

The Evolving Nature of Gangs, Violence and Vulnerability

Presenters:

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Been Around for Sometime

Mobs, Firms and Street Gangs



What Was Done

- Leadership
- Mapping
- Assessment and referral
- Partnership
- Effective practice
- Community engagement
- Breaking the cycle
- Front line practitioner team
- 4 day peer review
- Dedicated lead (police & CSM)
- Training course
- Knowledge hub
- Support hub
- Policy support
- Legislation support

Peer Reviews Highlighted Local Challenges

- Shared working definition of a gang /gang nominal between partners
- Full understanding of the complexity of the local gang related exploitation
- Understand the drivers of gang and youth violence
- Joint local objectives to tackle gang and youth violence
- Guard against silo working by agencies
- Work in partnership to avoid duplication of work
- Agree information to be shared and monitored
- Did it work?
- Has it evolved ?

Groups, Gangs, Disengaged Young People

- How do we identify who is violent and vulnerable?
- Where are our vulnerable locations?
- Why is it happening?
- Whose problem is it?
- How do we tackle it?
- Where do we start?

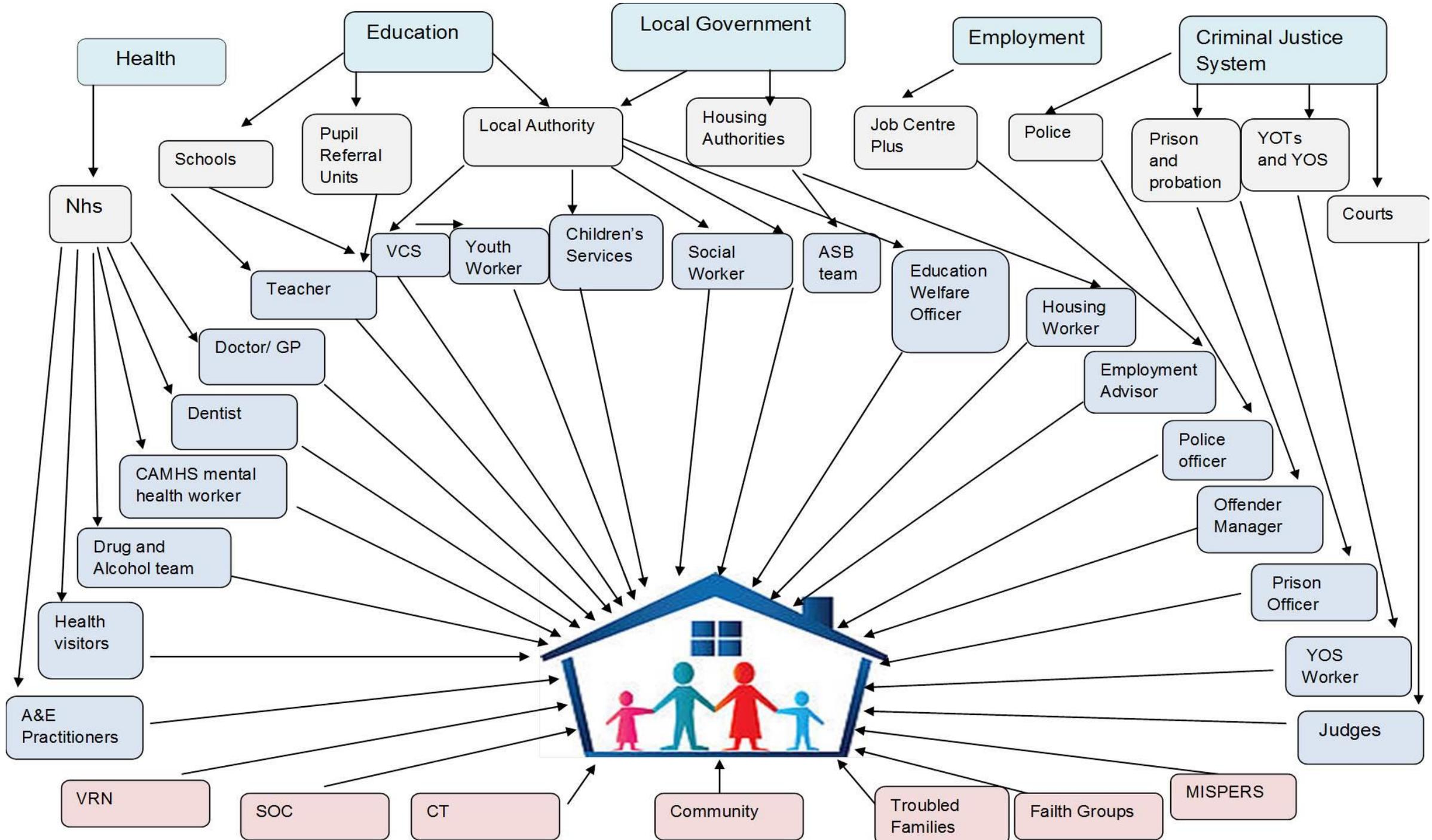


Local Assessment Process Intention

Enable a rapid
assessment of
issues around
gang activity

Unlock the
experience and
insights of
practitioners

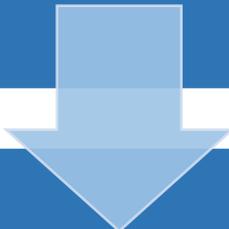
Identify barriers
to effectively
understanding
local issues
around risk,
threat and harm



- Serious group offending exploits the vulnerable physically, financially and sexually across boundaries and regions. (County line, going country , cunch)
- Practitioners almost always talk about links between gang activity, drug markets, violence against women and girls/CSE, vulnerable older people, mental health and in some cases Prevent and trafficking
