



GAV Curriculum



2021 / 2022

Growing Against Violence
Authored by: Stuart Trayler





Growing Against Violence

www.growingagainstviolence.org.uk

@GAVEducation

Registered Charity No: 1163738

Patron: The Lord Brian Paddick

Growing Against Violence, GAV, provides evidence-based public health and public safety education and training for children and young people in schools. The charity grew out of a 2008 partnership with London's Metropolitan Police Service and has since been delivered to over 215,000 students in more than 998 schools, making it the largest programme of its kind in the United Kingdom.

GAV follows the World Health Organisation's 'public health approach to tackling violence',¹ using data to identify risk and protective factors for violence and to deliver evidence-based violence prevention programming. GAV views violence as a disease that is preventable rather than inevitable and examines the aetiology (causes) of violence using a listening and investigative approach that is demonstrated to tease out issues specific to local communities.

GAV provides dynamic life skills and violence resistance education and training to support safe and enabling school environments. GAV delivers primarily to 9 to 15 year-old students, who are at the 'reachable moment' before secondary interventions are required. Universal delivery to all students in a given year group helps to develop 'herd' resistance and the positive peer pressure needed to reject violence and the negative norms and values associated with it.

This primary prevention initiative has four key goals: (i) to reduce the appeal of violence amongst young people (ii) to improve confidence of young people in police (iii) to provide a safe space for young people to disclose violent victimisation and (iv) to be the information hub on violence (for schools, young people, professionals, parents and communities). Results of a randomized controlled trial confirm GAV is successful in its aims.²

GAV sessions have been prepared to support current PHSE curriculum and recommended principles from OFSTED regarding safeguarding students. The award-winning curriculum critically examines such topics as street gangs, knife crime, cyber-bullying and social media, sexual violence and child exploitation, and police powers to stop and search.

¹ http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/

² Densley, J., Adler, J., Zhu, L., & Lambine, M. (2017). Growing Against Gangs and Violence (GAGV): Findings from a process and outcome evaluation. *Psychology of Violence*, 7(2), 242–252.

GAV's Core Principles

Protection. Safeguarding is paramount because highly sensitive disclosures are common in our work. GAV works hand-in-hand with boroughs and local authorities and Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) to assess individual risks and needs, identify referral pathways, signpost support, and identify emerging trends. GAV also improves teachers' awareness of warning signs of abuse and exploitation and confidence in responding appropriately. Likewise, young people are given strategies that facilitate positive peer support.

Prevention. GAV provides the tools for young people to make healthy and informed decisions. GAV intervenes early. It is cost effective and by reducing future demand, eases the financial burden in times of austerity. It facilitates the identification of young people at risk and encourages early intervention by others.

Partnership. GAV has won the trust and confidence of schools and communities by putting young people first. It has built a huge delivery footprint in schools and Pupil Referral Units (P.R.U.s) and is explicit in its aim to improve police-community relations. Thanks to a broad-reaching Memorandum of Understanding with Middlesex University, the program is also subject to on-going peer review.

Supporters of GAV

GAV has established bespoke delivery models in 16 London Boroughs, plus Countywide delivery models in both Surrey, Kent, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Northants.

GAV funders include Local Authorities, Police Crime Commissioners, Comic Relief, Woodward Charitable Trust, Thrale Almshouses, and the Home Office.

The Board and Senior Management of GAV are diverse and multi-disciplinary, with personal and professional expertise in violence prevention. This unique partnership brings together senior professionals from health; law, policing, academia, accounting, I.T., and the private sector to provide effective governance and support the Charity thrive and expand.

In 2017, three of the co-founders of GAV were awarded 'Points of Lights' awards by the Prime Minister for their contributions to volunteering.

The Curriculum

GAV currently delivers an integrated and coordinated programme that follows young people from school year six to school year ten. Content is universally delivered to entire school year groups, thus providing a consistent continuum of engagement. All sessions run 90-100 minutes, as follows:

So Social Media (Year 5/6)

This lesson explores how digital technology has changed the way people communicate and the relationship young people have with social media and why phones/tablets are so integral to young people's lives. The session considers the students use of social media in a more in depth way, using critical thinking and consideration in their online decision-making. Students examine the dangers of communicating with people who pretend to be someone else online and how young people can remain safe online. Online privacy is challenging, over sharing information about yourself with the wrong people can lead to issues. We highlight the concept of exposing others online and how offline activity that could be coercive or even criminal can be linked to the threat of being exposed. Sensitive issues relating to social media, grooming, cyber bullying, gaming and inappropriate images are examined and young people are made aware of the law surrounding these issues and are empowered to report abuse if they encounter it.

