



**loudmouth**  
education & training through theatre

**Evaluation of Theatre in Education Tour  
on  
Knife Crime Awareness & Prevention  
Assemblies  
in  
Coventry Primary Schools  
Academic Year 2019-20**

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## Introduction

This evaluation report is feeding back on a theatre in education project that took place during the academic year of 2019-20. The project was to use Loudmouth Education & Training's Theatre in Education (TIE) assembly on Youth Violence & Knife Crime to support the Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) and safeguarding education in Coventry primary schools.

The tour was funded by Active Citizens and we would like to thank Victoria Hobbs (Early Intervention Offender Manager, West Midlands Police) for her support.

Established in 1994, Loudmouth Education & Training is a theatre company that supports schools and other organisations with their PSHE. Loudmouth's aim is to help children and young people to have healthy, happy and safe relationships. The company uses drama, interaction and discussion to explore issues that affect children and young people. Loudmouth's education and training programmes are proven to help learners to challenge attitudes, gain new skills and increase knowledge.



*"A superbly planned and delivered session which was engaging and informative."*

*Teacher*

*"It can warn people about the danger of a knife e.g. if you carry a knife it puts you in more danger."*

*Year 6*

# 1) Summary of Activity

- During the Autumn term of 2019-20 Loudmouth Education & Training ran a total of 10 assemblies on Youth Violence in Coventry primary schools.
- We visited 10 different primary schools, working with a total of 1,075 children in years 5 & 6, aged 9 – 11.

Date of Session	School	Number of participants
02-Oct-19	Whittle Academy	90
07-Oct-19	Aldermoor Farm Primary School	150
11-Oct-19	Aldermans Green Community Primary School	180
15-Oct-19	St Elizabeths Catholic Primary School	60
16-Oct-19	Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School	60
16-Oct-19	Templars Primary School	125
17-Oct-19	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	120
13-Nov-19	Clifford Bridge Academy	120
13-Nov-19	Hearsall Community Primary School	50
13-Nov-19	Walsgrave CE Academy	120



*"Students asked brilliant questions around the topic and showed great interest. So pleased we have been able to educate on this." - Teacher*

### 3) Pupil Evaluation

- After participating in the Youth Violence Assemblies, 100% of pupils stated that they agreed with the statement 'It is normal to NOT carry a knife'.
- As a result of the Youth Violence Assemblies, 98% of pupils stated that they felt the programme had increased their knowledge of knife crime and County Lines.
- The key organisation to which Loudmouth signpost pupils is Childline. As a result of the session, the percentage of pupils identifying Childline as a source of support rose from 34% before the session to 55% after the session. We also signpost to the Police, which was the top answer given both before and after the session.
- 100% of pupils stated that they felt that the Youth Violence Assembly helps people to stay safe from knife crime. After the session there was a marked rise in pupils giving 'family' as a source of help and support. We also signpost pupils to the Loudmouth website which hosts links to a range of help and support websites. As a result of the session there was a rise of 16% of pupils identifying Loudmouth as a source of support.
- 70% of pupils stated that as a result of the Youth Violence Assemblies they would act differently in the future, such as being careful with new friendship groups, making safe decisions, be more aware of the signs of grooming and knowing who to tell if they are worried about someone else who is in a similar situation as the character.
- 100% of all pupils evaluated as part of this tour said they would recommend the programme to the next year's pupils.

*"I now know a lot more about knife crime and how to stay safe."*

*"It teaches you that it is not normal to carry a knife and that young people cannot carry a knife because it is dangerous."*

*"Because it helps people to think differently about crime, which if everyone stays away from (knife crime,) it will keep society safe".*



## 4) Staff Evaluation

We asked staff who were present during the sessions to complete post session evaluations.

- 100% of staff rated the programmes as 'above average' or 'excellent', with 81% rating it as 'excellent'.

*"Very informative, really engaging for the children. The use of language was at a level they would understand and connect with the character."*

- 100% of staff said they would recommend the Loudmouth programmes they saw to other schools and organisations.
- 93% of staff stated that the programmes had 'Considerable' or 'High' impact on their group, with 35% stating it had 'High' impact.

*"Teaches it in a way I couldn't."*

*"Speaking honestly, sometimes we live in a bubble and can forget that children so young could be targeted by gangs. Allows us to be more aware."*

*"The prior knowledge of the children is actually quite scary. They seem to know more than you would hope they did. It is a very different world from the one I knew when I was 10/11."*

- 76% of staff stated that the programmes had 'Considerable' or 'High' impact on staff, with 24% stating it had 'High' impact.

*"Staff are so grateful we have had this to educate our students and help them to spot warning signs/ know they can talk to anyone."*

*"Good point for discussion for mentors and to look into more detail."*

*"For me personally it gave me a greater insight into how children are groomed for gangs and the pressures put on them to stay in a gang."*

- Staff were asked to complete the following sentence:

I feel the Loudmouth session will add value to the school's Relationships / RSE and Health Education by.....

Here are some of the answers they gave:

*"Understanding vulnerable children and how to intervene."*

*"Teaching younger children about the early warning signs of grooming for knife crime/ 'County Lines'."*

*"Exposing a serious matter in a child friendly way - without diluting the serious nature of the topic."*

*"Helping children to opening up and discussing what they have heard or seen and recognise the warning signs of gang and knife culture."*

*"Tackling issues that are not always talked about during lessons."*

*"Opening up the opportunity for group discussions and allow children to be aware of this before secondary school."*

*"Providing entertaining but essential work. The message is so important and the children hear it from someone who is not their teacher."*

*"Being real life, realistic and delivered in an engaging way. Upskilling delivery options for staff."*

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The tour has proved to be very successful and clearly had a positive impact on the children and school staff. The quality of the TIE programmes was commented upon with 100% of children recommending the work for future year groups and 100% of teaching staff saying they would recommend the work to other organisations.

The evaluation report shows that the TIE programme run by Loudmouth greatly increased the knowledge, skills and confidence of the participants on the issues involved and increased school staff's knowledge and confidence in delivering further work on the issues.

The report also demonstrates that this approach of using TIE is a powerful way to communicate key messages about who to go to for support around relationships and safeguarding, particularly when exploring very sensitive topic areas. The key organisations that we flag up during the sessions came out top in the evaluation.

In conclusion the learning from the programme both for the participants and staff was very beneficial. All of the learning objectives being met by the vast majority of the participants, who learnt key information, skills and positive attitudes to support them to have healthy and safe lives. We look forward to having the opportunity to work with Coventry primary schools again in the future.



For more information about this tour or any of Loudmouth's work  
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To see our film on commissioning Loudmouth visit: <https://vimeo.com/250406034>