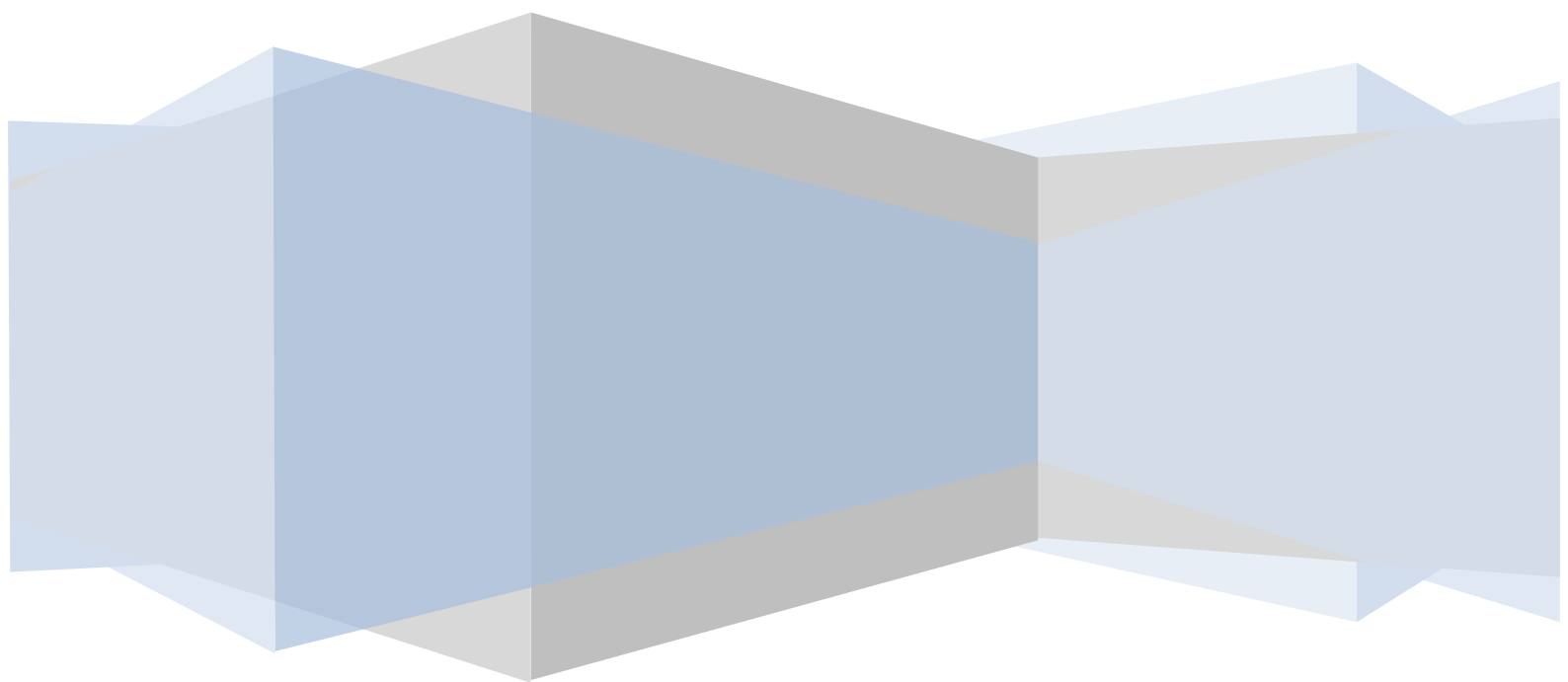


Southend-on-Sea



Violence and Vulnerability Strategic Group

6 month Progress Report.

October 2018

Foreword

Although Gang activity and violence always grabs the national and local headlines, the scale of the problem in Southend is relatively small and we are determined to keep it that way by moving swiftly and decisively to protect vulnerable people and pursue those who use violence and intimidation to further their interests.

