

# LACES

LONDON ANTI-CRIME  
EDUCATION SCHEME



# CONTENTS

OUR MISSION STATEMENT	2
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS	3 - 4
OUR MENTORING PROGRAMME	5 - 6
THE CUTLER FAMILY - A CASE STUDY	7 - 8
FURTHER CONTACT INFORMATION	9

## TWO FOOTSTEPS DO NOT MAKE A PATH



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The London Anti-Crime Education Scheme was created in 1994 with one sole purpose in mind, to inform and educate young minds of the consequences of choosing to commit crime.

After experiencing 20 years in various penal establishments, Charles Young, the founder of LACES, has dedicated his adult life and work to communicating the bleak and harsh reality of a life of crime, with the hope of showing others the futility of wasted years spent in prison.

The principal behind LACES is to tutor young people or those at the beginning of a life of crime, and to facilitate the successful reintegration of young offenders back into the community.

As a reformed criminal for the past almost 20 years, Charles has, with the support of local people, been able to compile an anti-crime education programme, visiting schools, colleges, young offender institutes and other establishments.

Research has shown that people are influenced throughout their lives, especially through their developmental and adolescent years, by a variety of factors. It is these factors that may lead an individual towards or away from crime.

Through experiences in the family, at school, in the community and at leisure, children and young people can learn the benefits of obeying the law and the costs to themselves and others of not doing so.

Charles Young's programme shatters the illusion of glamour that can often be attached to crime. Through powerful imagery and raw, brutal honesty,

Charles relays the demeaning and degrading reality of the criminal justice system — from arrest, progress through the courts to imprisonment.

Through this early intervention with children and young people at risk of offending, it is hoped that those young people who attend the programme will ideally choose not to offend or reduce their offending in both type and frequency.

As Charles has experienced, crime hurts not only its victims, but blights the lives of the offenders. The costs are enormous. LACES is unique in the fact that it focuses solely on the damage and effects which befall the perpetrators of crime. LACES wishes to aid and educate children and young people at a crucial point in their lives, and by showing them the true effects, it is hoped that many will take a conscious decision to take a different path.



# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Glamour attaches itself falsely to crime. The reality is very different. The Criminal Justice System from arrest, progress through the courts and imprisonment is demeaning and degrading. This reality is explained by Charles, with the aid of a mock prison cell, power point photos and real prison uniform. The pain which this process causes, not only to the offender, but to family, friends and all that care for them is carefully explained.

**Section 1: The Beginning:**

Looks at the causes, in the making of a career criminal. The pitfalls and the dangers.

**Section 2: The Police Station:**

Takes a cold hard look at the process of arrest, through to questioning/interrogation and finally to be charged.

**Section 3: The Magistrate's Court:**

Gives you a brief look into the start of your journey through the judicial system.

**Section 4: The Crown Court:**

Tells you the sort of serious sentences you can expect as your criminal activities progress.

**Section 5: Life Inside:**

Takes you through hell and back and teaches you of the dangers you face.

**Section 6: The After Effect:**

This section speaks for itself. It shows what a tragic and wasted existence you will lead.

**Section 7: Making Changes:**

This shows that anything is possible and that change can be achieved through hard work and self-belief.



# OUR MENTORING PROGRAMME

Mentoring is another form of education based on a person's experience of life. Knowledge shared with young adults/adults with problems. The 'you' who knew it all and could not be told; People who are at the beginning of life.

Our aims are;

1. To educate.
2. To build a relationship based on trust.
3. To teach respect and to give respect.
4. To let them know and develop their confidence that they can become someone.
5. To help develop literacy/numeracy skills with the right support.
6. To show how a career in anything is better than a career as a criminal.
7. To encourage/motivate.
8. To instil self-belief.
9. To be a friend.

The goal of a mentor is to give the person you are working with a chance to see life from an adult point of view.

