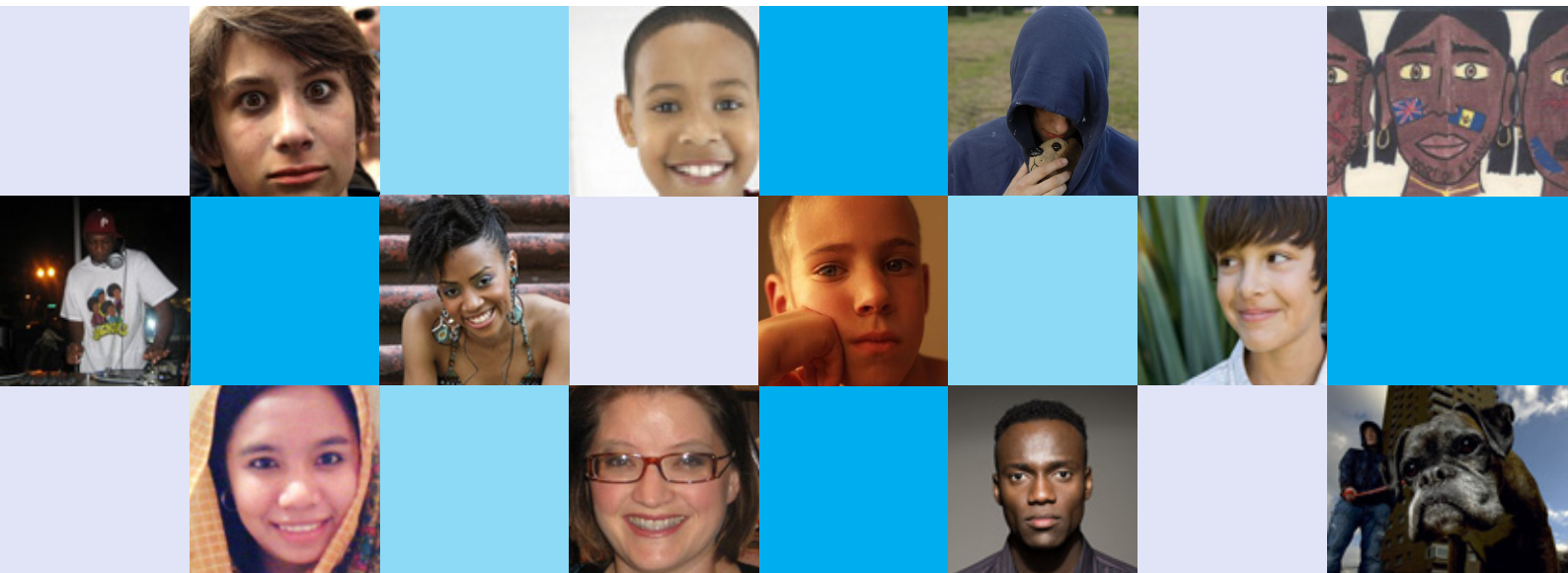




Calling the Shots

Violence Reduction & Anti-weapon Curriculum

by Uanu Seshmi



Calling the Shots Links with:

- Every Child Matters (ECM),
- Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning (SEAL)
- PSHE, and more **existing initiatives**



HEAD OF SPECIALIST CRIME PREVENTION AND PARTNERSHIP NEW SCOTLAND YARD

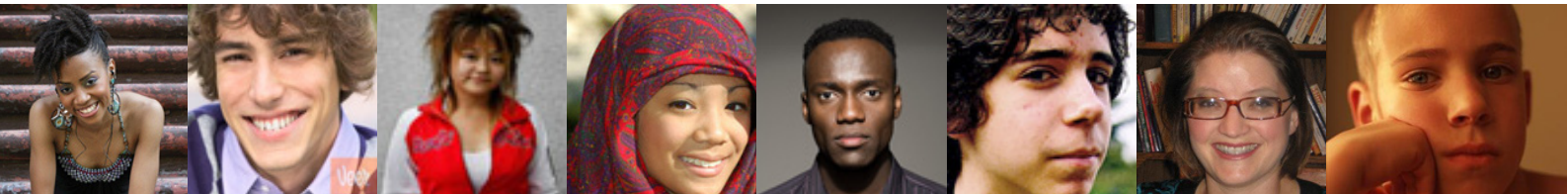
Although violent crimes represents a small proportion of total crime committed in London and the UK, it has a devastating impact on the lives of the victims and perpetrators, their families and communities. The good news is that reported crime involving guns and knives in London is going down but any incident of violence is one too many. Against this reduction, there continue to be many young people carrying or using weapons and violence. The problem of violence will only be tackled if schools, communities, young people, organisations and criminal justice professionals work together.