Southend's proximity to London has always made it a magnet for family tourists, commuters and businesses and we want to continue to promote and encourage people to come here to live and work. Conversely, it also attracts an element of criminal activity that wants to exploit local vulnerable young people and adults. So our task is to continue to attract the positive attention to Southend in line with *Southend 2050*, whilst being resolute that criminal behaviour will not be tolerated. More importantly, we want to empower and energise local people to build resilience to protect their communities, which will make it harder for violent and exploitative individuals and criminal gangs to operate.

To ensure that we protect the borough from violence and criminal behaviour, we have combined the efforts of the 4 strategic partnership boards; (Local Safeguarding Children's Board/ Safeguarding Adults Board/Health and Well-Being Board/Community Safety Partnership) by establishing a cross cutting 'violence and vulnerability strategic group' that draws on the 4 Boards expertise, knowledge and spheres of influence to create this Action Plan that reflects our determination to keep Southend-on-Sea safe and thriving.

Although Southend is a Unitary Authority, we recognise that it lives within the wider Essex Family and we will continue to work in partnership with our neighbours in Thurrock and Essex County and collaborate with county-wide partnerships and agencies to create a safer Essex.

ALI GRIFFIN

CEO

Executive Summary.

This document is a 6 month progress report on how the Council and its partners are organising and resourcing their local services to combat serious violence and exploitation in the borough. It outlines the measures the council and its' partners are taking to protect vulnerable populations of young people and adults and inhibit the behaviour of violent and exploitative perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Our Local Action Plan brings together multi-agency data and local intelligence to create a set of measures that sends a clear message to all members of the community (including victims and potential perpetrators) about the Council's resolve to vigorously tackle the problem of violence and exploitation as a priority. This requires a clear understanding of the local problem which means co-ordinating data and intelligence to keep tabs on criminal activity.

The Plan also marshals resources and activities to focus on collaboratively disrupting and inhibiting the operations of the drug gangs and to develop a resilient community response that is in line with Southend's vision for 2050.

The Plan's activities are organised under the 4 Ps:

- **Prepare** (ensuring that all the partnership agencies are fully briefed, staff are appropriately trained, policies are in place and communities are engaged)
- **Prevention** (education and public awareness)
- **Protection** (safeguarding vulnerable children and adults)
- **Pursue** (disrupting criminal behaviour including the use of civil and criminal justice interventions, create a civil enforcement presence on the street)

The plan is a robust response to criminal behaviour but also an opportunity to demonstrate to the whole community that the Council and its' partners, are working towards making Southend a place where everyone can thrive and prosper. However, this criminality does not respect borders, so we will continue to work and collaborate closely with our neighbours in Thurrock and wider Essex County.

There is still much to do but the Council and its partners are determined to work tirelessly to protect our borough and keep our community safe

SIMON LEFTLEY

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background

For the past few years there has been growing public concern about the increasing problems of violence and vulnerability that is manifest in local communities in every part of the country. There are identifiable populations of young people and adults who are prey to exploitation and intimidation and a growing threat of violence. This threat comes from serious organised crime groups or 'county line' drug trafficking gangs, or groups and individuals who exploit vulnerable adults in the labour market. Such is the seriousness of this national threat that the government has created a legislative framework so that local councils and agencies have the tools and powers they need to tackle this rapidly changing criminal phenomenon.

National Picture and legislative framework

In 2011 The Home Office published 'Ending Gang and Youth Violence' Review, which highlighted the growing problem of gangs and gang violence. The Review marked the beginning of a new commitment to working across departments of central government and tiers of local government, to tackle gang culture and serious youth violence- most notably through the *Ending Gang and Youth Violence Programme*. Annual reports on progress were published between 2011- 2015 and since this time government has continued to take steps to address gang violence and exploitation

In 2015 the Serious Crime Act, introduced new powers so that Law enforcement agencies could pursue, disrupt and bring to justice, gang related criminals, including through the use of gang related injunctions.