- Most of those interviewed assume that analysts, senior officers and partnerships know about these things and how they link locally.
- All consider cross border crime, placement of young people in to housing /schools an issue.
- Drug markets underpin most of the violence/exploitation. Little is generally known about the size of the market e.g. known users.
- Its a potential, multi million pound market that gangs will exploit.
- Alternative educational sites are often targeted by groups/gangs.

County lines

County lines describes a situation where a person, or more frequently a group from an urban area crosses one or more police force boundaries to a more rural or county force, setting up a secure base to conduct day to day dealing of (usually) heroin and crack cocaine



Violence is used in establishing the drug line, securing the line and removing competition. The lines are underpinned by the exploitation of vulnerable young people and adults.



Once established, junior gang members (or associates) aged 12-17 run local county lines. They can earn £500 per week or more (or not, if they're in debt to the gang)

Information from local assessment process LAP, provides further detail on the changing nature of gangs and the ways vulnerable young people are exploited:

Vulnerable Locations

Local gangs targeting care homes and alternative provision to groom and exploit the most vulnerable. Vulnerable older people targeted to use their property.

Recruitment

Young women recruiting other young women to participate in the drugs trade as mules. Social media used to targeted young people in places, with pupil referral units identified as high risk locations .

This process is identifying good local practice that should be shared with areas:

Mapping vulnerability

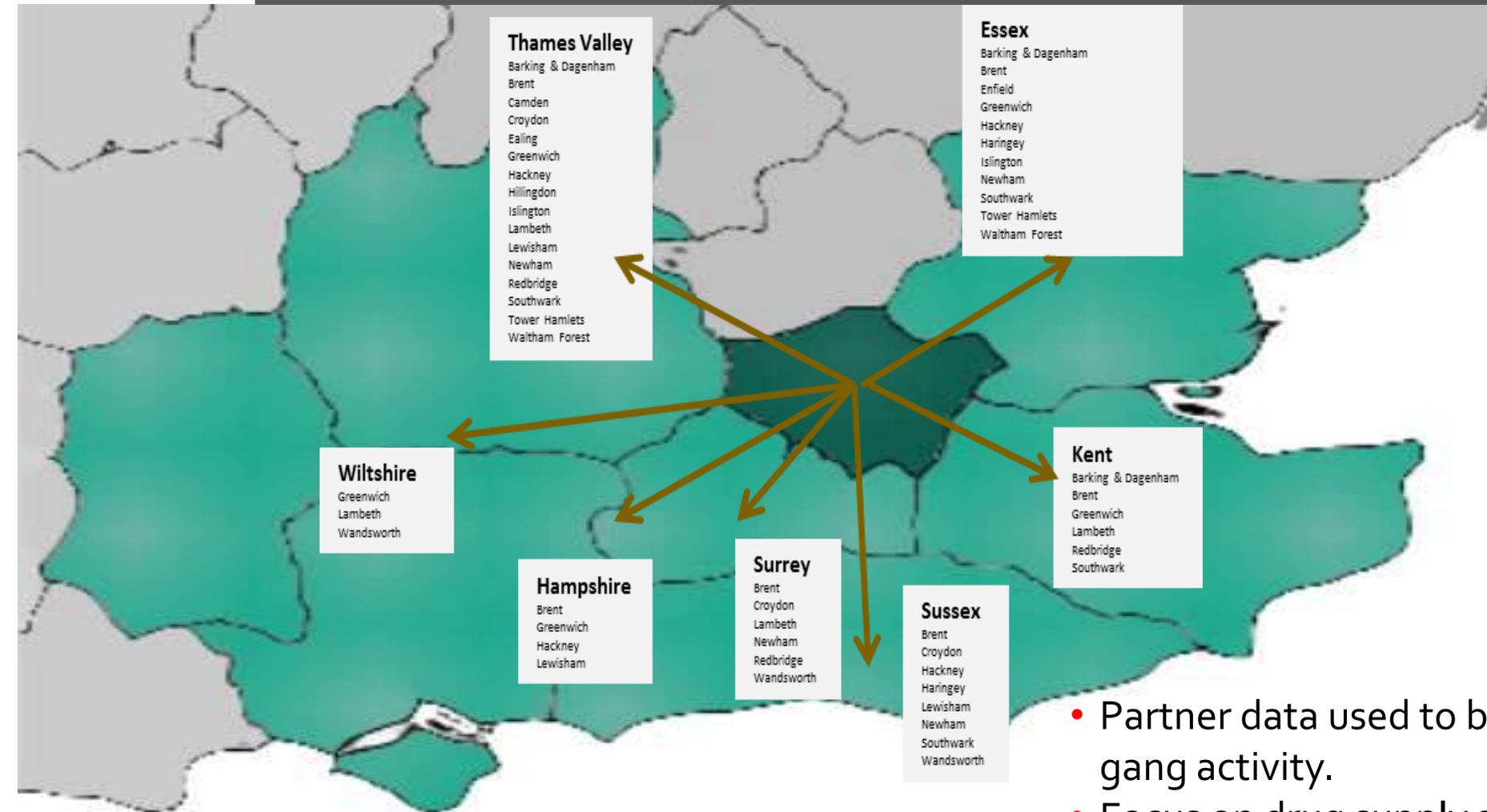
The South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, has developed a violence and vulnerability matrix in response to gang exploitation.

Protecting vulnerable locations

Some areas have put staff in place to assist in VLs and use a review process to geo-code data to monitor impact, risk ,harm.