**Please note a short video clip taken from the Breck Bednar documentary, can be played/discussed highlighting how an innocent young man was groomed* (if this isn't used we have an alternative animation highlighting the risks of information sharing)*

Friends vs. Friendly (Year 6)

This interactive workshop teaches refusal skills and builds awareness of negative peer pressure. Emphasis is placed on the differences between being "friends" and being "friendly". We look at how certain "friends", especially those in negative peer groups like gangs, are nothing of the sort and will only attract trouble.

We demonstrate how older peers groom and coerce young people. Our aim is to help young people read the signs of gang membership, recognise how gangs recruit, and understand the manipulative and coercive nature of gangs and gang members. This dynamic session highlights what gangs are about and how they exploit young people and put them and their families at risk. We examine why gangs are not conventional friendship groups and challenge the "no snitching culture" empowering students to reject this. We address students' anxiety about moving up to secondary school, and provide practical advice about staying safe, avoiding bullying and resources for seeking help if needed.

Gangs: Myths & Realities (Year 7)

Building upon the foundation set in Friends vs. Friendly, students explore in detail the difference between gangs and friendship groups. Our intent is to reduce gang activity by providing young people with the information they need to make informed decisions about gang association.

Students critically examine why people join gangs and the criminal activity that gangs partake in. This session aims to deglamourize gangs by providing young people with the essential reality check in relation to how gangs operate. We demonstrate why gangs do not offer respect, money, excitement or a sense of belonging akin to a family. We look at the criminal component of gangs (including the sale and distribution of drugs/County Lines) demonstrating the consequences of selling drugs on the gang's behalf, associating with gang members and believing popular myths about gangs.

Weapons: Choices & Consequences (Year 7)

Developed in partnership with the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland

Young people explore through this workshop how gang membership increases the odds of becoming a perpetrator or victim of knife crime and why street weapons intended to protect are liable to endanger. The message is simple: carrying a knife offers neither protection nor respect.

Through real life case studies, we explore why young people carry weapons/illegal items. Students examine how violence is advertised through drill music videos on social media platforms and the impact Joint Enterprise and define what constitutes a weapon. The session explores the legal, physical and psychological consequences of knife crime at the individual, family, and community level bringing the experiences and messages of Surgeons, Police, victims' families and offenders' using specially commissioned film material.

So Social Media (Year 8/9)

This workshop explores how digital technology has changed the way people communicate and the relationship young people have with social media and why Smart phones/tablets are so integral to young people's lives. We examine peer-on-peer bullying and the communicative role of smart phones and social media in grooming children and facilitating child sexual exploitation (CSE).

The aim is to promote safe use of social media and the pursuit of healthy peer relationships. The session considers the students use of social media in a more in-depth way, using critical thinking and consideration in their online decision-making.

Students examine the dangers of communicating with people who pretend to be someone else online and how young people can remain safe online. Online privacy is challenging, over sharing information about yourself with the wrong people can lead to issues. We highlight the concept of exposing others online and how offline activity that could be coercive or even criminal can be linked to the threat of being exposed. Risks surrounding the tracking of movements and remote controlling and sensitive issues relating to social media, grooming, cyber bullying, gaming, sexting and inappropriate images are examined and young people are made aware of the law surrounding these issues and are empowered to report abuse if they encounter it.

****Please note a video clip taken from the Breck Bednar documentary, is played/discussed highlighting how an innocent young man was groomed, influenced by an adult with fatal consequences*.***

Stop & Search (Year 8/9)

Developed in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Territorial Support Group

This session explores police stop and search powers and features specially commissioned visual material. The intention is to improve the confidence of young people in police generally and in the effective use of stop and search as a tool to keep them safe specifically. Students will understand how and why stop and search is often conducted with limited or contradictory information. Through role-play, discussion, and a real-time emergency response "tabletop" exercise, they explore procedural justice, profiling and intelligence-led stops, their rights and responsibilities in a stop and search scenario, and the consequences of young people and Police negatively stereotyping each other.

It's Not Just Girls, Gangs & Consequences (Year 10)

Developed in partnership with Victim Support Services and Metropolitan Police Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command (SOECA)

This workshop separates boys and girls to discuss sensitive and emotive issues regarding sexual violence and child exploitation. We challenge victim blaming, “rape myths”, and the normalisation of sexual violence and CSE within gangs. Students analyse a case study of gang associated sexual violence and its implications. Realistic consent scenarios illustrate risky situations in which boys and girls may find themselves and demonstrate what is required for true consent. Participants review the investigative (crime) and disciplinary (school) processes for sexual violence cases and the consequences for those who rape.

