


<p style="text-align: center;"><b>London Borough of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND RESIDENTS SERVICES POLICY &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>21<sup>st</sup> September 2016</b></p>	
<p><b>Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Strategy</b></p>	
<p><b>Report of the Director for Safer Neighbourhoods</b></p>	
<p><b>Open Report</b></p>	
<p><b>Classification - For Policy &amp; Accountability Review &amp; Comment</b>  <b>Key Decision: No</b></p>	
<p><b>Wards Affected: All</b></p>	
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Strategy sets out Hammersmith and Fulham's priorities for tackling gangs, serious youth violence and exploitation in the borough for the next five years.
- 1.2. A detailed and in depth document reviewing the current provision and setting out a series of recommendations been produced in conjunction with the Ending Violence and Exploitation (EGVE) Partnership. The information gathered as part of this review has been presented in the *Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Strategy Synopsis*. The synopsis outlines the priorities set by the partnership and how these will be addressed to provide the best response.
- 1.3. The following priorities have been identified:
  - *Prevention, Diversion and Early Intervention*
  - *Engagement*
  - *Enforcement*
  - *Gang Exit and Resettlement*
  - *CSE and gangs*
  - *Information sharing, governance and partnership working.*

- 1.4. Recommendations have been developed in line with our priorities and the Home Office Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation priorities which are outlined in the strategy.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. For the Committee to review the Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation (EGVE) Strategy Synopsis and provide comment.
- 2.2. For the Committee to understand the priorities that have been chosen, what action will be taken to improve the response to EGYV and how progress will be monitored.

## **3. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 3.1. The priorities and recommendations will inform future activities and initiatives to improve the response to EGYV.

## **4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. As part of the Home Office Ending Gangs and Youth Violence (EGYV) national initiative, 29 boroughs, later increased to 33, were identified and invited to participate in a programme of Peer Reviews. The reviews were designed to assist Boroughs in ensuring that their partnerships had effective structures and responses in place to contribute to the shared aim of Ending Gang and Youth Violence. In January 2016 the Home Office launched a refreshed approach to Gangs entitled Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation which sets out the following priorities:

### Home Office Priorities:

- Tackle county lines – (County lines is extending drug dealing business into new locations outside of the home area) the exploitation of vulnerable people by a hard core of gang members to sell drugs
  - Protect vulnerable locations – places where people tend to be targeted, including pupil referral units and care homes
  - Reduce violence and knife crime – including improving the way national and local partners use tools and powers
  - Safeguard gang-associated women and girls – including strengthening local risk assessment practices
  - Promote meaningful alternatives to gangs such as education, training and employment
  - Promote early intervention – using evidence from the Early Intervention Foundation to identify and support vulnerable children and young people (including identifying mental health problems)
- 4.2. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) defines a Gang as;  
A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who;
    - See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and

- Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence
- They may also have any or all of the following factors:

- Identify with or lay claim over territory
- Have some form of identifying structural feature
- Are in conflict with other, similar, gangs

4.3. As part of the Home Office Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) initiative a peer review was conducted for Hammersmith & Fulham in 2013. This review and a review of the current response informed the Strategy. The EGVE partnership has been consulted in the formation and development of this strategy.

The Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Strategy was developed throughout the latter part of 2015/16 and considers the response to this issue for a five year period. The landscape is constantly changing due to the uncertainty of funding streams across all agencies, lengths of contracts, and a move towards commissioning at a pan-London level. The strategy, therefore, will be annually reviewed annually throughout these five years by the Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Partnership, and any significant changes will be considered by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

## 5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

5.1. The following section is a summary of all identified priority areas:

Priority Area	Description
Prevention, Diversion and Early Intervention	Consultation with the Gang and Serious Youth Violence Partnership has highlighted that the strategy should have a greater emphasis on prevention, diversion and early intervention to improve outcomes for individuals. This work will aim to reduce the cost of GYV, both financial and social, associated with future offending and victimisation.
Engagement	Engagement and outreach work is vitally important in effectively supporting the specific needs of those who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in gangs and serious youth violence. It is also important that the Council engages with the community and faith groups and involve them in the response to EGYV.
Enforcement	In some cases there is no choice but to take an enforcement route to tackle an issue. Orders and tenancy actions are some of the ways we can ensure individuals engage with our services and discourage them from carrying out the problematic behaviours that disrupt our community.

Gang Exit and Resettlement	Housing, education, employment and the safe relocation of individuals affected by gang associated behaviours were common themes throughout the Peer Review in 2013. There is a need for LBHF to develop a co-ordinated approach to providing routes out of offending.
CSE and gangs	The issues of young women and girls relating to gangs and serious youth violence differ immensely from the issues young males face. This cohort is at risk of a range of forms of abuse, including but not limited to, physical, emotional abuse, and technology based abuse.
Information sharing, Governance and Partnership Working	Re-shaping the back office response to ending gang violence and exploitation.

## 6. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 6.1. The EGYV Partnership meets on a monthly basis and will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of the priorities and recommendations set out in the strategy. The strategy is a live document and actions will be under continuous review throughout its life to ensure the response reflects the current climate.

## 7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. The strategy has been produced in consultation with the EGYV partnership and other partners and stakeholders. This committee will give the opportunity for public comment.

## 8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Equality impact assessments will be completed as and when required following any further work or service provision.

## 9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 10. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Some of the recommendations included in the strategy would require additional funding however these recommendations will only be actioned should further funding become available. There are no financial implications, therefore, at this stage

**11. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS**

None.

**12. PROCUREMENT AND IT STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**  
**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description of Background Papers</b>	<b>Name/Ext of holder of file/copy</b>	<b>Department/ Location</b>
1	N/A		

**LIST OF APPENDICES:**

Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Strategy Synopsis