a national charity supporting people affected by crime.

Web: www.victimsupport.org

Missing People – if your child goes missing People can help you find them.

Freephone: **116 000**

Text: **116 000** (you can even text this number if you have run out of credit)

Web: missingpeople.org.uk

St Giles Trust SOS

Call: **020 7708 8000**

Web: stgilestrust.org

What attracts young People to join gangs

- for protection from others – gangs, groups or peers
- for safety in numbers
- to be accepted
- to feel part of a family
- for a sense of identity
- for respect
- because siblings or other family members are affiliates
- for status amongst peers and others
- because gangs are common in the area
- because it's easier to get girls, sex
- due to fear of intimidation or threats from others
- due to peer pressure
- due to a lack of family or emotional support
- due to cultural identity
- because they have no positive role models
- because they're bored
- because they think it's attractive and cool for financial gain and other rewards

Ramsden Hall School

Heath Road,

Billericay ,

Essex

CM11 1HN

01277 624580

Email: [ad-](mailto:ad-min@ramsdenhall.org.uk)

min@ramsdenhall.org.uk

