



FIGHTING KNIFE CRIME

Issue 12 - July 2024



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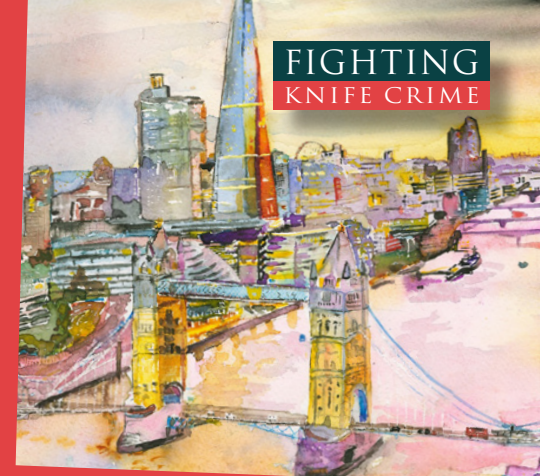


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Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die

By Mary Elizabeth Frye



Issue 12

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www.barnesartists.org/artists/louise-rose-johnson

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NOTE: All references and footnotes have live links to enable greater research. Our signposting poster on page 2 gives immediate access to our own resources as well as those of Local Village Network. Please download it [here](#) and print at home.

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FOREWORD

New science- Football – Rugby – The Arts – Social Mobility and a Message to government

By Bruce Houlder CB KC, founder and trustee of FKCL (Charity number 1207588)

As ever our regular magazine, seeks to include a mix of new thinking and academic endeavour amongst its contributions. In this 12th Edition, **Professor Roger Kneebone**, Professor of Surgical Education and Engagement Science, Imperial College, London and his team write for us about their groundbreaking work in addressing knife crime through simulation. We have a piece from **Steve Hoy**, Chief Operating Officer of AIR Network whose work with young people across every London borough and elsewhere has reached over 16000 young people helping them to navigate the difficulties they face. Football is central to their work. Similarly, we hear from **Paul Murphy** at TackleLondon about how rugby really inspires young people to change their lives, make new friendships, and grow as the citizens they are.

Social Mobility is a frequent feature of our magazine. This time we hear from **Cat Wyard**, Communications Manager at LTSCB who speaks about how they help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into their chosen professions. We have a piece from the **Kerry O'Brien** Founder and CEO of the **Young Urban Arts Foundation** about how they use creativity, & empowering and creative outreach workshops to target disadvantaged young people in hard-to-reach areas. What she has to say about the damage done to youth services in recent years, and consequently to young lives, provides full justification for my own contribution too.

It also seems the perfect time to send a message to our new government. There are hopeful messages emerging from the new administration, and it's a perfect time to press for action, and the change they have promised.



A message to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary

By Bruce Houlder CB KC, founder and trustee of FKCL (Charity number 1207588)

When could be better time to address our new government directly? They are to be congratulated on the level of electoral success they achieved, and the tone of the Prime Minister's messaging upon taking office. The word 'respect', that he stressed outside Downing Street on 5th July, is a word so much missing in public discourse. It is a dignity that for years has been also insufficiently shown towards our young people. They have deserved so much more. A great deal has always been achieved through the simple expedient of mutual respect whenever it is shown – in public life, the workplace, in our schools, on our high streets and at home.

FKCL's central concern is the reduction of youth violence, and helping

to create, in London at least, a respectful mutuality of interest where all young people can use their latent talents to thrive. These are high aims which can be supported by the way our criminal justice system operates. In this article I make a few new general proposals and make comment on what the government have already said they will do, but also **a positive proposal to strengthen the law** as it stands. There is much for the new administration to do, and we wish them well, but lives may depend on early and more effective action on youth violence.

It needs to be acknowledged that there are reasons to be greatly encouraged by the language used by our new government in describing their determination to address these issues. Recent government messaging about

young people generally as we as well as how we treat those who have been drawn into gangs and crime as a temporary and often disastrous solution to their lives seems more constructive and nuanced than we have heard for years. There seems a new determination to address youth violence and its causes. We must hold them to the mark.

Our PM appears to accept Idris Elba's phrase 'a *moral mission*' as a practical and political imperative. His Majesty, King Charles is reported as telling the PM that he is looking forward to seeing his new government tackle youth violence and knife crime. The time had surely come for such clearly expressed passions. Largely, this mission statement will need to be given life by our new Home Secretary, the Rt Hon. Yvette Cooper MP, but it remains an inter-departmental responsibility as well, affecting the way we design, build, and reform our most run-down communities, as well as the way we protect them through enforcement of laws. The Home Secretary has already recognised the failure of the previous administration to recognise '*the growing vulnerability of many teenagers*'. How this issue will be prioritised amongst the many other problems she will face remains to be seen, but when the lives of our young people and the safety of our streets are at stake, then this must come high up her list. Early indications seem promising. The Home Office has received this article and I hope it is supportive of what they wish to change.

But what about those who sell dangerous knives with no obvious legitimate purpose? Should not all knives, with the possible exception of ordinary kitchen knives, be banned from open display, even those like garden machetes. Should not those who sell even kitchen

knives be licensed to do so¹. Certain knives sold in the UK, just like tobacco products could have specific security identifiers to enable where they can from to be identified. Tighter controls on the importation of knives must be enforced. The kind of bulk imports of clearly ugly and offensive knives should be stopped at the port of entry. Their importation is already banned² but border controls are simply not sufficiently effective. It is hoped that the new Border Security Command designed to stop illegal boat crossings will not acquire its budget by reducing our ability to prevent illegal importation, whether it be of knives, drugs or anything else that we need to keep out of the UK.

There is a wider issue, which if legislators can be persuaded to implement it, might have a huge effect on such importation and those in the UK who rely on these imports for their own profit. Knife sellers both overseas (in some cases), and within our jurisdiction can in my view be complicit in the crimes committed with these weapons, even possibly gross negligence manslaughter. This is because it is now foreseeable that the more terrifying knives some continue to sell, and display for sale, can be proved to have been used to cause criminal injury. It is now more than ever possible to demonstrate this. One seller has recently wisely recognised this and has now withdrawn from the business of selling dangerous knives of the kind we are all concerned about. There are some legal hurdles and proving complicity in homicide is a high bar for a prosecutor. I know this well from a former life as the UK's first director of prosecutions for our three armed services, a position I held at the same time as our new Prime Minister was the DPP. Sir Keir and I used

to meet occasionally to discuss our joint roles during this time. I believe him to be a man of great integrity, and this is partly why I take him at his word.

Recognising this, there is a new offence I propose (see below) to deal with online sellers, as well as “downstream sellers” in the UK. This could be applied to all potentially lethal weapons, including firearms. This goes farther than the comprehensive ban on lethal weapons and verification processes proposed in the **Ronan’s Law**, which I completely agree are necessary additional steps that need to be taken. Readers will know that this is named after Ronan Kanda who was brutally killed in 2022 in Wolverhampton with a ninja sword. I set out my proposal towards the end of this article.

