

# Five Boroughs' Alliance Community Reassurance Pack





# Saying the right thing can help your community

Whether you are a police officer or a pastor, a youth worker or a local councillor you can help reduce the harm caused to our communities by serious violence amongst young people. This pack has been produced for frontline staff and volunteers to help you advise young people and reassure local communities. At the end of this pack you will find a list of some of the organisations and services that can help communities, young people and their families.

Talking to people, face-to-face, is the most powerful tool we have in sharing advice and providing people with reassurance. It is important not to add to fear of crime by overstating levels of crime, or to glamourise crime, for example by talking up 'gangs'. The majority of our communities are safe.

The Five Boroughs' Alliance is a partnership across agencies that covers the five boroughs of Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. It has developed this pack based on research and expert advice. Sticking to the messages in this pack will help communities help themselves and will reassure people. By all means adapt the language of these messages so that they are meaningful for your particular community, and use local information and examples to back up the messages, but please *keep to these broad messages*.



## What to say to young people

**We're on your side, we want you to be safe** – Young people are more likely to be the victims of violent crime than older people. By targeting serious violent crime we are trying to protect young people.

**You are no safer in a gang or carrying a knife** – If you carry a weapon, or are a gang member, you are more likely to become the victim of violence. Being in a gang or carrying a blade makes you a target.

### Additional advice for young people involved in violent crime

**It's your choice** – If you want to get out of violence and crime you have a choice. There are new ways to get out, you only need to ask for help. There are legal opportunities to earn money, earn respect and win supportive friends.

There are lots of organisations in your community who will give you a chance if you need one. You have choices, make the right ones.

**You are likely to be arrested and go to jail** – The police are targeting serious violence across London. There is a minimum sentence of five years for possession of a gun. Just having an imitation gun can lead to 12 months in jail. Using knives or CS gas is also liable to land you in jail. If you are convicted of any violent crime it will have long term consequences. It could affect your future chances of a decent job and may limit travel abroad.

**Don't make your family a victim** – If you're caught being involved in serious crime your family could lose their home. If you leave a gun with a relative or friend you put them at risk and they could get a five year jail sentence.

## What to say to communities facing violence

### **We are being tough on violent**

**criminals** – Tackling violent crime is a priority for the police. The police are targeting the minority of people involved in serious violent crime. Councils and voluntary organisations are working with young people to help them take up real opportunities.

### **Young people are not the problem**

– **criminals are.** Although the media focuses on the tragic loss of life amongst teenagers in London, serious violent crime is most often committed by adults. Whilst a minority of young people are involved in crime, most young people make a positive contribution to their communities.

**Report it!** – You can help make your community safer by reporting where guns or knives are being kept and who is involved in serious crime. If you have

any information about crime in your neighbourhood please contact the police or Crimestoppers anonymously. Crimestoppers is an independent charity working to stop crime.

**Tel: 0800 555 111**

**[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)**

**Ask for action** – You don't have to put up with serious crime in your neighbourhood. Use your local police Safer Neighbourhood Team, local councillors, London Assembly member, MP, Safer Neighbourhood Panel or community groups to raise problems and ask for solutions.



## Advice for parents, families and friends

### **You can help your children –**

Talking to young people about their fears, and the choices they have, can help prevent them getting caught up in serious crime.

**Look for signs** - Before getting deeply involved young people may show signs of flirting with crime, for example using “gang” symbols, having unexplained injuries, unexplained cash or carrying a knife.

### **There is help available for you –**

Being a parent or carer of a teenager can be hard. Asking for help does not mean you have failed as a parent, and you don't need to involve social services or the police.

**Don't become a victim of someone else's crime** – If your child, partner or anyone else uses your home to hide their weapons your family could lose their home, you are at physical risk and you could get a 5 year jail sentence.

## Directory of local services and organisations

This directory can help you find appropriate projects to support people in the community in which you work. This is not a comprehensive list of every organisation working with young people or to reduce crime in the Alliance boroughs.

### Help for young people and their families

**ACAPS** (Brixton) provides an extensive range of services for young people for whom substance misuse might be impacting negatively on aspects of their life.

