



ACADEMY for
SOCIAL JUSTICE
Learn, Network, Inspire Change

Leeds Evening Seminar

Responding to Youth Violence, Knife Crime and County Lines

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and

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@academyjustice



Academy for Social Justice

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Academy Overview

- The Academy for Social Justice is a **networked community of people** focussed on **inspiring change to improve public services, civil society and help people thrive**
- The Academy was created in 2007 and now has **over 4700 cross sector members**
- The Academy hosts **free nationwide events** offering **learning and networking** opportunities and social justice themed learning groups

County Lines and Serious Violent Crime.

National, Regional and West Yorkshire
Overview

The contents of this document contain should not be disseminated without
reference to the originator.



Author D/Supt. Carl Galvin – West Yorkshire.



County Lines is a term used to describe gangs or organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs in to one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.



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Gangs

A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who;

- (1) See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and
- (2) Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence

They may also have any or all of the following factors:

- (3) Identify with or lay claim over territory
- (4) Have some form of identifying structural feature
- (5) Are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.

Organised Crime Group

An organised crime group is defined as a group which has at its purpose, or one of its purposes, the carrying on of criminal activities and consists of three or more people who agree to act together to further that purpose.

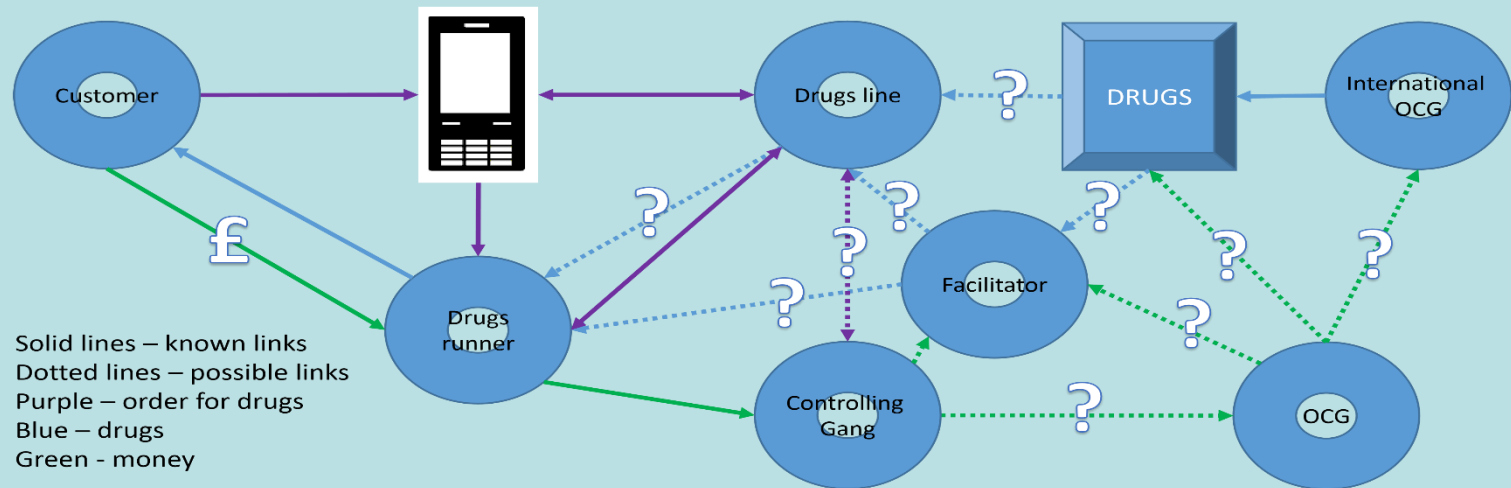
It is not necessary for the individual participating in the group's criminal activities to know any of the group members.



in to one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”

- This can be between counties, cities, towns and villages but also inter county, city, town and village. Note the importing area is not defined only that it is different from the exporting area.

