



ISLINGTON

Children's Scrutiny Presentation- Youth Offending, Targeted Youth Support and Integrated Gangs

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Offending and Integrated Gangs



Some figures to consider - The effects on the public purse in relation to Youth Crime

- Secure Children's Homes cost a minimum of £204,000 per year for one young person (**Youth Justice Board**)
- Secure Training Centres cost a minimum of £163,000 per year for one young person (**Youth Justice Board**)
- Young Offenders Institutions cost a minimum of £75,000 per year for one young person (**Youth Justice Board**)
- Currently Serious Youth Violence costs society £4B a year (**MAC UK**)
- These costs are more significant in the longer-term due to the accumulation of other key costs when young offenders become adults e.g. adult secure estate costs, mental health services and other health care costs



Factors which experts cite as being reasons for young people entering the youth crime arena

- Studies completed show that children and young people with multiple vulnerabilities are more likely to become offenders of crime and/or to become affiliated with gang membership (**Centre for Mental Health**)
- An increasing body of research and evidence is concluding that many young offenders have experienced significant episodes of trauma and that this is a major contributory factor to their offending behaviour (**Youth Justice Board**)
- A large number of young people engaged within the criminal justice system have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse and/or have been exposed to significant levels of neglect (**MAC UK**)
- Many young offenders have speech and language issues and/or Special Educational Needs such as dyslexia or dyspraxia (**Youth Justice Board**)
- A lot of young offenders are victims as well as offenders



Prevalence of Serious Youth Violence In London

- The number of victims of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) in London has been rising over the past four years **(MOPAC)**
- The number of gun and knife crime offences in London increased significantly last year amid fears more young people are carrying weapons for self-protection and status
- There is an increasing trend in the number of SYV victims with more than 7,700 recorded in the past twelve months **(MOPAC)**
- There have been over 2,000 knife-related SYV incidents in London in the past twelve months **(MOPAC)**



Youth Offending Service

- Established following the Crime and Disorder Act (1998)
- The main objective is to prevent offending and re-offending in young people using a multi-agency approach and response



Youth Offending Service- Case Study

- TD had multiple placements, including various outside of London which he had never settled in. He had always voiced his wishes to be placed within London. On release from custody in December 2016, TD was placed in a semi-independent placement in Enfield. This was positive for TD, as it was close enough to Islington for him to maintain links with his family. This placement was identified by placements at least 4 weeks prior to his release which meant that Social Care, the YOS and prison staff could work with TD and inform him about the placement in preparation for his release. Thorough risk and suitability assessments were carried out by Placements, CSC and informed by YOS and IGT. This proved to be beneficial as on release TD stayed at the placement for a period of 4 months and engaged with his support worker, something he has never really done before and this was a significant change and improvement for him. TD was sentenced to a 6 month DTO in April and has no current outstanding matters since his release.



Youth Offending Service – Case Study Two

- JS was on remand for a serious offence, for which he subsequently received a custodial sentence. However the Placement team were able to identify a suitable placement with a high level of support in South London. This means that the Court had the option of considering a community based sentence. Again, as with above, the risk assessment was co-ordinated and relevant information was taken into account from the Police, YOS , social care and IGT. Ultimately the decision was made by the Court to sentence to custody, but it is extremely positive that a suitable placement was identified in time for court so that a robust community sentence could still be considered. This placement has been reserved as a resettlement package for when JS is released.

Targeted Youth Support

- Targeted Youth Support (TYS) work with young people aged 10 to 21 years old (12 – 21 for Youth Counselling), who require support to enable them to make informed choices and decisions and maintain positive pathways



Targeted Youth Support – Case Study

- S is a fourteen-year-old female who is residing in Islington with her mother, as her primary carer. She was referred to TYS, due to concerns that she was being exposed to/taking part in high risk situations. Due to her brother, C, being a gang nominal and at that moment in time, on remand, this increased the potential for to be at risk of exploitation (particularly sexually). Work completed with S included exploring risk taking behaviours, joint enterprise, cannabis and the law, youth provision in Islington, offending and the impact on young people and their family. After difficulty in gaining access to S, the sessions were highly participative, open and honest.. She was also able to identify, due to her mother's physical and emotional problems, that she is, at times, in the role of a carer.
- The case has been open to TYS since April 2017 and in that time there have been no incidents/ reports of S taking part in risky behaviour. She has engaged and taken part in multiple discussion activities that have allowed her to express her feelings and emotions. Despite a chaotic period in her life, S has shown tenacity, resilience and a positive personal moral compass.

Integrated Gangs Team

- The team's overall aim is to make Islington a safer place by providing an integrated response to reduce violent crime that is attributable to gangs.
- One of the ways this has been achieved is through the co-location of staff that will work with individuals involved in gangs and respond to gang-related incidents.
- The IGT's objectives are to
 - Improve safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults
 - Reduce violence committed by, and against, the cohort of perpetrators
 - Reduce re-offending rate of the cohort
 - Reduce seriousness of offending within the cohort
 - Reduce victimisation of local people as a result of gang activity



Integrated Gangs Team – Case Study

- On the 8th August 2014, F was sentenced to an 18 month Detention and Training Order DTO. F returned back to Feltham YOI to serve his sentence. The charges levelled against F arose from a police operation, which was carried out over a number of months. At this period in F's life he was smoking £30-£40 worth of cannabis a day and had been using cannabis for over 3 years
- Although F had successfully completed his work in May 2016 with IGT, within 6 months he was back associating with a negative peer group. By November 2016 he was re-offending almost daily. He was also stabbed a number of times. Police, YOS, and IGT were increasingly concerned about his risk. He has also changed his peer group from Easy Cash to Essex Road gang and this placed him at risk of attacks



Integrated Gangs Team – Case Study

Following IGT's intervention, F has made remarkable progress. He:

- Attended weekly appointments and 1-2-1 sessions to look for employment.
- Has secured employment with the railway [rail track]
- Has a payment plan in place for his debts
- Has not re-offended since March 2017
- Has not been seen by police during this time associating with Essex Road gang members
- Has been drug free for six months. He has had clear tests from work
- Is a regular gym user
- Weekly budget plans.
- Opened a bank account
- Has agreed to complete IGT Anger Management Programme
- Attends regular sexual health check ups