

Gangs Report

Report to: Community Safety Partnership

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Introduction

It is widely recognised that any approach to tackling gang associated behaviour and serious violence must encompass a multi-agency approach. No one agency holds all of the relevant information, knowledge and experience to tackle these issues alone. Effective intervention is highly dependent on agencies working together to identify and address the needs of individuals.

Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA Panel)

In Bromley all young people known to be gang affiliated or at risk of gang affiliation are tracked through the weekly multiagency Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) Panel. The Panel enables the available information to be shared across relevant partner agencies in relation to identified individuals, their families and wider locations. This will result in a clearer picture of the need and the risk posed. This also supports a more comprehensive action plan to be developed to intervene with an identified individual.

MEGA panel includes the following agencies:

- Children's Social Care
- Youth Offending Service
- Police - Gangs, CSE and Missing SPOC
- Health – LAC Health, Public Health, Sexual Health Clinic and School Nursing
- Education - EWO / CME co-ordinator / Virtual School
- Intervention Services - Barnardos, Bromley Changes
- Targeted Youth Services
- CAMHS
- Housing
- Community Safety / Anti-Social Behaviour Team

Data

Table 1 – number of young people discussed at MEGA by statutory status (May 2018 – January 2019)

Bromley CLA	8
Bromley Non CLA	35
Others	10
Total	53

A total of 53 young people known or suspected to be gang affiliated have been tracked through MEGA panel since May 2018. Of these 8 are Bromley 'looked after children' who are placed in and out of borough. Of the 35 young people who are not looked after, 4 are subject to Child Protection Plans, and 12 are subject to CIN plans while others would have gone through a social work assessment and signposted to other agencies. MEGA panel also tracks young people who are placed in the borough of Bromley by other local authorities if they present a risk of gangs to our young people by association or rivalry or adults who are persons of interest due to their association with known gang activities.

Table 2 – young people discussed at MEGA by age and gender (May 2018 – January 2019)

Age	Male	Female	Total
13	4	0	4
14	2	1	3
15	11	0	11
16	10	1	11
17	11	0	11
18	7	1	8
19	3	0	3
20	2	0	2
Total	50	3	53

94% of young people known or suspected to be gang affiliated are mainly males (50/53). The most vulnerable are 15-17year olds (62%). MEGA panel also tracks young people at risk of CSE and there is a clear link between exploitation of girls and boys who are gang affiliated. This is recognised in discussing individual young people at MEGA; however since May 2018 only 3 girls were reported as directly involved / linked to gangs.

There are currently 6 young people being tracked at MEGA panel who are gang affiliated.

Impact of MEGA

1. Prior to MEGA Panel, a number of agencies were working in silos with the same vulnerable young people who were at risk of one form of exploitation or another. By bringing the agencies around the table to discuss all children who are suffering some form of exploitation, this has improved multi agency working and targeted support to the young people. As MEGA has developed, relationships have got stronger, and trust has developed between agencies, also there has been an increased awareness and understanding of these issues.
2. Improved identification of links between individual victims/offenders that have not been made apparent via individual case planning – MEGA Panel has enabled mapping of associates of young people who are linked, thus informing risk assessments and safety planning.

3. Sharing information and intelligence about individuals and groups of individuals involved in perpetrating gang activities/criminal behaviours and CSE.
4. Identification of locations that may increase the risk to our young people – this included schools, placements, residential areas and youth clubs.