Violence and Vulnerability: emerging trends and issues in London

Safer London Foundation
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Registered charity no: 1109444
Safer London Vision

For young people in London to feel safe and achieve their potential
Our Projects

Aspire provides skills development and volunteer mentoring for young people affected by violence and crime.

Empower supports and addresses young women’s experiences of sexual exploitation.

Safe & Secure is a unique intervention project for gang-affected young people who are at high risk of harm.

Training: Packages and bespoke sessions on gangs, serious youth violence and child sexual exploitation.
Service Delivery Framework

Prevention and Early Intervention projects

- Empower Education: young women, young men, parents
- Missing Young People
- Specialist Training: for professionals on CSE, gangs, safeguarding
- Aspire 11-17

Young People involved in crime and/or victims

Targeted Intervention and Exit Programmes

- Aspire 18-25
- Empower: Intensive 1-1 Support
- Specialist CSE advice For professionals
- Safe & Secure

Safer London Youth Ambassadors
Key issues

1. Gangs and Serious Youth Violence: victimisation and offending

2. A gendered approach: gang-related child sexual exploitation

3. Where and why opportunities to intervene are missed

4. Recommendations
Gangs in the 21st Century: A New Definition

A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who;

• See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and
• Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence

They may also have any or all of the following factors:

• Identify with or lay claim over territory
• Have some form of identifying structural feature
• Are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.

Gang nominals | Gang associates
London Gangs: The scale of the problem

- 22% of serious violence
- 17% of robbery
- 50% of shootings
- 14% of rapes

- 250 recognised gangs in London
- 3,500 people involved
- Concentrated in 20 London Boroughs
- Mainly young people, aged 18 - 24
Street Gang Structure

Upper Echelon Drug Wholesalers

- Faces
  - Generals
    - Generals
      - Olders
        - Soldiers
        - Soldiers
        - Soldiers
        - Runarounds
        - Wannabe
        - Wannabe
        - Wannabe
      - Younger
        - Younger
        - Younger
        - Runarounds
        - Wannabe
        - Wannabe
        - Wannabe
      - Wannabe
    - Semi-legitimate business fronts
    - Spin-off enterprises

- Tiny
  - Wannabe
  - Wannabe
  - Wannabe
  - Wannabe
  - Wannabe
  - Wannabe

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Victimisation  

Retribution threats for debts providing alibis witnessing domestic and sexual violence online bulling and abuse sexual violence carrying weapons to feel safe drug use holding weapons repping an area running county lines violence grooming others selling drugs robbery and snatch offences abduction serious injury
Risk Factors

Poverty
Trauma
Low Self-Esteem
Bereavement
Domestic Violence
Substance Use
Mental Health
Poor Education
Parenting
Neglect
Abuse
Bullying
Homelessness
Refugee Experience
Criminal Families
Fractured Families
Learning Differences

Identity
Power
Protection
Popularity
Girls
Money
Status
Family
Aspirations
Respect
Control
Excitement
Belonging
Friends
Opportunities
Success
Emotional Release

GANGS

PUSH

Media
Inequality and Social Exclusion

Boredom

Safety and Protection

Pressure and Coercion

PULL
Gendered Risk: young women and girls

CSE: Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive ‘something’ as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them sexual activities.

Involves one or multiple perpetrators, who are themselves gang-associated and takes place as a form of intra or inter gang-related violence.

CSEGG Inquiry call for evidence - OCC Autumn 2012
Who is at risk?

Any young woman who is in any way associated or linked to any gang or gang associated individual ... Includes family members, friends, girlfriends and young women linked to a gang

ROTA 2010 & 2011, OCC 2012

“Sexual violence and exploitation are significant weapons used against females associated with, or involved in, gang violence”

Rape has become a weapon of choice ... as it is the only weapon that cannot be detected during a stop and search”

ROTA Report: Female Voice in Violence (2010) and This is it, this is My Life (2011)
Types of Child Sexual Exploitation by gangs and groups

OCC CSEGG Inquiry final report 2013
Barriers to effective support of gang-affected and at risk young people

1. Lack of awareness of risks – within families and professionals

2. Lack of appropriate interventions available once risk is identified
Building Protective Factors: multi-agency, cross-sector responses

- Universal Services
- Early Intervention
- Safeguarding

- Positive Activities
- Education
- Health

- Finance
- Criminal Justice
- Social Care

- Housing
- Community & Voluntary Sector
- Employment

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Further Information

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