

October Newsletter

SOLVE
THE CENTRE FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

October 2024



CEO - CRAIG PINKNEY

Hello, SOLVE community!

As October comes to a close, we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you—our partners, readers, and supporters who continue to believe in our mission. We couldn't achieve all that we do without the dedication of everyone involved, and we're incredibly grateful for your ongoing support.

This month, SOLVE embarked on an exciting journey to Dublin, where we delivered our Alternative Routes Programme to the Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force. It was an invigorating experience, and we're proud to have connected with such a committed team, working together to create pathways to positive change.

Our partnership with the Haringey Youth Justice Service has also continued strong, allowing us to reach even more young people with impactful guidance and resources.

In addition, our Lifeskills workshops with Premier League football clubs have been flourishing. It's inspiring to see these young athletes developing valuable skills both on and off the pitch.

Thank you once again for being part of our journey! We're excited to keep building and growing together in the months to come.

SOLVE Team
X

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



SOLVE on Tour: Bringing the Alternative Routes Programme to Dublin

This October, SOLVE took its transformative Alternative Routes Programme on tour to Dublin, collaborating with the Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force. The visit marked a new milestone in our mission to inspire change by providing workshops both to young people in the community and to professionals who support them.

The Alternative Routes Programme focuses on empowering participants to make confident choices and build resilience. Through workshops, it addresses the root causes of youth involvement in crime, offering insights into coming exploitation and highlighting the importance of support systems. The program shares real-life stories, showing that, despite the challenges, meaningful change is always possible. Designed with real-world applicability, Alternative Routes has helped participants learn practical steps for personal growth and encouraged them to see the value in their unique journeys.

Feedback from Dublin was supportive, with both young attendees and local professionals describing the sessions as motivating and eye-opening. Many participants found new motivation, and the professionals gained deeper insights into how they can better support young people facing challenging circumstances. Thank you to Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force for partnering with us and to everyone who took part in this meaningful exchange. We're uplifted by the energy and engagement of the Dublin community and look forward to many more collaborations in the future.





SOLVE's October Partnership with Aston Villa FC and Wolverhampton FC: Building Lifeskills With Premier League Clubs

This October, SOLVE continued its meaningful work with Premier League clubs Aston Villa and Wolverhampton, offering our Premier League LifeSkills Training Programme to support players, parents, and professionals. This comprehensive initiative, tailored specifically for young athletes in the Premier League, addresses crucial issues influencing youth today, including gang influence, criminal exploitation, and promoting anti-racist practices.

The LifeSkills Training Programme provides targeted workshops that focus on real-world challenges athletes may face. For young players, sessions delve into topics like the realities of youth violence and criminal exploitation, exploring the dangers and long-term consequence of gang involvement. These workshops also emphasise goal-setting, resilience, and the importance of building healthy relationships both on and off the pitch.

Through workshops for parents, we help families understand how social pressures may influence their children. Parents are equipped to recognise signs of gang affiliation and exploitation, enabling them to offer better guidance and support. For professionals working within these clubs, the training equips them to recognise risks, provide the right support, and engage with young people in ways that foster constructive choices.

Feedback from the sessions has been affirmative. Young players reported feeling more empowered to make informed decisions, while parents and professionals gained valuable insights on how to offer support within and beyond the sport. We're grateful to Aston Villa and Wolverhampton for their collaboration and commitment to nurturing resilient, well-rounded young athletes.

Craig Pinkney Joins the National Black Crown Prosecutors to Drive Change in Youth Justice

This month, Craig Pinkney from SOLVE participated in an insightful panel discussion at the National Black Crown Prosecutors Annual Conference. This annual event is organised by the National Black Crown Prosecution Association (NBCPA), a staff network within the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in the UK. The NBCPA has been a cornerstone in promoting diversity and equality across the criminal justice system, providing support and advocacy for Black, Asian, and minority ethnic employees. They focus on mentoring, professional development, and enhancing cultural awareness in prosecution practices, creating a more inclusive environment for both staff and the communities they serve.

Craig's contributions were particularly profound, offering fresh perspectives on tackling youth violence and criminal exploitation. His insights resonated with the audience, providing actionable strategies for legal professionals in addressing these societal challenges. The conference furthered meaningful discussions on equity and support within the justice system, highlighting Craig's dedication to driving beneficial change within the community.





SAME TIME NEXT YEAR! : SOLVE Concludes Final 2024 Training Session with Haringey Youth Justice Service

This month, SOLVE delivered its final training session of the year for the Haringey Youth Justice Service, capping off a year of transformative collaboration. SOLVE developed a customised training program specifically for Haringey, tackling some of the most pressing issues facing young people today. The training series covered essential topics such as Understanding Gangs and Criminal Exploitation, Safeguarding Young People at Risk of Extra-Familial Harm, Responding to Youth Violence through Youth Work, and Practical Steps to Assisting Young People Exiting Gangs. Each session was crafted to empower Haringey's team with practical strategies to guide young people toward promising futures.

The feedback from Haringey has been incredibly encouraging, with team members noting the clarity, relevance, and practical value of SOLVE's training. We're excited to see this partnership grow in 2025, and we're proud to support Haringey in its mission to create safer, more supportive environments for young people. Thank you, Haringey Youth Justice Service, for your trust and collaboration this year!