In 2015 the National Police Chiefs Council published a new 'Child Centred Policing: National Strategy for the policing of children and young people. This strategy recognises that young people who come to the attention of the police can often be offender and victim and that those under the age of 18 should be treated as children first, offenders second.

In January 2016 Government published a refreshed approach to dealing with gangs and a 6 priority plan;

- Tackle 'County Lines crime (the exploitation of vulnerable children by a hard core gang members to sell drugs)
- Protect Vulnerable locations where young people can be protected (PRUS/Care Homes etc)
- Reduce violence and knife Crime (improving the use of tools and powers)
- Protect gang associated women and girls including strengthening local practice
- Promote early intervention

- Promote meaningful alternatives to gangs such as education, training and employment

New Guidance was published on dealing with county lines crime that focused on the criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. The guidance provides frontline professionals with information to help them better identify potential victims and to take the right steps to protect them

More broadly, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by subsequent legislation) already places a duty on each responsible authority (including police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation services and clinical commissioning groups) to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder, misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and to reduce reoffending in their area.

These authorities work together through statutory Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to tackle these issues and any emerging concerns identified in their community safety plans. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 guidance also requires all agencies with statutory safeguarding responsibilities to work together to protect and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Furthermore, the Care Act 2014 sets out how local authorities and partner agencies must work to safeguard vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect. This is underpinned by Section 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2017

The Local Picture

Southend reflects the National picture and for the past few years there has been a steady growing awareness and focussed attention on gangs and gang activity in the borough and the council and its partners, have been quick to respond.

In 2015, the council's Community Safety Partnership invited the Home Office team to undertake a **Locality Review** into gang and drug market activity in the borough and provide a series of recommendations to generate a comprehensive response across all its' partnerships. Since then, the Council has been steadily developing its knowledge and expertise especially in early intervention children's services. Since April 2018 it has created a rapid response frontline service, the **Adolescent Intervention Prevention Team (AIPT)** that identifies young people who are known to have gang affiliations and provides intervention services around the child and their family.

Case study 1

The newly formed Adolescent Intervention & Prevention Team (AIPT) has adopted an innovative way of working and much has been achieved with this new model way of working to engage and support the victims and potential victims that have been identified. The aims are:

- ***provide the safeguarding and protective factors around the victims***

- *reduce the risk factors and improve outcomes*
- *help them to achieve sustained change to support their future development into adulthood*
- *promote disclosure and justice through the criminal justice system*
- *promote engagement with therapeutic interventions to address and work through the trauma's they have experienced.*

It has been important to acknowledge the complex victim group the team are working with and have realistic key performance indicators and targets to measure success. Whilst regular and typical outcomes of ABE's, arrests, charges and prosecution have not been plentiful, it is important to acknowledge the progress and success achieved as a partnership in the timescales we have had thus far.

This has been recognised nationally as an example of good practice by the JTAI Inspection:

In Southend, signs of exploitation are recognised early. This means that children can receive early intervention from the youth offending team to prevent risk escalating. Also in Southend, we saw many examples of professionals 'going the extra mile' to keep young people engaged, for instance staying in touch by text when young people were missing. JTAI (November 2018)

Children's Services along with Essex Police and its strategic partners instigated an investigative operation in the early part of 2018 which identified a growing and extensive criminal network that was recruiting and grooming a number of (mainly) young men in the borough for the purpose of drug trafficking and criminal exploitation which is still on-going.

To set these casework programmes in a strategic context, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) commissioned a short paper to consider the wider issues of violence and vulnerability facing Southend and the specific problem of **Gangs, knife crime, 'county lines' and drug markets**. The main focus of this work was to consider how best to mobilise the borough's resources including the local community, to inhibit these criminal activities as well as protecting Southend's vulnerable populations.

The result is an Action Plan that reflects a multi-agency view of the issue as it appears in the borough and has focussed on specific issues relating to **'county lines' gangs and disrupting drug markets**. However, the ambitions of the plan are to incorporate the related issues of **modern slavery** and **domestic abuse** which will come on stream by the end of quarter 4 2018-19.