Criminal business operating model



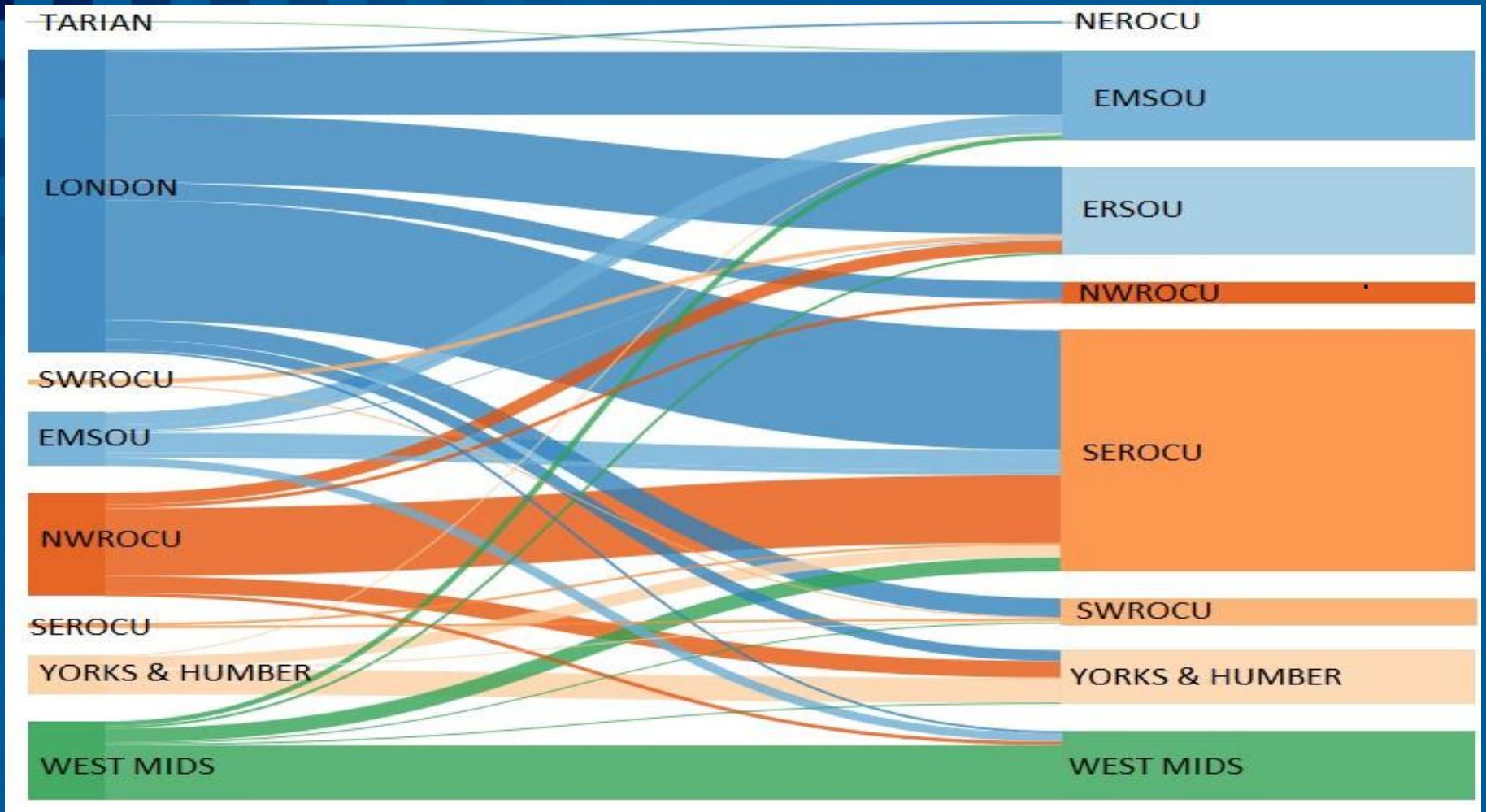
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Exploitation: CSEA, CCE, Cuckooing / Trap houses, coercion.

Violence: Murder, assaults, Firearms offences, Knife Crime, use of corrosive substances.

Weapons: Guns, Knives, acid and corrosive substances.

