

how the problem of gang crimes can be controlled completely in the UK?

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Background

Nowadays, in the UK, gang crimes continue to play a significant role in other criminal activities, such as riots, black market trading, drugs, and other violent activities. The gang crime in the UK is concentrated around major metropolitan areas, including Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and London. The local authorities are trying to overcome gang crimes and are introducing several interventions for this purpose. Current official statistics show that knife-enabled crime fell in the year ending March 2026, but metropolitan areas still accounted for the largest shares of recorded offences (Office for National Statistics [ONS], 2026). Also, the literature shows that gang crime is a serious problem among street crimes and can be linked to firearms, knives, robbery, drug markets, and exploitation. This crime remains a major issue for the UK. It is expected that gun and knife crime can arise from cultural, social, and drug-market conflicts. The conflicts between cultures and societies create an environment where people prefer to hold arms in order to solve their issues. Most of the time, crime rises from home. It is home that makes a person or children's mind about how to deal with the issues and circumstances. Many people involved in gangs and serious violence are young, but evidence also shows that family instability, trauma, social disadvantage, school exclusion, and criminal exploitation frequently overlap (Youth Endowment Fund [YEF], 2025). This simply means that crime can only be controlled through a combination of strong family support, education, community services, policing, and early intervention.

Now, this study will evaluate how the problem of gang crimes can be controlled in the UK. It is found that many youngsters are involved in gang-related activities, and they may be unaware of its implications or may be subjected to coercion and exploitation. This is because some youngsters in the UK face a lack of awareness, education, trusted support, and economic opportunity, and thus, they are unable to make decisions without any support or guidance from their parents or professionals. This shows that parental involvement may save their children from many risks, but family support alone cannot address every cause. In the absence of guidance and support from parents, schools, youth workers, and local services, children may not understand what is good or bad for them, and so they may join gangs and attempt crimes without understanding the outcomes. Parents should always keep an eye on their children and must guide them whenever they are distracted from the right path. Parents must guide their children to a better lifestyle, help others, understand the facts, make strong and right decisions, and deal with the issues of life. Parental involvement is important to shape the lifestyle of children. In case children are found in any gang crime activity, then parents must focus on the lifestyle of their children and work with schools, youth services, health services, and the police to

help them leave crime safely (YEF, 2025).

The main issue is that some youngsters are attracted to fame, money, expensive clothes, power, and vehicles, and thus, to achieve these all things, they attempt several illegal activities. Others are groomed or threatened through county lines and criminal exploitation. The main issue is that gang crimes are influenced by poverty, deprivation, trauma, school exclusion, drug markets, and the behavior of the society. This means that it is actually society that gives some of the reasons for gang crimes. Moreover, the government must take action to help disadvantaged people and maintain accessible services in society. Thus, it would be wrong to blame gangs for criminal activities without addressing the social and economic conditions, exploitation, and organized criminal networks that contribute to crime (Home Office, 2026).

Now, this study will evaluate how parents can help the children to spend their lives in a positive way or how parental involvement may help the children to stay away from gang crimes. For this purpose, the study will focus on the case study methodology. According to this methodology, the data will be collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source will include scholarly published articles and case studies about parental involvement and gang crimes. Secondary sources will include the already published literature on the internet and peer-reviewed articles. The main focus of the study will be to evaluate how poor and vulnerable people are drawn, groomed, or forced to join gangs and perform criminal activities. The study will examine some renowned gangs that used well-known methods to attempt criminal activities.

Purpose of Study

In the UK, gang crime and serious youth violence remain important public-safety concerns, and it is essential to control these criminal activities. Government and local authorities have taken several actions and introduced legislation and programmes to overcome the issue, but no single action can eliminate it. Current evidence supports whole-system approaches that combine early intervention, education, health, youth work, family support, community participation, diversion, focused deterrence, and proportionate enforcement (Home Office, 2026; YEF, 2025). Now, different scholars and practitioners are of the view that parental involvement helps children live a better lifestyle, and thus, the study will evaluate how parental involvement may reduce gang crimes. It is observed that county lines gangs use youngsters to sell and supply drugs, including cannabis, crack, cocaine, and heroin, often through coercion, intimidation, violence, and weapons. The purpose of this study is to highlight that parental involvement is essential to deal with the gang crime issue in the UK and to evaluate how youngsters are encouraged or forced to join gangs. Simply put, the study evaluates the social issues related to young people who are involved in criminal activities. In this way, the study will also provide a solution to control criminal activities and will provide information about using parental involvement as one tool among wider interventions to discourage youngsters from gang crime activities.

Significance of Study

This study is of great significance because it helps the individual understand the reason why youth get involved in gang crime activities. This will also help to understand how parents can keep an eye on their children and can impact the choices of youth in joining crime gangs. Crime activities attract some youth, while others are exploited by older offenders or organized groups. However, parents can play an essential role in controlling the youth's behavior towards crimes and can interfere in their lives to show them the right lifestyle. The study will help individuals understand parental influence on reducing social crimes among adults and youngsters. Moreover, it will provide answers to why youngsters in the UK join gangs, what attracts or pressures them, how parents and services can help the children stay away from criminal activities, and what ethnic backgrounds, psychological issues, educational problems, and social issues affect people who join gangs (YEF, 2025).

Key Skills and Research Questions

The key skill required to complete this study is to apply a combination of psychological, sociological, and criminological concepts to understand the situation. Moreover, these skills will also help the researcher in using a different perspective to find the solution to this problem by answering many questions related to the research. The questions that this research will attempt to answer are:

1. Why do youngsters join gangs?
2. What are the similarities between the profiles of people who join gangs?
3. What are the factors that attract youngsters to join gangs?
4. How can parental involvement help discourage youngsters from joining gangs?
5. What are the theories that best explain youngsters' inclination towards joining gangs?

The research will find the answer to these questions and will finally propose a solution that may help discourage more young people from joining gangs and encourage those who are already part of one to leave it. Evidence from police-initiated diversion suggests that diverting suitable young people away from formal prosecution can reduce crime and reoffending, while focused deterrence combines support, community influence, and enforcement for those at highest risk (College of Policing, 2024; YEF, 2025).

Limitations and Delimitations

The purpose of this study is to evaluate how parental involvement can be used as a tool to control gang crimes in society. However, the study has a few limitations. The main limitation is that the findings of the study rely on the already published case studies, articles, books, and internet-published material. That is why its findings may not be 100% authentic. The second limitation is that the gang crime ratio is different in different countries, so the study findings may not be applicable

worldwide. The third limitation is the lack of time and budget, which made it impossible to conduct a survey or approach the authorities. However, to delimit the study, a specific sample population was included, and the findings are valid in the United Kingdom. Moreover, to deal with the issue of lack of time and budget, the already published case studies and literature were used in the research.

Methodology

During the research, the researcher will use books, journals, articles, newspapers, magazines, and other online and offline sources of secondary data. As identified earlier, the researcher will critically analyze secondary data to achieve the aims of the study and answer the research question. Thus, no first-hand information will be collected. Books, research, and other reliable online sources will be studied for the study. A thorough review of the literature will be conducted, in which reliable books and research journals will be used primarily to build a solid foundation for the study. Official crime statistics should be interpreted carefully because gang membership is not consistently recorded as a distinct crime category and police-recorded trends can be influenced by reporting and recording practices (ONS, 2026).

Definitions of Terms

Gang Crime: crime associated with a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group whose collective identity and activities may include violence, drug dealing, exploitation, or other offending.

Crime: Any illegal activity which harms society or the people of society.

Parental involvement: When parents get involved with their children to solve any issue, it is known as parental involvement.

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