**Prisoners Interview Schedule**

**Section 1: A little bit about yourself**

**In this section, I am going to ask you about your life before you came into prison on this sentence.**

1. **Perhaps you can start by telling me where you grew up and what home life was like?**

What was area like

Who lived with

Stable/safe environment (violence, mental health issues, neglect, substance use)?

**If no**, what is/was that like for you?

How did you react?

Did you talk to anyone about it?

Is this still something you think about? (How often? Does it bother you?) (fear, anger, retaliation, shame, withdrawal?)

1. **What about the people around you?**

Care – who cared about you and who did you care about? Change over time?

Trust – who trusted you and who did you trust? Change over time?

Who had the greatest influence on you growing up? (Trust/respect) Change over time?

1. **What was school like for you?**
2. **Did you experience any mental health issues?** (e.g., anxiety/depression?)

Did you ever get particularly stressed out?

What did that look like?

Do you know why/what triggered it? (e.g. experience of violence, childhood experiences?)

1. **What did life look like for you just before you came into prison on this sentence?**

Did you study, work or earn money?

Did you feel that you had a place in the world? (Did you feel that you ‘fitted’ in? Where did you fit/with whom?)

1. **What was your vision of your future?**

Same as when younger?

Involve prison? This conviction/sentence?

1. **What mattered most to you before you came into prison?**

And now?

**Section 2: Your offence and conviction**

**This section is about your offence and conviction.**

1. **Firstly, what do you understand by the term ‘joint enterprise?**

Where did this understanding come from?

What do you think is the purpose of it?

How effective do you think it is, in doing that?

Do you know about any changes to joint enterprise? How? Do you remember how you felt when you heard about the change to joint enterprise? Did you think it would impact you (and others)? In what way?

What are you views of it?

Changed since conviction?

On release, would joint enterprise be something you think about? (When and in what context)

**Now I’m going to ask you about the incident for which you were convicted, if that’s okay?**

1. **First, can you tell me about the incident in as much detail as you feel comfortable? (e.g. walk me through what led up to the incident and how it unfolded…from the beginning).**

Where did it happen?

Number of people involved?

Why were you there/involved?

Relationships between people (e.g. perps/victim know each other)?

Cause? (Anyone at fault?) Do you know if it was planned?

Was there any prior communication via social media?

Weapons involved? (Did you know about this beforehand?)

What were the people around you doing? What did you think about what they were doing at the time? (e.g. respect, kudos, anger, embarrassment, bemusement?)

1. **What was happening with you at the time?**

Did you understand what was happening? At what point?

What were you doing? (e. g. proximity to incident)

What were you feeling/thinking during the incident? Negative thoughts/feelings (e.g. worried, scared), positive thoughts/feelings (e.g. enjoyment, pleasure, kudos)?

Were you thinking about the consequences of what were you doing? (informal consequences – from friends, family etc, the legal consequences including joint enterprise)

Any point wanted to get out of the situation? Why?

Did you try to get yourself out of this situation? If yes, how? Consequences? If no, why?

Did you expect things to play out that way? (prior to and during)

Was there anything someone did that you didn’t anticipate?

1. **Who were you thinking about when it was happening? Did your relationship/s with the victim and/or co-d’s have on your involvement in the incident (e.g. whether to get involved, how far to go, whether able to withdraw, retaliation etc.)?**
2. **What was the outcome of the incident?**

Injuries to victim/you/co d’s?

How did it come to the attention of the police?

Arrests/charges/convictions? Who?

Was decision to arrest/charge/convict fair? (Right people held accountable?) What should have happened to you/co-d’s?

Any other repercussions? (e.g. retaliation? Feuding?) Impact on own mental health?

1. **How common were incidents like this one?**

Have there been other similar/dissimilar? How many? **­­­­­­­­­­**

**Section 3: Your social relationships (with co-d’s and others)**

1. **Can you tell me a little bit more about the people who you were convicted with?**

Who were they? (friends, acquaintances, family, strangers)

What were they like? (age, background, ethnicity, gender, temperament, personality?)

How did you get to know them?

How long known each other?

1. **What were your relationships with these people like?**

Different with different people? Like some more than others?

1. **What was it like hanging out with them?**

How much time did you tend to spend with them/how much did you hang around together?

Why them?

Where did you hang around? (street, area, specific location (e.g. park, street corner)

What kinds of things did you do together? (hangout, music-making – type of music (their role in it) tagging, etc.)

Engage in any other illegal activity together [be vague if not convicted for it]? If yes, was it planned? (by who and why?) How involved did you get and why?

Did you drink alcohol, smoke weed or take other drugs? If others, what kind? See as problem?

Who decided what you did?

If someone suggested you did something and you did not want to do it could you get out of it? Give an example?

1. **What was the best thing about hanging out with these people?**
2. **Was there anything you didn’t like about being with them?**
3. **How would you and your co-d’s have described yourselves? E.g. Would you have considered yourself a ‘group’? What about a gang? If no, what term would you use?**

Would others have described you as a ‘gang’? Who? (e.g. the police/neighbourhood/family) Why?

1. **What is a ‘gang’?**
2. **Did you have other friends (besides those described above) that you spent time with before you came into prison? Can you tell me a bit about those friendships?**

Who were they?

What are they like? (age, background, ethnicity, gender. temperament, personality?)

How get to know them?

How long known each other?

What did you do together?

1. **How did you use social media before prison?**

Which ones did you use?

How did you engage with each of these?

Did you have friends ‘online’?

Who? ‘Offline’ friends too?

What relationships like? Different to offline?

Did you and your friends ever make or watch films or music videos?

If yes to making them, can you talk me through how these came about and why you made them? [nb. Ask for link].

Who was involved?