THE PLAN

1. Understanding the problem.

Outcomes

- To understand the local drug market more fully in order to target both supply and demand
- To ensure that all data sources that provide an indicator for violence and vulnerability are identified and made available to all agencies.
- To ensure that the identified data creates a common view of the problem and applied to every agencies policy and practice.

Understanding the local drug market, that is driving the violence and exploitation in Southend, is key to developing effective and co-ordinated actions and responses. The partnership is determined to gain a better understanding of the complex drugs market in the borough and is addressing both the supply and the demand (of class A drugs in particular) to limit the drug dealing activity that takes place in public spaces. This requires on-going mapping of local data and the sharing of sensitive intelligence which is essential in order to develop interventions and measure impact and progress.

The partnership has made a start by overseeing the development of a local data **DASHBOARD** which pulls together data from multi-sources to provide a set of indicators that will provide a regular monitor on how effective the co-ordinated activities of the partnerships are. However, it is also understood that this data needs to be combined with the day to day intelligence from frontline services to provide a rounded picture of what's happening in the town. This combination of the supply and demand data plus these key performance indicators will allow us to build a profile of the borough and understand the intricate interplay between gang activity and the exploitation of vulnerable populations.

This is a complex piece of work which is being refined every month and it is envisaged that by the end of quarter 4 there will a robust data set.

2. Governance

The Action Plan is overseen by a new ***violence and vulnerability strategic group*** consisting of senior representatives from all 4 of Southend's strategic partnership Boards; **The Local Safeguarding Children's Board, The Adults Safeguarding Board, The Health and Well-Being Board**, and the **Community Safety Partnership**, to develop a support and challenge function for the strategic and frontline services. This group is a reflection on the cross-cutting nature of the work and the need for much closer collaboration. The first meeting of the Board was

convened on 3rd July and since then significant progress has been made to get a much clearer and accurate picture of this fast moving and dynamic phenomenon.

The Plan

The action plan's activities are structured under the following headings:

- **Prepare**
- **Prevention**
- **Protection**
- **Pursue**

3. Prepare (Briefing/Community Engagement /Training/Policy)

Outcomes

- **To ensure that all agencies in Southend are adequately briefed about how organised crime groups/'county lines' impact on their services and this is reflected in their operational policies.**
- **To ensure that there is regular and consistent dialogue with local communities about 'county lines' and gang activity and ensure any identified concerns are acted upon.**
- **To ensure that adequate training is made available to all frontline practitioners to identify and make referrals to appropriate agencies.**
- **To ensure that all staff and elected members are regularly briefed on progress and developments.**

Briefing.

For the past few months, officials have been briefing staff and elected members about the Action Plan to create awareness and a wider network of support through the development of violence and vulnerability departmental **Champions**. It will be the champions task to act as a single point of contact for their departments, facilitating briefing sessions to report on progress and being a conduit for feedback on progress. This will be rolled out in Quarter 4. The Violence and Vulnerability strategy group will begin briefing all 4 of Southend's strategy Boards and elected members, throughout December.

Community Engagement

The Council and its' partners are committed to engaging with residents and local communities to ensure that they have the knowledge and resources they need to identify problems as they arise and respond appropriately . This requires a regular series of local forums and discussion groups to be held in the community as part of the **Southend Vision**

2050 consultation process which created a baseline of beliefs/attitudes and concerns of local residents.

From this survey, it was identified that the **Safe and Well** theme which deals with Crime and Anti-social behaviour, was the second area of most concern to the public and the Council and its partners, are determined to address this. It was noted that women and young people felt most afraid to go out after dark in certain areas which is clearly a reflection of a local perception of violent crime and anti-social behaviour. Therefore, the aim of the Violence and Vulnerability Plan is to provide interventions to address these perceptions so that progress reports and successful operations can be fed back to the public on a regular basis. This will provide reassurance and instil greater confidence in local people's ability to reclaim their communities.