020 7737 3579

**ACAPS Lifestyle Options Project** (Lewisham) supports young people aged 10-25 through diversionary activities around their use of drugs and alcohol

020 8318 2035

lewishamyouth@turning-point.co.uk

**Archway Project** is a motor bike project in Greenwich. It helps educate young people through leisure time activities. They run an open youth club and also take referrals from professionals

020 8310 1730

**Charlton Athletic Community Trust** uses football to divert children and young adults from crime and into employment 020 8850 2866

**Childline** provides confidential support and advice to young people

0800 1111

**Choice** is an online database of courses and training for young people in London from apprenticeships to A-levels  
[www.yourlondon.gov.uk/choice](http://www.yourlondon.gov.uk/choice)

**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](http://www.connexions-direct.com)

**Croydon Young People's Project** is a befriending scheme for young people  
0208 665 5668

**Do-it.org.uk** is a database of voluntary opportunities for young people across London and nationwide.

[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

**Eternal Life Support Group** works with 13-30 year olds in Southwark, including young people at risk of involvement in crime.

020 7708 8577

**Flipside** delivers youth programmes in Lambeth community centres, youth clubs and schools. A knives programme has been developed and is being delivered to young people at the Pupil Referral Unit and the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel.

020 7733 0101

[www.flipsideuk.org](http://www.flipsideuk.org)

**GATES** (gangs, advice, training and exit strategies) gives advice and support to

young people and their families who want to get out of crime. Although only available in Southwark at the time of going to print, it is hoped to extend this scheme to Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth and Lewisham.

0800 458 9109 or text GATES to 82055.

**Greenwich Kickz** is a partnership between Greenwich Council and Charlton Athletic FC that brings young people together through football.

020 8850 2866

**Greenwich Schools Attendance Advisory Service**

020 8921 8510

**Greenwich Volunteer Centre** finds volunteering opportunities for young people in Greenwich.

020 8853 1331

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

020 8859 8255

**Ilderton Motor Project** has Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth schemes to train and motivate young people, with the objective of reducing crime.

020 8469 0396

<http://ilderton.smartchange.org>

**INVOLVE – Intensive Gangs Intervention** is a Bermondsey project aiming to disengage young people from gangs, with a particular focus on racially motivated crime.

020 7474 2222

**Juvenile Fire Setters Scheme** is a London-wide scheme run by the Fire Brigade to reduce arson by young people.

020 8855 1200 x 30840  
www.london-fire.gov.uk

**Kickstart YIP – Fear or fashion** is a Southwark anti-knife/weapons and crime reduction programme delivered in schools.

020 7820 8200

**Lambeth Phoenix** is an anti gun crime programme which takes referrals from Lambeth Youth Offending Service. (see below)

**Lambeth Youth Council** is run by and for young people in Lambeth. It trains young people to make a positive impact in their communities and to raise issues affecting young people in the borough.  
youthcouncil@lambeth.gov.uk

**Lewisham's Young Mayor** is elected by, and represents, young people aged 11 to 17 living or studying in Lewisham.

020 8314 9479  
youngcitizens@lewisham.gov.uk

**Lewisham Youth Inclusion Support Panel** works with families and young people aged 8 – 17 years.  
020 8314 9397

**New Destiny Trust – Truth and Consequences** is a programme for schools aiming to de-glamourise gangs and weapon use.  
07960 543 434

**New Initiatives (Origin)** provides a self development programme for young men of African descent in Lambeth.  
020 7738 5833  
New\_initiatives@virgin.net

**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 to parents.

020 8469 0205  
www.psg.org.uk

**Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts** is a Deptford based organisation helping young people discuss crime through role plays and drama.

020 8694 2444  
www.secondwave.org.uk

**Summer Uni London Project** works with councils to provide free and affordable activities for young people across the London.

www.summerunilondon.org

### Youth groups and activity websites

provide details of a range of local activities, projects and organisations for young people:

**Croydon:**

[www.croydoncsd.co.uk](http://www.croydoncsd.co.uk)

[www.croydonyouthtube.com](http://www.croydonyouthtube.com)

**Greenwich:**

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

**Lambeth:**

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/  
EducationLearning/ExtraCurricular](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/ExtraCurricular)

**Lewisham:**

[www.lewisham.gov.uk/childrensdirectory](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/childrensdirectory)

**Southwark:**

[www.whtvr.org](http://www.whtvr.org)

**Youth Offending Teams/Services** run early intervention programmes for young people at risk, supervise young people on court orders and work with victims of youth crime:

**Croydon:**

020 8404 5800

[www.croydon-yot.org.uk](http://www.croydon-yot.org.uk)

