

May-June Newsletter

SOLVE
THE CENTRE FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

May-June 2024



CEO - CRAIG PINKNEY

Here's what has happened in the last 2 months and what's to come!

May and June has seen a busy two month for Team SOLVE! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our Partners and all those we have worked with who have continued to support us during these exciting times. Your passion and dedication have inspired our Training and Workshops and aided us in the hopes of providing the best possible outcome for our youth.

In terms of our recent activities, we continue to provide life skills training to our Premier League Football clubs as well as supporting our sponsor Charity Breaking Barriers in yet another successful Wheelchair Basketball event held to raise awareness for their mission in aiding individuals with spinal chord injuries.

We are also excited to announce that we will be kicking off another stint of Workshops aimed at schools within the West Midlands and London to get our kids thinking about their choices and the impact of youth crime amongst other hard hitting topics.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that if you would like to help us continue our mission in making our communities a better place, you can donate, leave us a Google Review, partner with us or watch our content. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy our May-June newsletter!

SOLVE team
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In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Updates

Information on our Training

Stories of Impact

Details of upcoming Training and Webinars

Updates on what the SOLVE Team have been up to

SOLVE Team Highlights



Safeguarding Day with AVC Bournemouth FC

Craig and the Team have continued to work with Premier league Teams to provide crucial life skills to the Academy U9s - U16s.

This past couple of months saw the successful provision of one of SOVLE's more popular courses around Understanding Gangs and Criminal Exploitation.

This full day course aims to;

- Identify the evolution of county lines, youth violence, and gangs in the United Kingdom.

- Recognise indicators and reasons why children and young people get involved with street gangs or county lines. w211
- Explore the roles of young women, including grooming and sexual exploitation.
- Examine key aspects/components of gangs, such as structure and the impact of social media.
- Identify available support and resources for children and young people in your area.



Mentoring with Breaking Barriers

Two of our learners from Breaking Barriers charity successfully completed their level 3 accredited Diploma in Mentoring. Well done lads!



Let's Talk Mens Mental Health - With BCU Alumni

Craig joined the Alumni Team at BCU to provide his thoughts on the topic of Mental Health in men and share his personal journey with the team.

This insightful podcast covers topics such as; Social Media and the pressures it creates, suicide in men and the impact of youth violence and social conflict on mental health.

Podcast can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MuD_dYuQvI



Training with Blaggrave Trust

The Blaggrave Trust is a youth focused funder who aims to support 16-30 year olds in society who face the most social in justice and fund both nationally (directly to young people) and regionally (charities and other registered youth services in the south east of England).

The Blaggrave Trust approached SOLVE seeking training to better understand and engage with topics effecting the youth from less privileged backgrounds, so that they are able to make better informed funding decisions with better understanding of research and context.

Craig spent the day with the Blaggrave Trust Team delivering training focused on providing them with an enhanced understanding of the complexities surrounding youth violence and the importance of culturally and linguistically competent approaches within youth work.

The team at Blaggrave Trust where ecstatic with the training provided and couldn't thank the SOLVE team enough.

Check out their Google review of the training provided!



Training with Mwanzo

Mwanzo Project is a Black Led Grassroots Community Interest Company founded in response to the gap in provision for children and young people who are at risk/involved in offending, exploitation and street conflict.

Mwanzo Project seeks to create opportunities for young people to engage in support that is accessible to them, provide them with opportunities to build relationships with mentors and role-models who they can relate to and unlock their potential.

The SOLVE team headed to Bristol to aid the Mwanzo Project in their quest by providing the following training courses:

- The Principles of 'On Road' Youth Work
- Tipping Point: Practical Steps to Assist Young People in Exiting Gangs
- Safeguarding of Young People at Risk of Extra Familial Harm
- Murder Media: Social Media, Music & Violence



Breakin Barriers - Wheelchair Basketball Event

The SOLVE Team attended a fun filled day of wheelchair Basketball in support of their sponsor Charity Breakin Barriers.

My oh my was it a lot harder than it looks!

This event which was co-ordinated by Breakin Barrier's CEO Fidel Thompson, was to aid awareness for they work they do with people experiencing spinal cord injury and what better way to do that then partaking in one of the hardest sports going.

Breakin Barriers is an organisation that give people with spinal cord injuries the tools to develop their independence, communication skills, and emotional intelligence, around issues relating to spinal cord injuries and the impact that it can have on their mental health.

Their goal is to create a network for people with spinal cord injuries to connect with others on a similar journey, whilst building a community for individuals to share their experiences and participate in peer group activities.



Croydon Managers Heads of Service Meeting

Craig spent the day with the Heads of Service over at Croydon Council focused on addressing their need to implement changes in practice for the provision of better children's services.



Training with Physics Care

The team at Physics Care joined Craig at the SOLVE Head Offices for a day of bespoke staff training around "Enhancing Youth Safety: Strategies for Addressing Violence, Substance Misuse, and Safeguarding."

Physics care found the day extremely informative and is a prime example of SOLVE's ability to create tailor made training to suit an organisation.

Haringey Youth at Risk Strategy Workforce Development Training

April and May saw the kick off of the “Youth at Risk Strategy Workforce Development” training plan lead by SOLVE’s CEO Craig Pinkney and experienced facilitator Sean Monaghan. This training programme is set to span until end of year so please see future newsletter for an update on how we’re getting on!



SOLVE have brought two courses to Haringey over these past couple of months.

[Understanding Gangs and Criminal Exploitation: Lead by Craig Pinkney](#)

This training enables professionals to effectively deal with issues related to street gangs and criminal exploitation. Through thought-provoking discussions and participant-driven dialogue, participants will address concerns and gain valuable insights.

[Safety Planning: A Tool to Support the Safeguarding of Young People at Risk of Extra-Familial Harm: Lead by Sean Monaghan](#)

This course is designed to equip learners with an understanding of Contextual Safeguarding and Safety Planning Interventions (SPIs). Participants will be trained to develop SPIs effectively and know where to seek further support and reading.



SOLVE's Youth Team at Solihull Academy

SOLVE's Youth Team headed to Solihull Academy to provide the young people with thought provoking and engaging workshops aimed at getting them to understand the consequences of partaking in anti-social and criminal behaviour. SOLVE's Youth team aim to help young people understand that there is always a better way!

Workshops provided included:

The Ripple Effect Workshop - Lead by Fidel Thompson

The Ripple Effect is a workshop that gives young people insight to gang life by ex-gang member Fidel Thompson who was injured due to conflict resulting in a spinal chord injury that left him in a wheelchair. This powerful and emotive workshop really shows the potential consequence of gang life,

It Could Be You Workshop - Lead by Niamh Boyle

It Could Be You is a workshop that helps young people think about the choices they make and their potential outcomes. Facilitator Niamh Boyle provides a highly interactive workshop that takes into consideration various topics and scenarios such as criminal and sexual exploitation and provides real life stories for thought.

In Session Mentoring - Lead by Kareem White

SOLVE's Peer Mentor provided the team over at Solihull Academy with much needed support during the workshops and helps provide relatable experience that young people draw to.

If you would like more information about how SOLVE's Youth Team can help your organisation, please reach out!

Thank you for reading!

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Please contact us for more info!