

Youth Intelligence Hub



Background

- The Youth Intelligence Hub was established by Children's Services in October 2022 to safeguard and protect children and young people in Redbridge who are at risk of, or exposed to, sexual or criminal exploitation, violence, gangs, knife crime or other forms of exploitation.
- The partnership meeting takes place weekly and is chaired by Sharon Springer, Head of Service for Child Protection.
- The weekly meeting brings together senior operational leads to share real-time intelligence/information about youth crime, violence and exploitation and use this intelligence to safeguard young people, by disrupting, responding to and preventing crime, exploitation and anti-social behaviour. It often see's pooling of resources between partners
- The Youth Intelligence Hub was nominated for 'Connector of the Year' in the Recognising Redbridge Staff Awards 2023.
- The weekly meeting is an excellent example of partners coming together, sharing information and actions in order to make spaces safer for our young people.



Attendance

- 48 meetings took place during 2023/24. The meeting relocated at the beginning of June to help facilitate better attendance from the long term social work teams, YOS and address challenges with parking facilities at Lynton House.
- The meeting has been well represented by Childrens Services, with MASH, Exploited Children's Team (ECT), Family Intervention Team (FIT) and Junior FIT (JFIT), Children Looked After (CLA) and Leaving Care attending regularly.
- There is good representation from Safer Schools Officers, Community Policing, ASB Police, ASB Co-ordinator, Health and the Youth Offending Service (YOS).
- Box Up are regularly attending the meetings to share updates about their patrols in Barkingside and engagement with young people in the borough.
- CCTV and the Probation service will attend if their intelligence is required or to take forward a particular issue or action.
- Education Welfare and Housing do not attend the meeting and we have not had any representation from these areas during the year. There are occasional attendances by a school representative to observe meetings. A mapping researcher from EXIIT holds meetings with a number of schools and is continuing to engage the DSLs on a regular basis, in order to bring and feedback intelligence from our secondary schools.



Partnerships

- Box Up
- Lifeline
- Junior Citizen Roadshow
- ParentZone
- Weekly Problem Solving Meeting
- Street Doctors
- Leyton Orient (Youth Unity and KICKs)
- Via
- Be Heard As One
- BeWise



Child trafficking and exploitation

- Young people from a Roma background children being arrested for high value distraction thefts.
- Bogus addresses given on arrest and when being bailed. When social workers visited, often children were unknown at the addresses.
- Unsuitable adults were attending custody acting as the appropriate adult.
- Work has been done with a number of agencies during the year:
 - **Youth Offending Service** – requesting courts not to bail young people to known bogus addresses
 - **Housing** – enforcement officers added addresses and held landlords accountable for poor housing conditions
 - **Other LAs** – some families moved off borough, referrals were made to the new boroughs and members from the hub attended meetings with new boroughs, including lead police officers
 - **Complex Strategy Meeting held** – attended by exploitation police, Romanian Embassy, BTP, Housing, YOS, LBBD, LBB Havering, collation of information into an intel pack, pictures of the young people to confirm identities and reduce use of aliases
 - **British Transport Police** – came into contact with some young people and contacted social care for background. The intel pack was shared with BTP who in turn shared it with the central MDS team
 - **Met Police** – Escalation with the MET police this required larger resource, recognition issue bigger than Redbridge. Operation Purtsan created.



Sexual harassment of college students

- At the end of last year and the first quarter of this year, reports were made about female students experiencing sexual harassment, some of which had lead to unwanted assaults linked to students at two College sites.
- Safer School Officers liaised with the DSL to identify the male students involved. A targeted session was delivered to the male regarding appropriate behaviour, healthy relationships and consequences of unwanted behaviour
- The ASB team increased visual presence at both college sites where reports had been made at key times in the day
- 'Just Stop' banners placed in the vicinity to help deter the behaviour.
- Junior FIT delivered all student sessions and specialist targeted sessions to those who had been victims around self esteem, healthy relationships, consent, etc
- No further reports of harassment were made following the interventions put in place.



Sexual exploitation of young females

- BCU police were undertaking a research exercise to gather information in order to tackle ASB activity at a block of flats. They asked the hub partners to share any known intel. Linked to the flats
- Two females placed in a Redbridge care home were reported to be sexually abused in a property after being plied with alcohol and possibly drugs. Extensive work was completed with placing boroughs social workers and the care home workers who had a photo of one adult involved
- Further intelligence sharing identified it was the same block of flats
- Neighbourhood police increased patrols in the area, with specific brief to stop any older males with younger females
- The collation of partnership intelligence supported SNT police to obtain closure order for the flats which reduced non-residents loitering in the area.
- The North East London Sunrise hub (formerly the CSA hub) offered training to the care home staff where the young people were placed this was to reduce future young people being targeted
- A family known to social care who reside in the block of flats told their social worker that their quality of life had improved following the closure order due to feeling safer in their home.



TikTok video

- There was a group of young people attending schools and filming TikTok videos.
- The videos were largely of non-violent acts but were being used to gain an online following.
- Concerns escalated when a new member of group was reported to have shown a knife to a teacher.
- Junior FIT undertook joint home visits with Safer Schools Officers to gain consent for the young people to work with them.
- The young people and their families agreed to work with Junior Fit who are focussing on nurturing their interests in media.