**Greenwich:**

020 8859 4492

[youth-offending-services@  
greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:youth-offending-services@greenwich.gov.uk)

**Lambeth:**

020 7926 2644

**Lewisham:**

020 8314 7474

[yot@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:yot@lewisham.gov.uk)

**Southwark:**

020 7525 0900

[yot@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:yot@southwark.gov.uk)

**Youth Services** provided by local councils run support services and activities for young people in their own areas:

**Croydon:**

020 8760 5598

[www.croydonyouthservice.org.uk](http://www.croydonyouthservice.org.uk)

**Greenwich:**

020 8921 8437

[youthandplayservice@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:youthandplayservice@greenwich.gov.uk)

**Lambeth:**

020 7926 9639

**Lewisham:**

020 8314 9543

[youthservice@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:youthservice@lewisham.gov.uk)

**Southwark:**

020 7525 3205

**X-it programme** is a Lambeth project working with young people at risk of gang membership. It uses group work, residential courses and leadership programmes to develop self awareness to empower young people to make positive choices.

020 7926 2676

**XLP Gunz Down** provides a multi-media show exploring the issues surrounding gun and knife use and making wise choices.

020 8297 8284

**Youth Inclusion Oasis UK, Violence Reduction Programme** provides individual and group mentoring sessions in Southwark on gangs, drugs, bullying, self-esteem and reputation.

020 7921 4221



## Other services

**Crimestoppers** - Crimestoppers is a national organisation totally independent of the police and you can talk to them anonymously.

0800 555 111

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### Five Boroughs' Alliance

020 7321 9177 (office hours only)

**FRANK** (drugs advice)

0800 77 66 00

### Greenwich Council's Community Safety Team

020 8921 8344

### Greenwich Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

07976 212 414

### Lewisham Housing Emergency Support Team

020 8314 6000

### Lewisham Wardens

020 8314 9117

**Metropolitan Police** (emergencies) dial 999, and ask for the police

### Metropolitan Police

(local, non-emergency)

020 8297 1212

[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

### Metropolitan Police

(Safer Neighbourhoods' Team)

[www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods)

### Safer Croydon Gangs Co-ordinator

020 8404 5800

### Street Pastors

020 7771 9770

### Southwark Mediation Service

020 7708 5568

### Southwark Wardens

020 7525 5846

## Victims – help and advice

### Croydon Victim Support

020 8253 4422

[www.victimsupportcroydon.org.uk](http://www.victimsupportcroydon.org.uk)

### Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 20 00 247

### Greenwich Victim Support

020 8854 1113

### The Haven (sexual assault advice)

020 7346 1599

### Lambeth Victim Support

020 7820 0007/8

### Lewisham Victim Support

020 8698 4583

### Southwark Victim Support

020 7378 8886

[www.vssouthwark.org.uk](http://www.vssouthwark.org.uk)

### Victim Support Line

0845 30 30 900



## Community representation

### Croydon councillors

[www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/elected/allcouncillors/](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/elected/allcouncillors/)

### Greenwich Council for Racial Equality

020 8855 7191

### Greenwich councillors

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

### Lambeth councillors

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/mgMemberIndex.asp](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/mgMemberIndex.asp)

### Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group

020 8314 8975

### Lewisham councillors

[www.lewisham.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/)

### London Assembly members

[www.london.gov.uk/assembly](http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly)

### Metropolitan Police Authority

020 7202 0202, [www.mpa.gov.uk](http://www.mpa.gov.uk)

### MPs (find yours at)

[www.upmystreet.com/commons/l/](http://www.upmystreet.com/commons/l/)

### Race Equality Action Lewisham

020 7587 2556

### Southwark councillors

[www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCouncil/CouncillorsHome/](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCouncil/CouncillorsHome/)



# What is the Five Boroughs' Alliance?

The Five Boroughs' Alliance was set up because of the willingness of local partners to co-operate across Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. The Five Boroughs' Alliance is focussed on developing and sharing innovative approaches to law enforcement, diversion, intelligence, criminal justice and reassurance. We are piloting new approaches to harm reduction in the five boroughs. We will continue to learn quickly what works well in tackling this complex problem by involving and talking to people in our communities. The lessons we learn will be shared across London.

This pack has been funded by the Home Office and developed by Lewisham Council on behalf of the Five Boroughs' Alliance.

## THE FIVE BOROUGHS' ALLIANCE