The Labour government have pledged to halve knife crime offending within 10 years. The further measures I propose could well accelerate that. It may be helpful therefore to summarise some of the things our government has pledged to do, to see how my proposal might bolster these efforts.

The Prime Minister backed the ‘*moral mission*’ with several undertakings, including those he gave in his first press conference on 6th July. He has also asked to be held to account. For example:

- Sir Keir says he wants to work with victims to tackle online weapon sales. This is something that the last government talked a lot about but ultimately did too little to solve.
- **He intends to seek a cross-party consensus.** Sir Keir does not need FKCL to say we applaud this approach in principle. Is this not one area where a strong majority can be used to good effect and universal acclaim.

Although I am usually against trying to tinker with laws to meet every new event, there are some changes which are now justifiable. I will discuss this below.

- He intends to stop “these brutal murders carried out by children”. Part of this seems to be using the available evidence to target resources towards those most at risk, and to build a package of support that responds to the challenges they are facing. Well, this information is certainly now available and is already used by the police to target their own resources. It is vital that those who are the youngest recruits to this dark world of knife carrying, are identified, protected and stopped before they ruin their own lives and perhaps those of their families and friends as well. This may have resourcing implications for the police, but **AI, and private business investment** can give huge impetus to these efforts and save resources too. Safe streets mean greater income generation for business that depend on them.
- As part of this diversion programme, **the new administration intends to invest in Young Futures hubs around the country to deliver support for these young people at risk of being drawn into crime.** So far so good and these would be very welcome additions. I suggest that many local projects and mentoring schemes are already engaged in this work and are staffed by motivated and experienced workers. Direct additional investment in these, and free training for new workers, rather than re-inventing the wheel might be the quickest way to make early gains. FKCL in London provide completely

free wide-ranging online signposting information resources. Others like Local Village Network (www.lvn.org.uk) do this as well. Every metropolitan area and county region should have these one-stop information hubs to help locate the kind of project that is designed to meet the individual needs of each young person who needs this help. Our own efforts to signpost young people as we do every day, and to provide wide-ranging resources to prevent youth violence, does easily attract public funding support, because funding criteria are often simply too restrictive to allow projects such as FKCL to gain assistance from public funds. I know this special pleading, but a change in approach here could reap considerable dividends if applied nationally.

- **The government intend to place youth workers in A&E units** (something that already happens quite successfully in London and has been championed among others by Redthread (www.Redthread.org.uk), and by the innovative work in this field being pioneered by Martin Griffiths CBE, the leading trauma surgeon and the national clinical director of the NHS Violence Reduction. Such work-strands are also supported by the London VRU, and in other regions of the country.
- **The Prime Minister intends to see such workers at pupil referral units, and in ‘communities’ to target young people at risk of being drawn into violence.** It is to be hoped that once these young people are identified there will be a clear path to the assistance they need, with a guarantee that that pathway will

be sufficiently funded to provide the required assistance. It is not yet clear where the funds will come from. I hope this will be from the existing education budget.

- **The government say they will also use existing enforcement measures to the full. These include family interventions, the use of curfew measures, penalty enforcement, community work and stronger actions against gangs that target young people.** Just to list these measures might remind the reader of how far short we have fallen in being able to achieve this in recent years, and to make the point that this is not resource-free, and will require more enforcement boots on the ground, following up on each case identified for help or greater police enforcement. If the government really do fulfil this undertaking, I hope they will take the opportunity to use every technical means to measure the cost benefit of so doing. The long-term advantage of such measures can now be much more readily ascertained, and using AI, real savings can be evidenced – to our NHS, to the police, to our education services, to criminal justice, and that great unmeasurable – the safety of our streets.
- **Finally on 6th July, the Prime Minister made four further important statements**
 - he said he wants no child living in poverty. Although he said he can’t yet make any commitment on the 2-child benefit cap, he stressed that his strategy to prevent child poverty was all the more important.
 - He said that he wants people taken out of prison earlier provided they have support in the community,

- and he reiterated his support for bearing down on knife crime. He added "this is a difficult problem but I am determined to do it".

FKCL support everything that the Prime Minister has said here and will back him in whatever way we can. He has asked to be held to account, and I have the strong impression he means precisely what he says.

Can new legislation support the change the government seek?

I believe it can, although I have long been wary of using criminal legislation to micro-manage social ills, which are often far better managed by social investment. It is a given that we need to legislate over online sales and make greater use of trans-national support to defeat the ability of those that export such weapons to the UK from outside our jurisdiction. Ronan's law would take this even further.

But there are perhaps more draconian measures that might be taken. Our criminal law sets a high bar in proving participation in a crime a secondary party. An online seller is now arguably a secondary party if a ugly looking knife, that such seller has sold, ends up killing another. This is not only a foreseeable event these days by any measure, but there is now evidence that these weapons can be directly connected to those initially selling them (see e.g. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn3dpx82kv1o>). Such sellers may also be complicit in lesser violent crimes where a knife is used. Those who sell already acknowledge the duty of care they owe to those who buy these knives (a necessary precondition to a prosecution for gross negligence manslaughter) and those against whom these frightening weapons might be used, by seeking 'assurances' and other verification processes from the

purchaser as to age, and to intended use. No one sensible would be fooled by some of these unverified assurances, but they might provide powerful evidence against the seller that he is aware of the risk he is taking with others' lives, and thus acting with extreme and culpable negligence in permitting such sales to go through, particularly when the appearance of the knife shows that it is unlikely to have a legitimate purpose, and that its use is likely to be to frighten another at the very least. I don't intend this to be a dissertation on law, but the rest of the required legal requirements to bring a charge arguably fall into place. It's a prosecution, in the right case, that might very well succeed.

If I am wrong and the bar I am setting for proof is too low, (and prosecutions of this kind can be fraught with difficulty), then more needs to be done. In such a case, a new crime should be directed against sellers and suppliers of such weapons. Perhaps it should become law anyway.

