

Have you got what it takes?

Ending gang violence and exploitation



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Important facts

Ending gang violence and exploitation is a priority for the Government and, in January 2016, the Home Office published its refreshed approach, which is based on both reducing violence, including knife crime, and protecting vulnerable individuals from exploitation by gangs.

Ending gang violence and exploitation (EGVE) is underpinned by six key priorities:

- 1) Tackling county lines;
- 2) Protecting vulnerable locations;
- 3) Reducing violence and knife crime;
- 4) Safeguarding gang-associated women and girls;
- 5) Promoting early intervention; and
- 6) Promoting meaningful alternatives to gangs.

The publication setting out the refreshed EGVE approach can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-gang-violence-and-exploitation>.

This builds on the work of the Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme, from 2012 – 2016, which reviewed 52 local areas across the country identified as having gang violence problems, or gang associated exploitation of vulnerable people often linked to the drugs market.

In order to address the refreshed EGVE priorities, it remains very important that agencies continue to work closely together and have a good understanding of current and emerging local problems and how they can be addressed most effectively. In particular, it is crucial that local partners are able to respond to the exploitation of vulnerable people by gangs, especially as the problem is often hidden.

More information

Information Sharing on Gang-Affected Offenders

Information-sharing between the police and partners on gang-affected offenders is vitally important in managing both the risk that such offenders present and in providing the support needed to help them leave gangs. The Home Office has worked with the Ministry of Justice to develop a consistent national approach to information sharing on gang-affected offenders.

Information Sharing to Tackle Violence

Linking in with health services and the anonymised data they hold is key, and many hospitals now share anonymised data on violent assaults with the police and community safety partnerships to help identify hotspots where violent incidents are occurring. This joint working supports planning and early intervention by ensuring effective local measures can be put in place by the police and partners to help prevent and reduce such violent incidents. The Department of Health has published an information standard setting out the minimum level of data hospitals are expected to share with community safety partnerships.

Tackling County Lines

'County lines' describes the exploitation of vulnerable people by gangs in order to sell drugs, often in areas outside their usual territory. The National Crime Agency published its first national assessment of county lines in August 2015 and is currently preparing a further assessment to inform the operational policing response.

Early Intervention

The Home Office has provided funding to the Early Intervention Foundation to support local areas to develop effective early intervention approaches and commission more effective preventative programmes.

How do you define a 'gang'?

The Serious Crime Act 2015 updates the statutory definition of gang-related activity (in the context of gang injunctions) to reflect changes in the way that gangs operate. For example, it removed the reference to groups using particular names, emblems or colours, or being associated with a particular area.

Section 34(5) of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 (amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015) states that, for the purposes of this section, something is "gang-related" if it occurs in the course of, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that—

- a) consists of at least 3 people; and
- b) has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group.