Forward look

In quarter 4, there will be;

- **Community Circle events following the recent murder with outcomes including a community day, and dedicated intelligence gathering**
- **An increase in working with pharmacies, GP's and health practitioners within A&E to raise awareness around criminal exploitation and hidden and disguised injuries that young people may sustain by or during activities linked to their involvement with criminal exploitation**
- **A week of action developed with local people in identified areas across the borough, to address crime, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.**

It is these types of consultations involving local people that will build resilience and elicit protective responses to forge a stronger working partnership between local care and enforcement agencies and the local community.

Training

It is essential that every agency and department is alive to the issues of violence and vulnerability and that their operational policies reflect this growing concern. Therefore, it is essential that all frontline staff are trained to recognise the signs and symptoms and are able to respond and make appropriate referrals. In the remainder of this year, an online training programme will be rolled out across all partnership agencies to ensure that staff have a working knowledge and know how to respond.

In addition, the Partnership is asking all departments to identify a Criminal Exploitation Champion (see above) to create a wide network of specialist contacts who can act as referral and information points.

- **Develop a network of CE Champions across SBC and the wider partnerships**
- **Develop Trauma Informed Schools and train teachers to see the signs**

- **Roll out on-line training on gangs ‘county line’ to all frontline staff in all key agencies, starting in January**

The council and its’ partners will deliver a specific ‘county lines’ gangs and exploitation training programme to a wide range of multi-agency frontline workers in Quarter 4.

4. Prevention (Education and Awareness)

Outcomes.

- **To ensure that all children and their parents/carers in Southend, are provided with access to effective education and training resources.**
- **To ensure that all relevant teachers/safeguarding officials are provided with adequate training and access to resources.**
- **To ensure that these resources are used by parents and children to make informed decisions related to gangs, drugs and exploitation.**

Education. There is considerable work going on in local schools with a number of teaching packs such as *Drug Aware* and a CSE education pack, but this approach has often been fragmented. From September 2018 the **Adolescent Intervention and Prevention Team (AIPT)** has been creating a resource library and offering every school in the borough structured lessons and support and training to staff, as part of a co-ordinated rolling programme which will continue for the rest of 2018-19. In addition, the Team also offer parenting programmes and support on request however, this is resource intensive and can only be offered on a limited basis.

In October the AIPT began delivering the gangs programme to its first secondary school with the ambition of reaching all schools by the end of quarter 4

Case study 3.

School Based Programmes

- ***Since September 2018 all Year 10 pupils in one secondary school have completed CSE/Grooming Workshops***
- ***Over 70 parents of a local school have attended CSE/Grooming Workshops***
- ***Knife Crime/Gang workshops booked at a key secondary school between now and Christmas***
- ***CSE/Grooming Workshops taken place for 4 x year groups at another school***
- ***4 x Exploitation group sessions have taken place at SEC and two more booked over the coming weeks***
- ***Currently, the Team are in discussion with a number of schools to book in Gang/Knife Crime workshops, the aim to target the 4 large comprehensive schools and their primary feeder schools***

- ***NVR (Non Violence Response) group for parents of children who are abusive towards them both physically and verbally***

Raising Awareness

- **To ensure that all the communities in Southend-on-sea are targeted with appropriate information, resources and know where to report incidents and ask for help in relation to gang and 'county lines' activity**

An important component of the action Plan is to communicate all aspects of the issue as part of an on-going dialogue with the community. The Council has mounted a hard hitting multi-media campaign called 'See the signs' aimed at parents and recreational drug users.

1) Case study 4.

[Raising Awareness Public Campaign - 'See the signs']

Statistics

The first phase of the public multi-media campaign started in October and is aimed at engaging parents with the issue of 'county lines' and the threat of drug dealing and gang exploitation. The objective is to educate 13,000 of Southend's parents in the on the signs of County Lines and increase intelligence calls from the public.