National Picture – County Lines



Export

Import

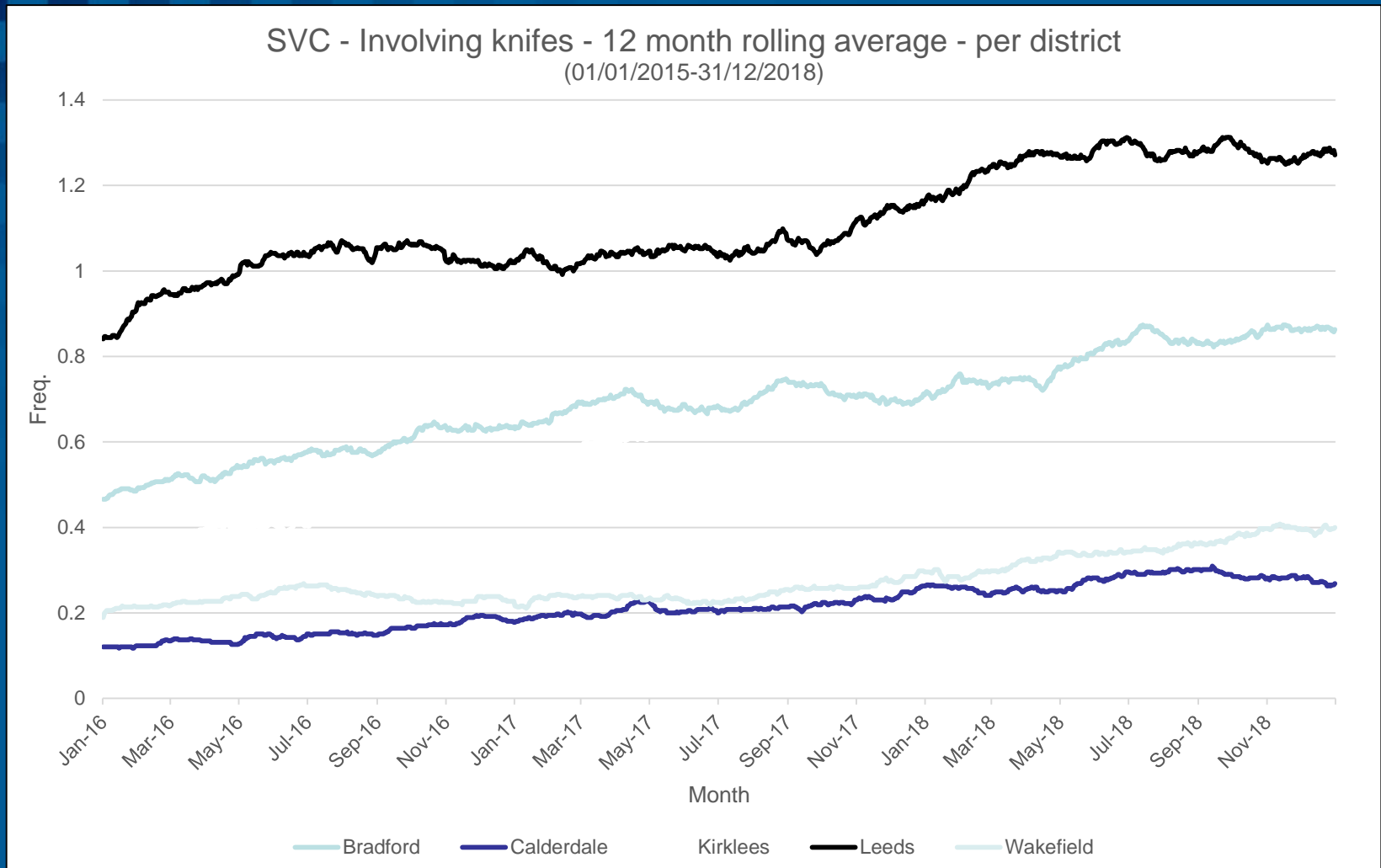
National picture Serious Violent Crime

Nationally Serious Violent Crime is increasing with offences involving Knives being reported in the media almost weekly. Recent reports suggest that the rise in Serious Violent Crime can be linked to 'Drill' music, Moped Crime, Cuckooing and County Lines.

Note: Serious Violent Crime involving Knives –

The Home Office definition of a Knife Crime is any offence which involves an instrument used as a weapon that is sharp and capable of piercing the skin. When examining the Serious Violent Crime data.

