

FACTS
FICTION **NOT**

The truth about youth crime

London is a great place to live, and it is also a safe place to live. It's unusual to become a victim of crime and we are working hard to keep getting crime rates down. The most recent statistics tell us the risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen.

Councils across London are working with the police and other partners on a number of initiatives to help prevent crime and to support and inform communities about crime.

We have produced these packs to try to dispel some myths about crime in your local area. They also provide some practical and sensible advice and information on where to find out more, and where to get help and support if you or someone you know becomes involved in crime or becomes a victim of crime.



FACTS NOT FICTION

Dispelling some myths about crime

MYTH:

Most violent crime in my neighbourhood is down to youths

FACT:

Young people are actually more likely to be victims of crime than older people. Most serious violent crime is committed by adults. Most young people make a positive contribution to their communities.

MYTH:

Carrying a knife or being part of a gang will protect me

FACT:

Getting involved in either puts you far more at risk. Being in a gang or carrying a blade makes you a target.



MYTH:

I have been forced into crime and can't get out of being in a gang

FACT:

There is support available if you want to get out of a gang or turn away from crime.

MYTH:

If I get involved in crime it doesn't have to affect other people in my life

FACT:

Being involved in a gang or violent crime could put those close to you at risk. If you're involved in serious crime your family could lose their home. Leaving a gun with a relative or friend could put them at risk and land them a five year jail sentence.

MYTH:

The police don't do enough about tackling crime

FACT:

Police across London are targeting violent crime. You could face a lengthy jail sentence if you commit a serious crime. There is a minimum sentence of 5 years for possession of a gun. Even carrying an imitation weapon could land you in prison for a year.

MYTH:

Having a criminal record won't make a big difference

FACT:

It could damage your chances of getting a good job in the future and may limit travel abroad.

MYTH:

I should protect those close to me even if they have committed a crime

FACT:

If a child, partner or friend uses your home to hide a weapon you are at physical risk and could face a jail sentence.

MYTH:

There is no support for me as a parent and nowhere for kids to go

FACT:

Looking after a teenager is hard. There are places you can get help and advice and you don't need to involve the police or social services. There are plenty of positive activities your children and young adults can undertake – see the directory for more details.

Directory of services and organisations which can help

Local

Croydon

Crossfire Project is run by the London Fire Brigade and works with young people presenting risk across the borough by providing a range of tailored services
020 8555 1200 ext 4563
199 Lodge Lane,
New Addington,
Croydon, CR0 0AQ

Croydon Drop in Support for Young People provides free, confidential counselling, advocacy, advice and outreach health education to young people between the ages of 11-25 who live, work or study in the Croydon area
020 8680 0404
www.croydondropin.org.uk

Croydon Kickz is a football based community project that aims to engage young people aged 11-18.
020 8768 6047

Croydon Met-Track is an athletics scheme which offers sport as a healthy alternative in life to young people. The scheme is open to people aged 10-17yrs of any athletic ability.
07701 056 323
Email:
jason.hussain@met.police.uk
www.met-track.com

Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT) runs innovative and creative projects to positively engage young people
020 8683 7250 /
020 8683 7251
www.cydt.org.uk

Croydon Young People's Project is a mentoring and befriending scheme for young people
020 8665 5668
www.cydt.org.uk

Foundation4life is an organisation which runs workshops for young offenders or young people at risk of offending or repeat offending to raise awareness and try to modify their behaviour
020 8665 4258
Email:
info@foundation4life.co.uk

Group Advisory Project [GAP] Gangs Co-ordinator strives to prevent young people from becoming involved in gang activity and to help young people who are already involved to get out of gangs
020 8404 5831

Healthy Living Project works through the Youth Offending Team and Youth Services to engage young people to address challenging behaviour and promote good decision making for a healthy and positive future
Email: ally.mckinlay@croydon.gov.uk
Address: 14 Whitehorse Road, Croydon

Life Skills Training & Consultancy provides set or bespoke programmes offering life skills training to divert young people away from gangs and offending and to provide them with the necessary skills to be successful in the workplace
07957 756 369
www.lstc.eu

New Destiny Trust

provides workshops to groups of hard to engage young people to raise awareness of crime and consequences, in particular, gangs and serious violence including weapons

