

The Haringey *Exploitation* Panel for vulnerable children & young people

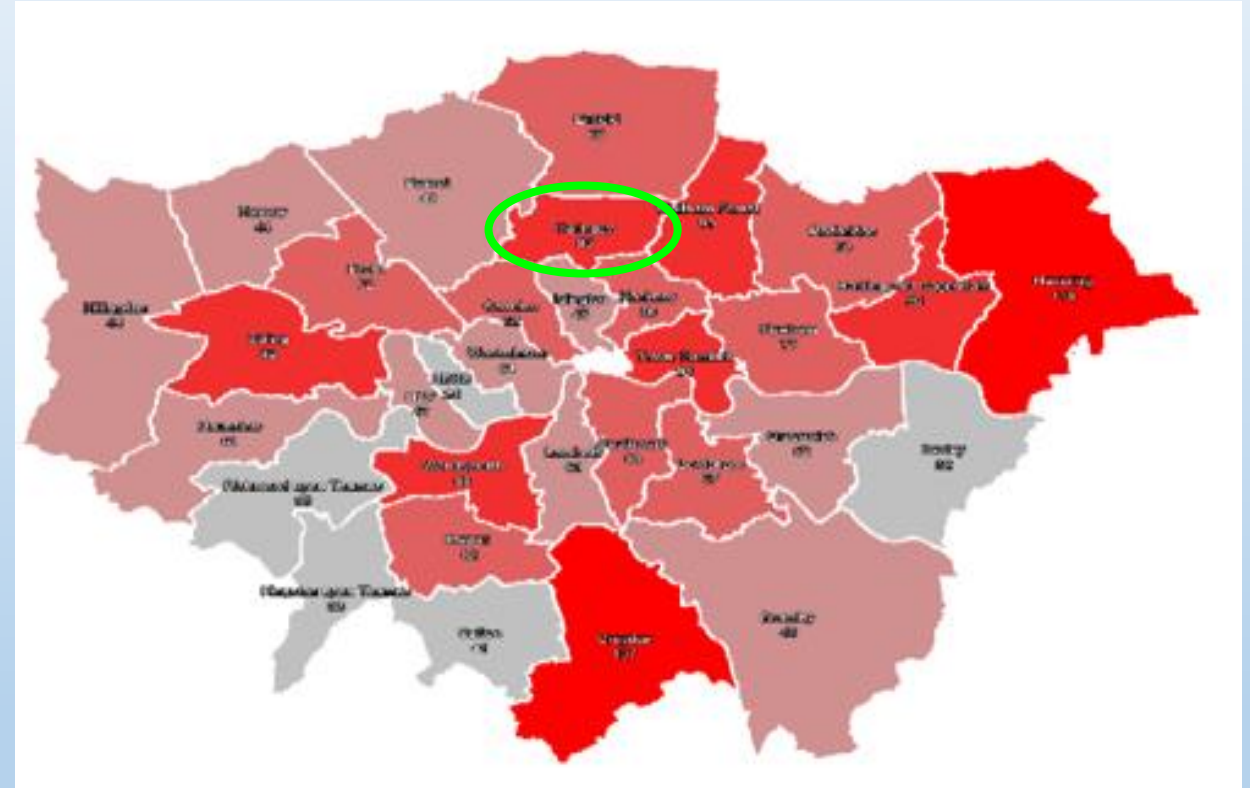
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London Exploitation Map



Context

- In total there are estimated to be 250 gangs in London involving around 4,500 people, while there are 12 active gangs in Haringey
- Gangs becoming more sophisticated and expanding nationally
- Prolific complex gang-activity, CCE, CSE, County Lines activity
- In 2018 there has been a significant rise in serious youth violence across the borough



The CYPS Exploitation Panel

- Evolved from The Missing Panel, Child Sexual Exploitation Service and Gangs and Girls Panel
- Merge between Social Care, Gangs Unit, Youth Justice Service
- Developed into a Early Help partnership
- Partnership with Trident 'Operation Harkime' when they arrived in Haringey
- Now has extensive multi agency membership

Purpose

- To provide a joined up and robust response to the emerging challenges relating to Child Criminal Exploitation
- To improve and embed knowledge, awareness and understanding of Child Criminal Exploitation
- To create the right safety plans for Haringey children and young people vulnerable to CCE with a view to reducing the numbers on Child Protection plans.
- Develop and introduce the Contextual Safeguarding Model within the service
- To provide information, intelligence and data for pre MACE Meetings which will feed into the multi-agency MACE Panel for strategic overview and governance.