FKCL's Proposal for reform

It may seem draconian, but it could change much for the better, and, as those against whom it is directed know well, it would save lives. We must now target the sellers of these knives with greater powers than are at present available. The kids that use them will not stop being able to get hold of these terrible weapons until this is addressed. After working as a criminal barrister for over 50 years, I no longer practice at the Bar or sit anymore as a judge, but I hope I remain sufficiently aware of the need for careful drafting of such a provision. So, this my attempt. I am sure it could be improved:

"A person commits an offence if

1. (a) *he sells or supplies a weapon*

falling within prohibited categories, or in contravention of any regulation or statutory instrument affecting the sale of such a weapon (these categories would be listed in a schedule), or (b) he sells or supplies anything made or adapted to cause injury, and (c) any such weapon or item as described in subsection a) or (b) above can be shown to to have been used subsequently in the commission of any violent criminal offence, or used to threaten or attempt or commit any violent offences would be listed in a schedule) and

2. *At the time of so selling or supplying he was or should have been aware in all the circumstances that his actions might result in injury or a threat of the use of such weapon to another.*
3. *Section 1 (c) above would be satisfied if the use described therein was committed by any person, notwithstanding that he might be unknown to the person described in subsection 1 a) or b) above.*
4. *Anyone found guilty of the offence shall be liable to a sentence up to and including the maximum for the offence shown to have been committed by anyone as described in section 1(c) above."*

*Subsection 2 is important as it makes clear that such an offence would require neither foresight nor knowledge that the weapon was to be used in that way. The schedule could provide specific exemptions for bona fide kitchen or other instruments which have a legitimate purpose which has been properly ascertained and verified prior

to sale or supply. 'All the circumstances' would be relevant, including the extent of the verifiable measures taken to ensure that the purpose for which the item was being sold was a legitimate one. Such a conviction would carry a much heavier sentence than for those where simply a sale or supply was proved and be capable for reflecting the true criminality of the and, in a worst case scenario, could lead to a discretionary life sentence in a case where a weapon was used to kill or seriously injure, and the seller was aware that this might be the result. I suggest that such a proposal might carry cross-party support and might strike real fear into those foolish enough to supply or sell such things ever again.

My reasons for suggesting this new legislative approach are as follows:

- As touched upon above, there is now substantial evidence that knives sold online can be identified as having come from particular identifiable online sellers, and also that those who sell them know this. One online seller (see <https://www.dnaleisure.co.uk>) has recently stopped selling these knives for precisely the reason that they know that knives sold by them were used to kill.
- It should now be inconceivable that there could be any objective justification for a claim by a seller that they were not aware of the risk that their weapons they sell **might** be used for violent purposes. The Police and the Home Office might play a part in disseminating the evidence to support this,
- The kind of verification processes used by some sellers are clearly insufficient and rely too heavily in self-certification of age, identity and the alleged purpose

identified for the use of the weapon to be sold. Any small or large-scale bulk sale of zombie knives self-evidently are unlikely to have a legitimate purpose, and specious arguments to the contrary are unlikely to convince.

- The very fact that sellers are requiring these verification procedures (however inadequate they may be) provides additional evidence that they are aware of the dangers of selling to those who have a legitimate need for such weapons.
- The fact that verification procedures need to be used also demonstrates that the sellers are also accepting the duty they owe towards those who might be adversely affected by such sale, through their illegitimate use. If complicity in manslaughter were later to be alleged this would be a relevant legal consideration.
- I have considered whether it is proportionate to impose this kind of criminal liability on the those who sell online or supply weapons in the retail market. The benefits of such a legislative provision to end the carrying of these weapons should far outweigh any legitimate concerns that some might have. I further suggest if the above conditions are satisfied, then of course it is fair.

Low Level Offending

There is increasing evidence a that Out of Court disposals (OoCRs) for those found in possession of a knife as a first offence, without any aggravating features, is often a considerably more productive way to go than prosecution. It is certainly true that greater investment in out-of-court disposals is needed (see <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/research/the->

evidence-base-youth-offending-services/specific-types-of-delivery/out-of-court-disposals/).

OoCRs can also be used to advantage across a range of offending which otherwise might have formerly required the full force of the criminal justice system engagement. Our partners at Make Time Count Today (MTCT), are leaders in using the latest technology to ensure that police forces, service providers, offenders, victims, prisons and probation services are digitally connected in a way that's never been done before. They have developed data-driven technology that can reveal the significant cost savings OoCRs can deliver to police forces. Put simply, if the Sentencing Council's Guidelines do not make custody necessary, then we should consider an alternative, speedier, and constructive means of disposal, which the victim too can accept. Prosecution would not be necessary, but a deferred prosecution would be available in the event of non-compliance. For those requiring more information about earlier developments in OoCRs they can read about it here too <https://www.fightingknife crime.london/news-posts/a-millennium-of-experience-focused-on-diversion>. Plans for these kinds of changes now seem to be moving forward with greater energy. Investment and training to support OoCRs has the potential to save reduce the current costs of using the full force of law, and given the evidence that low level sentencing damages lives rather than rehabilitates, it offers a much greater advantage to the rest of us, and an even greater possibility of changing lives for the better.

In order to reinforce this, I would gently recommend that more discretion than at present exists is afforded to sentencing

judges. The 'guidelines' do bring structure, but the removal of individual judicial discretion, now usually compelling judges into following structured sentencing codes to the letter, is, as I know, viewed by some recently retired judges, as having placed sentencing into an undesirable straitjacket. I include myself in this. All judges are required to give reasons for their decisions. They take care to get it right. They should be trusted to deal with differing circumstances of each offence without being bound by rules detached from the living reality that different circumstances can throw up.

Another proposal that FKCL encourages is in the still controversial area of stop and search. New technology, it can be implemented, might offer a considerable increase in public acceptability and trust by removing the stigma of what otherwise might appear be random and unjustified searching based on often too loose intelligence. There are now small technological tools that can, without the use of weapon arches and similar scanning technology, identify those who are carrying weapons at a safe distance. These discreet tools allow police to identify before the need to close on a suspect, that someone is carrying what appear to be weapons. Once such technology is known to be in use, those who carry will have real cause to fear detection. This technology can also reduce the chance of escalation, as police officers need only close on a clear suspect to make a search.

Whilst there may be privacy concerns, they are easily allayed. Such an intrusion, in the right circumstances, or any potential infringement on individual rights is more than justified by the benefits to society, and arguably far better than present procedures which put officers at

greater risk. I have spoken to one of the developers of this technology and am sure it could work. I hope to hear soon that a decision has been made to deploy this. If it is to be done, there should be no secret about it either.

This magazine is as much a forum for championing the work that others do to help young people, as it is to provide the evidence and ideas to support change. I hope that anyone who has a serious, thought-through, and workable idea to help reduce youth crime will consider writing to me about it.

