

**London Borough of Bexley and Bexley Metropolitan Police Service
Joint Operational Procedure: Gangs**

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Responsible Manager: Community Safety Manager
 London Borough of Bexley
 Chief Inspector BCU, Bexley

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Associated statutory guidance and regulations:

Revised statutory guidance on injunctions to prevent gang-related violence and gang-related drug dealing May 2016 available at (statutory guidance and practitioners guide): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/injunctions-to-prevent-gang-related-violence-and-drug-dealing>

Home Office Guidance for Professionals - County Lines (July 2017)

Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines. Guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines, part of the government's approach to ending gang violence and exploitation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

Attachments to be read alongside this policy:

Appendix A: Bexley Community Safety Partnership **Gangs and Gang related Activity** document – this is available as an internal resource for professionals and can be access [here](#) along with the documents below:

Appendix Bi, Bii & Biii: The Bexley young people involved in gangs flow chart (Bi) and early notification form at appendix (Bii) and a referral form to the SVPP (Appendix Biii).

Gang Definitions

Below is a list of definitions relating to gangs that are currently used in the MPS:

A 'gang' is defined as a "...relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who

- (1) see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and**
- (2) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence. They may also have any or all of the following features,**
- (3) Identify with or lay claim over territory,**
- (4) Have some form of identifying structure feature and**
- (5) Are in conflict with other, similar gangs.**

A 'gang nominal is defined as 'someone who has been identified as being a member of a gang and this is corroborated by intelligence from more than one source (e.g. police, partner agencies or community intelligence).'

A 'gang associate' is defined as 'someone who offends with gang members; or who is associated by police, partner agencies or community intelligence, with gang members; or who has displayed through conduct or behaviour, a specific desire or intent to become a member of a gang.'

A 'gang crime' is "Any Gang-related crimes or crime-related incidents are such events where any individual believes that there is a link to the activities of a gang or gangs".

Section 51 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 define 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 three people, and
- (b) has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group.

Key Objectives (including Signs of Safety principles to apply)

1. Partners have clear means of intelligence and information sharing for individuals who are coming to notice of partner agencies where incidents have not been reported to police.
2. Clear escalation process for partners to share information and intelligence of concern to develop actions and responses.
3. To engage effectively with young people and their families where there are concerns to develop plans to support and protect them.

Detailed advice:

- i. The Bexley Community Safety Partnership gang and gang related activity policy sets out details about processes and definitions as they will be used in Bexley (Attached at appendix A).
- ii. Trident is the overarching gang related police operation for gang related crime. Bexley police follow the risk matrix provided by them. The scoring provides a RAG risk rating that dictates how partners are alerted.
- iii. The Serious Violence Prevention Panel (SVP) is a multi-agency panel where partner agencies and schools can refer people of concern who are currently involved, either proven or alleged from community/partner information or police intelligence, in serious violence or due to their associations and risk taking behaviour or are at risk of serious violence from others. For each referral discussed a lead agency is appointed to oversee any arising actions and review and report information to the panel. All partners are expected to check their records for any additional intelligence or background. The meeting is split with the first part concentrating on people who do not meet the police gangs matrix criteria and the second part reviewing known gang nominal. Representatives from Children’s Social Care always attend this meeting. The process for gang association flow chart should be used by all social workers to alert Community Safety/ YOT to any identified gang concerns. This is attached at appendix B with the early notification form.
- iv. Community Safety complete a risk assessment for a person who is believed to be a gang member or gang affiliated and reviews the information. Relevant information is then included on the police matrix as intelligence.
- v. Community safety develop a safety plan for people identified as a concern through the risk assessment and relevant partners are involved. A referral to social care will be considered if the child is not currently open to social care. If the child is open to social care the safety plan would align with existing plans in place for that child.
- vi. Community safety link with gangs police and undertake cross-borough work with Kent, Greenwich and Lewisham as well as other boroughs to ensure we are notified of information relating to Bexley young people.
- vii. A professional from the community safety team will attend the weekly missing meeting and fortnightly CSE meeting to ensure the links between missing children and gang affiliations are made.