

# Safeguarding Serious Violence: Gangs

## Why do young people join gangs?

There are lots of reasons why young people feel the pressure to join gangs. They might be bored and looking for excitement or feel attracted to the status and power it can give them. They might join due to peer pressure, money or family problems. Gang membership can also make a child feel protected and that they belong..

Children and young people involved with, or on the edges of, gangs might be victims of violence or they might be pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying drugs or weapons. They might be abused, exploited or put into dangerous situations. For lots of young people, being part of a gang makes them feel part of a family so they might not want to leave. Even if they do, leaving or attempting to leave can be a really scary idea. They might be frightened about what will happen to them, their friends or their family if they leave.

## How do we help children in school?

Through the PSHE programme children are taught about self-identity and belonging. The staff are trained to identify changes in behaviours and provide the necessary support.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD,  
DO NOT DELAY, TELL SOMEONE TODAY!**