

Contact us

BeLeave Project

 07976 226555 or 0121 638 0876

 beleaveproject@spurgeons.org

 www.spurgeons.org

 @spurgeons

 @spurgeonsUK

For further support:

Safeguarding

The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS)
0121 303 1888

General email
cass@birmingham.gov.uk

Secure email
secure.cass@birmingham.gcsx.gov.uk

Who we are:

Spurgeons Children's Charity provides support to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families across England.

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to live a hope-filled life. Through the delivery of support and intervention services and by speaking up on behalf of those who need us most, we give vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families the chance they need for a better present and more hope-filled future.

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BeLeave Project

BeLeave

Supporting girls to make positive choices and avoid child criminal exploitation.

www.spurgeons.org

BeLeave Project

In partnership with the Birmingham Police and Schools Panels (PSPs), our early intervention project uses a whole family approach in order to prevent Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

We aim to build a network of support and establish positive activities for young people as an alternative to anti-social behaviour and exploitation by gangs.

The project is part of an international learning project, Girls in Gangs, pioneered and funded by Comic Relief.

Who do we help?

The project supports girls aged 8-18 years across Birmingham who are at risk of, or involved in CCE, through a third party, family member or friend.

What is Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)?

CCE involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature.

CCE often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being

characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Warning signs:

- Poor school attendance (below 90% attendance recorded within the last month)
- Displaying violent or risk taking behaviour; where there is a potential to harm self or others
- Incidents of going missing
- Drug/substance misuse
- Anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and pro-criminal peers
- We will provide early support in order to prevent CCE or entrance into the youth justice system.

How We Help

Direct one-to-one support: targeted sessions between the girl and family support worker with the aim of developing self-esteem, encourage assertiveness and aspiration; providing a space to be acknowledged and listened to. Sessions will also focus on the risks and consequences of CCE and gang related harm.

Family Sessions: create a space for open discussion aimed at raising families awareness of CCE and gang related harm and identify potential warning signs. Support positive communication and facilitate the reparation of family breakdown.

Community Awareness: raising community awareness of gang-related issues and facilitate support for girls by providing opportunities to access positive activities for young people; such as sports, arts and leisure.

Referrals: referrals can be made via existing PSPs or directly from schools and other agencies. Please contact the BeLeave Team directly for a referral form or if you would like to discuss a potential referral.



What we aim to achieve:

- Girls report feeling a stronger sense of identity and positive self esteem; leading to the identification of future aspirations
- Girls demonstrate an increased attendance at school
- Girls feel empowered to make positive decisions about their lives and report better communication and improved family relationships
- Girls feel confident to safely manage risk taking behaviours and make positive choices in order to safeguard themselves from CCE and have increased resilience
- Girls know when and how to ask for help and support if they are not coping
- Families are able to identify the indicators and warning signs of risk taking behaviours; take the appropriate action and feel confident in supporting the young person
- Schools report an improvement in attendance and behaviour and are significantly less concerned about issues that led to the referral