Craig Pinkney Delivers Transformative Training in Bristol

On October 2nd, Craig Pinkney of SOLVE led a powerful day of training sessions at the Mwanzo Project, hosted at BIIIG Academy in Bristol. The event featured two distinct sessions, tailored to meet the needs of both practitioners and parents in the community. From 2:00 to 3:30 PM, Craig delivered Practitioner Training: Principles of On-Road Youth Work. This session provided essential insights and strategies for professionals who engage with young people in challenging environments, emphasizing effective techniques and principles of street-based youth work. Participants left equipped with practical tools to better connect with and support youth who may be at risk.

In the evening, Craig facilitated a parent session titled It Takes a Village, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. This interactive workshop focused on the critical role of community in supporting and protecting young people, emphasizing collaboration between parents, guardians, and community leaders. Parents praised Craig's engaging approach, noting the session's value in fostering understanding and empowerment to create safer spaces for young people. This event at Mwanzo Project was a meaningful contribution to strengthening community bonds in Bristol, leaving participants empowered and motivated to make a difference.



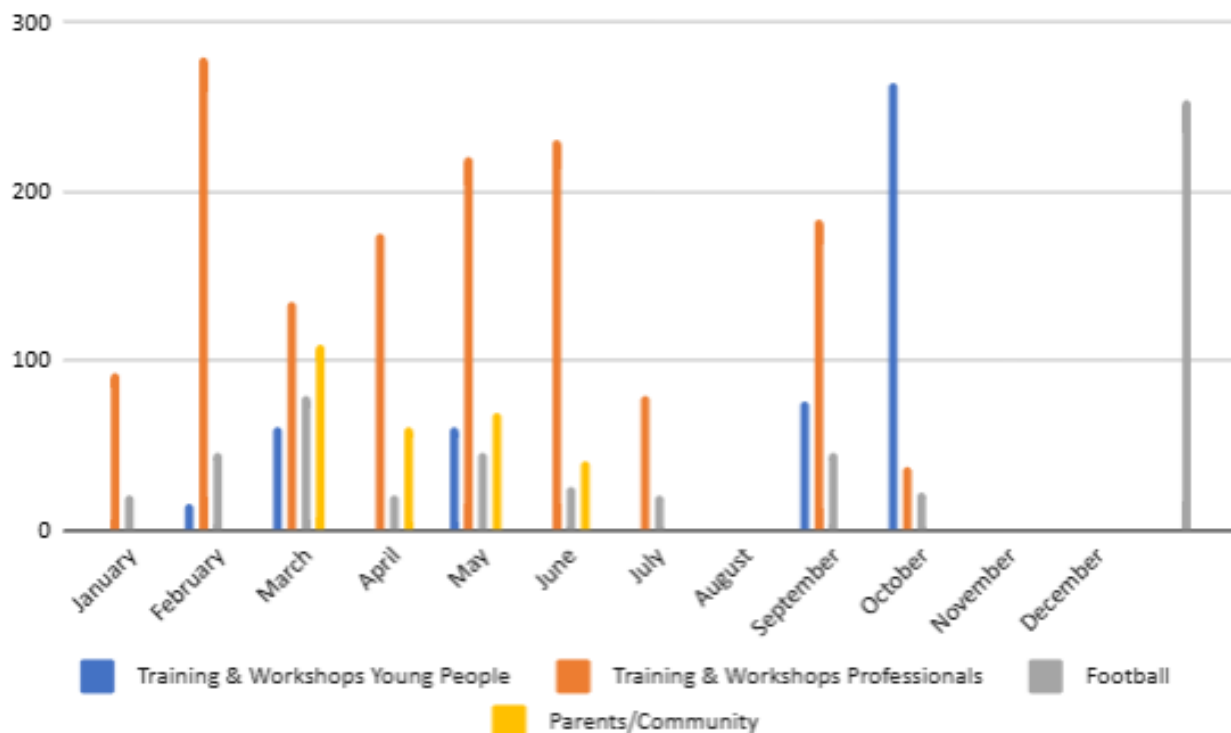
SOLVE Delivers the Alternative Routes Programme to Ralph Allen School

In collaboration with the Bath and Somerset Schools Initiative, SOLVE recently introduced the Alternative Routes Programme to students at Ralph Allen School. The program, developed to address the challenges young people face today, offers an innovative approach to youth empowerment through practical workshops and mentorship.

The Alternative Routes Programme includes workshops that focus on the consequences of criminal behavior, strategies to resist exploitation, and pathways for personal growth. Each session encourages students to reflect on their choices, understand the outcome of their actions, and consider the support systems available to them. .

By sharing real-life stories, SOLVE provides students with practical tools for resilience, helping them envision positive paths forward in their lives.

Feedback from Ralph Allen School has been incredibly encouraging, with students describing the sessions as resonant and thought-provoking. Teachers also noted how the program aligns with the initiative's goals to foster safe, supportive learning environments in Bath and Somerset. SOLVE looks forward to continuing its work with schools across the region to equip more students with these essential life skills.



Graph Depicting the Number of Individuals SOLVE's Training and Workshops have Impacted to Date

The graph displays participation data across four different categories from January 2024 to date: Training & Workshops for Young People, Training & Workshops for Professionals, Football, and Parents/Community. The vertical axis represents the number of participants, ranging from 0 to 300.

- Training & Workshops for Professionals (orange) had the highest participation in February, exceeding 250 attendees, and showed consistently high numbers in April, May, and July.
- Training & Workshops for Young People (blue) experienced notable spikes in October, with participation reaching nearly 300.
- Football (grey) had consistent participation throughout the year, peaking in November.
- Parents/Community (yellow) saw noticeable peaks in March and May.

Thank you for reading!

SOLVE <small>THE CENTRE FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT</small>	SOLVECVC@MAIL.COM
www.solvecvc.com	Please contact us for more info!