

App 2 Gangs: Risk Factors of Young People's Involvement in Gangs

The table below provides a list of risk factors for gang activity. This is an amalgamation of research taken from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Programme Bulletin and the Manchester Multi-Agency Gang Strategy Risk Assessment Tool. It has been adapted for the Sheffield context. The list of risk factors is quite extensive. Clearly not all of them need to be present for a professional to be concerned that a young person is at risk of involvement in gang activity.

Domain	Risk Factor
Individual	Previous history of delinquency
	Low self esteem
	Specific developmental delays
	Unable to regulate behaviour and / or emotions
	Mental health problems
	Accident and emergency episodes
	Deviant attitudes
	Street smart / toughness
	Defiant and individualistic character
	Fatalistic view of the world
	Aggressive or violent behaviour
	Inclination for excitement and trouble
	Acting in courageous and daring manner in face of danger
	Possessing a firearm and / or knife
	Early or precocious sexual activity, especially amongst females
	Drug and / or alcohol misuse
	Drug supply
	Desire for group rewards such as status, identity, protection, self-esteem and companionship
	Oppositional Deviant Disorder (ODD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
	Lacks social skills to say no to others
Victimisation, with or without violence	

Domain	Risk Factor
	Does not feel safe at home, school or in community
	Not involved in creative sports or clubs
	Spends a lot of time unsupervised
	Break-up with girl/boy friend
	Death of someone close
Family	Family disorganisation, including broken homes, parental drug / alcohol abuse, violence, child abuse, parents or other family members with violent attitudes and / or anti-social behaviour,
	Poor relationship with one or more parents
	Family member/s in a gang
	Lack of positive adult male role models
	Lack of male parent role model
	Financial difficulties affecting the young person
	Suspicion of additional, unaccountable money in household
	Lack of warm, supportive, positive relationship with family member
	Parent involved in crime / prison
	Transient family
	More than 4 children
	Child not protected from significant harm or danger
	Neglect of child
	Poor parental supervision
	Parent/s take little interest in child in relation to learning and development
	Conflict and violence in house
	Bullying by siblings
	Lack of family rituals
	Inconsistent boundaries
School	Below national average for educational attainment
	Number of school moves

Domain	Risk Factor
	Low maths achievement in boys
	Low educational aspirations
	Limited interaction between school, home and community
	Being bullied or bullying others
	Exclusion and / or truancy
	Negative labelling by teachers
	In trouble at school, high levels of anti-social behaviour at school
	Few teacher role models
	Educational frustration
	Low commitment / attachment to school
	identification of learning disability
Peer Group	Friends involved in anti-social / criminal behaviour
	Low commitment to positive peers
	Socialises on street
	Gang member/s in class
	Friends who use drugs or are gang members
	Friends who are drug dealers
	Interaction with delinquent peers
Community	Transient local population
	High levels of unemployment and poverty
	Poor community ties
	Presence of gangs in neighbourhood
	Availability of drugs and / or firearms
	Poor housing conditions / amenities
	Neglected property / garden
	Barriers to / lack of social and employment opportunities
	Lack of social capital
	Tolerating gang / criminal behaviour

Domain	Risk Factor
	High levels of crime in neighbourhood
	Conflict with social control organisations e.g. police
	Community feels powerless and unsafe re gangs, ASB and crime
	High levels of sickness, disability and unemployment in wider family and community

Sources:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/jbulletin/9808/chart.html>

http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/docs/SAFEGUARDING_PROTOCOL_guns&gangs_v5.pdf