Tackling serious violence remains a high priority for the Metropolitan Police. There will be no let up in our sustained activity to enforce the law in relation to these issues but we are equally committed to preventing the offences happening in the first place. The Metropolitan Police Service recognises the positive contribution that **Calling the Shots** can make in diverting young people away from violence and enabling them to play a meaningful role in making London a safer place.

The **Calling the Shots** education programme is a teaching and learning resource designed to proactively address, educate and challenge young people about their assumptions and attitudes towards violence and weapons. Most importantly, it can be delivered by trained facilitators from the communities most affected by this violence. Each lesson plan and activity worksheet has been piloted with young people in a range of environments including prisons, schools and the community. The themes address a broad framework of knowledge, skills and values such as peer pressure, anger management, law and authority, collective and individual responsibility and citizenship.

The Metropolitan Police welcomes the opportunity of promoting **Calling the Shots**. Working together with From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation we will be delivering this programme to young people we believe will most benefit from the opportunities it will bring.

Michael Taylor



WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THIS VERSION OF CALLING THE SHOTS?

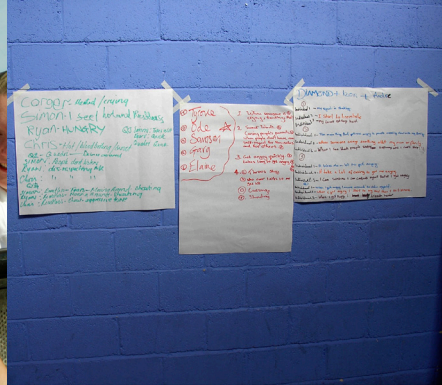
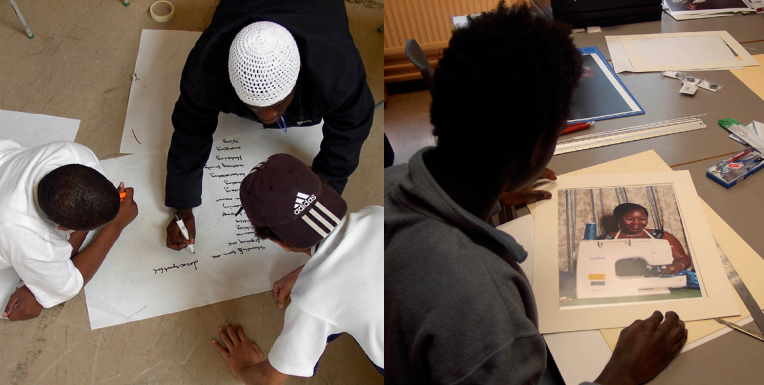
This revised and updated version of **Calling the Shots** is a more general teaching and learning resource, designed to proactively address, educate and challenge young people about their assumptions and attitudes towards interpersonal violence, anti-social behaviour and weapons.

Calling the Shots is not a magic potion that will cure all youth interpersonal violence overnight. It is a holistic preventative solution which can be streamlined in the work of supportive adults, whether they are community volunteers, teachers, law enforcers, parents, mentors or youth workers, enabling them to work in a unified way.

It contains a wide range of inter-related Life Skills activities designed to engage young people and empower them to take a proactive stance in reducing aggressive behaviour both in the school and in the wider community. This version is especially suited to work aimed at young people in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), youth custody, Learning Support Units (LSUs) and Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). It can also play a crucial role in programmes tackling young people's anti-social behaviour (ASB) such as Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIP) and Individual Support Orders (ISO).

