

Information for referrers and service users

Overview of London Gang Exit

London Gang Exit will support 16-24 year olds who are gang-involved or gang-affiliated, to get support to exit – no matter which borough of London they live in. The service is inclusive: specialist support for both males and females, those who are at risk from gangs, and those who pose a risk of harm to others. This recognises the complexities of gang involvement which can blur traditional lines between offender and victim.

We know that young people need intensive support over an extended period of time; London Gang Exit will build a consistent relationship to ensure that young people get help that is holistic, and tailor-made for their individual needs.

London Gang Exit will bring together existing services across London and fill in gaps – providing a more consistent and comprehensive service across the capital.

This support will ensure a measurable reduction in offending, will move individuals in to safe, stable housing and encourage young people back into education, training or employment

What the service offers

LGE offers holistic support over a six month intervention period. This support is offered via confidential one to one sessions in a location that is safe and comfortable for the service user. Depending on the service user's level of need, the intensity of one to one support will be provided via a LGE Support Worker or Volunteer Mentor. The level of need will be determined through an Initial Risk Assessment and will inform the decision to accept the referral into the service.

The support package focuses on seven strands of intervention: Gang Activity, Harm from Gangs, Offending Behaviour, Housing, Health & Well-being, Relationships & Family, and Employment, Education & Training. The service user's score on the Initial Risk Assessment will determine which strand of intervention will be their entry point. Risk will be continually reviewed via Holistic Assessment and Action Planning.

The strands of intervention are modular and allow for a holistic support package to be designed around each service user's individual needs. The Action Plan will guide the types of intervention tools that will be used in each individual's support session. The LGE Support Worker will provide counselling support, advocacy and multi-agency working to engage and enable the service user to achieve their goals. Please see below for an overview of the focus of support offered in each strand of intervention:

- Gang Activity: increased ability to leave gang lifestyle via improved awareness of self, purpose, agency and choice, place amongst community/family/peers, and modification of behaviours.

- Harm from Gangs: increased ability to protect self and others from gang-related harm via improved awareness of risk and ability to increase safety, establish support networks, and modification of behaviours.
- Offending Behaviour: decrease and cessation of offending via improved awareness of short and long term consequences, impact on others, increased ability to achieve own life goals, and modification of behaviours.
- Housing: access to tailored support for safe and appropriate housing options via advocacy with local authorities, money advice and skills development, direct support into appropriate statutory emergency and short term accommodation, potential referral to inter-borough relocation service.
- Health & Well-being: increased ability to achieve and maintain health via improved awareness of and ability to address emotions and behaviours that contribute to mental health, self-harm and addiction.
- Relationships & Family: increased ability to identify protective and risk factors associated with whole family units, relationships and individuals, improved ability to address emotional and behavioural barriers, increased ability to establish support networks and eliminate negative/harmful relationships.
- Employment, Education & Training (EET): increased ability to identify goals and barriers to accessing and engaging in EET, including emotional and behavioural barriers, direct support into EET programmes.

How to Make a Referral

To be eligible for referral, the young person (male or female) is required:-

- To be aged between 16-24 who are affiliated to or involved in gangs.
- To be at significant risk of harm from gang activity, (such as through child sexual exploitation), or a risk to themselves, or posing a risk of harm to others.
- To show some motivation to end their gang involvement and a willingness to cooperate with the London Gangs exit service.

The young person will not be eligible:-

- If they are not yet motivated to end their gang involvement.
- If they are already receiving extensive support from the borough that they are residing in, or from other statutory organisations, or if the services they require are already available locally to them.
- If they fall outside the eligible age range.

Referral process

Service Manual

All enquiries about this new service and full referrals need to be sent to the London Gangs Service Referral Unit- contact details:

Phone: 0785 0282499

E mail address: LondonGangExitReferral@londoncrc.org.uk