Bruce Houlder

Founder of Fighting Knife
Crime London (FKCL)

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Bruce Houlder

Further Reading

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-controls-on-offensive-weapons#importing-knives-swords-and-other-offensive-weapons-into-the-uk>

[2] FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE EXISTING VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT WITH RETAILERS SEE <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers>

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SHARP Simulation-based Holistic Approach for Reducing and Preventing Knife Violence

By Roger Kneebone, Professor of Surgical Education and Engagement Science, Imperial College, London¹

Co-authored by: Fernando Bello, Professor of Surgical Computing and Simulation Science, Imperial College London & C. Sofia Chacon, Paediatric Surgeon and Project Lead Researcher in Surgical Education and Simulation Fellow, Imperial College London

Transforming Young Lives Through Simulation

The SHARP programme, created by the Imperial College Centre for Engagement and Simulation Science (ICCESS), is a groundbreaking approach to the pressing issue of knife crime among young people. Funded initially by the Youth Endowment

Fund (YEF) and later supported by the London Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), SHARP has demonstrated the profound impact of innovative, simulation-based education in bringing about behavioural change.

Our journey with SHARP began with a clear purpose: to reduce knife carrying among young people by enhancing their understanding of the



physical and emotional consequences of knife injury and highlighting alternative activities within their communities. The programme's feasibility was independently evaluated by IPSOS MORI, and we have partnered with two charities (The Prince's Trust and The Change Foundation) to deliver this initiative.

The Power of Simulation in Education

Simulation is a well-established educational tool in the medical field, particularly for training surgical professionals. SHARP leverages this approach to deliver socially educational messages and bring about behavioural change in young people. Our pilot workshops have demonstrated that 'sequential simulation,' a concept pioneered at our university by our team², can significantly impact participants' perceptions and behaviours regarding knife crime.

Mechanisms of Change

The SHARP programme's success lies in its carefully designed mechanisms of change, which include:

- Creating safe and supportive environments that foster trust and respectful dialogue with healthcare professionals and between young people themselves.

- Developing in-depth understanding of the life-altering impacts of knife crime.
- Providing insights into the healthcare system, the people who work within it, and the stages of care following a knife injury.
- Offering positive, interactive learning experiences which go beyond traditional educational settings.
- Validating participants' opinions and co-creating new work based on their input.
- Providing emotional support to address the challenging topics discussed.

SHARP has been delivered in two phases:

Phase 1: Virtual Reality and Participatory Arts

Phase 1 featured a Virtual Reality (VR) depiction of the knife injury pathway, developed by our in-house team and based on personal testimonies from affected young people. This was coupled with an arts-based activity that invited participants to explore their personal responses to knife violence by creating images, with the support of a skilled artist and teacher. This immersive approach enabled young people to visualize and discuss the consequences of knife crime in a safe space.

Phase 2: Full-Scale Physical Simulation

In Phase 2, we brought together the same young people to participate in full-scale physical simulations of the knife injury pathway. This included paramedic roadside assistance, life-saving surgery, and an exploration of the life-changing long term consequences following recovery, all conducted by expert healthcare professionals who do this work every day. Another arts-based intervention, featuring the unique textile 'SomeBody' created by the SHARP team, further explored the psychological and physical experiences of young people, supported by trauma-informed experts. Young ambassadors from our charity partners shared their first hand experiences of knife injury, enhancing the programme's authenticity and impact.

Outcomes and Impact

To date, SHARP has engaged 557 participants aged 11-18 across schools and youth clubs in Greater London. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with requests for more sessions and participant numbers far exceeding initial projections. Our multi-modal approach, combining VR, physical simulations, and arts-based activities, has proved effective in addressing these complex issues.

Expanding SHARP: Clinical and Criminal Justice Pathways.

If there is a knife in a situation, a moment's impulse can lead to a young person being either injured or arrested. We want to give young people information to help them make safer choices and live safer lives. Building on our current success, SHARP now aims to expand its scope in two ways:

1. *Clinical Pathway* (Phases 1 and 2): We plan to consolidate and extend our work around knife injury by scaling up our workshops across London and beyond. We will revisit schools we have already worked with and establish partnerships with new ones.
2. *Justice Pathway* (Phase 3): We will explain the *crime* system pathway which lies ahead if someone carries a knife or joins others who do. This leads from arrest and custody to youth court hearings and possible sentencing.

We are working closely with police, solicitors, barristers, magistrates, judges and experts in the youth justice system to provide non-judgemental and age-appropriate information.

Combining health and justice pathways through VR or physical simulation has not previously been



Further Reading

[1] <https://www.rogerkneebone.co.uk/about> and <https://profiles.imperial.ac.uk/r.kneebone>
Prof Roger Kneebone has an international profile as an academic and innovator. He publishes widely and speaks frequently at national and international conferences. His book *Expert: Understanding the Path to Mastery* was published as a Penguin paperback in 2021. Roger is especially interested in collaborative research at the intersections between traditional disciplinary boundaries and brings his considerable knowledge and insight to thinking on art and the nature of craft. Since 2019 Roger has been the fourteenth Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy of Arts, where he is exploring how artists, doctors and scientists perceive the human body. And he hosts a fortnightly podcast, *Countercurrent*, in which he invites scientists, artists, musicians, clinicians, craftspeople and writers to take part in free-flowing discussions.

[2] <https://sharp-project.org/team/>

done, and we believe it will provide invaluable insights into the long-term implications of carrying a knife.

Insights and Future Directions

Implementing SHARP with nearly 600 students has provided us with invaluable insights into the complex roots of knife violence. Engaging closely with young people has highlighted underlying factors and given us authentic perspectives.

Our SHARP workshops take a multidisciplinary approach. We combine targeted educational components with community involvement, cultural sensitivity, long-term support, evaluation, and collaboration with stakeholders. These ensure young people's understanding, engagement, and sustained commitment to prevention efforts. Our promising practices underscore the importance of a holistic, community-oriented approach to effectively address the complexities of knife violence.

The Invitation: A Call for Collaboration

We know that young people have not yet developed adult skills of consequential thinking. It's natural to act impulsively and to want to be part of a group. Our vision is to provide a setting for non-judgemental conversations between young people and expert professionals, opening discussions and providing strategies and options. For that we need wider support.

We are working to bring together schools, stakeholders, funders and policymakers to achieve something that has never been attempted before – integrating health and justice systems to help young people make safer choices and live safer lives.

As we continue to develop and expand our programme, we invite stakeholders, experts, and community members to join us in this work. This multifaceted approach, supported by collaboration with health and justice system experts, holds immense potential to transform

the narrative surrounding knife violence. By providing tangible insights and fostering informed decision-making among young individuals, we aim to reduce the prevalence of such incidents and foster safer communities for all.

For this next stage we need financial support – from individuals, organisations, businesses and agencies who share our passion for making our streets and communities safe places for our young people to grow, develop and reach their full potential.

Our SHARP programme highlights the power of innovative, simulation-based education coupled with the visual arts in addressing critical societal issues. Through our work, we aim to empower young people to make informed decisions, avoid knife carrying, and build and sustain safer communities. We are committed to expanding our reach and impact, and we look forward to continued collaboration with our partners and supporters in this crucial mission.