Email: newdestinytrust@hotmail.co.uk

or

syd.syed@hotmail.co.uk

www.newdestinytrust.co.uk

YOU London is an umbrella organisation that is a partnership of the Air Training Corps, Army Cadet Force, Boys Brigade, Girl Guides, LaSER, Sea Cadet Corps, Scout Association, Volunteer Police Cadets, The Prince's Trust, Greater London Lord Lieutenancy and the Metropolitan Police Service – all the organisations listed provide opportunities for young people and volunteers to engage in positive activities

PJ's Community

Services works with at risk young people aged 14-19 lyric writing, music making, event management and business planning

Address: Parchmore Place, 1-6 The Mews, 92a Parchmore Place, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 8LX

RUOK/Croydon Victim

Support is a specialist service for young victims of crime

020 8253 4422

www.victimsupport

croydon.org.uk

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational response to urban problems, trying to engage with people on the street
mail: Croydon@streetpastors.org.uk
www.streetpastors.org.uk

Greenwich

Archway Project is a motorbike project in Greenwich which helps educate young people and runs an open youth club

020 8310 1730

www.archwayproject.com

Charlton Athletic Community Trust

uses football to divert children and young adults away from crime and into employment

020 8850 2866

www.cact.org.uk

Greenwich Kickz is a partnership between Greenwich Council and Charlton Athletic FC bringing young people together through football

020 8850 2866

Greenwich Council's Schools Attendance Advisory Service

provides support and advice for parents who fear their child isn't attending school properly

020 8921 8510

Greenwich Safer Neighbourhoods Team

www.met.police.uk/teams/greenwich/index.php

Greenwich Volunteer Centre finds volunteering opportunities for young people in Greenwich

020 8853 1331

www.volunteerscentregreenwich.org.uk

Greenwich Youth Inclusion Project works with families and schools to engage young people through weekends away, football sessions and other activities

020 8859 8255

**Greenwich Council's
Community Safety
Team** works with the
police, fire brigade and the
primary care trust to keep
people safe

020 8921 8344

www.greenwich.gov.uk

**Greenwich Domestic
Violence Advocacy
Service** provides support
and safety planning advice

07976 212 414

www.greenwich.gov.uk

**Greenwich Council for
Racial Equality** works
to provide support and to
eliminate racial inequality

020 8855 7191

www.gcre.supanet.com

**Greenwich Victim
Support** is an
independent national
charity and voluntary
organisation that offers
people free, confidential
support and information
following a crime

020 8854 1113

www.victimsupport.org.uk

**Greenwich Council's
Youth Offending
Teams/Services** run

early intervention
programmes for young
people at risk and
supervise young people on
court orders

020 8859 4492

youth-offending-services
@greenwich.gov.uk

**Greenwich Council's
Youth Services** provides
support services and
activities for young people
in the borough

020 8921 8437

[www.greenwich.gov.uk/
teenagers](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/teenagers)



Lambeth

ACAPS (Brixton)

provides an extensive range of services for young people affected by substance abuse

020 7737 3579

www.turning-point.co.uk

Flipside delivers youth programmes in Lambeth community centres, youth clubs and schools, aimed at educating young people about knife crime

020 7733 0101

Ilderton Motor Project

trains and motivates young people to try to reduce crime

020 8469 0396

www.ilderton.smartchange.org

Lambeth Community Safety Team the

Council's team works as part of the Safer Lambeth partnership to reduce crime and improve the quality of life of Lambeth residents

020 7926 2733

Email: saferlambeth@lambeth.gov.uk

www.lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth Phoenix Programme

deals with people involved in serious violent crime, including gun enabled crime. The programme takes referrals from agencies in the borough and the Lambeth Youth Offending Service

020 7926 2733

www.lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth Youth Council

is run by and is for young people in Lambeth. It trains young people to make a positive impact in their community

020 7926 2193

Email: youthcouncil@lambeth.gov.uk

Young Lambeth is a website which provides information for young people, parents and practitioners on a whole range of services and activities in the borough provided by the council, voluntary and community groups and private providers

0845 601 5317

www.younglambeth.org

Victim Support

Lambeth is an independent national charity and voluntary organisation that offers people free, confidential support and information following a crime