This session makes it clear that both boys and girls can be victims of CSE and sexual violence; particularly those who associate with gangs, as rape is used by them as a weapon of choice. We ensure that students understand that rape is used to control both girls and boys but also provide reassurance that there is help and support available for rape victims. Whilst the focus is on peer-on-peer abuse, we also cover adult-to-child CSE; encouraging young people to recognise and report it – particularly in the environments in which adults do not regularly frequent (on social media, in parks or at parties).

Knife Crime (FE/College Students)

This 90-minute workshop examines the facts around knife crime, the problems that create knife crime, gang involvement in knife crime, county lines and the impact that serious youth violence can have on mental health. Discussions will raise awareness about the causation and effects of the growing knife crime epidemic and how they can take positive steps to avoid the circumstances, which contribute towards knife violence and know where to seek help if needed. Students explore why people stab people, fear, money, digital collateral, protection, criminal exploitation through gangs and the sale of drugs.

This session makes it clear that a wide range of people are affected by knife crime and devastates the lives of young people. Knife crime also hurts people who are not always immediately considered. Police Officers, School Teachers/Lecturers and Health Care Professionals are often exposed to high levels of trauma as a result of knife crime. Students should also consider the roles of social, print and digital media in occurrences of serious youth violence. Students will hear a real-life testimony of a gang member speaking candidly about the perils of the lifestyle and the horror of being stabbed.

Parent & Family Session

This 90-minute session seeks to educate and inform parents about gangs and the GAV programme. Parents are given an overview of the academic curriculum and receive an academic and police perspective on gangs and serious youth violence, including the “push” and “pull” factors that account for gang association. Parents are made aware of the warning signs of gang membership and advised on appropriate interventions. Gang recruitment processes and the roles and risks to girls involved in gang culture are identified. The session celebrates the fact that the vast majority of young people lead positive lives, but also promotes active parental engagement, boundary setting, and the importance of collaboration and communication between families, schools, and communities to end gang and serious youth violence.

Professional Session

This 120-minute session seeks to educate professionals about ‘how gangs work’ and how gang culture influences and adversely affects young people. The aim is to identify what gangs are and how they differ from peer groups. Delivered by highly experienced facilitators, the session examines how they are organised, how they make money, and how they recruit. It identifies how violence is used by gangs and gang members and establishes how gangs and gang members ‘brand’ themselves both on-line and off-line, exploring ‘rap-trap’ videos and the growing concerns relating to ‘county lines’ drug dealing. Often delivered to large multi-agency audiences, the professional session supports practitioners who work with young people to deal with violence more effectively within existing safeguarding frameworks.

New for November 2021

We are currently piloting four new workshops, which will be available in January 2022. We are adding to our Primary and Secondary School workshop menu:

Quality Communities – This workshop explores issues surrounding inclusion, identity, and diversity and how those issues can shape how people from all different backgrounds experience life. Everyone begins to form ideas at a very young age about influencing their belief systems. We are all able to learn, grow and develop, just because you strongly believe something now doesn’t mean that you necessarily will always feel the same way. Growth, adaptation and deeper understandings are a key part of growing up. At GAV we believe in inclusion and celebrating difference in a constructive and supportive way. All of us are different and those differences do not have to be reasons for us to argue or hurt each other, we believe that people from all different backgrounds, with different thoughts, feelings and opinions helps us to build Quality Communities.

This workshop has been adapted for both Year 6 and Year 8.

Attitude Adjustments – These separate workshops for boys and girls explores sensitive and emotive issues regarding sexual violence and child exploitation. Rape culture, sexual violence, supporting victims/survivors and misogynistic attitudes/behaviours are discussed. Students analyse case studies of sexual violence and its implications. Realistic consent scenarios illustrate risky situations in which boys and girls may find themselves and demonstrate what is required for true consent. At GAV we believe in having these difficult and uncomfortable conversations so that we can start to bring about change, by challenging outdated ideas and destructive and abusive behaviours.

This will replace the workshop ‘it’s not just girls, Gangs and Consequences’

This workshop is appropriate for Year 10. Please note that when booking, classes will need separating to ensure boys/girls only engagement.

New for 2022

Teacher session – This 60-minute session seeks to provide teaching staff about ‘how gangs work’ and how gang culture influences and adversely affects young people. The aim is to identify what gangs are and how they differ from peer groups and how vulnerability can be apparent in the school environment.

Contact

Bookings:
Martin Guest
Operations Manager

Operations@growingagainstviolence.org.uk
[07736 150065](tel:07736150065)

Shaun Willshire
Safeguarding Manager:

Shaun@growingagainstviolence.org.uk
[07395 833134](tel:07395833134)

Strategic Enquiries:
Stuart Trayler
Chief Executive Officer

Stuart@growingagainstviolence.org.uk
[07736 150069](tel:07736150069)

PO Box 640
Epsom
Surrey