

Haringey Gangs & Serious Youth Violence Strategy

Community Safety Partnership

17th March

10 year Gangs & SYV Strategy

- Seeks to reflect latest Home Office guidance (focuses on exploitation, early intervention, change/exit)
- Seeks to align with strategies for Young People, VAWG, CSE, Regeneration/Economic development etc
- Intended to clearly articulate our priorities and principles
- Intended to be a 'touchstone' that all services and all partners use to shape their own strategies/plans over the next decade
- It is not a ten year prescriptive plan
- Successive action plans will be developed to implement the strategy – they need to be whole-partnership plans
- CSP to oversee process of agreeing partner commitments and actions for the first action plan

Haringey's Gang problem

- 10/11 active gangs, several Peer Groups, 1 Organised Crime Network
- 202 individuals on the Trident matrix, 139 in the community, 63 in custody
- A significant proportion are between 18-24 years old (majority are Black African/Caribbean)
- A significant number have mental health issues including thinking/cognitive issues, depression, PTSD etc
- 50% on gang exit have ADHD/LD and were excluded from school

- Serious youth violence up 33% in 12 months
- Knife related injuries up 90% in last 6 months – highest in London
- Recent phenomena: County Lines and Zombie knives

- Historic tension between Wood Green and Tottenham based gangs
- Gang rivalries cross borough boundaries
- Gangs are constantly developing and entering new markets, including legitimate business interests

What does future success look like?

- N'bourhoods no longer live in fear of gang violence – gang numbers dwindle as members are supported to change or face enforcement
- The exploitation associated with gangs is understood and no longer tolerated – agencies and communities intervene early and take enforcement action to protect girls and vulnerable people
- A vibrant array of positive diversionary activities provides an attractive alternative to gang membership as a lifestyle/culture
- All young people at risk at gangs due to SEN, MH, family breakdown etc are identified early and supported to thrive
- Regeneration provides all young people with real pathways to employment and prosperity – so that Gang membership is stripped of its appeal as the route to wealth and status
- All neighbourhoods have high aspirations for young people – and all adults 'step up' to support young people to realise those aspirations
- Communities and public sector agencies work closely together – all communities have confidence in the Police and the Council

Links to the Corporate Plan

- P3 Objective 5 – We will work with partners to prevent and reduce more serious crime, in particular **youth crime** and **gang activity**
- Delivery commitments:
 - Work with partners to identify and successfully address underlying factors that contribute to offending
 - The council and partners will focus on early intervention and prevention projects (including communication with young women)
 - Providing exit opportunities with partners for gang members
- P1 Objective 5 – Children/families who need extra help will get the **right support at the right time** to tackle issues before they escalate
- Delivery commitments:
 - Children and young people at risk are quickly identified and given the right support
 - Young people at risk of offending or participating in gangs are given positive opportunities and supported to make good decisions

Priorities

1. Prevention and Early Help
2. Exploitation
3. Effective Intervention (change/exit)
4. Community Empowerment
5. Enforcement

The following slides outline the key strategic commitments that feature in the strategy

Partners are asked to consider:

- What parts of the strategy can my organisation 'own'?
- What can my organisation's contribution be in each area?

P1: Prevention and Early Help

1. All Community Safety partners commit to sharing information
2. All partners invest in diversionary activities for young people in gang-afflicted communities...
3. ...including decision making opportunities that promote positive perceptions/self esteem
4. All skills and employment initiatives for young people focus on gang-afflicted communities
5. Schools stay open longer to offer diversionary activities
6. All Haringey schools agree a common exclusions policy that seeks to minimise/eliminate exclusions
7. Public sector professionals, especially Police, are highly visible in gang-afflicted communities, with Police maintaining their presence in schools

P1: Prevention and **Early Help**

1. All partners are aware of the risk factors behind gang violence and exploitation (SEN, MH etc) and identify/address unmet need earlier
2. Teachers are equipped to make timely referrals for early help and specialist support
3. Gang membership is prioritised by Early Help Locality Teams and Families First when determining interventions/ allocating resources
4. All partners support the Locality Teams to provide wrap around support to vulnerable young people and their families - with front line/case worker resources
5. All partners adopt an assertive outreach approach to engage with young people on the edge of gang membership, offending or exploitation

P2: Exploitation

- Women and girls, especially those with vulnerabilities, associated with gangs are likely to be subject to sexual and other exploitation
 - The exploitation of children and vulnerable adults is central to the County Lines phenomenon – esp. LAC, learning difficulties and known to YOS, recruited via grooming and debt
 - Many young people involved in gangs are likely to be victims of exploitation themselves
1. More comprehensive collection of partner data to enable the identification of those at risk of exploitation (girlfriends, friends, siblings) when mapping gang members
 2. Standardisation of how partners assess harm, risk, need – consistent recognition of exploitation in all its forms
 3. More Police referrals into the child welfare and safeguarding system - so that the perpetrators themselves can be assessed
 4. More is done to protect locations where vulnerable young people can be targeted (PRUs, children's care homes etc)

P3: Effective Intervention (change/exit)

1. All agencies are equipped to respond rapidly and reliably when the Gangs Unit asks them to support a change offer (housing, mental health, education/training/employment)
2. Develop the Communities Against Violence intervention model with our communities – to deliver community-based exit offers
3. All agencies prioritise gang members in their policies, operations and allocation of resources
4. All colleges and Skills providers prioritise their support for ex-gang members
5. Joint commissioning of exit/change interventions within the partnership and with neighbouring boroughs. CSP to rigorously assess what works
6. All exit/change initiatives work closely with local businesses. Businesses commit to recruit with an open mind, and offer opportunities to ex-gang members
7. Section 106 agreements and social value commissioning criteria are used to open up employment opportunities

P4: Community Empowerment

1. All partners build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to respond to the issue of gangs (guidance, training and seed funding)
2. All partners use their commissioning to leverage a greater voluntary and community sector response to gangs
3. The Council's Strategic VCS Partner prioritises the issue of gangs in their leadership of the local voluntary sector
4. All partners ensure there are channels and forums that enable the community to shape the implementation of the Gangs Strategy (identifying issues, co-designing solutions, holding partners to account)
5. Community safety partners prioritise the need to improve community engagement and confidence in the Police and other agencies
6. There is a shift in the way that gangs are discussed, and anti-gang initiatives communicated, in order to prompt a constructive, collaborative response from Haringey's communities rather than a distrustful/adversarial one

P5: Enforcement

1. Stronger information and intelligence sharing across partner agencies to co-ordinate and target enforcement activity
2. Develop cross borough/regional intelligence exchange and enforcement activities
3. Stronger information sharing and referral channels with Health service (often the first/only agency to identify incidences of gang violence)
4. Intelligence led enforcement targeted at those groups identified as causing the most harm, and identifying young people and adults who are subject to exploitation (including sexual exploitation)
5. Develop an effective enforcement response to Country Lines, CSE, missing people, and drug dealing
6. Maximise the use of alternative criminal justice enforcement options such as CBO's, Probation license conditions, etc

Questions

1. Are the five priorities the right ones?
2. What do we know about exploitation? What is the role of partners?
3. Can partners commit to prioritising gangs & SYV for the next ten years?
 - a) Can partners have a preventative impact through their policies and investment (i.e. school exclusions policy, diversionary activities for young people)
 - b) Can partners better enable the Early Help Locality Teams to intervene with young people at risk of gangs?
 - c) Can partners offer more support/prioritise gang members in order to help our Gangs Officers put together compelling change/exit offers to gang members?
 - d) Can partners help mobilise the community?