



OPERATION **RAPTOR**

Gang Awareness

Operation Raptor is the Essex Police response to Urban Street gangs criminality.

Up Raptor teams: Grays, Harlow, Basildon, Southend, Colchester.

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What is a gang?

Urban Street Gang – USG

Durable, predominantly street based

Young people

See themselves as a group and are seen by others as a group

Range of criminality

May lay claim to an area or territory

In conflict with other similar groups

Our experience

Core ages – 16 to 24

What is a County Line?

A group (not necessarily affiliated as a gang) establishes a network between an urban hub and county location, into which drugs (primarily heroin and crack cocaine) are supplied.

A branded mobile phone line is established in the market, to which orders are placed by introduced customers. The line will commonly (but not exclusively) be controlled by a third party, remote from the market.

The group exploits young or vulnerable persons, to achieve the storage and/or supply of drugs, movement of cash proceeds and to secure the use of dwellings (commonly referred to as cuckooing).

The group or individuals exploited by them regularly travel between the urban hub and the county market, to replenish stock and deliver cash.

The group is inclined to use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms

Gang criminality (1)

Drugs

Class A drugs

Heroin - can be injected or smoked. Very strongly addictive.

Crack Cocaine – can be smoked. Very strongly addictive.

Cocaine – perception of a “higher end” drug. Addictive and can be turned into Crack Cocaine.

Other drugs

Class B drugs - cannabis

Gang criminality (2)

Violence

- Used as an initiation
- Perception of strength
- Enforce debts
- Enforce territory
- Increase standing within gang
- Robbery
- Weapons frequently used



Gang criminality (3)

Sexual offences

Girls seen as trophies
May be trafficked for prostitution
Missing children
Older boyfriends
Sexualised language
Knowledge of sexual activity
Gifts, presents etc.



The problem in Epping Forest (1)

Business pressure

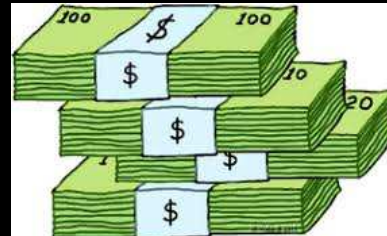
Police

Councils

Rivals

Decreasing or finite consumer

base



Business opportunity

- Lesser police enforcement
- Reduced council enforcement
- Wider consumer base



The problem in Epping Forest (2)

Senior gang members live / family links to EFD

Younger gang members may be moved into EFD

Local users exploited or coerced – family effect

Local youths may be exploited or coerced

Risk of violence if rival groups meet

Local youths attracted towards gang lifestyle

Perception

Perception of:

- Status
- Money
- Respect
- Fear
- Power
- Glamorous lifestyle
- Access to girls
- Excitement
- “Outlaw” mystique

Underlying issues

- Sense of belonging
- Desire for positive attention
- Lack of alternative opportunity
- Lack of parental or familial direction
- Insecurity



Music

Grime” music and “urban” culture

may be used to make claims on territory

insult rivals or prolong feuds

essentially a validation of the desirable aspects of “gang” lifestyle

numerous videos on Youtube and social media

Traphouse, Bando

Trapping, Shotting

Man

Mandem

Dab

Shank, shiv

Dark, brown, b

Light, white, w

Rocks, stones, pebbles, shots, dots
Shine

Bud, Weed, Green, Haze, Lemon, Zoot

Eighth, Henry, Benz, 10s

Food

Allow it

Bare

Beef

Cunching, Up Country, OT

On road

Qway

Fam

Feds

Airing

Jack, merk, tax

Yard

Ends

Whip

Peng

Nitty, Cat

Slang Q and A

What do Operation Raptor do?

Enforcement of criminal activity

Intelligence led search warrants on addresses

Intelligence led stop and search of people and vehicles

Prosecution of suspects

Take drugs, criminals, money, weapons and vehicles off the street

Safeguard vulnerable people

Gather intelligence

Engagement with partners such as social services, schools, Council

Any concerns/advice...?

emergency contact 999

Essex Police non-emergency #101

Crimestoppers #0800 555111 (Anonymous and independent from police)

Contact DS Paget or PC BENNETT

Extension 318260 or 318261

Mail:

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