West Yorkshire Position – SVC Involving knives



OFFICIAL SENSITIVE



West Yorkshire Position

- **Developing Picture – 9 OCG / 20 USG**
- **Known to be an Exporter**
- **3 Key Terms – Import / Export / Internal**
- **Branded Lines V CL**
- **The numbers – 156 Branded / 42 Linked to OCGs**



- Over 1000 lines identified nationally
- Predominantly Met, West Midlands and North West
- Territory disputes and violence in importing area making it hard to investigate
- Identified as a principle threat in recent key documents – NCA Drugs Strategy, HO Violent Crime Strategy
- HMIC Thematic inspection on County Lines and associated crime

CHALLENGES

- Intelligence Gaps
- Use of appropriate legislation
- Ownership and connectivity
- Technology
- Vulnerability / CCE

OPPORTUNITIES

- Enhanced partnership working – shared responsibility and shared solutions
- Development of new legislation – DDTRO
- CL Coordination Centre and coordinator network
- Home Office CCE guidance

Responding to Youth Violence, Knife Crime and County Lines

Iain Hadley

Regional Manager

St Giles Trust: www.stgilestrust.org.uk

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St Giles Trust – Who are we?



- ✓ National charity driven by the value of embracing lived experience.
- ✓ Offering a second chance to people from all backgrounds to use their experience in a positive way.
- ✓ Award winning Peer Advisor Model
- ✓ Delivering services across Yorkshire in respect of:
 - Employability
 - Children and families
 - Gangs
 - Knife Crime
 - Resettlement
 - Women's Services



£8.34

Saving to the taxpayer for every £1 invested in our Peer-led services



24,982

People helped in 2017/18



4,793

People were helped to find a permanent home



517

Number of people who trained as Peer Advisors in 2017/18

Preventing Knife Crime

What do we know?



20% of young people we work with admit carrying a knife



44% know someone who carries a knife



Of the population are affiliated with gangs



Cost to the economy from gangs, serious organised crime and associated problems

- Engaged over
 - 4000 Children
 - Worked with 37 different organisations
 - Offered 8 young people intensive support.
- Worked in various settings to debunk myths and stereotypes around knives and gangs
- Equipping children with the practical tools and strategies they need to build resilience and say 'NO!'
- Share stories from those who have been there done that!

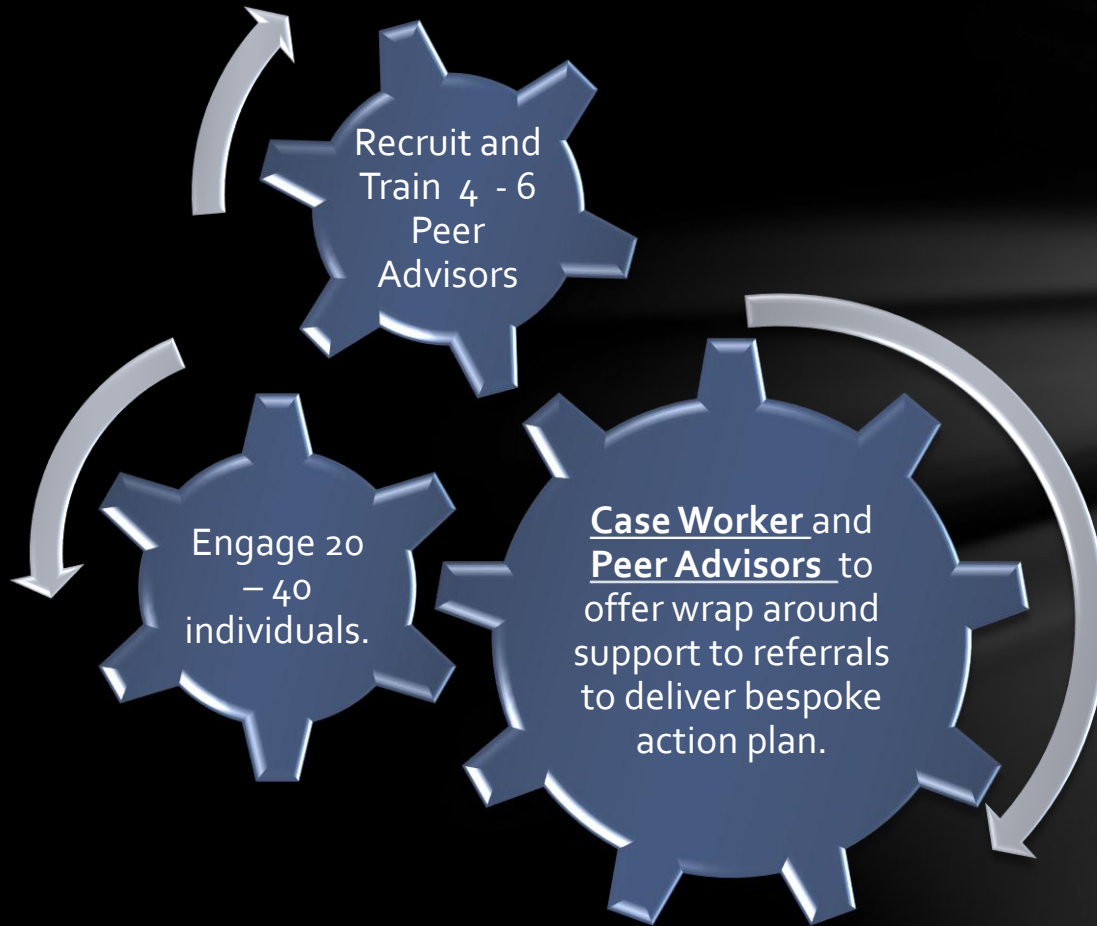
Some testimony:

'St Giles delivered two sessions for us for very challenging young people on the fringes of being involved in gangs, 13-16 year old boys and girls. What impressed me was the matter of fact way that they delivered the information. They are real people that have been in real situations and are telling real stories – that gives them a real credibility – the young people were riveted, gripped from beginning to end – and that's not easy to do with these groups.' Youth Worker.

'They got kids engaged. They realised that these people (SGT staff) were from similar backgrounds to them..... You listen when someone says something that is directly relatable to your own situation and background' Deputy Head Teacher

'It was fantastic to listen to and take away a lot from the presentation – really engaging enthusiastic and relevant. I would have found it invaluable to have met the facilitator 15 years ago when I started my career' Police Officer

Gang Peer Advisor Model



Benefits and Impact

- *Identified individuals and their families fully supported and diverted away from involvement in Serious Youth Violence*
- *Increased collaboration between community and statutory partners.*
- *Increased community based resource for tackling Youth Violence, County Lines and Knife Crime.*

SOS and Gang Peer Advisor Program

- SOS and SOS+ is the largest Ex Offender Led program of it's kind within the UK having engaged with over 25000 young people in 2018
- Professional and approachable with lived experience of adversity, representing communities from across Yorkshire
- Equipped with the City and Guilds Level 3 Advice and Guidance
- Regular support and supervision from case work staff and other Peer Advisors
- Risk assessed referral and support to address holistic needs against all specified pathways



What you have to get through:

Resistance to engagement / non engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimizing, blaming denial.• What works: Respect honesty, trust, building rapport, availability, consistency, healthy boundaries, incentives, time and space.
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interested but not sure• What works: incentives, healthy boundaries, trust, rapport, availability, quality of intervention, skills and expertise of staff.
Reverting to form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• True Self• Reduced repertoire• What works: gentle and respectful, challenging, maintaining trust, motivational work and consistency.

The solution.....

The Right Worker:

- Real lived experience
- Engagement as a given
- Ability to get things done
- Credibility with clients and partners
- Walking the walk
- We can't match every characteristic, but trying isn't a bad idea.....

The Right Offer:

- Casework – practical help
- Peer Advice – Emotional help
- Role Modelling – something to aim for
- Challenge – the push back
- Navigation – help with other agencies
- Help with your surroundings – family, friends, risk

In summary:

- Young people are resistant
- They are exploited and vulnerable and want help – but don't know who to trust
- The risks are great and some agencies don't get it
- There isn't specialist support available in most areas

BUT

- Change is possible
- People do exit this lifestyle
- Many professionals are great, and a lot of agencies know most of this already. But these issues can't be ignored



3 Key Messages

- ✓ Give people with lived experience a chance – trust us it's worth it!
- ✓ This is an epidemic that can only be cured through prevention and early intervention
- ✓ Partnerships are key, nobody has everything but together we can have it all!



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Any Questions ?



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