Roger Kneebone

**Professor of Surgical Education
and Engagement Science, Imperial
College, London**

IMPERIAL SHARP

www.imperial.ac.uk



Roger Kneebone



Connecting talent with opportunity: offering young people a hopeful future

By Cat Wyard, Communications Manager at LTSB

LTSB – a social mobility employment charity

We bridge the gap between young people's potential and high-quality careers. With the right preparation, support and network building, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can go all the way in their chosen professions. They absolutely possess the ability and ambition, but we don't think it's fair they have to overcome systemic barriers alone.

What do we mean by disadvantage?

It's important to be frank about the deep inequality that exists in

the UK. For example, in 2023, the **Social Mobility Commission** State of the Nation report showed that link between your parents' occupation and where you'll end up is stronger than ever: "Adults with lower working-class parents are about 3 times as likely – 30% against 11% – to be in a working-class occupation themselves compared with adults with higher professional parents."

But it's just as important for young people to feel they have choice and believe there's a positive future available to them. We work to level the playing field and open up access to high-earning career paths for communities

where opportunities are rarely found.

When we select young people for our programmes, we're clear that 'disadvantaged backgrounds' means being subject to socio-economic barriers. It says nothing about our young people or their families. Overwhelmingly, our cohorts are deeply loved and supported by families that want the best for them. Our cohorts are deeply proud of who they are and where they're from. Their inherent qualities are never disadvantages.

When recruiting, we look for markers of socioeconomic disadvantage: free school meal eligibility, and/or living in the most deprived 30% of the country. Our eligibility checks also take into consideration other factors that make have impacted a young person's chances of accessing a career, including adverse personal circumstances such as being a victim of crime, spending time in the care system or having caring responsibilities themselves.

Offering a hopeful future

Having hope for a better future can be tough when the odds are stacked against you. **Recent polling by the Sutton Trust** shows that young people – even more so than the general population – believe that access to opportunities in the UK isn't equal.

"Only about 1 in 5 18-24 year-olds think that every young person in the UK has the same opportunity to succeed [...] Similarly, 75% say coming from a wealthy family is important for getting ahead in life (compared to just 68% saying the same in the general population) and 84% (compared to 78%) think that knowing the right people is either very or somewhat important to getting ahead in life."

With young people rightly noticing that the current system isn't adequately

setting them up for success, how can youth organisations offer a meaningful, and hopeful, way forward?

At LTSB, we believe that the answer lies in three stages:

- **Preparation** – On our 3–8-week programmes we don't just teach CV skills and interview technique. (Though of course it's in there!). We also provide a variety of insight days where our cohorts get to network with professionals, learn about different industries, and build their sense of belonging in these new environments.
- **Placement** – Employability skills are vital, but employment is our goal. We've built relationships with a wide network of employers who are committed to hiring the best from all backgrounds and often adjust their entry process or ring-fence roles for LTSB participants.
- **Support** – Getting a job is the first step, but staying in the job is what we know will unlock genuine, long-term, life-changing benefits for our young people. Our experienced Careers Development Managers provide regular 1-2-1 support for the first year of the young person's career, helping them overcome challenges in their personal lives and build the resilience to go it alone once we formally end our support.



Our outcomes

Since we were founded in 2012, over 1500 young people have joined our bootcamps, with over 90% completing. 71% were placed into apprenticeships or entry-level roles, and of those 89% completed their first year in industry.

But these stories beneath these numbers show our life-changing impact.



Michael* was living in a hostel in Ealing when his sister applied to LTSB on his behalf, and his life to this point had been fraught with challenges. Expelled from his first school, he was transferred to a second, but his situation didn't improve. *"It just felt like a place people were kept until they were moved somewhere else,"* he recalls. *"The problems you have on the street came into the school, too."* Expelled again, he became increasingly involved in gangs, entering a chaotic and highly dangerous period of his life.

Despite his circumstances, Michael had a talent for Maths and dreamed of becoming an accountant. Even after self-funding his qualifications, breaking into the industry seemed impossible. The past clung to him, making it hard to move forward. He was even stabbed during an attack that left

his friend severely injured. Forced to leave his family home, he ended up in temporary hostel accommodation.

This was when he discovered LTSB. He hadn't realised his sister had applied for him, so the invite to interview was a little confusing – but it was soon clear it was exactly the opportunity he needed. After the preparation programme, Michael was placed in a multinational bank as an accountancy apprentice, where he completed his qualification and continues his career in finance. *"I never knew how good it was going to be,"* he said. *"The amount of support LTSB gave me is incredible. From the first day when we met in a corporate boardroom for induction, they said no matter where you come from, if you work hard you can make it. That was inspirational."*



www.ltsb.charity/apply
info@ltsb.charity



KICK-START A CAREER

Our employment programmes are six to eight weeks long and offer a chance for young people **aged 18 - 24** to learn key employability skills, experience days at companies like **Google, Capco and the Post Office**, and be **guaranteed an interview** for a job in their chosen industry.

- ✓ **CV workshops**
- ✓ **Interview coaching**
- ✓ **Corporate Insight Days**
- ✓ **Mentoring and support**
- ✓ **Network with professionals**
- ✓ **Guaranteed Interview**

Get in touch!



The programme has been a fantastic experience. The course leaders were incredibly friendly and engaging, the other participants were great and I loved getting to know everyone.

If I could do it again, I would.



Programme start dates:
Business: 7th October 2024
Law: 21st October 2024

Joseph* achieved strong GCSE results and felt sure he was on an upwards trajectory when he started his A Levels. However, while at college one of his best friends was involved in a knife attack outside of the college grounds and tragically died. He was buried the day before Joseph's 18th birthday. This, along with some other challenging personal circumstances, had a devastating impact on Joseph and unable to focus on his studies he failed his A Levels. It was when he became a young father shortly after that he knew that he needed to pursue an alternative route to achieve a sustainable career. Joseph started on the LTSB Business programme and was an outstanding participant.

Whilst commitments of having a child were hard to juggle, he maintained his attendance and successfully completed the bootcamp. His LTSB Careers Development Manager (CDM) helped him through some of his personal and emotional issues throughout the duration of the programme and kept his motivation up when the programme finished, and he was waiting to be placed. He went on to be offered an AAT Level 3 Apprenticeship position.

His CDM said, "I am so proud of Joseph working through a number of issues to now securing this fantastic role. This position will really help Joseph move forward and is fantastic for him as well as his young family. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Joseph over the coming months"

Working in partnership

We have upcoming opportunities to join our Business and Law programmes in London, kicking off in October. If you work with, or know, young people who may benefit from the programme, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to info@ltsb.charity to discuss how we can create pathways for young people onto our programmes. To find out more about what's available, go to our website at ltsb.charity/apply.