Panel Membership

January 2017 to January 2018 the panel has developed into extensive multi agency partnership listed below:

ROLE	ORGANISATION
Missing/CSE/CCE Lead	Haringey CYPS
Gangs Operational Manager	Community Safety
Service Manager	Youth Justice Service
Child Exploitation Team	Metropolitan Police
Missing Team	Metropolitan Police
Trident / Operation Harkime Officers	Metropolitan Police
Youth Club Team Manager	Early Help
Head Teacher	Virtual School
Snr Education Welfare Officer	Haringey Education
Lead Safeguarding Doctor	NHS
Named Safeguarding Nurse	NHS
Named Safeguarding LAC Nurse	NHS
Sexual Health Manager	Safe Talk NHS Violence Against Women & Girls
Strategic Lead	PREVENT
Operations Manager	Haringey Homes
Psychotherapist	CAMHS & North London CSA Hub
Psychologist	CAMHS
Child Vulnerability, Risk & Exploitation	Enfield Council

Child Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something (eg food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature. Child criminal exploitation often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/ or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/ economic and/or emotional vulnerability.'

Haringey Gang Map

Most of the violence in the London borough of Haringey happens between 12 gangs

Three gangs dominate =

- NORTHUMBERLAND PARK KILLERS
- TOTTENHAM MAN DEM (Broadwater Farm estate)
- WOOD GREEN MOB

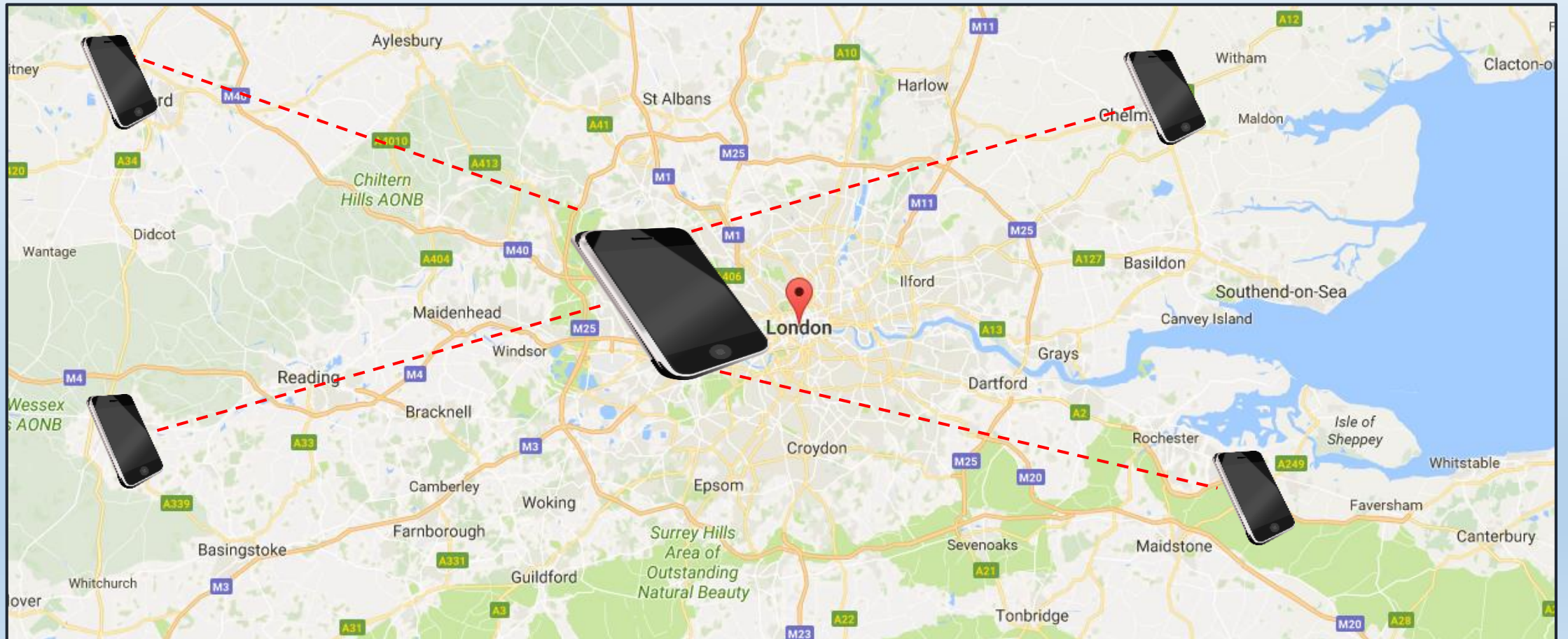
County Lines

- County lines are illegal business models managed and operated by gangs – ranging from urban street gangs to serious organised crime gangs. These gangs use their power and position to groom, recruit and exploit children and young people for the purpose of criminal gain. This often involves high levels of violence, threat and force – and it is important to understand the grooming process, as this is evident within the recruitment of young people for criminal exploitation.
- Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face to face, by a stranger or by someone they know (for example a family member, friend or professional). Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse,