Physical assaults on young people

- The hub has been trying to increase awareness of work undertaken by the weekly meeting
- There have been a number of planned and unplanned physical assaults young people in Redbridge including stabbings.
- Safer Schools Officers facilitated “Safety Week” to all year 7s in the first school term.
- Several partners from the intel hub contributed to the Junior Citizens event in October, which targeted year 6 students and focused on issues linked to contextual safeguarding in a proactive preventative way.
- Direct contact with places of education and young people themselves has been made to reduce the risk of retaliation.
- Junior Fit have put on sessions focusing on bullying and regulating emotions for students.
- Safer Schools Officers have engaged schools in conversations to explore how they respond to intelligence they receive and how this information is shared with other agencies.
- Weapon sweeps have been arranged with the support of the ASB team, street cleaning and the Park Guard of any areas where intelligence has been shared that young people could be hiding weapons for later use.
- CCTV coverage has been increased in hot spot areas, this has been made possible with the evidence presented of concerns from different agencies collated at the hub.

Barkingside High Street

- Barkingside High Street was an area of concern due to prior tensions and it being an area where a lot of students from a number of schools all hang out after school.
- Funding was secured from the Serious Youth Violence Reduction Unit to deliver assertive outreach in Barkingside.
- There are now daily patrols during the week carried out by the Detached Team, Lifeline and Box Up.
- Since the increased presence of patrols on Barkingside High Street there has been a marked decrease in young people spending time in the area and there haven't been any incidents of concern



Drug Activity and THC Vapes

- A number of young people, from one school had been purchasing edibles from an unknown male at a train station and becoming unwell.
- The school were offered drug awareness sessions by BeWise and community training on 'Take Action – Stay Safe' by Junior Fit (JFIT).
- School nursing were also made aware of the fad and asked to report back any future incidents to the meeting.
- Operation Nightingale was supplied with intelligence about concerns of drug use and ASB in Gants Hill. Additional patrols were set up.
- There were concerns about young people (~11 years old) taking class A drugs.
- Need To Know documents were completed and information shared at Strategic MASCE.
- Via will be delivering training for practitioners in relation to substance misuse in young people.
- Increased security was put in place at some temporary housing where reports of drug use was reported.
- THC vapes were reported being used at a special provision school, this was believed to contain spice but was found to be another substance (vitamin E acetate).
- Information was shared with police, health, Via, Be Heard as One and Operational MASCE regarding the potential rise of stronger drug use by young people.



Gangs – Kenneth More Theatre

- In September there were reports of adults dealing drugs and believed to be affiliated with three different gangs around the Kenneth More Theatre in Ilford town centre.
- Information about young people who came to attention in the area, was shared at a location strategy meeting.
- The police set up Operation Chanion, which ended in October
- The results were:
 - 22 Arrests
 - 41 Pieces of ASB legislation used, including PSPO tickets and Anti-social warning letters.
 - 4 individuals being given Community protection Warnings
 - 3 People being given community protection notices with conditions.
 - 10 positive street disposals, community resolutions / PNDS or PCRS.
 - 82 stop and searches.
 - Multiple intelligence reports
 - 4 EBIKEs seized and the riders processed.
- JFIT set up weekly drop in sessions for young people to attend.
- There was a huge decrease in activity in the area following the interventions.
- Reports were made of people hanging around an alleyway, the Safer Neighbourhood Team set up patrols in this area.



Gangs – Local Gangs

- There is a leadership challenge within Drillford and this is causing friction with other local gangs.
- In March there were a large number of young people in custody over a weekend for various offences including robbery of a large amount of cash, a stabbing by a machete and another who was hit by a car.
- Two of the young people are associates of a high level member of Drillford.
- During the following week an 18 year old who has been linked to the Leyton Boys was stabbed in the borough.
- A young person who has been expelled after robbing a fellow student and has now joined the RAP is affiliated with a local gang.
- He has formed friendships with other students who have issues with the school he was expelled from.
- Safer Neighbourhoods completed a weapon sweep and Safer Schools increased their presence at the school. A mapping officer from EXIIT has contacted Snap Chat to make them aware of the concerns around a group chat that has been set up sharing diss videos.
- Box Up patrols were sent images of the schools uniform so they can be aware if any students are in Barkingside High Street as this is not near the school.



County Lines

- Young people have been identified being arrested in Suffolk and the south coast.
- There have been young people brought to notice with high value items and cash.
- Box Up have carried out patrols in areas where drug dealing is suspected.
- Park Guard have carried out regularly drug sweeps.
- Information has been shared with Operation Orachi, Operation Raptor, police forces and local authorities around the country.
- Work has been done in supported placements where drug dealing and cuckooing were taking place.
- County lines have been taken down.
- Police have said that all the information that has been passed over to them has helped them safeguard young people and get intelligence on the adults involved to be able to charge them.



Care homes

- ASB concerns were raised about a care home, hub partners worked together to move the children placed there and work with the provider to support future residents.
- A stabbing outside an unregistered placement raised concerns that there was a young person placed by another borough residing there. Work took place between EXIIT, the ASB Team and the placing borough. The placement no longer houses anyone under 18.
- A spate of robberies of students from a school took place, the names of the suspects were linked to a nearby care home. The Youth Engagement Team have attended the property and will continue to do so weekly.
- Meetings are being held with placing boroughs to share concerns and hold them to account of how they are managing the children placed there.
- Safer Schools Officers are attending the school to offer support.
- JFIT have offered sessions to both the victims of the robbery and the wider student body.



Child Exploitation Day

- The National Child Exploitation Day took place on 18th March 2024.
- Members of the hub raised awareness within their teams and organisations
 - Posters were printed and placed in work places
 - Safety Training Workshops were held
 - Bake sales were held
 - Teams completed pledges that were written on their hands and a collage created
 - On 21st March 2024, EXIIT and Box Up ran a session which was attended by uniformed police for all young people who attend the gym to discuss exploitation. A video of the event is on the next slide.



Child Exploitation Day

