**Teacher Guidance Notes**

Leon Oldstrong is a self-taught London based writer, director and filmmaker, who’s films aim to challenge stereotypes and change perceptions, particularly around issues of racism and injustice.

Leon’s film ‘Fair Trade’ explores issues around gangs grooming vulnerable young people into selling drugs, and how white, middle-class, recreational drug use plays a central role in youth violence, which impacts most on disadvantaged communities.

The film tells the story of Jason, a 15-year-old boy from South London, who falls victim to grooming from a local drug dealer. Despite having good friends around him and a caring, hard-working mother, a vulnerable Jason is exploited and coerced into selling drugs in return for promises of the glamorous lifestyle every 15-year-old boy wishes for.

‘Fair Trade’ is a study on the complexities involved in the surge of youth violence in recent years, including around knife crime, and shifts the attention onto recreational drug users and their part to play in the human cost of the trade; a part of the story which is often overlooked.

This lesson designed encourages conversation amongst students, and challenges the preconceptions they may have due to popular media narratives. In presenting students with a human story, it will help them better connect the complexities involved in youth violence, and give them a greater awareness of the kind of dangers to combat, equipping them with the knowledge needed to seek help or advice if needed.