County Lines

- **The Children's Society's youth experts describe county lines as:**
- 'Invisible borders that separate a person's hometown from where they are sent to "work" (selling drugs, sex, firearms etc) for older members of a gang or crew. Young people are usually sent in twos or threes for intimidation purposes and "backup". A young person will typically spend less than two weeks away from home, keeping in regular contact with their 'elders' via burner phones.'
- For more information, please see the Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Line Guidance produced by the Home Office, July 2017.
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County Lines



Missing

Children who are missing from home or care may be at risk of suffering significant harm as a consequence of their basic need for food, safety and shelter and/or from the people with whom they may come into contact with. Risks can include Physical Harm, Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation, drug abuse, modern slavery and involvement in a range of other criminal activities.

Missing children and young people are denied the education they need to enable them to improve their life chances or achieve their ambitions.

Working with Missing

- Missing patterns are changing with Gangs 'one step ahead' in using young people and children for the distribution of drugs and sex.
- Young people may enroll in school but be missing all day to transport drugs – returning home at usual after school time
- Young people leaving homes late evening and returning early morning
- Gangs aware of transport tracking and provide taxis or mopeds to be more effective
- Young people given stolen bank or oyster cards for transport

Child Sexual Exploitation

DEFINITION:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an **imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive** a child or young person under the **age of 18** into sexual activity

- (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited **even if the sexual activity appears consensual**. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the **use of technology**.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- ‘Sexual exploitation and rape are used as 'weapons' for retaliation, humiliation and retribution in conflicts between young people living in gang affected neighbourhoods. The significant harm caused by these sexual attacks can be overlooked as the focus remains on physical violence, gun and knife crime.’

Girls & Gangs

The Children's Commissioner identified a number of different roles girls take up within gangs:

- Girls often initially see gangs as having status and glamour – and the recruiting process often involves gifts and money.
- Girls may be recruited into gangs by their boyfriend who films and threatens to expose intimate sexual acts on social media
- Or they are seduced independently through being groomed with gifts and money
- Once recruited girls have to be available to be raped by gang members
- Girls transport drugs through vaginal insertion
- Girls hide firearms for gang members
- Girls often elevate their gang status and reduce rapes and sexual assaults by recruiting younger girls into the gangs
- Girls become 'baby mothers' or 'wifeys' to gang members who have multiple children
- May have family gang members who recruit them

Modern Slavery

It is important to remember that young people recruited into CCE are likely to be trafficked, as they are having their travel arranged or facilitated for the purpose of criminality

“It is irrelevant whether a child or young person consents to the travel to traffic drugs as they are subject to exploitation”.

