

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 10th December 2018 Evidence gathering for review - work and approach of Hackney's Integrated Gangs Unit	Item No 4
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Outline

Hackney's Integrated Gangs Unit was established in 2010 following the Community Safety Partnership identifying tackling gang violence as a strategic priority and a detailed analysis being carried out of gang violence in the borough to develop a comprehensive understanding of the alliances, disputes and tensions between different gangs.

The IGU brings together the police, a range of Council services, and others including the Youth Offending Team, Probation Services, the DWP and organisations providing one to one advice, training and support to divert people at risk away from gangs¹. It was the first co-located Integrated Gangs Unit (IGU) in the UK².

After it opened in 2010 gang-flagged violence fell for a number of years. There were 114 gun related crimes in the borough in the year to February 2011, compared to 66 in the year to February 2018. In the 2 years to November 24th 2018 there were no gang-related murders. This was prior to a spike in violence which was in evidence both in Hackney and elsewhere.

This item builds upon the introduction to the unit which Members received from the Council's Community Safety Manager in the September meeting. At that point the Commission was developing the terms of reference for its review.

A number of partners and commissioned services operating within the unit will be in attendance to talk and answer questions on their work.

The paper, presentation and discussion for this item are intended to help the Commission answer the points below which form some of the core questions of its review.

The areas covered by the Commission's review (of which this item forms a part) are being restricted to those which fall within its remit. Whilst this enables the work to be focused, it also means that several areas of relevance to the wider topic will not be explored in detail within this specific review. These include

¹ <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/media/11221/Our-approach-to-violent-crime/pdf/approach-to-violent-crime>

² <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/31170>

activities within schools, Children's Social Care, Young Hackney and Youth Justice. These elements are and will continue to be explored by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission, for example through regular performance reporting by the Children and Families Service.

This said, the Commission in its terms of reference for the review stated the intention to explore aspects around transitions as young people move from being catered for by youth services, to services aimed at adults. Specifically within this, the Commission wished to explore the support given to under 18s identified as at risk of gang activity / gang exploitation, after they reach 18.

The Youth Justice Service (which has Officers based in the IGU) will be represented at the meeting, along with Probation Officers based in the unit. Members are invited to ask questions around transitions of Youth Justice Clients to the Probation Service and any other services, and work to ensure continuity of support.

How is the Integrated Gangs Unit working to tackle serious violence and what are the pros and cons of its approach?

- What approach is the Integrated Gangs Unit taking to tackle gang related violence?
- What tools does it use?

In relation to support for Youth Justice cohort:

- What is the support to under 18s identified as at risk of gang activity / gang exploitation, after they reach 18?

Papers attached:

- The paper on pages 5 - 10 has been produced by the Integrated Gangs Unit
- The second paper on pages 11 - 18 is a set of slides provided by the Children and Families Service, in which the wider Youth Justice Service is based.

Guests Expected:

- Maurice Mason, Community Safety Partnership Manager
- Jan Stout, Integrated Gangs Unit Manager
- Emma Harradine, Probation Officer
- Brendan Finegan, Service Manager - Youth Justice Service
- Mark Barton, IGU Community Co-ordinator
- Sgt Charlie Pilbeam, PC Robert Murphy, Police Officers based within the unit
- Oladele Woye, Community Engagement Officer DWP

- Samir Khattab, Case Worker, SOS Project, St Giles Trust
- Damion Roberts, Case Worker, SOS Project, St Giles Trust
- Steve Gowan, IGU Researcher

Action

The Commission is asked to review the papers enclosed. They are invited to ask questions of Officers in attendance.