

TRAILBLAZERS TUTORIALS - INFORMATION SHEET

Gangs & working with gang members

Key Points

1. There are two definitions of “gangs”; The Policing and Crime Act 2009 & Trident Gang Command, 2009.
2. When gang members in London are identified, they are put on the “Gangs Matrix”: A database of suspected gang members. It was created in response to the 2011 riots & was launched by Met Police in 2012.
3. Concerns have been raised in regards to how people are listed on the gangs matrix, due to the vagueness of the definition and the discretion given to officers
4. A Mayoral review found a disproportionate number of those monitored were of black or minority ethnic (BAME) heritage.
5. 87% were from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, and 78% were black. However, only 27% of those responsible for youth violence are black

In Custody - things to be aware of

- **Expectations:** Peers expecting them to return and still be involved in any gang related activities
- **Low self-esteem/confidence**
- **Mental health issues:** Some gang members may have experienced violence & may suffer from mental health issues such as PTSD, anxiety and depression. This could also be due to bereavement or perpetrating violence

Community - things to be aware of

- **Geography:** Can be difficult for mentees to distance themselves if they return to the same area
- **Threats of violence:** Better to gradually disconnect (fade away) then announce departure
- **Relationship breakdowns:** Previous breakdowns and breakdowns due to disassociating

Useful organisations

London Gang Exit - holistic support over a 6 month intervention period

Bereavement Counselling - Various organisations (Speak to PMs)

Therapy - Either in prison or following release

Substance misuse support - Various organisations (Speak to PMs)

Extra curricular activities - Sports, music, creative activities, activities in general

Mentoring

Please refer to presentation for reading list