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Contextual Safeguarding

a new approach

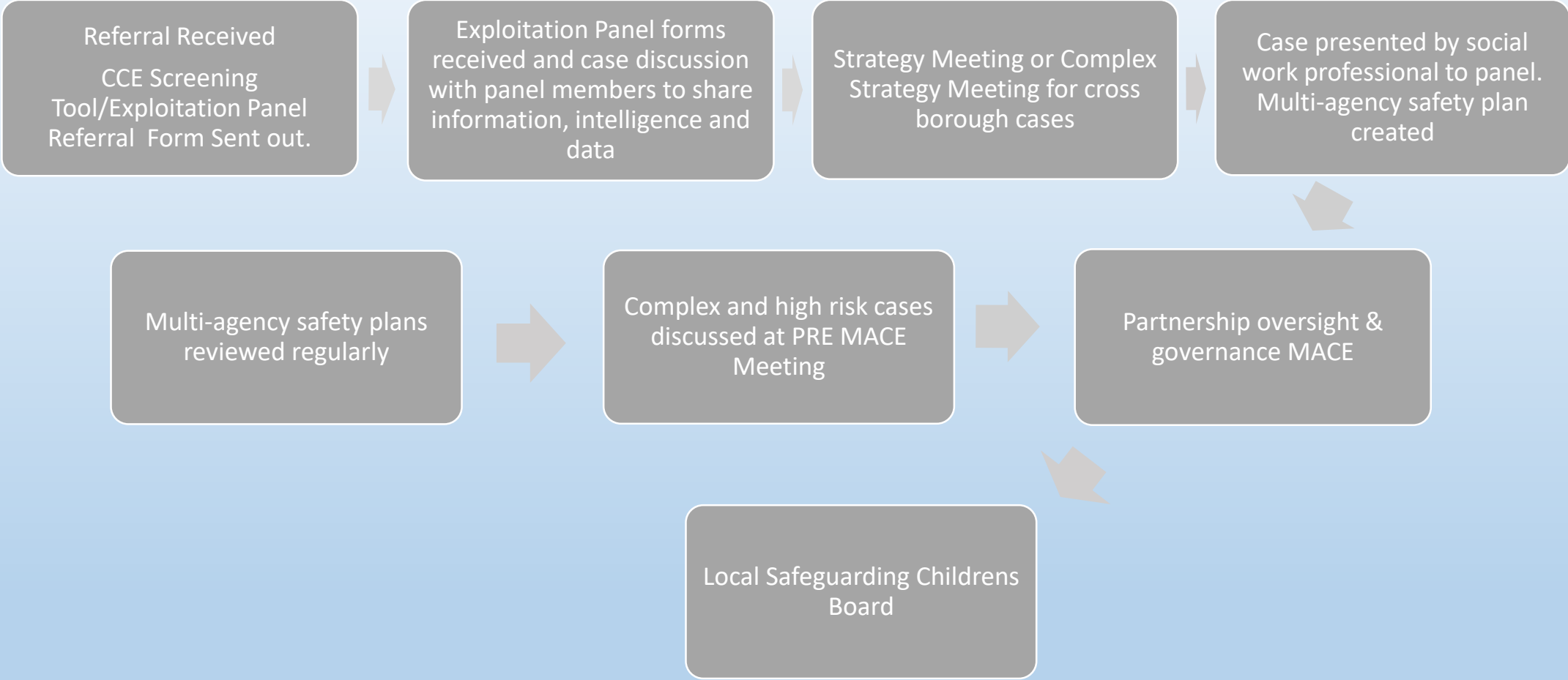
Contextual safeguarding

33. As well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered¹⁹.

‘Working Together 2018’

‘If you’re involved with a gang you’re putting your whole family at risk. Especially if you’ve got younger sisters or younger brothers who are going school or are out in the community somewhere.’ ‘Case study C

Governance



Impact so far....

Increase in front line practitioners awareness of CCE

Full partnership co-operation

Joint partnership with Enfield CCE Team

New Joined up approach to assessment with Social Care, Gangs Unit, Youth Justice and Early Help

85 children and young people received service from the Exploitation Panel January 2018 – January 2019

Young People moved out of Haringey following 'Threats to Life' – Actions taken through the Panel network

