

Haringey Approach to Gangs

Defining gangs and related violence:

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 defines gang related violence as:

“Violence / threat of violence which occurs in the course of, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that:

- a) consists of at least 3 people*
- b) uses a name, emblem or colour or has any other characteristic that enables its members to be identified by others as a group and*
- c) is associated with a particular area”*

The Gang Action Group

A problem solving group set up in response to increasing violence between rival gangs in Haringey, the group was formalised as the Gang Action Group. The group was set up to bring together partners to add value to the enforcement options delivered by the police.

- To prevent and minimise violence between gangs
- To identify and share information about individual gang members
- To identify what interventions are in place for individual gang members; what has worked, what has not worked and why.
- To ensure that each gang member targeted by the group is assigned a lead agency
- To coordinate and implement plans for individual gang members through enforcement, intervention and support with referrals as relevant
- To consider and implement the full range of enforcement options available to all partners
- To identify safeguarding issues relating to gang members and their families and appropriate referrals
- To identify gaps in provision and recommend projects and approaches which might address these gaps
- To adhere to the terms of the Crime, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour Information Sharing Protocol
- To recognise and respond to the impact of gang activity on families and wider communities

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this group is to establish clear lines of accountability for managing gang members and an infrastructure for sharing information with a view to reducing violence between gangs.

How does it work?

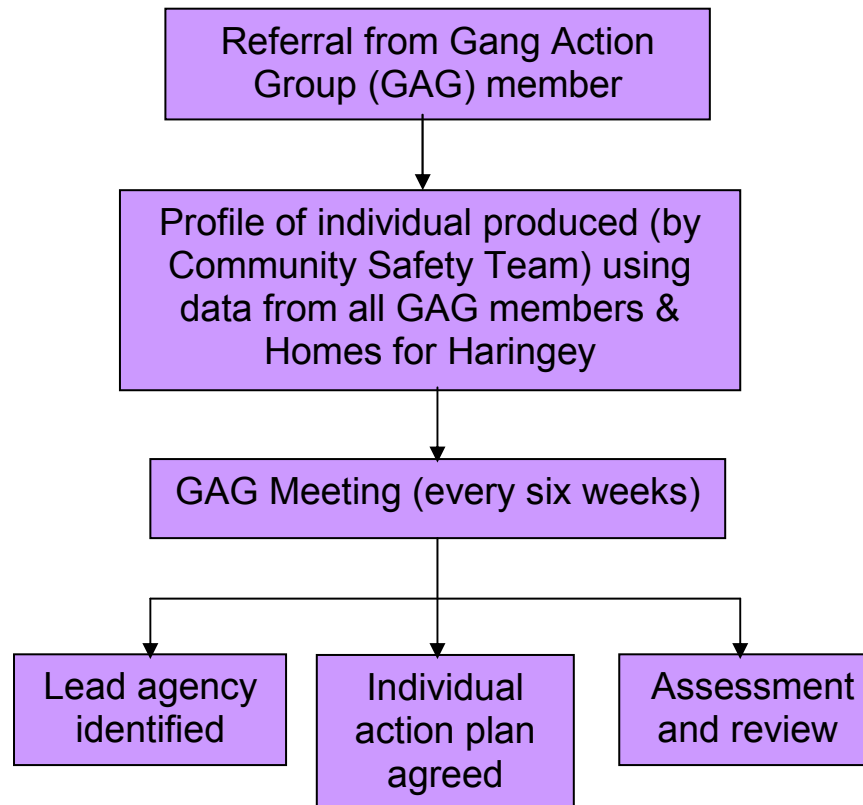
New referrals are accepted to the Gang Action Group where there is intelligence indicating involvement in gangs and serious violence. There must be a multi-agency concern about any new referral. Decisions as to whether a referral will be accepted by the group is made at GAG meetings.

Age group: 13-24 years

Interventions include enforcement (e.g. ASBOs, fraud investigation etc), support (1:2:1 support from Youth Offending Service, Youth Inclusion Project

or Intensive Intervention Project key workers) and diversion (through the youth service and community based projects).
A lead agency is identified for each individual referral and the interventions are reviewed at each GAG meeting (every 6 weeks).

Below is a simple flowchart showing how the GAG operates:



Key Outcomes:

- New referrals from partners demonstrating that they see the benefits of referring gang members to the GAG.
- Improved communication across services
- Since Autumn 2009; 21 individuals have been removed from the Gang Action Group list following successful interventions or custodial sentences resulting in the individual not coming to the notice of partners in Haringey.

Serious Organised Crime:

Gang related violence related to serious organised crime is targeted by SCD1 liaising with local police and partners where appropriate. The GAG is also able to refer the most serious violent offenders and those over the age of 24 years to Operation Connect.

Find out more:

safer.communities@haringey.gov.uk