020 7820 0007/8

www.vslambeth.org.uk

New Initiatives

provide self development programmes for young men and women of African descent

020 7738 5833

www.newinitiatives.co.uk

Young and Safe is

Lambeth's approach to radically reduce the incidence of violent crime amongst children and young people through enhanced intervention and preventative measures

020 7926 9237

email: youngandsafe@lambeth.gov.uk

www.lambethfirst.org.uk/young-and-safe/

Lambeth Youth Offending Services

run early intervention programmes for young people at risk of offending and supervise young people on court orders

020 7926 2644

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/
Services/CommunityLiving/
YouthOffending/](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/CommunityLiving/YouthOffending/)

Lambeth Youth Service

The youth service provides activities and opportunities for young people aged 11 to 24 years during evenings, weekends and holiday time

020 7926 9639

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/
services/educationlearning/
extracurricular](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/services/educationlearning/extracurricular)

Lewisham

ACAPS Lifestyle Options Project

supports young people aged 10-25 to get them away from drugs and alcohol

www.turning-point.co.uk

Family Information

Service offers information and advice on all services and activities for 0-19s and their families

0800 085 0606

www.lewisham.gov.uk/fis

Ilderton Motor Project

trains and motivates young people to try to reduce crime

020 8469 0396

www.ilderton.smartchange.org

Lewisham Kickz

is a partnership between Lewisham Police and Millwall Community Scheme that brings young people together through football and other sports.

020 7740 0503

Lewisham Met-Track

is an athletics scheme run by Lewisham Police that provides coaching by international athletes and brings young people of all abilities together through athletics.

07980 667358

[www.met-track.com/
lewisham.html](http://www.met-track.com/lewisham.html)

Lewisham Volunteer Police Cadets

is not just for young people wishing to become police officers but for those who wish to learn about the police and help them in supporting local community groups and events. They also get involved with outward bound activities, camping, hiking and run the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

07980 667 358

[http://cms.met.police.uk/
met/boroughs/lewisham/](http://cms.met.police.uk/met/boroughs/lewisham/)

Lewisham's Young Mayor is elected by, and represents, young people aged 11-17 in Lewisham

020 8314 6354

Email: [youngcitizens@
lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:youngcitizens@lewisham.gov.uk)

Lewisham Youth Inclusion Support Panel

works with families and young people aged 8-17 years

020 8314 9397

[www.ukyouth.org/
whatwedo/Programmes/
YAA/YAANetwork/L/
lewishamyouthservice/](http://www.ukyouth.org/whatwedo/Programmes/YAA/YAANetwork/L/lewishamyouthservice/)

Lewisham Housing Emergency Support Team

provides support and help to anyone who is a victim of any kind of abuse or harassment

020 8314 6000

[www.lewishamhomes.org.
uk/HEST.html](http://www.lewishamhomes.org.uk/HEST.html)

Lewisham wardens

help promote community safety and community development

020 8314 9117

www.lewisham.gov.uk

Lewisham Victim

Support for local victims of crime

020 8698 4583

www.victimsupport-lewisham.org.uk

Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts

is a Deptford organisation helping young people discuss crime through role plays and drama

020 8694 2444

www.secondwave.org.uk

Youth Advising Police

(YaP) is made up of young people aged 14 to 24 who advise Lewisham Police on issues concerning youth.

Email:

Partnershiplewisham@met.police.uk

Youth Offending Teams/Services

run early intervention programmes for young people at risk and supervise young people on court orders

020 8314 7474

Email:

yot@lewisham.gov.uk



Southwark

Eternal Life Support Group works with 13-30 year olds in Southwark, including young people at risk of becoming involved in crime
020 7525 6208

Ilderton Motor Project trains and motivates young people to try to reduce crime
020 8469 0369
www.ilderton.smartchange.org

INVOLVE – Intensive Gangs Intervention is a Bermondsey project which aims to disengage young people from gangs

020 7474 2222

Kickstart YIP – Fear or fashion anti-knife/ weapons and crime reduction programme delivered in schools
020 7820 8200
www.southwark.tv/kickstart/kickProjects



Southwark Mediation Service

pioneers community mediation and was set up to help resolve conflict, reduce aggressive behaviour and promote community well-being

020 7708 4959

www.southwarkmediation.ik.com/

Southwark Victim Support

for local victims of crime

020 7277 1433

www.victimsupport.org.uk
www.vslondon.org

Southwark Wardens

provide visible reassurance for the community

020 7525 0843

www.southwark.gov.uk/

Youth Offending Teams/Services

run early intervention programmes for young people at risk and supervise young people on court orders