- ***The messages were viewed over 105,000 times in the borough, digitally***
- ***The messages reached over 6,300 parents in the borough, with over 3,500 likes, comments, shares and clicks***
- ***The video has been viewed over 18,000 times online***
- ***Over 2,600 engagements with social media posts and ads***
- ***Promoted through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter via council's accounts with many shares***
- ***Promoted in local Facebook parenting groups***
- ***Over 700 people visited the web page www.southend.gov.uk/seethesigns***

Forward look.

At the end of quarter 3, the second phase of the campaign will begin which challenges recreational drug users to consider the hidden costs of their habits exposing the violence and intimidation that is a result of getting recreational drugs for their personal use.

[Insert poster images of both campaigns if they are available]

Protection (Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults)

- **To ensure that all vulnerable populations of children and adults who are at risk of exploitation from gangs and 'county lines' are identified and protected**
- **To ensure that all frontline housing staff have access to 'county lines' training about 'cuckooing' to be rolled out in Quarter 4.**

The most significant section of the Plan is to ensure that victims of violence and vulnerability are identified early and protected. The most vulnerable population targeted by gang exploitation are children and young people who are often already vulnerable through a variety of individual situations and social circumstances.

Southend has a proven track record of managing complex multi-agency operations with young people as was demonstrated by the recent operation investigating **Child Sexual Exploitation (mainly young women)** and the current operation which is focussed on the systematic **Criminal Exploitation (CE)** of young people (**mainly young men**) in the borough. Learning from these operations, it was decided that the current operation into criminal exploitation should be the main vehicle for managing those vulnerable young people and now adults (see below) who are engaged with or on the periphery of gang activity. This operation team has highly trained staff and have developed a number of assessment tools, resources and methods of working, which are recognised as regional and national examples of best practice.

CASE STUDY 5.

An investigative operation was initiated under the complex and organised abuse procedures at the end of August 2017 and has been supporting a number of young people many of them have been identified as being victims as well as being affiliated with gangs.

The Local Authority felt the best way to manage this Operation was to form a specialist team to address the needs of this cohort working closely with the police. Visits were undertaken with the police as part of their investigations. Each case was then either opened to social care through safeguarding concerns or a joint visit undertaken (following the police visit) to ascertain whether the case should be opened to social care or early help. Schools attended by the young women were visited and informed that they have pupils about whom both the police and SBC had serious CSE and Missing concerns. They were asked to use all other options to manage behaviours and to use exclusion as a very last resort. EHFS attendance team began checking daily that the girls were in school, undertaking immediate home visits if not.

All the young people identified underwent a specific risk assessment following which decisions were made about where best to hold the cases. The majority were consequently managed by the investigative team within the LA, however a small number continued to be held by an existing professional support network where it was assessed that

transferring the case would be detrimental to the young person. It should be noted that all these children engaged with the Police and LA staff throughout this operation.]

Forward Look

Moving forward, the Adolescent Intervention and Prevention Team have an ambitious programme to provide a comprehensive wrap around service to protect victims of criminal exploitation which includes;

- **Providing a service that combines prevention, risk reduction, protection and recovery, that can identify a continuum of responses based on levels of risk and need to young people and their families; ranging from early community-based identification and support to assessment, intervention and intensive work.**
- **Provide targeted group work delivered to children who may have increased vulnerability in relation to CE i.e. transition to secondary school, siblings of those already involved**
- **Co-ordinate support to victims of CCE through the criminal and family court process, ensuring the voice and experience of children is listened to, heard and understood.**
- **Oversee the effective use of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) ensuring the outcome of NRM is recorded, communicated and understood for criminally exploited children.**
- **Promote the advantage of involving frontline agencies and workers, especially education services, in earlier recognition, assessment and intervention**
- **Encourage inter-agency work to reduce feelings of professional isolation and anxiety when making decisions to accurately assess estimation of risk**
- **Promote the use of a shared language, skills and training exchange, and development of appropriate local peer support systems**
- **Promote the importance of evaluation and monitoring of outcomes for children.**
- **Create a series of communications campaigns that slot together to tackle the issue of County Lines from all angles**
- **Every young person identified as having current links to either local and/or county lines gangs have a joint home visit with police, a Child Exploitation Assessment and are allocated a named police officer and SBC practitioner with an individual disruption and support plan and overall 4P Plan**
- **Truancy sweeps 3 days per week to find and return to school those children recorded as truant**
- **Children Missing Education (CME) – the locating of children missing from education**
- **Firebreak course for young people carrying knives in Sept, 7 high profile young people completed the course.**
- **Those at medium and high risk of exploitation are being given time bound flags on hospital systems to ensure hospital staff are aware of the concerns at the point of contact and an**

