

AT+M

Violence and Vulnerability Unit



Supported by the Home Office and
The Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime

Gangs, violence and vulnerability

Online training course for
practitioners

2018/19



[The Violence and Vulnerability Unit](#)

[On line Training Course for frontline practitioners](#)

Introduction

Since the Gang and Youth Violence programme started in 2011, several challenges have emerged from the peer/locality reviews, and our understanding of the way in which gangs or groups use violence and exploit vulnerable individuals to commit crime, has evolved significantly.

Increasingly, crime is being committed in private spaces as well as the public sphere, this type of crime often involves the criminal exploitation of children and adults on a physical, sexual and/or financial basis.

Groups of offenders variously labelled as street gangs, organised crime groups, dangerous drug networks and disengaged young people carry out this abuse, often via illegal drug markets and for the lucrative profits that can be made from them. Most of this violence and exploitation is not reported and won't always show up in recorded crime statistics.

Increasingly it also appears that vulnerable people, especially children, are subject and exposed to a range of risk factors, making them vulnerable to a range of perpetrators. How they are then subsequently exploited often appears to depend on who gets to them first. It seems to be the case that current partnership structures across the country aren't able to respond to this new threat, often working in silos or duplicating work and resources.

There is evidence nationally to show local partnerships and various agencies are trying to support the same people or families, or missing vulnerable cohorts altogether.

Therefore, there is a pressing need to provide local frontline staff with enough basic information and knowledge about gangs and the associated violence and exploitation, so that they can recognise the signs of gang

activity and collectively move to protect and safeguard vulnerable populations. The VVU has now created a new on-line course that local partnerships can access for their frontline staff.

About the new on-line course

This new course is intended to familiarise participants with some basic concepts in the field of gangs, vulnerability and exploitation. It comprises a short video presentation, some specific learning resources and a multiple-choice assessment based on case study scenarios. By organising the learning in this way, the on-line course is designed to help participants:

- Understand the problem from a national perspective
- Understand what might be going on locally
- Understand who to contact and how to register /report concerns

This is a simple format, easy to use and cost effective in that participants are selected and targeted by managers as being those who will benefit most. It does not require days away from their posts but can be managed within their working day.

The course format allows for results to be fed back to training managers and commissioners so they can monitor how effective the course has been in equipping frontline staff with the right knowledge and information to recognise local gang activity.

Costs

We are keen that as many people as possible have access to the on-line course, so it has been designed in a way that allows partnerships to buy licenses in volume at a very low cost.

We are offering local partnerships a licensing arrangement to buy up to 500 licenses for £5K to distribute amongst each of their agencies (Health, Police, Social Care, Youth Service/Youth Justice and Housing etc) This economy of scale approach reduces the cost of the course to £10 per license.

All licenses are valid for 12months and during that period, licenses can be used at any time, allowing for staff turnover or it can be integrated as part of

new staff induction packages. New material will be added to the course as more findings emerge from the Local Reviews and the Strategic Framework Reviews.

In addition, we think it is important that we are able to track participation and performance and by using analytical data, we can provide managers with regular feedback on how well local agencies/ teams are engaging with the course. We are also able to provide feedback on how adept individual participants are in applying their learning to a series of given scenarios, which introduces quality assurance to the course implementation.

The course is now live and can be accessed at;

<https://vvu-online.com/training/course/view.php?id=3>

Anyone wishing to look at the course format can use the GUEST LOGIN which is located on the landing page. This edited version provides access to part of the 20minute video and a sample of the course materials to illustrate its aims and objectives.

If you are interested in finding out more about the course, please contact:

John Dunworth Director/Training Manager VVU

Tel: 07841017811 Email: Johndunworth@yahoo.co.uk