

Gang-affiliated Children's and Young People report

Report to: Community Safety Partnership
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Introduction

This report aims to provide information on the scale of gang affiliated children and young people (CYP) identified by Bromley Children' Social Care.

Missing Exploitation and Gang Affiliation panel (MEGA)

In Bromley all children and young people known to be gang affiliated or at risk of gang affiliation are tracked through the multi-agency Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) panel on a fortnightly basis. The criteria for making a referral to the MEGA panel require the level or risk to be medium to high as identified through the gang risk assessment tool.

The panel enables the available information to be shared across relevant partner agencies in relation to identified individuals with the view of monitoring the reduction and mitigation of risk. The intelligence from the panel is fed back onto children's files and used to help keep children safe.

Data

The number of CYP assessed by Children's Social Care during the year 2018/19 (April – April) for gang affiliation concerns was 69. This is taken from the cohort of CYP presented at the MEGA panel for gang affiliation.

- 7 out of 69 children identified as gang affiliated were on a Child Protection (CP) plan.
- 21 out of 69 children identified as gang affiliated were Children Looked After.
- It is possible for children to be reassessed during the year, for example where they have had multiple episodes of need. For example where a young person was originally presented to the MEGA panel for gang affiliation concerns but due to recurrent prolonged episodes of going missing, the overriding need becomes child missing from home or placement.
- Children are recorded as gang affiliated based on social work practitioner judgement due to the nature of crime activity and risk taking behaviour reported. This might include, concerns relating to drug dealing or county lining, previous knife offences and victim of assault.

- It is important to note that the majority of the CYP discussed at the MEGA panel do not fall within the police definition and criteria for a 'gang member' or a gang nominal.

Demographic profile:

Age at latest assessment	Gang affiliation
5- 9	0
10-15	20
16-17	28
18- 20	21

Gender	Gang affiliation
Male	67
Female	2

Ethnicity	Gang affiliation
White	12
Asian or Asian British	1
Black or black British	32
Mixed	11
Other ethnic group	13

Family factors

Consistently across the CYP discussed at MEGA are the following family factors; parental substance misuse, parental mental health issues, domestic violence, neglect and offending in the family.

Personal risks

Gang affiliated CYP are more likely to have risks to their personal safety identified by practitioners. There are particular strong associations with going missing, drug/alcohol misuse, and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

School

A significant number of the CYP are in alternative provision such as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) or residential placement, and have suffered School instability either through exclusions, periods of absence from School or mid-year school moves. The findings of a mapping exercise to establish a correlation between gangs/CSE and education will be presented at the next MASE meeting scheduled to take place in July 2019.

Summary

This summary provides a small sample and a short description of the characteristics and scale of currently identified gang affiliation CYP known to the MEGA panel. This is not a complete representation of the characteristics of gang-affiliated children and young people in Bromley. Gang affiliation and gang nominal criteria vary between Children's Social Care and the police, this is particularly the case given there is no consistent definition of gang affiliation used across areas/agencies. This analysis has done what it is possible to account for, based on the CYP we are aware of, but remains a limitation to this population.