automatic notification is sent to the team when the young the young person accesses A & E

- **NVR (Non Violence Response) group for parents of children who are abusive towards them both physically and verbally**
- **Take 3 Parenting Groups for parents whose children are at risk of becoming involved in exploitation and criminal behaviour.**
- **Return to Home Interviews – undertaking independent return to home interviews to children who have been reported missing in the borough.**

Managing the 18-25 age group (casework).

The remit of the violence and vulnerability agenda will inevitably include victims that are older than 18 but rather than create a new adult group, it has been decided that the operational team dealing with young people, will extend its remit to include vulnerable adults. Adult Services are providing a Team Manager who will work alongside the AIPT Team to develop relationships and understand the numbers of referrals, the types of social problems experienced and the skill set required of an adult social worker. The Team Manager will allocate and coordinate any Op Censor and/or Transition referral within the Adult Services locality team. This approach will be consistently monitored and reviewed and adjusted as required

The Policing Strategy, 'Child Centred Policing', states that young people can be both victim and perpetrator at the same time and this equally applies to the 18 plus age group. On turning 18 many of them are still vulnerable for a number of reasons and open to abuse and intimidation with little or no resources or skills, to resist gang exploitation. This has been apparent in cases of '*cuckooing*' where drug dealers have taken over people homes for the purposes of dealing. This has led to serious problems for the tenant and even resulted in homelessness. We are determined to inhibit the work of gangs who behave in this way, but still want to extend compassion and support for those victims who have been mistreated and ensnared into criminal activity through fear and dependency.

Forward Look

Therefore, we will be working with local Housing providers to ensure that vulnerable tenants are identified and monitored on a regular basis. We are keen to ensure that frontline housing staff are adequately trained to identify the signs of cuckooing and are able to make referrals to appropriate agencies. This will allow housing providers and social and private landlords, to keep a watchful eye on any signs of criminal activity that appears to be happening in vulnerable addresses and seek help early.

5. Pursue, Prosecutions and disruption

Outcomes

- **To ensure that all perpetrators of violence related to gangs and ‘county lines’ are identified, pursued and managed both inside and outside of the criminal justice estate**
- **To ensure that a wide network of disruption services are employed to frustrate the activities of organised crime groups especially on the street.**

Managing and working with Perpetrators

In the coming year, the Plan aims to focus on how we identify and manage perpetrators in the borough and develop strategies to inhibit their activities and bring them to justice. We will be working with the criminal justice agencies and the secure estate, to get a tighter grip on monitoring perpetrator movement across the systems and in the community

Probation and CRC are now routinely monitoring all of their clients who have gang affiliations and contacts. This will provide a much better idea of the flow of traffic of clients with gang connections, who are moving through the criminal justice system and how they being managed within the community. More links will be created and developed with the prison service in the coming year.

A significant element of the plan is to inhibit and disrupt the activities of gangs and make Southend a difficult place for them to recruit victims into drug dealing/running and exploitation. This requires close working with the sophisticated police drug operation that monitors gang activity in and out of London and across Essex. Clearly much of this work is covert but it is essential that the operation personnel liaise closely with local agencies on the ground in Southend, so that information and intelligence is shared on a daily basis and gang nominals and vulnerable young people are monitored closely and any connections made, are interrupted.