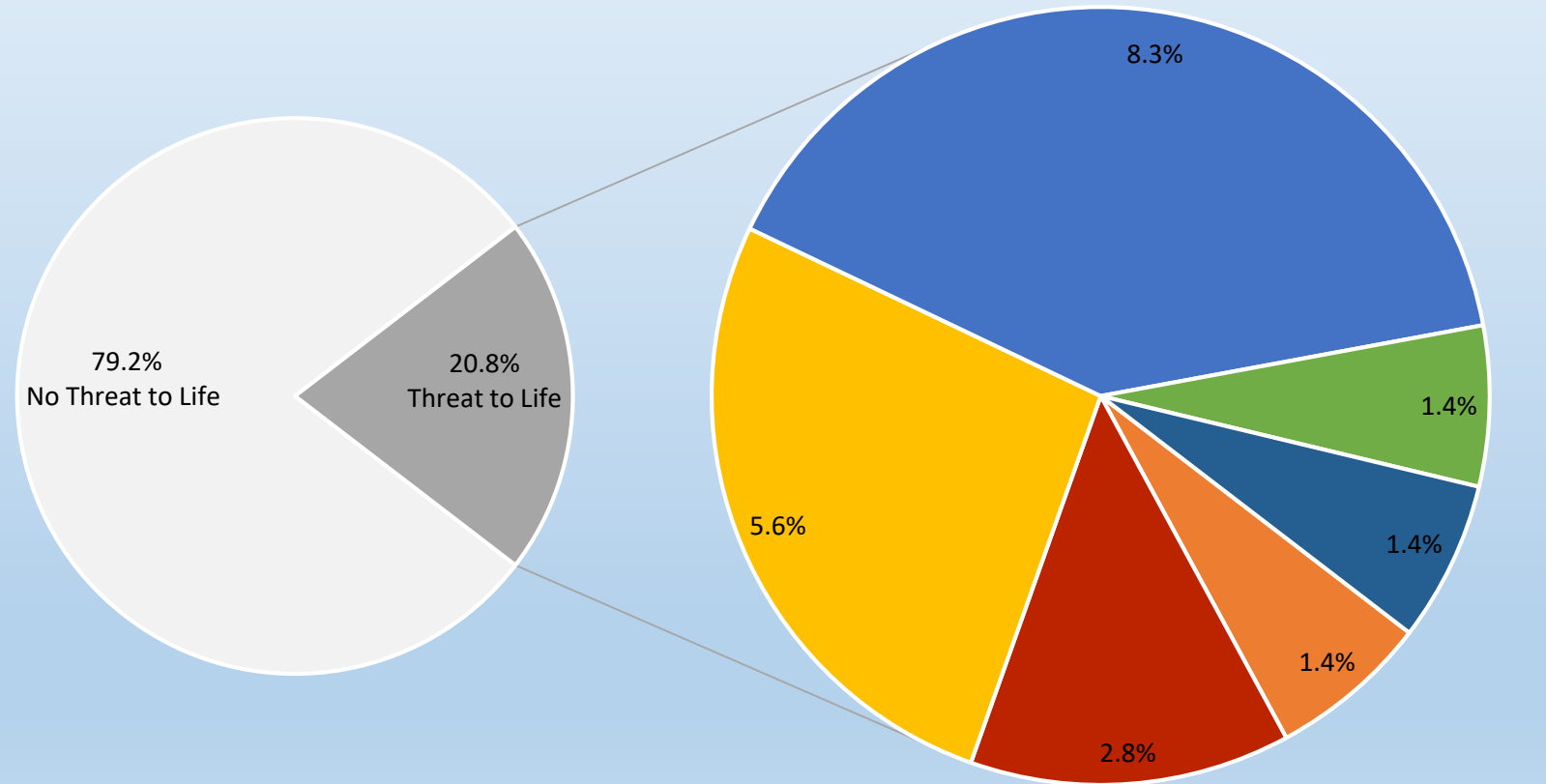
Safety Plan Partnership with housing for family moves out of borough

Child Abduction Warning Notices served through multi-agency information, intelligence sharing and collaboration

Threat to Life

- The Panel has faced increasing challenges over the course of the past twelve months. Data from This MAP highlights activity in 'Threat to Life' cases from January to June 2018

Breakdown of Cases with a Threat to Life



Case Studies

'A'

16-year-old was safeguarded from modern day trafficking, county lines and CSE and thrived in a 9-month Secure Residential placement. However, on discharge he reverted to criminality and became subject of a 'Threat to Life Notice'. He was moved back to London for his safety. 'A' has since been involved in knife crime, drug distribution and violence.

'B'

15-year old recruited into gangs, excluded from school and engaged in criminality. 'B' is very intelligent and articulate. She was made LAC and moved out of borough and a safety plan set up through the Exploitation panel.

Excellent social work practice in collaboration with Operation Harkime police officers has resulted in 'B' now back living at home and safeguarded from further harm.

'B' was excluded from mainstream school due to gang activity and violence and is still not in education.

Case Studies

C & D

Brothers aged 12 and 10 years Twelve year old leaving the family home every night around midnight, getting bus to Hackney and then being collected on a moped by older gang members.

Criminally and sexually exploited and used for transporting drugs due to is young age. 10 year old also involved. Brothers on a CP Plan due to neglect from mother's alcohol misuse. Money brothers made given to mother to

Following joint Social Care, Gangs Unit and Operation Harkime partnership, C and D protected through a move out of area to live with maternal aunt and uncle.

Next Steps...

- Increase awareness and understanding of CCE through training, workshops and consultations with front line social workers and continue to drive the Child Exploitation Tool in front line services
- Embed Early Help Services to develop early intervention and prevention with CCE
- Engage education partners in a greater understanding and awareness of how barriers to education through exclusion impacts negatively on our most vulnerable children and young people involved in CCE.
- Establish the Contextual Safeguarding approach in practice
- Develop the Exploitation Panel from a local resource to a North West/regional panel in partnership with MOPAC'S Rescue and Response services