

Background

In January and February of 2020, Lozells Community Initiative successfully held an eight-week parent and training development programme. This was part of a wider initiative to tackle knife crime, gang activity and other issues affecting young people in our community.

Through our existing work, we already understand specific issues in our community and know that local families face problems such as:

- Drug dealing and drug related activity
- Absent parents due to work commitments and working hours
- Family communication breakdowns
- Lack of trust and representation of BAME officers within the police force
- Language barrier issues.



Providing Parent Training & Development

Increasing confidence with the Police and local authority

Come into our drop in sessions

- *Identify your child's behaviour*
- *Local crime hot spots and issues*
- *Create sustainable bonds with your child*
- *Looking out for signs of crime and misbehaviour*

Take action before it's too late

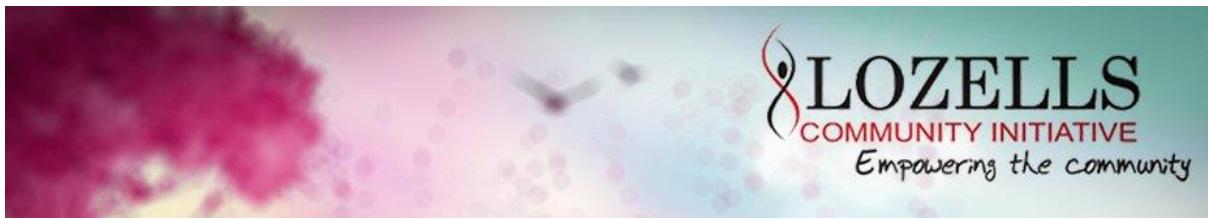
8 Weeks programme commencing 27th January 2020
Suitable time with friendly and informal atmosphere
Refreshments provided

LOZELLS
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Empowering the community

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Advertisement leaflet



What we did

The programme consisted of an initial drop-in session in January, which we then split into two separate seminars which took place in February. The drop-in sessions helped participants:

- Discuss local crime hotspots and issues and how this affects families
- Identify problematic signs, red flags in behaviour and how to be more vigilant
- Improve family communications, relationships and help develop sustainable bonds.



Image taken from seminar in February

Through engaging with families, we identified a common theme around an ability to effectively communicate and interact with children around key issues such as school, friends and emotional wellbeing. To address this, we provided guidance and advice on how parents could make positive changes in their child's behaviour. This included how to spend quality time with their children after school and activities they could do together as a family. We also provided practical assistance by:

- Working closely with families to help them identify behavioural change e.g. what time the child is going out, a change in clothing or new friends
- Contacting relevant departments on their behalf for example, referring parents to KIKIT which is a specialist BME drug and alcohol support organisation that provides a range of services for hard to reach communities
- Engaging with the local Jobcentre
- Purchasing cinema tickets for families to spend quality time together and we provided guidance on the safest route via bus
- Providing key contact details within the police force.

We then held individual one to one sessions throughout March to provide additional support alongside our English language classes. Our team speak multiple languages which means we can engage with a wider group, allowing them to approach us for support more easily.

Outcomes

The sessions have helped us respond to the challenges that are affecting our community around knife crime and other criminal activity, particularly in preventing young people from engaging in knife related offending. In total, 114 parents attended our sessions and we continue to engage with them to provide ongoing support and advice through our English language courses. Once we had completed the programme, we held a presentation where the participants had the opportunity to provide feedback and share their experience. Our programme has resulted in:

- Increased confidence and trust when engaging with the police who fully support this initiative. In some cases, Lozells Community Initiative acts as a key link between families and the police
- Parents are more vigilant - they know what signs to look out for and where they can go to for support. They no longer feel alone when dealing with these issues
- Parents feel happy that they can spend quality time with their children and communicate with them about school and personal issues.