Time is taken to explain carefully that this is not a quick fix process but a time consuming one, a lesson in 'think before you act'.





# The Cutler Family

## A CASE STUDY

My name is Tina Cutler and I would like to tell you about my involvement with LACES.

One evening, late 2010, I had decided to go to the local chip shop for dinner (I was having a lazy day). Whilst I was there waiting in the cue I got chatting with a man [just about everyday things and what we do] who introduced himself as Charles - . I informed Charles that I was currently studying Criminology alongside doing a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education. At that point Charles told me about LACES and passed me some leaflets. I thought that this would be really handy, if anything to refer to in my Criminology studies [which I did so].

However, early 2011 I found myself at the end of my tether with my teenage son, Shaun. Since the turning of the new year - and his finding a new, first proper girlfriend, my sons behaviour has somewhat done a 360. I did not know whether I was coming or going. On a regular basis I was having to call the police - because either Shaun had not returned home and could not be contacted or, because his behaviour at home was, to say the least, undesirable.

I remembered Charles and what he had told me about LACES and although my son Shaun had not been involved in crimes - I could at that

moment only envisage my son on that downward spiral to a life of crime. The school my son attends did not provide much support at this time and being a single parent, who does not live close to family, felt that I had nothing to lose by contacting LACES, Charles Young.

Thus, my involvement with LACES stems back to early 2011, as does my sons Shaun. Charles arranged to come and meet me to discuss what had been happening with Shaun. As Charles stated then - prevention is better than cure and thus, Charles was happy to assist me with the problems I had been facing with Shaun. The relationship between myself, LACES/Charles Young and my Shaun began after their initial meet. It was agreed by all that Charles would become Shaun's mentor. Since such times, including up until today - this is still the case.

However, during this time, Charles has always been available to both Shaun and myself, if needed. Charles has arranged several meetings for Shaun with ex-criminals/reformed characters in a quest to open Shaun's eyes to what it really means to live a life of crime. Charles has also been helping Shaun to network with business minded people who have offered Shaun opportunities to go and see what the job entails [screwfix builders merchant, meeting a local blacksmith, and so on].

I believe this has been very beneficial to Shaun. In addition to this, Shaun has been actively taking part in LACES presentation(s) - which is a huge thing for Shaun, helping to promote - anti-crime whilst building his confidence in his own capabilities i.e. ability to present to an audience.

It has now been around a year since LACES involvement with myself and Shaun. Now Shaun's behaviour has done a 360 to the positive; he is now achieving at school and also continues to support LACES through continual participation in presentations and going to meetings.

Who knows where Shaun would be now if I had not contacted LACES for support. You could say - well you can't say its all down to LACES, maybe not, but as Shaun's parent, I feel that had I not sought the support of LACES when I did Shaun may well have spiralled into the undesirable world of crime and possibly not even be at school now - yes, it was that bad. The point is; There is no quick fix - it has taken time but eventually with continual support from myself and from LACES, Shaun realised where and why he was going wrong and now Shaun can look forward to a positive future.

As it is still early days, I continue, as does Shaun, to embrace the support - mentoring that LACES has been providing.

Would I recommend LACES to work with any child or young adult that is either on a downward spiral to a life of crime - or one that has already entered a life of crime? The answer is yes, yes I would.

LACES support has proved paramount to keeping Shaun away from crime. If you refer back to the beginning of this letter I state that I was having to call the police regularly because of Shaun's behaviour. Police records would support the fact that since becoming involved with LACES - that has stopped and did so, soon after involvement.

I do hope that this gives a good insight into the involvement myself, and my son has had over the past year. I do hope that you can see from this illustration the impact that LACES has had for my son, Shaun, for myself and us generally as a family.

Regards

Tina Cutler LLB (Hons) PGCE

Life is too short - Be happy :)

# LACES

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For further information or to check the  
availability of our sessions please email:

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Or visit our website;

[WWW.LACES.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LACES.ORG.UK)

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