

Croydon Roadshows

The road shows are designed to highlight the dangers of gang membership and knife crime, and to show that there are positive alternatives. They have been seen by over 2,500 school students in both primary and high schools across the borough of Croydon.

Bromley Roadshows 2012/2013

LNK was invited to take the road shows to the Borough of Bromley for the first time in 2012, to date we have had very positive responses the Bromley Schools and will be publishing a full evaluation of the results in March 2013.

RASASC Training

LNK youth mentors took part in training where they learned the legal definition of rape, specific terminology concerning rape, legal procedures and the age of consent. The mentors covered case studies to facilitate their learning and understanding.

Ending Gangs and Youth Violence

LNK has been successful in receiving funding for three separate initiatives under this Croydon-wide programme including organising a youth conference in early 2013, mentoring young people and developing the Croydon road show programme in 2012/2013.

I Feel - U Feel with OTR

This innovatory empathy project is scheduled to run until March 2013 supporting small groups and individual students from Croydon Primary schools. Feedback to date has been extremely positive and we are currently working closely with Off The Record to consider how the project can be developed after March 2013.

UpRise 2012

LNK was selected as the chosen charity for the UpRise 2012 anti-racism festival. UpRise is a pro-equality/anti-discrimination movement which aims to bring the community together using the arts and good old fashioned conversation.

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Walking Directions from Wellesley Road:
Walk towards the Jurys Inn
Turn right onto Lansdowne Road
Turn left at the roundabout onto Dingwall Road
Continue along Dingwall Road
Arrive at South London YMCA (No. 32) on the left



Community Interest Company: 6846062



Lives Not Knives is an innovatory youth led organisation dedicated to preventing youth violence and reducing gang related crime in Croydon.

Background

Lives Not Knives has moved forward from a pressure group founded in 2007 by Croydon youth activist Eliza Rebeiro. The organisation works across Croydon to prevent youth violence and inform young people of the dangers of gang membership.

Lives Not Knives has an established brand with Croydon's young people, its image is extremely positive and it has a substantial reputation for successfully challenging the gang culture and violent anti-social behaviour. LNK recruits and trains youth mentors to deliver awareness raising programmes in schools on the dangers of becoming involved in gang related activities and youth violence.



Since April 2011, LNK has worked in over 35 schools (primary and secondary) delivering over 90 sessions, each lasting approximately an hour and involving a minimum of two youth mentors.

The organisation has delivered its activity programme to over 2,500 school students since April 2011. In addition LNK runs events for young people including a drama production called '*Kim Cos Tim*' that spreads the message about the dangers of gangs and violence.

Eliza's Story

Eliza founded the campaign at the age of 14. Youth crime and gang culture had made a profound impact on her. The campaign started with just a t-shirt in bold print reading 'LIVES NOT KNIVES'. Eliza organised an event with the money raised from the sale of the t-shirts in February 2008.

After completing the 'Calling the Shots' programme with 'From Boyhood to Manhood', Eliza spoke at a school about the dangers of youth crime and gangs. Eliza then organised a talent show there to inspire them.

The LNK team has been involved in London Week of Peace, the Battlefront Campaign, partnerships with the London Fire Brigade and Off the Record



(The Croydon Counselling Service), and more. Eliza encouraged young people to write their experiences of knife violence and gang culture in either prose, picture, art or poems which were compiled into a booklet.

Eliza was awarded the Croydon Community Champion 2008 and was asked to be an Ambassador for Croydon by Croydon Council.

More recently Eliza was involved in the London Mayoral Debate 2012 on ITV and LNK was the chosen charity for the UpRise festival.

Lives Not Knives Mission Statement

Lives Not Knives is dedicated to reducing knife and gang related crime in Croydon and London by:

- Using a Mentoring and Befriending approach that is committed to helping young people at risk.
- Supporting young people into employment, education and training.
- Focusing on training for young people in schools to ensure they are safe at home, at school or college and in their social and leisure time activities.
- Providing safe places for young people to meet, socialise and make friends in a relaxed environment.



Lives Not Knives focuses on preventative work with young people aged 11 to 24 who have been referred to the organisation by teachers, parents and agencies or who have referred themselves to LNK.

LNK is Croydon-based but works across London with schools, colleges and other partner organisations to reduce the risk of gang related violence to young people.