

STREET GANGS

Talk with guest speaker Jo Poole

My name is Jo Poole; I was a Metropolitan Police Officer for 25 years. Like all officers I worked on response teams for several years, my 'patch' was the West End around Soho and Mayfair. Then as a community officer in Soho which I loved.

I was picked to join a Home Office drugs project from 2000 to 2002 that was located within the Soho and Camden border of London. It was really a drug squad that specialised in taking drug dealers off the street and looking at ways to prevent users buying drugs.

In 2002 I was chosen to join Operation Trident, which was part of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit that specialised in investigating Gang related crime linked to homicides, and serious injury from gun and knife violence. This unit was expanded to become Trident Central Gangs Unit that covered the whole of London in tackling all violent gang crime relating to young people.

My talk introduces WIZO participants to 'what is a street gang', the motivations of why youths join, what happens to them when they become gang members involved in deadly violence, drug dealing and sexual exploration.

Since around 2014 there has been a growth in low-volume, high-harm offences, such as knife crime, which tend to disproportionately involve young adults living in urban areas. Offences involving knives have risen steadily.

With the rise of knife and gang crime this presentation is very current. At the end of this you will all have a much greater understanding and learn so much more. I look forward to seeing you and answering your questions.



Wednesday 2 July 2025 at 8.15pm

at an **Edgware** location

Tickets: **£10 per person**

To book your place, please transfer your payment to:

Phoebe Welcome Leon, Acc. No: 32195229,

Sort Code: 23-05-80, Ref: Jo Poole

After making the payment, please contact

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for booking confirmation and address.