Cat Wyard
Communications Manager
LTSB



ltsb.charity



Cat Wyard



Tackle London: Inspiring Real Change Through Sports Mentoring

By Paul Murphy, Communications Lead, TackleLondon

It's a bright and breezy Thursday morning in Croydon's New Addington neighbourhood. This is precisely the point where London meets Surrey. We're only a few miles away from some of the country's most affluent villages, with their suitably luxurious properties and exclusive golf clubs. And yet here we are in an area,

so long severely under-resourced and ignored, which has a deeply troubled history, often making headlines for the bleakest of reasons. The dramatically contrasting proximity of privilege and neglect remains a stark statement of unhealthy social inequality.

Rugby coach Aidan Brennan, with his trademark bustling energy and

enthusiasm, is busy setting up for another training session at Meridian High School. Today he'll put 68 pupils through their paces, as part of an ongoing programme which runs in collaboration with the school's own sports offering. It's overseen by the *TackleLondon* scheme, which has just completed its first two terms providing regular coaching and mentoring in this and other local schools.

INVALUABLE ENGAGEMENT

The impact here has already been significant and massively encouraging. Numbers are growing, and along with them the committed buy-in from the pupils, who are not only learning a new skill but more importantly thriving in an environment which many of them previously simply didn't have access to.

These sessions are more than just physical training; they are avenues for the students to develop discipline, teamwork and self-confidence. They're eagerly anticipated, with some boys and girls even arriving early to get extra practice in. The camaraderie built on the field often spills over into their academic lives, with school staff noting improved cooperation and mutual respect both towards teachers and among peer groups.

Assistant Head, and Personal Development Lead, Robyn Wallace is emphatically committed to the initiative, and in no doubt as to its benefits:

'This programme is invaluable to us. Its values of teamwork and resilience have already been so influential: I've seen pupils immediately more engaged, respectful and polite. They see the coach as a role model: someone that cares, wants to listen, and can give them guidance.'



A SHARED VISION

TackleLondon was established as a joint venture between three organisations with common motivations and goals: *The Atlas Foundation*, *star* scheme* and *The Matt Ratana Rugby Foundation*. As many readers will be aware, the latter charity was created as a memorial legacy for the local hero who was killed on duty policing Croydon's communities. Matt was a fiercely passionate advocate of youth mentoring; he believed wholeheartedly in providing young people with the opportunity to follow a more positive path and realise their own potential.

Already the project has been established in 11 further schools, as well as 6 clubs. Backed by funding from the Mayor's NDYP/Propel scheme, *TackleLondon* has already expanded into neighbouring Bromley and Sutton, and is ahead of schedule with its growth plans. Ultimately, with increased investment and more resources, the target is to reach every London borough. The collaborative effort aims to create a sustainable model that can be replicated across various communities, ensuring that no young

person is left without the support they need.

This growth not only aims to increase the number of participants but also to enhance the quality of engagement through continuous feedback and adaptation of the programmes. By doing so, *TackleLondon* hopes to build a robust framework that can withstand the test of time and impact generations to come. Their mission is to break the cycle of disadvantage and provide young people with the tools they need to succeed, both on and off the field.

A CONSISTENT PATHWAY

Its commitment to tackling inequality of opportunity is based on promoting and developing positive, beneficial relationships uniting school, club and community: this is *TackleLondon*'s unbroken and coherent 'pathway' of support. Under the project, students initially experience regular contact with a dedicated mentor in the form of a trained coach. These sessions are designed and delivered in close consultation with the host school.

By providing training and resources enabling local community clubs to offer approved programmes, *TackleLondon* then facilitates the transition to a further supportive environment. The ultimate goal is to provide continuity and consistency, in the form of long-term help and guidance, establishing each young person as a valued member of their local 'rugby family'.

The 'pathway' model ensures that students don't just participate in isolated activities, but embark on a journey of growth and development. It encourages a holistic approach to their wellbeing, focusing on physical fitness, emotional resilience and social skills.

This model has already been successful in fostering a sense of belonging and identity among the participants, which is crucial for their overall development.

COUNTERING ADVERSITY

The *TackleLondon* approach is based on extensive academic research which emphatically demonstrates that the harmful effects of childhood adversity can be favourably influenced by sustained engagement with reliable and responsible mentoring. Consistent access to a trusted 'always available adult' builds both the resilience to cope with challenges, and the self-belief to respond to constructive influences and develop.

The ultimate goal is to empower the next generation by enabling all young people with the confidence and motivation to take ownership of their futures and realise their full potential. By focusing on early intervention and continuous support, *TackleLondon* aims to create lasting change by encouraging ongoing youth engagement.



POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Dr Amy Atkinson, *TackleLondon* manager and a leader in the nationwide



Rugby United project promoting cultural inclusion, highlights the broader impact:

'Rugby is a potent leveller: it doesn't matter who you are, where you've come from, we're all in the same team together. We're taking rugby out into the community to under-served, under-resourced schools where we can show young people that they belong, that there's a space for them with us, a home, where they can begin a new story about themselves and leave that different, unhelpful, unhealthy story behind.'

The level of physicality in rugby means that there is a strong emphasis on rules and discipline. Young people, for some very understandable reasons, have become suspicious and mistrusting of authority. But through rugby they can start to understand that the rules are there to keep everyone safe, and that they apply to everyone equally.

The importance of belonging cannot be overstated. Sadly, we know that gang affiliation - which also offers a sense of identity and belonging in the most dangerous of ways - is a strong force

in our communities. In some areas, that is what we are competing with, and we cannot act quickly or effectively enough to broaden our reach to those young people most at risk of endangering their own and other peoples' futures.'

MORE THAN RUGBY

Whilst the playing field is the starting point, classroom-based sessions addressing wellbeing and mental health are also in the pipeline. These sessions will cover a range of topics, including stress management, healthy relationships and academic support. By integrating these aspects, TackleLondon ensures a well-rounded approach to youth development.

Additionally, the programme plans to incorporate various arts and cultural activities to engage students with different interests and talents. By doing so, they aim to reach a wider audience and provide multiple avenues for young people to express themselves and build their confidence. This inclusive approach helps to ensure that no one is left behind and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As Robyn proudly declares: 'Our young people, who increasingly feel lost and lacking in inspiration, unsure of their career future and their place in the world, are now saying "I can do this, I can achieve something".'

The students of Meridian High School are central to a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the New Addington community. TackleLondon has a vital role to play in this inspiring story, and in the similarly inspiring stories waiting to be told in every other London borough.

TackleLondon aims to make a tangible, constructive difference to the lives of young Londoners who face disproportionate challenges. They work with schools and rugby clubs, in communities affected by increased levels of poverty, neglect and social disadvantage, to facilitate access to their own brand of sports mentoring: regular and ongoing engagement with trusted, reliable adults.