020 7525 0900

Email
yot@southwark.gov.uk

Local Youth Services

a range of services and activities for young people

020 7525 3205

www.whtvr.org

London

Choice is an online database of courses and training for young people in London

www.yourlondon.gov.uk/choice

Do-it.org.uk is a database of voluntary opportunities for young people across London and the UK
www.do-it.org.uk

Juvenile Fire Setters Scheme is run by the Fire Brigade across London to reduce arson by young people
020 8855 1200 x 30840
www.london-fire.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police (non-emergencies)
0300 123 1212
www.met.police.uk

Metropolitan Police Crime Map – crime information about your local area
maps.met.police.uk/

Metropolitan Police advice on knife crime
www.itsnotagame.org/index.php

Rap Mentors – a well-established organisation specialising in work with young people involved in, and at risk of involvement in gang-based crime
0207 733 0400
07525 155 727
dw@rapmentors.org
www.rapmentors.org

Summer Uni London Project works with councils to provide free and affordable activities for young people across London
www.summerunilondon.org

Youth Inclusion Oasis UK Violence Reduction Programme provides individual and group mentoring sessions on gangs, drugs, bullying
020 7921 4221
www.oasisuk.org/uk/projects/youth

National

Childline provides confidential support and advice to young people
0800 11 11
www.childline.org.uk

Connexions offers advice to 13-19 year olds on a range of issues such as careers, relationships, housing and health
080 800 13219
www.connexions-direct.com

Crimestoppers allows you to report crime anonymously
0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Domestic Violence Helpline provides help, support and practical advice for victims of domestic violence
0808 20 00 247
www.womensaid.org.uk

FRANK provides comprehensive drugs advice and information
0800 77 66 00
www.talktofrank.com

Parentline Plus provides free/flexible responsive services shaped by parents for parents
080 800 2222
www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Parent Support Group provides confidential support and advice for parents
0208 469 0205
www.psg.org.uk

Home Office advice for parents about gangs
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/gang-advice-for-parents>

Government advice on knife crime
<http://campaigns.direct.gov.uk/talkaboutknives/>

Victim Support
0845 30 30 900
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Elected Community Representation

Croydon Councillors

www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/elected/allcouncillors

Greenwich Councillors

www.greenwich.gov.uk/greenwich/yourcouncil

Lambeth Councillors

www.lambeth.gov.uk/councillors

Lewisham Councillors

www.lewisham.gov.uk/councilanddemocracy

Southwark Councillors

www.southwark.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillorshome

London Assembly Members

www.london.gov.uk/assembly

MPs (find yours at)

www.upmystreet.com/commons//

Useful Advice for Parents

'I don't know how to stop my child becoming involved in crime'

Open conversations with your children about crime and the realities of gangs and violence – and the choices they have – can steer them away from getting caught up in trouble. See directory for details of support open to you.

'How can I tell if my child is getting involved in crime?'

Young people on the edge of being involved in crime can show signs, like using gang symbols, having unexplained injuries, unexplained cash or carrying a knife

It's important to talk to your child about knives:

- it is illegal for anyone to carry a knife if they intend to use it as a weapon – even in self defence
- police can search anyone they suspect of carrying a knife
- carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and getting a criminal record, or even a prison sentence

Useful Advice for Parents

Most kids start carrying a knife because they feel threatened.

Signs to look out for are:

- school's not going well / they don't want to go in to school at all;
- they've been a recent victim of theft/bullying/mugging;
- a different network of friends who may be older than your child

'What can I do to help tackle crime?'

Report it: You can make your community safer by reporting anything you find out about crime, or where guns or knives are. Please contact the police or Crimestoppers; the numbers are in this directory.

Ask for action: You can raise problems and ask for solutions with your local police Safer Neighbourhood Team, local councillors, London Assembly member, MP, Safer Neighbourhood Panel and other community groups. Their contact details can be found in this directory

Produced by Network Alliance (formerly Five Boroughs Alliance), which brings together councils, the police, probation, central government and Victim Support to reduce the harm to communities caused by serious violence related to gangs. The Alliance is currently supported in the London boroughs of Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.