

Gang behaviours

A gang is usually considered to be a group of people who spend time in public places that:

- see themselves (and are seen by others) as a noticeable group
- engage in criminal activity and violence

The specific crimes and behaviours relevant to each individual gang will vary, however it is important to be aware of common trends in gang behaviour before teaching these lessons to add a real-world context to the discussions and activities provided within them.

Common features of gang membership:

- Being engaged in criminal activity and violence, usually starting with petty crime and developing to selling drugs, stealing phones or stabbings
- Laying claims over specific territory, often a postcode or estate
- Wearing an identifying feature, often an item of clothing worn in a particular way e.g., turned up trouser leg, bandana, a specific colour
- Usually in constant conflict with other gangs and unable to enter another gang's territory
- Gang activity is rapidly moving online; encrypted messaging services are used to organise criminal activity and communicate
- Drill music, which is driven exclusively by gang culture, is growing in popularity and moving into the mainstream: videos posted by gangs which rap about stabbings, rapes and drug use now have millions of views
- Gang membership is decreasing in age, with children as young as 11 recruited into gang life
- Young gang members (usually aged between 12-17) are often used to transport drugs through a network to sell in less well-policed areas, this is known as maintaining or crossing 'county lines.

Language use

When teaching PSHE education lessons, it is important to prioritise the appropriate use of language, which will improve communication but also may challenge assumptions. Particularly in the case of gangs, students may use slang terms which either promote misconceptions and stereotypes or may serve to mask attitudes from adults.

Below are some slang terms to listen out for or challenge in lessons, however we are aware that the terms young people use are constantly evolving and may be specific to different locations.

Gang	Posse, squad, mandem, crew, hood
Gang member	Roadman, blud/blood, squaddie, rude boy, homie, hitta
Members of a rival gang	The ops, pagans

Knife	Shank, blade, tool, cutter, borra, burner, nank
Carrying a knife / weapon Carrying	packing, tooled up, armed
Stabbed	Sheffed, shanked, duppied
Firearm	Strap, ting, dotty (shotgun), mash, biscuit, burner
Drugs	Food, bits, pebs
Drug dealing	Shotting, pushing, roading, selling, trappin', hittin em, hittin one, serving up
The preparation of drugs for selling	Whippin' up, cooking up, blicin up
Drug user	Fiends, nittys, crackheads, sales
Area/neighbourhood	Ends, the bits
Police	Jakes, 5-0, feds, po-po, pigs

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of [sexual abuse](#). When a child or young person is exploited they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called [grooming](#). They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.

Children and young people can be [trafficked](#) into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They're moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.

Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they've no choice. They may lend them large sums of money they know can't be repaid or use financial abuse to control them.

Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.