Paul Murphy

Communications Lead,
TackleLondon



www.TackleLondon.org



Paul Murphy

RISE UP



Empowering youth workers to support young Londoners affected by violence

The Rise Up leadership programme strengthens London's youth sector by investing directly in frontline youth work professionals and their organisations, developing youth practitioners' skills and confidence, and enabling them to better support young Londoners affected by violence.

Over the last three years, Rise Up has demonstrably succeeded in deepening youth practitioners' skills, networks, and practice. Hundreds of alumni continue to put their knowledge into practice and support young people more effectively.

Now entering its fourth year, the Rise Up programme is now open for applications.

Scan the QR code to register



Rise Up free training offer

The training strengthens participants' expertise through the experiences of fellow youth practitioners in the group and insights from organisations specialising in youth work, trauma, conflict, contextual safeguarding, and leadership.

Available in two formats:

Lite, a concise basic cohort or **Full**, a comprehensive 6-month training.

Find out more and register at londonyouth.org/rise-up



FIGHTING
KNIFE CRIME

AIR Network: Building relationships to help build futures and communities

By Steven Hoy (he/him), Chief Operating Officer of AIR Network

AIR Network is celebrating its 17th birthday this year. Since its early beginnings as a small Redbridge football programme supporting NHS Patients back into the community, it's been on an amazing journey. One that has seen it travel the world, work across all London Boroughs, engage over 16,000 individuals, house over 400 service users, support over 4000 into ETE (employment, training and education), deliver over 200,000 telephone and 65,000 face to face mentoring sessions and develop its own innovative approach to custody and community mentoring. Not to mention it's played the odd game of football here and there.

AIR Network at a grass roots level is a motivational mentoring programme which uses honest, relevant and trusting relationships to support vulnerable and at-risk individuals to both plan, achieve and ultimately succeed in areas of their lives. On average we work with 750-900 hard to reach, vulnerable and at-risk individuals each year. Our approach, known affectionately as the AIR WAY

within AIR Network, is both simple and complex at the same time. It is simple in its overriding vision to help each individual undertake things that are important to them, and complex in figuring out just how to do this for each individual.

The AIR Way approach has been the product of many years of trial and error, learning, partnerships and service user focus groups. Over the past 17 years we have set aside and adopted both traditional and more radical ideas and approaches resulting in our own experience informed model. We have delivered school education and football services and researched sports approaches with young people in Thailand, supported adult Homeless projects and street outreach services in Milan, visited gang violence programmes in Stockholm and Scotland and worked with sports education programmes in Miami and Malta. Every bit of this experience and learning has contributed to our approach and focus and purpose. The recurring three messages repeated by service users

throughout all our learning have been safety, security and hope.

Fundamentally, our approach is not to adopt a set programme or single method or system. It's simply built upon what most of us take for granted in our lives - the inclusion of positive and honest, non-judgemental relationships. This is something, that experience has shown, many of our service users do not have.

Our mentoring starts with our staff, getting the right people in place is critical, even more so than the extensive training we provide. For us it's all about the 3 R'S, Relationship, Relevance and Relatability which is something very difficult to simply teach. In recognition of this, we recruit our mentors from the areas we deliver in; it's key that the mentor understands the area, knows the local hang outs and hot spots, knows the local issues, the local gangs, understands the music, fashion and pressures young people face and yet is simultaneously aware of the needs of society, family, communities and authorities. As a consequence, our mentors are very often a complimentary bridge between statutory services and young people. An integral part of our programme involves the progression of service users into volunteers and paid mentors. This helps ensure that we as an organisation remain relevant to the needs of our service users by frontline shaping of services but also maintains our focus on remaining relevant to current and future service users.

The right mentors of course need the right training and the right support, At AIR this includes an intensive induction covering motivational interviewing, inclusivity, trauma aware approaches, safeguarding, understanding the need for gender informed interventions, psycho-maturity level assessment training,

caseworking and traditional mentoring approaches; icebreaking, first approaches, and developing first impressions.

So, after all of that, what does AIR actual do on the ground? Well, we deliver a range of mentoring-based violence reduction, youth engagement, wellbeing and gang exit programmes across all London Boroughs. We work with individuals from the age of 8 up to 60, supporting young people leaving care, young people in alternative education provision, adult offenders in custody, through the gate and post release into community programmes. Our delivery is by necessity flexible, delivered at times and places when its needed, often in the evenings and weekends and regularly involving instances of trauma, emergency call outs and engagements in family homes, school, prison, courts, police pick-ups, probation offices and local authority safeguarding reviews.

We provide a wide range of direct and outcome-based support, depending on the needs, current experience and age of the individual. For adult individuals in our Lambeth violence reduction and reducing offending programme this can include outcome-based services such as pre-release support in prison, sourcing and/or providing housing, setting up bank accounts, sorting benefits, arranging substance misuse treatment referrals, registering with a GP and providing ETE support and opportunities. It also includes support for personal wellbeing, behaviour change, developing human and social capital, key interpersonal, coping and life skills, family involvement and reconciliation as well as looking at preventative approaches, development of non-offending identities and impact of crime on self and society. The underlying inspiration for AIR's violence reduction

approach was the pioneering public health approach to violence reduction adopted by the Glasgow violence reduction unit.

Our violence reduction and gangs programmes in Brent, Barnet and Havering involves engaging and mentoring with young people aged 8 -25 both known and unknown to the police and Local Authority. This includes street outreach, sports and fitness provision, school support, trauma informed one to one mentoring, family involvement, gang exit support, out of hours support, education programmes within schools for parents, teachers and pupils. Mentors, recruited from the local area focus primarily on personal and community safety, family mediation and pro-social modelling, development of coping skills and resilience and development of age and experience relevant human and social capital.

All of our programmes both rely on and have a deliberate collaborative approach; health, education, policing and justice partnerships are key partners, funders, stakeholders and referral partners in all of our programmes and must always be so. Clear communication routes, Information sharing, best practice, safeguarding and honest and current intelligence sharing underpin our work and the success of both our service users and AIR Network interventions.

Stakeholder involvement, transparency of approach/delivery and development of cross organisational staffing relationships is a key component of the AIR WAY. We do this in typical ways such as attending stakeholder staff meetings, professional case reviews, safeguarding meetings, programme promotion events and regular marketing drops. We also invest in regular large scale

stakeholder events involving 200-300 service users, partner staff and funders such as sports day events in Thameside prison, world cup events at England's St George training centre and our upcoming fun day on Wednesday 31st July; both a celebration and recognition of our service users, partners and funders. The event also provides the opportunity to meet staff, observe and participate in our sports and wellbeing events and see service users engaged in fun and healthy activity.

If you would be interested in learning more about AIR Network, would like to attend our upcoming event or would be interested in working with us, please contact a member of our Management team at stevehoy@airnetwork.co.uk or marlon@airnetwork.co.uk.