Who made them? (films them, edits them?)

What was normally your role?

What inspired the music? What sort of things did you rap about/content?

If yes to watching them, can you provide me with a bit more detail on this?

1. **What does the word ‘friendship’ mean to you?**

Were all the people who you hung out with before prison friends?

Other words used to describe them? (e.g. frenemies, associates, fam?)

1. **How did your relationships with your friends compare to your relationships to your family? (clarify which friends)**
2. **How important were your friends to you? (clarify which friends)**

What would you have done for a friend? (e.g. if they were in trouble, how far would you have gone to help them? How far have you gone to help them?) Examples.

Anything would not have done for a friend?

What would someone need to do to lose your friendship?

What about now? How important are those people to you now?

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**Section 4: About serious group related violence**

1. **We are interested in your knowledge and experience of serious violence involving multiple (i.e. three or more) young people generally. Can you tell me a bit about how much of a problem you think it was before you came into prison and why?**

Prevalence and seriousness (serious injury? Use of weapons)

Where that knowledge comes from? (Personal experience, experiences of friends, rumour/social media)

1. **And what about now?**

Prevalence and seriousness (serious injury? Use of weapons)

Where that knowledge comes from? (Experiences of friends, rumour)

1. **Before you came into prison on this sentence, how much serious violence involving multiple young people did you experience?**

In what way? Witness, victim, perp?

How frequently?

1. **And before you came to prison, to what extent did you feel safe?**

When? (e.g. in the day, at night, when alone, with others)

Where? (e.g. where you lived, in other areas, on public transport)

Who or what protected you?

1. **Did you ever carry a weapon?**

How often?

What kind?

1. **What do you think are the main causes of serious violence involving young people? (drugs, disrespect, relationships, money). Can you give me an example?**

To what extent does violence trigger more violence? (Retaliation?) In what contexts? How quickly? How know this (experience, rumour?). Can you be specific/give example?

To what extent do you think mental health problems cause serious violence involving young people?

1. **What effect do you think serious violence involving young people has on the people who experience it (as victims, perpetrators or witnesses)? (Own experience or others?)**

Physical health? Short term, long term.

Mental health? Short term, long term.

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**Section 5: Experience of the criminal justice system**

1. **Just thinking back to your case, can you tell me a little bit about the investigation and prosecution process?**

Experience of arrest/police custody?

Engage in police interview? Why? Did you feel able to talk through your experience of the incident? Why?

Experience of being charged?

Did you know joint enterprise involved? Did you understand what it meant then?

1. **What was the court process like?**

Understand what was going on? (the process, law - understand joint enterprise)

Relationship with legal representatives? (Solicitor/barristers?)

Describe the experience of being tried with others?

What types of evidence were used against you in your case? (phones, CCTV, forensics, social media?)

References to ‘gangs’ in your trial? (gang terminology, street names, videos, territory?)

Recognise way you, and your co-defendants, were described in court?

Incident portrayed in a way that reflected your experience?

How describe your experience of the court case(s)? (e.g. feelings: positive, fair, confused, anxious, bored, overwhelmed, afraid?)

1. **What do you remember about being convicted?**

Expected (lawyer’s advice?)

Feelings?

Reaction in court?

Feelings towards co-d’s?

1. **And what about when you were sentenced?**

Expected (lawyer’s advice?)

Feelings?

Reaction in court?

Feelings related to co-d’s?

1. **Have you appealed against your conviction and/or sentence?**

When? (i.e. pre or post Jogee)

To what level?

Outcome of appeal?

What was the experience of appealing like for you?

Plans for further appeals?

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**Section 6: Perceptions of the criminal justice system/legal consciousness**

1. **What are your views of the criminal justice system generally? (police, courts, prison)**

Trust system? Fair? Legitimate? Who is the system for?

To what extent is this based on your own personal experience? Other sources (TV and other media, friends, family)?

1. **What do you think is the role of the police?**

Who are the police for? (Where do your/these views come from?)

1. **What are your views of the police?**

Trust?

Are they fair?

Changed over time?

Before you came to prison for this sentence, if someone attacked you, what would you have done? (call police, retaliate)

Ever reported anything to the police (experienced as witness, victim)? Why? If yes, what did that look like (anonymous, statement etc.)? Response?

Is there anything you would go to the police about? (e.g. Sexual abuse of a child, family member killed) Why/why not?

What would the police have to do to make you feel able to go to them to report an incident? (How could they show they were trustworthy?)

1. **How do you think the police view young people?**
2. **Where does the law come from? Who decides what the laws should be?**
3. **What is the purpose of the law/what is it for?**

Effective is it at achieving this?

1. **Who is it for? (entitled to use?)**

Fair? (For all?)

1. **Where does your understanding of the law come from? (prompt for cultural narratives and reference points).**
2. **When is it the most important to follow the law?**

Why?

1. **What about the least?**

Why?

1. **Can you explain to me your understanding of the law of murder?**
2. **And manslaughter?**
3. **And GBH (section 18/wounding) is?**
4. **What do you think are the average sentences for murder, manslaughter and GBH currently (section 18/wounding with intent)?**

Tariffs (if relevant)?

Determinate vs. indeterminate sentences? – serve all of time?

Meaning of life sentence?

Fair?

**Final questions**

1. **Before you came in on this sentence, do you think there is anything that would have made it less likely that you would have got involved in serious violence? (longer sentence, chance of getting caught, shame)**

(If relevant) what would have made you less likely to carry or use a weapon?

1. **If you could speak directly to young people who are involved in serious violence in the community now, what would you say to them?**
2. **If you were PM, what would you do to try and reduce serious violence among young people?**
3. **Is there anything else that you’d like to add about the topics we’ve discussed?**