As part of the police operation, arrests have been made that significantly disrupt this perpetrator group. As a collaborative effort the team have responded accordingly with the use of CAWNS, disruption tools/tactics and robust multiagency safety plans.

New street Team: It is also important that there is a strong presence on the street of police, street rangers and youth workers which provides a safety network for the general public, as well as keeping a watchful eye on young people and an enforcement eye on perpetrators. This is strong presence which the Council and its’ partners have worked hard to establish and maintain to keep the streets safe. The new team are collaborating closely with other parts of the Southend’s services and are patrolling areas that have been identified as local hotspots to show a visible enforcement presence that will inhibit behaviours. In the first three weeks of their operation related activity has been targeted resulting in;

- **Street begging encounters has reduced by 18.7%**
- **Street homelessness has encounters has reduced by 87.5%**

Disruption

It is essential that there is a consistent presence on the street of enforcement officer and equipment such as CCTV in local hotspots. This will benefit from the upgrading of the borough's CCTV system to reach more areas. This will be supported by an increase in policing and community safety officers and an active youth work programme that can engage with young people on the street, to create a safer town centre such as;

- **Street Engagement Patrols – undertaking proactive street engagement with children and young people in their communities**
- **Operation Red bull – joint night time operations with Police to disrupt anti-social behaviour and identify young people on the streets and at risk**
- **Street Engagement patrols weekly including diversionary activities**
- **Dedicated and targeted programme of diversionary work around the Forum**

Case study 6

- ***Operation Redbulls undertaken jointly with Police on specific nights.***
- ***Street Engagement Patrols undertaken to targeted areas to engage with young people. Basketball sessions completed during half term.***
- ***Activities held for those at risk of criminal exploitation during half term holidays including roller city, climbing, bounce village, escape room and bowling.***
- ***A further CCTV camera is now being located in and around the vicinity of an identified Pub***
- ***3 Partial Closure Orders***
- ***3 Positive NRM's***

Working across Essex.

As part of the Essex wide family of authorities, there will be an increased collaboration with our neighbours in Thurrock and Essex Councils through the successful Early intervention Fund bid that is developing a Essex wide Co-ordination Unit to combine intelligence and shared targeting of victims and perpetrators.

Working with London Authorities.

It has been identified that many of the gangs operating in Southend are from London so a greater effort will be made to engage with those London boroughs from which these gangs originate, to manage their movement and influence better.

However, we also recognise that in the arena of gangs and drug trafficking perceived perpetrators can also be victims. Therefore, we need to consider this when dealing with victims who have often been used and intimidated into working for gangs. This is not to excuse criminal behaviour but more an encouragement to think holistically about how a victim has arrived at the position they are in and help them negotiate their way through it. This will require focussed action with all the youth and adult justice agencies and social care

agencies and the voluntary sector, to develop care and intervention packages that can divert victims away from crime.

MODERN SLAVERY

Outcome:

- **Identify a referral programme, detailing how we will respond to modern slavery referrals based upon victim profiles.**

As part of the violence and vulnerability the Strategic group wants to scope out a work stream for Modern Slavery and how it impacts on vulnerable populations in Southend. The Council has issued a modern slavery statement and there is a need to build on this by scoping out the problem and looking for way to identify, assess and intervene with those vulnerable adults which are being exploited in this way. In quarter 3, the borough will undertake a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify the locations and organisations that are most vulnerable to modern slavery.

In quarter 4, the Group will produce report of locations and victims of modern slavery in Southend, beginning to track trends and frame a narrative of the 'Southend story'. Report to recommend a Southend modern slavery work stream based upon initial data, linking closely with V&V action plan to target resources, media campaigns, Police activity etc. This work will be expanded to include the collection of relevant data and the identification of referral pathways and support systems for victims.

Domestic Abuse

A fuller Action Plan about how domestic abuse will be managed in Southend as part of this plan, will be published in Quarter 4.