Steven Hoy (he/him)
Chief Operating Officer,
AIR Network

AIRNETWORK

www.airnetwork.co.uk



Steven Hoy



Empowering the Next Generation through the Arts: The Crucial Role of Creativity & Youth Work

By Kerry O'Brien, CEO, Young Urban Arts Foundation

Growing up, I faced numerous challenges that could have easily led me down a path of crime and despair. However, my life took a different turn, thanks to the transformative power of music, peer support, and healthy adult relationships. Engaging in the arts provided me with a unique outlet for self-expression and personal growth, helping me navigate my emotions and build confidence. These experiences inspired me to found my music charity, the Young Urban Arts Foundation (YUAF), aiming to offer the same opportunities to other young people.

The Impact of the Arts in Youth Work

Arts-based youth work is essential in tackling the critical issues facing young people today. With over 11 million young people in the UK, making up more than a fifth of the population, they are the

future workforce and leaders. However, they encounter numerous barriers to success, including mental health struggles, educational inequities, and social disadvantages.

For many young individuals, engagement in the arts through youth work provides a therapeutic tool, helping them explore their identities, express their emotions, and build confidence. Trusted relationships with adults in these creative settings further underscore the importance of the arts in supporting the personal and social development of young people.

I started my charity in 2009, when there was ample funding for young people, thriving youth centres, and thousands of youth workers across the capital building relationships and trust with young people, helping them become healthy, ambitious, supported, and guided

young adults. I am really proud that we have thus far withstood the despicable cuts to youth services over the past 14 years and we have continued to innovate, adapt, persevere, and keep young people at the forefront of our mission.

As a leader and champion of young people in London, I see firsthand the vital role youth services play in shaping young lives. These services offer a sense of belonging, a safe space, and the opportunity for young people to enjoy being young. Yet, the day-to-day impact of these services often goes unnoticed by the public, overshadowed by the pressing issues that dominate headlines. But let me be clear: the consequences of cutting youth services funding are dire and far-reaching.

Recent figures uncovered since 2010 show that funding has plummeted from £1.4 billion to just under £429 million in 2018/19—a staggering 70% decline. This isn't just a statistic; it's a harsh reality that affects thousands of young lives and communities, not just those that are underserved.

These cuts have had devastating consequences, including a rise in anti-social behavior and youth crime. Over the past decade, more than 4,500 youth work jobs have been cut, and 760 youth centres have closed.

Youth services are not a luxury—they are a necessity. They provide critical



support to young people, helping them navigate the challenges of adolescence, and offering guidance, mentorship, and opportunities to develop skills and build confidence. Without these services, we are failing our young people, leaving them vulnerable and isolated.

Our young people deserve better. They deserve a society that values and invests in their future. The nearly billion-pound decline in funding for youth services is a betrayal of our commitment to the next generation and with fewer places for young people to connect, belong, and develop innate creative talents it's paramount that no matter who leads this country, we need to be making the change we want to see, by standing with and for the future generation of leaders, artists, creators, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Young Urban Arts Foundation (YUAF)

The Young Urban Arts Foundation (YUAF) has significantly enhanced the skills, development, and confidence of young people through activities like podcast planning, song creation, and group collaborations. Many participants have reported increased happiness and well-being, with nearly 90% noting positive changes.

Podcasting sessions, in particular, provided a safe, cathartic space for youth to express themselves, helping them feel



listened to and valued. The Media Bus's impact was so profound that some participants traveled across London to attend multiple sessions. Additionally, 88% of the youth gained more knowledge about various activities, leading them to receive personalized support through the Pathways program, which connects them with further opportunities based on their needs and interests.

Pathways Into Opportunity

The Pathways program empowers young people aged 14-19 to take charge of their lives, enhancing personal development and well-being. It offers progression routes to explore education, creative careers, and health support. Key outcomes include increased happiness, optimism, self-confidence, and a stronger sense of belonging to a creative community. The program has provided 48 youths with one-on-one mentoring, helping them navigate challenges and access 72 opportunities within YUAF and with external partners, including creative industry brands.

YUAF Futures is a program designed for marginalized youth aged 16-19, providing opportunities to enter desirable workplaces or gain skills and training that enhance their prospects, thereby increasing diversity and inclusion in the

workforce. Participants explore career choices and gain real-world insights, enabling them to make informed decisions through experiential learning. Key outcomes include improved well-being, self-confidence, access to opportunities, and employability skills.

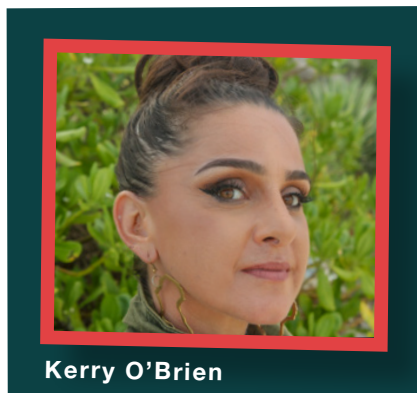
Arts-based youth work has the power to transform lives, as it did mine. The Young Urban Arts Foundation (YUAF) and its programs like Pathways and Futures are making significant strides in empowering young people, fostering creativity, and building a more inclusive society. By continuing to support and expand these initiatives, we can unlock the potential of the arts in youth work to create positive, lasting change for young people across the UK. This investment is not only in their future but in the future of our society as a whole.

Kerry O'Brien
CEO,

Young Urban Arts Foundation

YUAF YOUNG URBAN
ARTS FOUNDATION

www.yuaf.org



Kerry O'Brien

HELP SAVE LIVES WITH LET'S GET TALKING CHARITY

Sue Scott-Horne - Founder Let's Get Talking Charity



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Every second counts in an emergency.

Let's Get Talking has placed the first bleed kit in Camden Stables Market. These trauma bleed kits - boxes and bags are designed to provide immediate support to stem the bleed in the case of severe bleeding, potentially saving lives before professional help arrives.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Join us in making our community safer. Your donation can help us place more bleed kits in high-risk areas, educate young people about knife crime, and provide crucial resources to prevent violence.

DONATE TODAY

Together, we can make a difference. Visit LetsGetTalking.org to learn more and cafdonate.cafonline.org/3076 to donate.

YOUR SUPPORT CAN SAVE A LIFE.

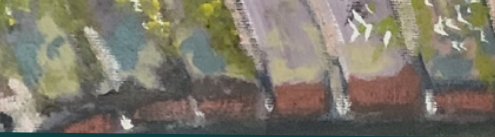


DONATE TODAY

If you would like to buy a Bleed Kit Box or a kit bag for your school, youth project, shop or organisation please email: talk@letsgettalking.org or visit our website www.letsgettalking.org

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