

Case Study 7

Gangs - Knife Crime

Name: Jerry

Age: 16

School: City High

Date: Tuesday 29th November

Jerry Davies lies on the floor, blood streaming from a stab wound to his right thigh. He is surrounded by a crowd of people as two paramedics push through to help him.

Jerry was brought up on the Oaktrees Estate. When he was growing up his older brother Tony was a member of the local gang 'The Oaktree Boys'. Jerry loved listening to Tony's exploits. He'd tell tales of fights with rival gangs, car chases by the police and money making scams. Jerry looked up to Tony and he decided at an early age that he would become a member of the gang.

He started out just hanging around with the older boys. Before long he was carrying drugs for them and stashing money and weapons. Jerry soon became targeted by the police. His home was searched on several occasions and he appeared in Court for a variety of offences including: Possession of an Offensive Weapon, Assault, Affray, Public Order and Handling Stolen Goods. Jerry's mum was very stressed out by his behaviour. She had to take so much time off work to go to Court or pick him up from the police station that she eventually lost her job.

By the time Jerry was established as a trusted member of the gang his brother Tony was now one of the top boys. Tony received a 6 month prison sentence for dealing Class A drugs. Whilst inside he realised that he had wasted much of his life. He realised that he couldn't be in a gang all his life and now with a criminal record it might be more difficult to get a job. Tony wrote a letter to Jerry, telling him to settle down at school and to keep out of trouble. He knew that Jerry was good at fixing bikes and engines so he explained that if he went to college he'd be better off earning money as a mechanic than getting involved in gangs.

Jerry talked to his mum and told her that Tony was right. He was going to stop hanging out with the gang. He knew that it wouldn't be easy. The gang might think he was soft; worse still they might think he's involved in a rival gang. How do you leave a gang? His mum said that if it meant moving away from the area then that's what they would do.

The next day Jerry set off to school. He was going to talk to his form tutor about college courses. On the way he was spotted by a rival gang from the Rosetrees Estate. His brother Tony had beaten one of them up a few months earlier and they wanted revenge. They chased Jerry, finally catching him outside the school gates. Jerry was outnumbered and about eight boys rained blows on him. During the attack one of the Rosetree boys plunged a knife into Jerry's upper thigh before they all ran off.

Fortunately Mr. Blake, a physics teacher, was a first-aider and he managed to plug the wound with his finger. The paramedics said that if a first-aider had not been there, Jerry would have died from the loss of blood in a matter of minutes.