



Warning signs a child may display when they are beginning to become involved in Serious and Organised Crime:

- Withdrawn from family;
- Sudden loss of interest in school or change in behaviour;
- Being emotionally 'switched off', but also containing frustration and rage;
- Starting to use new or unknown slang words;
- Holding unexplained money or possessions;
- Staying out unusually late or breaking parental rules consistently;
- Sudden change in appearance- dressing in a particular style or 'uniform' similar to that of other young people they hang around with, including a particular colour;
- Dropping out of positive activities;
- New nickname;
- Unexplained physical injuries, and/or refusal to seek or receive medical treatment for injuries;
- Graffiti style 'tags' on possessions;
- Constantly talking about another young person who seems to have a lot of influence over them;
- Breaking off with old friends and hanging around with one group of people;
- Associating with known or suspected gang members, closeness to siblings or adults in the family who are gang members;
- Starting to adopt certain codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs;
- Expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of young people, some of whom may have been friends in the past;
- Being scared when entering certain areas; and
- Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods.