



Impact report 2021

Our work with young people affected
by violence, in partnership with the youth
sector and healthcare trainees

Welcome to Tottenham

by Giovanni Rose, aged 17

Welcome to Tottenham.

Where we wake up to the smell of 'Chick king',
Mixed with the odour of the corpse from the night before.

Where we cover our blood stained streets with dried up gum,
Where kids have holes in their last pairs of shoes,
Where daddy left mummy and mummy's left poor.

Welcome to Tottenham.

Where if you look like me then it's harder for you,
Where everybody's equal unless they're darker than you.
Where the police see colour before they see the crime,
Where children get stopped and searched and aren't allowed to ask why.
Welcome to Tottenham.

Where the drug addicts sit at the back of the 149.
Where education and sports are the only ways to shine.
Where we ride around on stolen scooters,
Where we can't afford tuition so the streets are our tutors.
Welcome to Tottenham.

I love but I hate my home,
I still listen to the voicemails of my dead peers in my phone,
I live in a nightmare. I had to learn how to dream,
I'm afraid to open up because you won't survive if you're weak.
Welcome to Tottenham.

The devil's playground.

We fight over streets we don't own,
Knife crime's on the rise because the beef can't be left alone.
Why does no one understand that we just want our youth clubs back,
Why do they claim they're not racist but label the violence here black?
Welcome to Tottenham.

This poem was a winner of the Foyles Young Poets of the Year Award 2021.

Reproduced from The Poetry Society and with kind permission from Giovanni Rose.

Introduction

This poem by Giovanni Rose is one of the most poignant descriptions of life as a young person in a community affected by violence that touched us in 2021. He writes so powerfully about how violence doesn't just take place in a vacuum but is the result of daily experiences – from poverty and broken families experiencing abuse, addiction and mental health issues, to racism and a flawed education system.

Like the systemic issues that cause violence, we believe that solutions must be systemic too, and they need to include listening clearly to young people and giving them the power to make the changes they want to see in their communities. During 2021 StreetDoctors further committed to embedding youth voice in our work, empowering young people to be part of the solution to violence through our range of fantastic delivery partners, and building back better from the effects of the pandemic.

We overcame the challenges of COVID-19 by adapting our Reducing Violence Programme sessions for young people to digital formats and developed new ways of training our volunteers online. We also initiated the creation of brand new training content on coping better with the trauma caused by violence. We launched '8 Minutes to Save a Life', an innovative online campaign with TikTok influencers, and the National Lottery featured one of our volunteers in a campaign on LadBible. Additionally, we rebranded and created a new website. We were honoured to be recognised in two Children and Young People Now Awards 2021, winning the Advice and Guidance award, and highly commended for the Youth Justice award.

None of our work would be possible without all our partners in the youth sector, our incredible young healthcare volunteers who deliver our training, and the hugely brave and resilient young people we work with – so our huge thanks go out to them. Our funders, too, are our lifeblood, and we are so grateful for their amazing support. Thank you all so much.



Lucie Russell
CEO



Sophie Clissold-Lesser
Chair of Trustees

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**Making young people part
of the solution to reducing
street violence affecting
communities across the UK.**

StreetDoctors is a national charity which empowers young people affected by street violence with the skills and knowledge to save lives, and increases their understanding of its medical and psychological consequences.

Why do we exist?

Worldwide, homicide is the 4th leading cause of death for 10–29-year-olds.¹ In the UK, possession of weapons (including knives and sharp objects) continues to rise.^{2,3}

In the year ending September 2021, 276 people were killed by a knife or sharp instrument and at least 1,618 children and young people (up to 24 years old) were admitted to hospital in England and Wales for assault with a sharp object.^{4,5} In the year ending March 2021 there were at least 3,500 knife or offensive weapon offences committed by children.⁶



Every young person mentioned in these numbers is one young person too many, but these reported figures are just the tip of the iceberg. We know that for every serious injury, death or offence reported, there are so many more young people impacted and harmed physically and mentally by street violence.

In London alone, 30 young people were killed by violent street crime in 2021 – the highest ever – and we know thousands more friends, families and others in communities are implicated and traumatised by these horrific incidents.⁷

But it doesn't have to be this way. StreetDoctors vision is to see an end to violence affecting all young people. We are striving for a future where all young people can live and thrive in areas where they feel safe, where they get the support and opportunities they need to fulfil their potential, and where they are not harmed by violence.

1 Youth violence factsheet, World Health Organisation, 8 June 2020 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/youth-violence>

2 In the year ending March 2021, possession of weapon offences by children who are first-time entrants to the criminal justice system increased by 16% compared with rates in 2011. Youth Justice Statistics: 2020 to 2021, National Statistics, 27 January 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2020-to-2021/youth-justice-statistics-2020-to-2021-accessible-version>

3 In year ending September 2021, possession of article with blade or point offences increased by 5% compared with previous year. Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2021, ONS, 27 January 2022 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2021#homicide>

4 Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2021, ONS, 27 January 2022 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2021#homicide>

5 Crime in England and Wales: Other related tables, ONS, 27 January 2022 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesotherrelatedtables>

6 Youth Justice Statistics: 2020 to 2021, National Statistics, 27 January 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2020-to-2021/youth-justice-statistics-2020-to-2021-accessible-version>

7 'He was not in a gang': lives and deaths of 30 London teenage homicide victims, The Guardian, 31 December 2021 <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/31/knife-rises-in-london-with-30-teen-homicides-in-2021>

What do we do?

At StreetDoctors we believe knowledge is power, so we empower young people with the skills to become part of the solution to street violence, rather than just being seen as 'part of the problem'.

We train young people affected by violence with lifesaving skills, such as what to do if someone is bleeding or knocked out, and increase their understanding of the medical and emotional consequences of violence. We are also developing new training to help young people cope better with the mental health impacts of violence.

We empower young people with the knowledge to make more informed decisions about keeping themselves and others safe.

How do we do it?

Our emergency lifesaving training is delivered by our movement of young healthcare volunteers who are student and junior nurses, paramedics and doctors. There are 23 volunteer teams in 18 cities across the UK. They work in close partnership with youth sector organisations, such as criminal justice services, schools, pupil referral units and youth, sports and community groups, to deliver our training. All our work is trauma informed.



StreetDoctors impact in numbers 2021



2,096

young people
were trained by
our volunteers



62%

of these young
people were
trained digitally



325

emergency first-aid
sessions were delivered
as part of our Reducing
Violence Programme.
55% of these sessions
were delivered digitally



For the academic year 2021/2022, we have:

465

volunteer
trainers

across
18 cities in
the UK

made up of
23 volunteer-
led teams



31

young people graduated
from three StepWise
programmes

We worked with
160
youth sector
partners



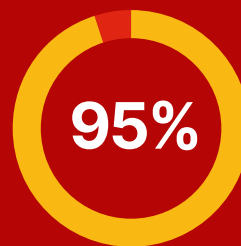
After attending StreetDoctors training:



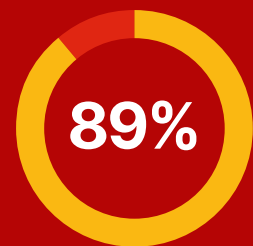
of young people
understand the
consequences
of violence



of young people
know what to do if
someone is knocked
out/unconscious



of young people
know what to
do if someone
is bleeding



of young people
would be willing
and able to act if
first aid is needed

How is StreetDoctors reducing the impact of violence affecting young people across the UK?

Our response to COVID, highlights from 2021, and our plans for 2022





What to do if someone is bleeding

- Intro
- Your vital organs
- Where is it safe to be stabbed?
- Losing blood
- How you can help
- Would you help?
- You're a street doctor!

Charity No: 1150925
Scottish Charity No: SC046961
Company No: 08330240

STREETDOCTORS

Our work with young people

Innovating our Reducing Violence Programme

Knocked Out session:

After listening to feedback from young people, our volunteers and delivery partners, we updated our 'What to do if someone is unconscious' training session to 'What to do if someone is knocked out.' This session is now more accessible and engaging, using a range of props such as goggles and plasticine to demonstrate concussion. The updates ensure that young people can recognise the seriousness of concussion and have the knowledge and skills to act if they come across someone who has been knocked out.



Scenarios session:

We are rolling out a new training session 'What to do in a real life incident: scenarios workshop'. This workshop was co-created by volunteers and young people and builds on the knowledge learnt from the 'What to do if someone is bleeding' and 'knocked out' sessions. It helps young people to practise the skills they have learnt, understand how their knowledge and skills could save a life, and increases their confidence to act if they witness a violent incident.

“A couple of times in the past I witnessed a friend being stabbed. They were situations that I had no control over. The pressure was overwhelming and made me feel extremely guilty and distraught as there was no way I could help. The StreetDoctors workshop was extremely helpful. I can now confidently say I would be completely prepared to handle a situation like this in the future.”

Salma, 17, London

“I can save my friend's life thanks to you lifesavers.”

Young person

“Attending this workshop has helped me prepare for my future career as I have the intention of becoming a nurse. I definitely feel more prepared and aware of what I need to do in order to help save someone's life.”

Nafiye, 18, London

“I didn't realise how much useful information the online session would have. I am glad I took part. I have enough information to help me help others. Thank you.”

Young person after attending digital training

New content on coping better with the mental health impacts of violence:

In 2021 we commissioned Clearview research to look at what new content was needed to improve the impact of our Reducing Violence Programme. 96% of the young people affected by violence that Clearview spoke with said they would find it beneficial to learn how to better cope with the mental health impacts of experiencing violence, and 87% of delivery partners who responded to the survey ranked this content as the most beneficial in meeting young people's needs. We are therefore working with a trauma specialist to develop new training content on coping better with the mental health impacts of violence, in co-design with young people, delivery partners and our volunteers. This session will help young people to manage their feelings better, and to learn what to do when they or someone they know needs emotional support as a result of experiencing street violence. The new training will be rolled out from Autumn 2022.

New website

Our new website has a young people's area containing videos, first aid facts, guidance and support, and a 'nominate your school or club' function. Young people can request our Reducing Violence Programme sessions to be delivered in their community, whether digitally or in person. This is part of our commitment to responding to what young people need, to ensure they are part of the solution to violence in their communities.

Since May 2021, 15 young people have made a nomination. This has enabled us to respond proactively with our training, such as when young people were most in need following a violent incident in Rye Hill, Peckham, South London.

“In a society where knife crime is extremely common, I believe StreetDoctors should be something that all young people should take part in.”

Young person, 17



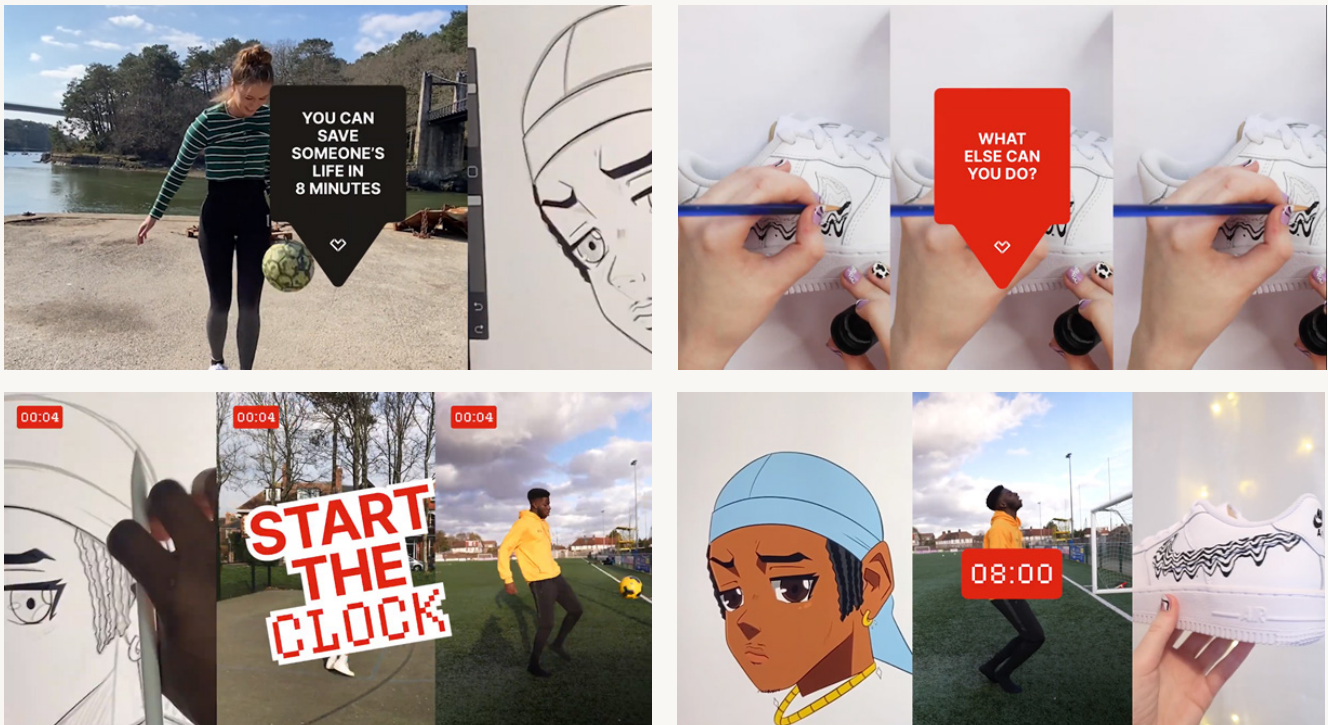
StreetDoctors Belfast

Autumn 2021 saw the creation of a team in Belfast. This is our first team in Northern Ireland and means we now work in all nations of the UK. The 10-person volunteer team is currently made up of young nurses and junior doctors who are committed to empowering young people affected by street violence with lifesaving skills. They have secured funding from the Northern Ireland Education Executive to deliver sessions to at-risk young people in schools and youth sector organisations.

“Having StreetDoctors in the community changes lives ... by teaching people how to save lives, we are going to have less deaths. I feel like a doctor now!”

Young person

8 Minutes to Save a Life campaign



It takes 8 minutes for an ambulance to arrive at the scene of a stabbing. You can save a life in 8 minutes. What else can you do?*

We want all young people to know what to do to save a life if they see someone who has been stabbed. In March 2021, we launched the #8MinutesToSaveALife campaign, co-created with Livity and young people affected by violence, and funded by The National Lottery as part of their Coronavirus response fund. TikTok influencers took part in the 8 Minute challenges, acting as credible messengers. The videos have been viewed by nearly 200,000 young people.

See the full campaign: <https://streetdoctors.org/young-peoples-area/8minutestosavealife-campaign/>

“Working with Livity and StreetDoctors on this project has been great fun! Raising awareness for a very important message, whilst doing my favourite thing (creating content) is always amazing!”

Eman, young TikTok creator & influencer

StepWise

StepWise is our deeper youth-engagement programme where young people affected by street violence learn in-depth first aid skills, gain a first aid at work certificate, develop their knowledge about access to healthcare careers, and receive training to co-deliver StreetDoctors Reducing Violence Programme to other young people in their community.

Highlights from 2021:

- Young StepWise graduates from Eastside Young Leaders Academy in London co-delivered 4 digital 'What to do if someone is bleeding' sessions to 21 of their peers.
- StepWise was delivered with IntoUniversity in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, and funded by Health Education England.
- We delivered a StepWise Programme at Oldham College, working with 21 young people training for careers in health/social care and uniformed services. The programme was funded by Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and Greater Manchester Police Aris Fund, with the support of North West Ambulance Service. Young graduates went on to deliver our Reducing Violence Programme to 32 young people at their college.
- We now have a designated StepWise Officer to support the delivery of programmes in 2022 in South Yorkshire and London so even more young people can become part of the solution to violence in their communities.



“ StepWise taught me a lot of things. Living in a deprived area, it helps to know how to tackle violence and be there and help people around you. It gave me an insight into medicine. Now I want to pursue it when I am older.”

Jessica, StepWise graduate, Eastside Young Leaders Academy

“ I've learnt a lot of new things and met a lot of great people. It has been great working with North West Ambulance Service and StreetDoctors. It has been such a great course. Thank you very much.”

Matthew, StepWise graduate, Oldham College



Our work with delivery partners

'Summer squad'

In July and August, a dedicated 'squad' of volunteers caught up on some of the unmet need from lockdown as COVID restrictions lifted. They took face-to-face delivery back out into the community to where young people really needed us. 233 young people were trained through 42 sessions with new grassroots delivery partners, including four housing associations in Tower Hamlets, London.

We also worked in partnership with existing summer programmes for young people, such as the National Citizenship Service (NCS), whose Leicester branch offered a StreetDoctors social action project to all their groups. This generated valuable insights from young people into the effects of violence in their community and ideas for solutions.

StreetDrs Save Lives app

'StreetDrs Save Lives' is a new app-based version of our Reducing Violence Programme that will enable us to reach young people affected by violence who have not previously been able to access our training. It will be licensed for use by children's homes, secure settings and Youth Offending Services and it is being co-created with young people, volunteers and delivery partners. The app is being funded, piloted and evaluated in 2022 with the support of Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership and Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, with the aim to roll out nationally in 2023.

“The young person commented that the volunteers were friendly, knowledgeable and funny. I could see that they really engaged the young person who had difficulties this week engaging with college. This has now given him some motivation to get back on track.”

Jenny Savage, care home manager, Apex Children's Services

“Student reactions to the programme have been wonderful. They always leave with expanded minds, having explored some of the implications of knife crime, and feeling more confident in their ability to save a life should they ever find themselves in such a situation.”

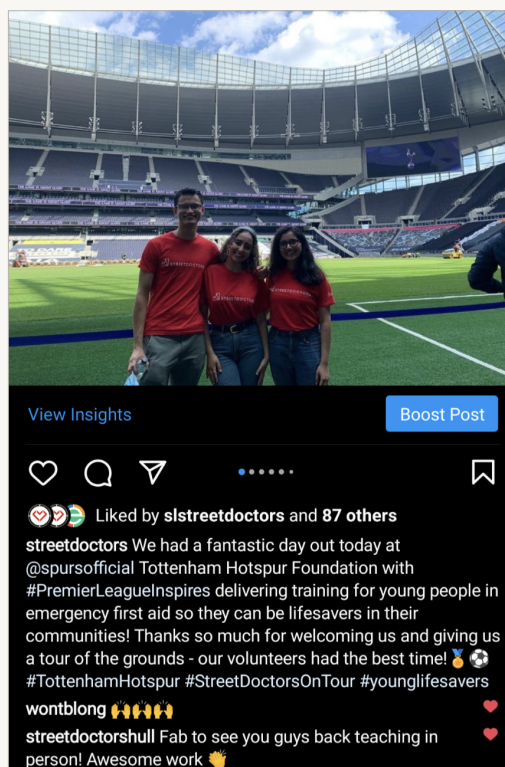
Esther Dahan, Enrichment Officer, Westminster Kingsway College

“Thanks so much for holding this session for us, we loved it and really appreciate it. We would love to work with yourselves again in the future, potentially in person in both of our London and Manchester bases.”

Somali Community Parents Association, Leicester



Delivery partners on social media



Our work with volunteers

National Training and Engagement Day

This October event for 300 volunteers in Nottingham was a huge success; it was our first face-to-face training event since 2019 due to COVID-19. The day empowered and inspired our volunteers to deliver StreetDoctors sessions in their local communities across the UK. As well as increasing their skills and confidence in session delivery, attendees also learnt about the context of street violence with talks from StreetWise Law, Kimberley Lamb – Head of Bedfordshire Violence Reduction Unit, and a panel of speakers (Ciaran Thapar – youth worker and author, Pastor Lorraine Jones – founder of Dwaynatics, and Will Linden – deputy director of the Violence Reduction Unit in Scotland). The day ended with hearing a poignant testimony from a young person serving life in prison.



“Volunteers are clear experts. There was an incredible energy from both presenters who built a rapport with the students almost immediately. This was a very engaging session with lots of opportunity for staff and pupils alike to get involved.”

Holte School, Birmingham

“What I like best about volunteering with StreetDoctors is seeing the change in young people as you are teaching them, from being unbothered and quiet to getting involved and proud of what they’ve learnt.”

Volunteer

“Love being part of an enthusiastic and engaging group making a difference.”

Volunteer



Volunteer Council

We highly value our volunteers' opinions and want to ensure their voices are heard throughout the organisation, so we have begun the creation of a Volunteer Council. Our aim is to create a space where the volunteer voice can be embedded in decision making. Members of the council will be elected democratically and represent a range of experiences, skills and locations. They will learn about charity governance, be able to express their opinions on our work and give feedback on projects.

“Really interactive groups, with good discussions for our questions. We enjoyed delivering the Knocked Out session, the content was interesting and the young people got the main bits of the session well!”

Volunteer on delivering the new Knocked Out training session

Community talks with National Institute for Health Research

We have partnered with National Institute for Health Research to run a pilot project to help tackle healthcare inequalities. Four of our volunteers co-created a community talk for people in under-served communities about the importance and relevance of health research and how to get involved. They also co-created training for eight other volunteers to deliver the talks in pairs across England, which are taking place until May 2022.



100 Miles Challenge

In February 2021 we set up the 100 Miles Challenge, where each volunteer team was challenged to run, walk, cycle or swim 100 miles between them and raise money for StreetDoctors through sponsorship. In total, we raised £1,676 for young people – way above our original target. It also provided an energiser for our volunteers during a difficult year, and brought the volunteer movement together across the UK. Thank you to all volunteers and alumni who took part!

“The 100 miles challenge came at the right time, as it made me & my team go outside more & be more active in a very cold & gloomy time. It helped improve my mental health. I really enjoyed taking part in the fundraiser, it brought us closer as a team & I'm so proud of all the miles & money we achieved!”

Layla, StreetDoctors South West London team leader



Influencing for change

LadBible film

As part of The National Lottery's Make Amazing Things Happen campaign, LadBible created a video interviewing one of our incredible volunteers, Kwaku, a medical student in our West London team. He spoke honestly about his experiences growing up in South London, losing someone close to him to knife crime, his journey into medicine and why he really enjoys meeting and empowering young people through StreetDoctors. Watch the film here: <https://streetdoctors.org/news-item/streetdoctors-volunteer-reveals-how-he-inspires-young-people-to-save-lives/>

The film had over a million views on LadBible's channels, spreading our message that young people can be the solution to violence to new audiences. Kwaku was also featured in *The Sun* and attended the Who Cares Wins Awards, sponsored by the National Lottery.

“I grew up in and around it ... I saw the devastating impact ... any opportunity I get to do something for my community, I will. There's still so much work we need to be doing, to ensure that our communities are safer, and so young people know that there are people out there who care about them, and they can do something with their life.”

Kwaku

Kwaku, and Frances, Communications and Policy Officer, meeting David Beckham at the Who Cares Wins Awards, sponsored by the National Lottery



Campaigning on policy

We campaigned for the Government to put #ChildrenAtTheHeart of their decision making and to #BuildBackChildhood by joining with National Children's Bureau and hundreds of other organisations to put pressure on the Treasury, Home Office and other Government departments. We particularly focused on the need for early years provision and funding for youth centres and youth workers. We also took part in the #NeverMoreNeeded campaign to ask for more support and funding for charities carrying out vital work.



**#RIGHTNOW AT LEAST
4 MILLION YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE RELYING ON SUPPORT
FROM YOUTH WORK AND THEY NEED
THAT SUPPORT TO CONTINUE
AS THEY PREPARE FOR A
CHALLENGING FUTURE.**



Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

Our main policy focus for 2021 was the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which is still being debated in parliament. This bill has many implications for young people, especially those affected by street violence. Some of our key concerns are around: Serious Violence Reduction Orders, including Knife Crime Prevention Orders; increased police surveillance, stop and search and use of section 60s; making protesting harder and more likely to be criminalised; catapulting more young people into the justice system; and penalising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

We joined up with Liberty, Alliance for Youth Justice, Clinks, the Criminal Justice Alliance and others to put pressure on MPs and Lords to back amendments that we believe should be added, and vote against those that should be removed. This was successful in the Lords with the majority agreeing with many of the changes the collective put forward.

Dr Alex's Podcast

We were interviewed on an episode of Dr Alex's podcast, The Waiting Room, where Layla and Fauziya, both StreetDoctors volunteers, spoke candidly about the work they do with young people affected by street violence and how experiences in their lives growing up brought them to StreetDoctors. Listen to 'Knife Crime – Saving Lives with the StreetDoctors' here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/knife-crime-saving-lives-with-the-street-doctors/id1453985439?i=1000504567234>



Moving forward

2022 is a year of exciting change for StreetDoctors, as we double the number of young people we train to return to pre-pandemic levels; roll out new training content to help young people deal better with the traumatic impacts of violence; create e-learning to reach young people who need our support in young offender institutions and care homes; engage and support all our existing and new healthcare volunteers; and create a Volunteer Council so young people's voices are fully embedded at every level of StreetDoctors.

We are really grateful to our funders and supporters over 2021/2022 for being an integral part of our journey to ensure at-risk young people are part of the solution to violence, and have the skills and knowledge to make more informed decisions to keep themselves and others safe.

Extract from a testimony written by a young person in prison

“

When we young people feel lost for whatever reasons, we start to believe in so many damaging thoughts, such as that we belong to the road, that we are not important. You're doing something great for a very sad reality. You at StreetDoctors are writing a new chapter in this book, it's the chapter of hope where you show these vulnerable kids that if you fall down, we will be right there, we will love you unconditionally and do our best to help you bounce back.”

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For more information, please get in touch:

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