

EUGANGS Trainer Case Study – Joe Jackson

As Chair of Wolverhampton Citizens for Change, Joe is at the heart of local activism to ensure young people get the support they need to make positive choices in their lives. He does this at a practical level, through

his football coaching programmes, but also strategically, for example engaging with local police on the impact of their practice within the communities he serves. His contribution to the EUGANGS project, therefore, has been to focus



attention on the community-statutory agency interface, and explore more problematic aspects of law enforcement and policy implementation. Joe's skill has been to engage both professionals and community members in these discussions, to seek common approaches for the good of young people.

Example of delivery

When a youth worker manages to disarm a young person of a weapon, what is the appropriate course of action for them to take? By creating a role play scenario and briefing students on their roles: teenager with a weapon, teenagers' friends, youth worker, Joe brought this dilemma to life for the whole group. The resulting discussion raised issues of what the law requires, the obligations of youth workers and the codes they work to, but also questions of trust, and the role that plays in making youth workers, and community members, effective in reducing violence and gang activity.

The session formed part of a critical evaluation of laws, policies and practice in relation to gangs and youth work, which is central to the course. Clear differences of opinion emerged between different traditions of youth work, between those working for statutory agencies, and residents and youth workers who were members of communities affected by gang violence. However, the discussions were crucial for developing a broader understanding of why different groups who work with young people adopt the practice they do.

Joe continues his work as a football coach, developing his NPV Football Academy.

You can contact Joe at: npvfootballdevelopment@yahoo.co.uk

For more information on Wolverhampton Citizens For Change visit:

<http://wolverhamptoncitizens4change.org.uk/>