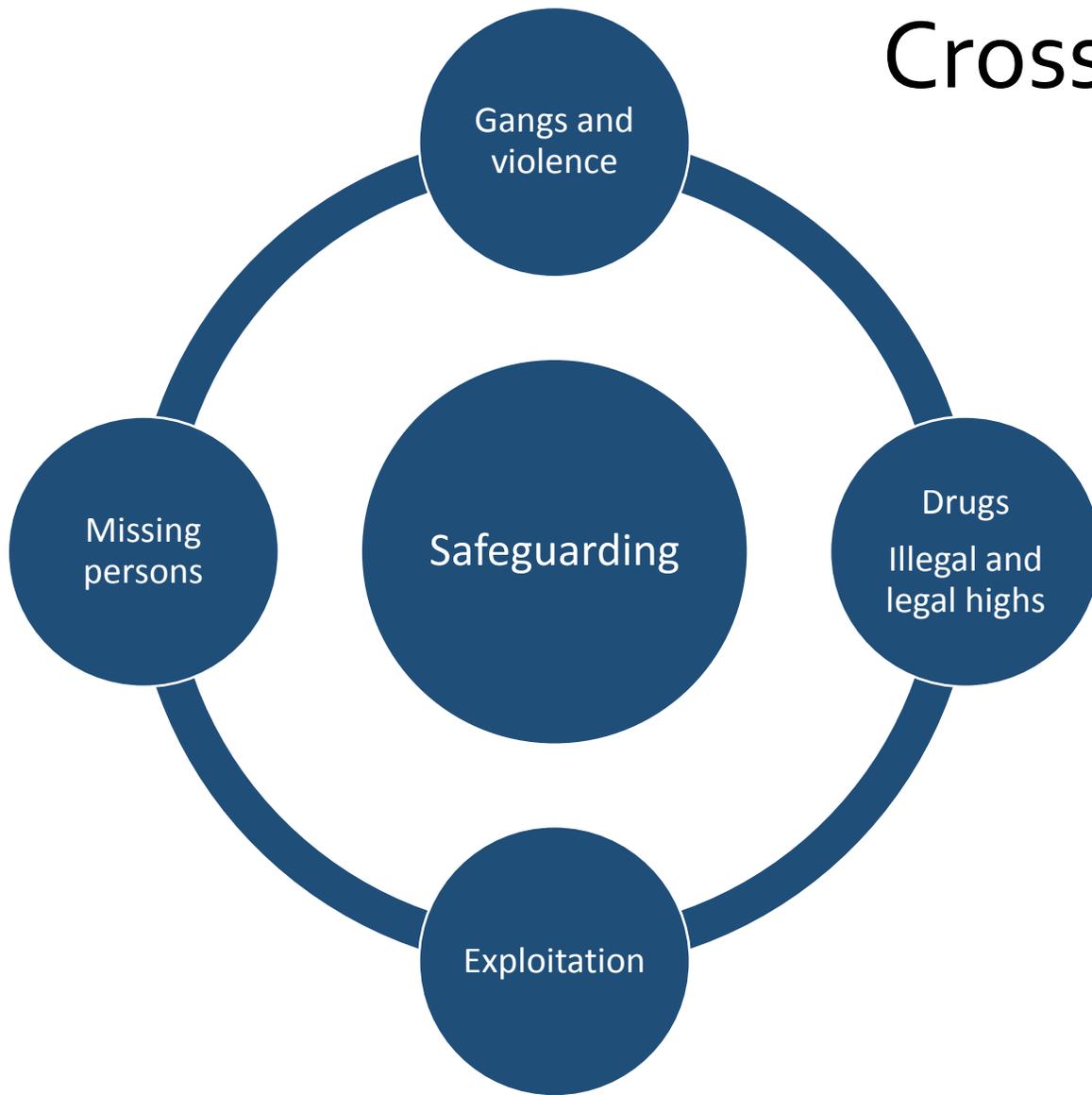
The intelligence picture is growing - a new NCA annual assessment on gangs, safeguarding and county lines is due to be published in 2016.

Harm & Risk exported outside London



- Partner data used to better understand cross border gang activity.
- Focus on drug supply and not just associated violence.
- Map illustrates forces impacted upon by London gang members & their origin borough.
- Is it growing or are we now just looking ?

Cross Cutting Issue: it's not hidden, we're just not looking for it



Key to identifying and tackling is still:

- Collaboration
- Shared outcomes and data
- Clear ownership.

Key to prevention is:

- Young person resilience

Referrals

- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Social Services
- ✓ Police
- ✓ Charity organisations e.g. NSPCC
- ✓ Youth offending service
- ✓ Young person Advocates
- ✓ Multiagency panels

Interventions

- Direct and holistic 1:1 intensive support.
- Group based work in schools and pupil referral units.
- Workshops and specialist training for professionals.
- Parenting workshops.

Outcomes

- Overall, in 2015/16, Empower improved the lives of over 4,000 young people in London.
- Service user feedback from the young people receiving one to one support reported:
 - 89% improved their safety
 - 84% had an increased ability to cope
 - 94% had an increased understanding of healthy relationships
 - 86% had an increased ability to manage risk
 - 91% had increased self-worth
 - 100% accessed education, employment or training

Safer London: Impact report 2015/16