



# STREETDOCTORS

## **STREETDOCTORS – Our Story**

We began in 2008 in Liverpool. Two medical students were working with the local youth offending service and became aware that young people were experiencing violence first-hand. They realised that young people needed to know skills to be able to act in a medical emergency, as the sooner someone receives help the better their chance of survival. StreetDoctors quickly spread to other cities via word of mouth and was established as a charity in 2013. Currently there are 20 teams in 16 cities across the UK with over 400 active volunteers.

## **STREETDOCTORS – Why We Are Needed**

Violence is the third biggest killer of young people in Europe. Losing young lives because of violence is NOT inevitable. It is entirely preventable. At present, knife crime in England and Wales is at its highest level in almost a decade. In 2017, 39 young people and teenagers lost their lives across the UK – that's a whole classroom of students. We cannot sit by and do nothing. StreetDoctors response is to teach young people lifesaving skills that they can use in a medical emergency.

## **STREETDOCTORS – What Do We Do**

We believe young people are part of the solution to youth violence and have the potential to be life-savers in their communities. StreetDoctors volunteers, who are all student doctors, nurses or paramedics, teach other young people at risk of violence the skills they need to help when someone is bleeding or if someone is unconscious. Our two sessions are practical, interactive and designed to be directly relevant to young people at risk of violence. Our aim is that by the end of a session young people are on their feet practising their skills; building confidence that will aid them helping in a real situation. StreetDoctors volunteers are all healthcare students and young people themselves and therefore able to create a unique kind of peer-to-peer relationship with young people in a safe space, that allows for some honest and challenging conversations that help change attitudes to violence too. We work collaboratively with over 130 organisations across the UK to teach young people. We're aware we're only one piece of the jigsaw puzzle in solving the issue of youth violence.

## **STREETDOCTORS – Our Impact**

We're aware of 19 known cases of young people acting to help in a medical emergency after attending a StreetDoctors session. In 2018 across the UK we taught 4039 young people bringing the total to over 13,500 young people taught by our volunteers. However, we know we need to do more to continue supporting young people.



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## **Media Engagement**

We are very grateful for media support that helps us to promote our work and enhance understanding of youth violence. We will try to engage wherever possible, but the following should be noted:

- We are a very small staff team with no PR support, so we may not always have the capacity to respond immediately
- Our sessions are delivered in partnership with other organisations such as youth clubs, community projects, sports clubs, pupil referral units, youth offending teams. We are asked to go in and deliver to groups of young people already engaged with the partner organisation. This means we cannot easily bring journalists and film crews into sessions as we don't have a direct relationship with the young people and so do not have consent to do this. We also know that having external observers fundamentally changes the dynamics of sessions and what is shared, potentially impacting on the effectiveness.
- We can, where capacity allows, create demonstrations of sessions with the props that we use in sessions which include CPR dummies, creative mock ups of how the lungs work and cups to demonstrate volumes of blood loss. All are appropriate for use with young people and for a wide variety of audiences.

If you want further information please contact [info@streetdoctors.org](mailto:info@streetdoctors.org)