Calling the Shots





INTRODUCTION

Calling the Shots and Youth Violence in Context

The experience of From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation, the creators of this resource, suggests that positive behavioural change is the result of nurturing self-understanding, and that youth violence must be understood in the context of availability to delinquency and associated risk factors including abuse, neglect, detachment issues, poor relationship skills, a lack of moral guidance and self-awareness, and the need to belong. It is from this perspective and experience, and in the light of the evidence of youth interpersonal and weapon-enabled violence, perpetrated by and against youth, that **Calling the Shots** has been developed.

CALLING THE SHOTS: LINKS WITH EXISTING INITIATIVES

The inter-relating and inter-dependent approach of **Calling the Shots** complements and mutually supports many of the existing initiatives, practices, and strategies supporting young people to be safe and free from harm. These include:

- Every Child Matters (ECM),
- Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning (SEAL)
- PSHE,
- The National Curriculum (NC)
- Safer School Partnership (SSP)
- Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)
- Youth Crime Action Plan
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs),
- YOT and the Youth Justice Board

THE PACKAGE AND ITS THEME

The package includes an integrated range of lesson plans, activity worksheets, video clips (supporting the lesson plans) which cover the following six themes:

1. **Understanding youth weapon Violence Within Context:**
 - Unit 1:** Respect, Self-Defence or Protection?
 - Unit 2:** Self-Control and Emotional Intelligence
 - Unit 3:** Authority
2. **Citizenship and Responsibility**
 - Unit 4:** Personal Values and Integrity
 - Unit 5:** Humility and Caring for Others
 - Unit 6:** Responsibility and Accountability
3. **Dealing with Emotions and Anger**
 - Unit 7:** Dealing with Adversity and Challenges
 - Unit 8:** Don't Stress Me
 - Unit 9:** Dealing with Anger and Frustration
4. **Respecting and Celebrating Differences in Others**
 - Unit 10:** Understanding Prejudice, Harassment, Stereotyping and Discrimination
 - Unit 11:** Freedom from Bias and Stereotypes
 - Unit 12:** Harassment
5. **Weapon Crime In Context**
 - Unit 13:** The Media (The Gangster Image - Negative entertainment Rap and Imagery)
 - Unit 14:** Gangs: Membership and Territoriality
 - Unit 15:** What Weapon Enable Crime
6. **Understanding Police, Law Enforcement and Weapon Crime**
 - Unit 16:** The Police and the Use of Force
 - Unit 17:** STOP and SEARCH
 - Unit 18:** Victim and Witness/ Hate Crime

BENEFITS OF THE PACKAGE

The **Calling the Shots** programme allows teachers and youth professionals to:

- Discuss and explore with young people, the various factors associated with weapon culture and inter personal youth violence in a positive and nurturing environment.
- Encourage young people to share their own experiences, knowledge and understanding as a group.
- Develop and tailor the **Calling the Shots** lesson plans and activities to meet the specific needs of their class or youth group.
- Link the **Calling the Shots** lesson plans with outcomes like Every Child Matters, or Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning (SEAL) etc.



“We don’t want a break-we want to finish the class”-Student

TRAINING OF FACILITATORS

Calling the Shots facilitators consist of a wide range of individual’s from varied life experiences. They have been trained to do the following:

- Presents concepts and information clearly and accurately using effective platform skills.
- Gets student involved in the learning experience.
- Uses questioning techniques and elicits feedback to make sure that the students understand the concepts and information provided and have acquired the skills taught.
- Are sufficiently flexible to adjust both the training process and content, if necessary, to meet the needs of the students.

KEY LIFE SKILLS DELIVERED

The activities and lesson plans promote the following key life skills:

- Active learning
- Critical thinking and reasoning skills
- Creative problem-solving
- Media literacy and communication skills
- Ability to self-reflect
- Responsibility and Accountability ownership
- Teamwork skills

COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS:

“We need more lessons like this, it helps us to talk about violence”- student

“At first I didn’t think it had anything to do with me but the lesson made me think about how I present myself and how other people see me.”-Student

“I didn’t think you would be talking about us and how we dress and that. I think it’s really important”-Student

TEACHERS’ COMMENTS:

“It is fascinating how the curriculum highlights the dynamics in the class and enables the class as a group to work on the issues in a non-threatening manner”-Teacher

That was amazing. We did not expect the particular group to stay and work like that”-Teacher

“This work is needed in our schools”-Teacher





ALL INQUIRES ABOUT CALLING THE SHOTS TO:

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