



## Working and engaging positively with hard to reach children and young people

In 2014 Sir Martin Narey, the former head of the prison service in England and Wales, and the charity Barnardo's, advised the Education Secretary Michael Gove on children's social care. It was Sir Narey's opinion that social work training needed upgrading. He further commented that training standards were "variable" and many employers thought graduates were sometimes inadequately prepared for "the challenge of children's social work"

Three years on, nothing much has changed and the role of a social worker can be much more challenging now than ever before, especially when dealing with children and young people, as highlighted by Sir Narey. Whether you are an experienced social worker or a newly qualified social worker, it is equally as important to be ready for the challenges, and to be ready to gain the respect of the child (not the victim or the perpetrator), as it is important to remember that the child is the first priority and then the victim or perpetrator. In so doing it is vital that we bear in mind that the victim and the perpetrator are often interchangeable

Taking Positive Steps provide training to put some of the missing fundamentals into place when it comes to working and engaging with children and young people involved in, or at risk of being involved in, gangs.

### Course content

Content includes:

- Who are gang members
- Definition of a 'gang' and is this terminology justified?
- Why young people join gangs
- Are female gangs as prevalent as male gangs?



- Gang affiliation with 'poverty driven' children
- Do young people live and die by misguided loyalties?
- Explore why vulnerable young people are often difficult to engage
- Communication
- 'Every Child Matters' and 'Changes for Children' agendas - is this legislation still important and does it apply to young offenders?
- Equal opportunities, diversity, inclusion, and institutional discrimination
- Identify ways to engage with hard to reach young people and their families
- Discuss and plan how to transfer learning into practice

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this course participants will be able to demonstrate an awareness of the following:

- Guns, gangs and the implication for social workers and other professionals
- The importance of safeguarding children who may be at risk of gang affiliation
- Court remand social work and vulnerability assessments
- Children and Young Person Act 1969 S23 (Remands and committals to local authority accommodation)
- Using an alternative to custody

## Course duration

1 day.

## Who should attend?

- Teachers
- Social workers
- YOS workers
- Youth workers



- Foster carers