

Girls and Gangs Session 1

Aims:

- Explore negative/positive concepts of gangs/groups
- Raise awareness of myths associated with gang and girls
- Discuss consequences of gang involvement

Objective:

- To Gain understanding violent gangs
- To gain strategies on how to keep yourself safe
- To gain an understanding of some of the myths attached to gangs
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Warm up energiser: (10mins)

Need 3 balls introduce into warm up separately? Every go round and say their name: 1 ball is given to the first person and they name the person then throw the ball to them. The next person does the same until comes back to start. Then introduce second ball then later third. (Teamwork, concentration, alert, achievement)

1. Main session: What is a gang? (25mins)

Intention:

The aim of this exercise is to explore the array of myths and realities about gangs and gang membership, to look at why some young people are attracted to gangs and debate some of the consequences both short and long-term. What also can be brought into the discussion are how to recognise dangers and what strategies to use in order to avoid them. A very important part of this exercise is to gain an understanding how someone may feel when faced with complex choices which could threaten their physical and mental safety.

What is a gang?

Ask class 'what is a gang? (Get feedback write on flip chart)
Have a class discussion about (feedback) what makes a gang.
Show government definition on what a gang is.

Any ongoing organisation, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its substantial activities the commission of criminal gang activity, and whose ... members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.'

2. What are some of the myths about gangs?

Discuss myths and realities about gangs

- Rumours? Media? Dress? Colour? Class? Age? Income? Glamour? Good Jail?
- Protection? Money? Family? House? Car? Nasty people (not all) Clothes?

3. Myths and realities about gangs review (RUN a ROUND REFLECTION) (25mins)

Take 3 separate A4 paper a write Agree on one Disagree on the other free space on the other. Make space in room and put words on opposite walls. Ask questions and ask students to go to the word which is close to their view, if someone needs time to make up their mind or wants to hear some views form others before coming to a decision, they can stand in the free space area in the middle of the room. Facilitator should query why decision was made and gather views and feelings.

RUN a ROUND REFLECTION:

Girls and gangs questions:

- Girls have nothing to do with gangs?
- Girls carry guns?
- Girls do not like Boys in gangs?
- You are safe if you know gang members?
- Girls like going to prison?
- Gang members treat girls with respect?
- Going out with someone in a gang is cool?
- Girls are not gang members?
- You get respect when you no gang members?
- Girls do what they are told?
- Girls fight with other girls from other gangs (rep area)?
- Girls can be just as violent as boys?
- You get lots of money and clothes for gang members?
- Girls encourage male gang behaviour?

Further example questions which can be used interchangeable dependent on group

- You never get out of a gang?
- Guns and gangs influence breakdowns in families?
- The reason people have guns is to make money and get respect?
- There will be more guns carried by young people in the future?
- Prison helps reduce the growth of gang's and interest in guns?
- Having a Gun Makes you a gang member?
- Should more be done to stop the young people having access to Guns?
- Most people who have Guns keep them in their homes
- Older people in gangs give young people their guns to look after?
- People/young people are fascinated with Guns?
- Guns should be made Legal?
- You have power if you have a gun?
- People who have Guns know how to use them?
- Most people will use a gun rather than have a fight?
- You can/will get shot if you shoot or shoot at someone else?
- You get praise if you shoot someone from rival gang?
- Accidents will happen when you have a gun?
- If have a gun than you are safer?

- If you have a gun your family are safer?
- What do you think about death?
- How does gang activity affect you?
- What do you think should be done to stop gun violence?
- How do you think we can achieve this?
- What can you do to help with this?

End of Session