

NLA Presentation: Gangs and Gang Activity: Within the Tendring District

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What is a gang..?

A gang is defined as a:

Relatively durable, predominantly street based group of young people who:

- See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group
- Engage in a range of criminal activities and violence

They may also have any or all of the following features:

- Identify with or lay claim over territory
- Have some form of identifying structure feature

Why now?

- Saturation of London boroughs
- Recognised demand outside of London
- If there's money to be made...

London

- 250 recognised gangs, around 4,500 people, prevalent in 19 key boroughs
- 337 arrests from 2011 London riots identified as gang members from 169 different gangs
- Believed responsible for; 16% of London's total drug supply
- 22% of serious violence, 4% of all sex offences, 14% of all rape offences
- 17% of all stabbings and 50% of all shootings

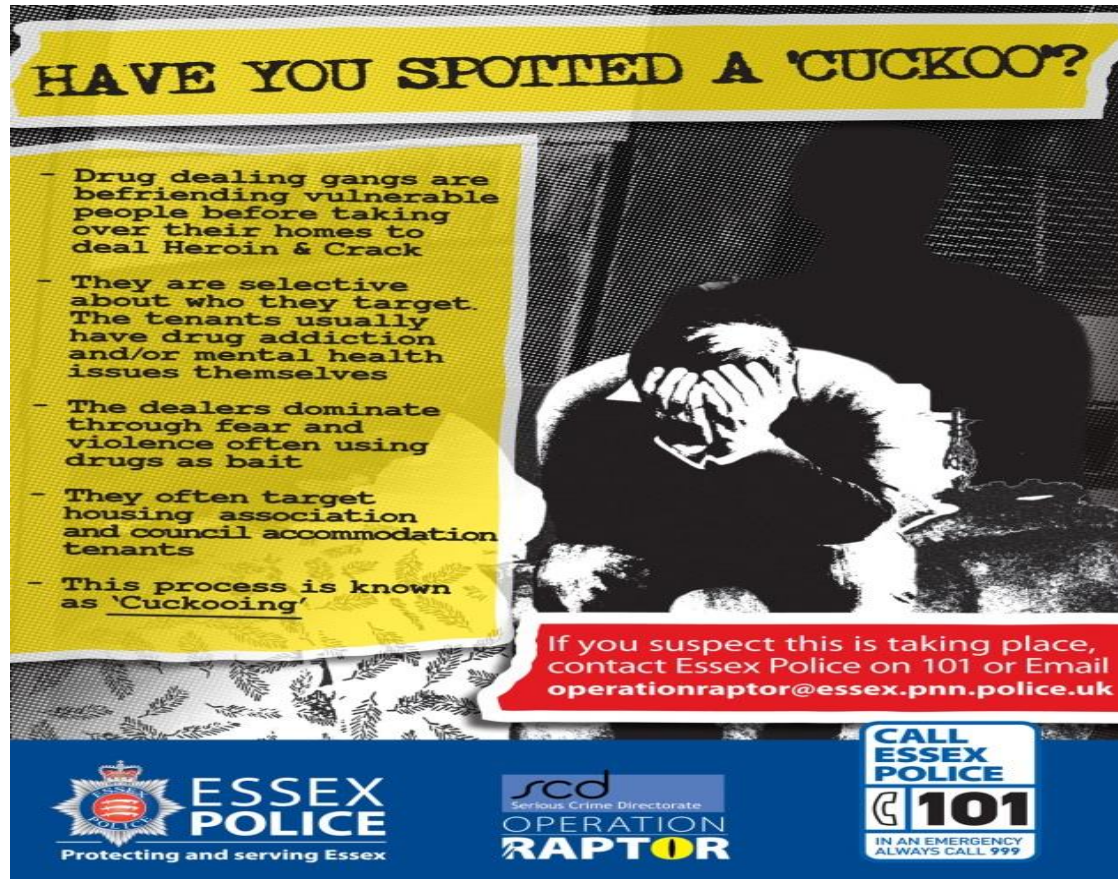
County Lines

- Coming out of London
- North Essex Lines thriving market.
- Use of Hire Cars and Train lines- Tourism .
- Gang members lay down roots in areas they are dealing in.
- Target Vulnerable Individuals
- Use of Weapons and Violence.
- Numbers being sold on –lucrative for dealers
- Franchise model

The Police response

- Since May 2014 Operation Raptor, an anti-gangs project from Essex Police, has made more than 663 arrests and seized drugs with an estimated street value of more than £1million
- Intelligence led aimed at understanding the level of Gang Activity across Kent and Essex.
- Tackling Gang Culture and associated crime.
- London Gangs Expansion.
- Work in partnership with cross border forces and partner agencies.
- Increase in activity over County Lines- Business Model

Cuckooing



HAVE YOU SPOTTED A 'CUCKOO'?

- Drug dealing gangs are befriending vulnerable people before taking over their homes to deal Heroin & Crack
- They are selective about who they target. The tenants usually have drug addiction and/or mental health issues themselves
- The dealers dominate through fear and violence often using drugs as bait
- They often target housing association and council accommodation tenants
- This process is known as 'Cuckooing'

If you suspect this is taking place, contact Essex Police on 101 or Email operationraptor@essex.pnn.police.uk

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

scd
Serious Crime Directorate
OPERATION RAPTOR

CALL ESSEX POLICE
101
IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

Cuckooing

- Drug dealing Gangs- Befriend Vulnerable people.
- Take over their homes- Target housing association/ council accommodation tenants.
- Exploit Vulnerabilities- Mental Health/ Drug Addiction.
- Dealers dominate through fear and violence.
- Networks of 'Runners' to recharge drugs for gangs.

Cuckooing

- The most vulnerable being targeted
- Short term incentive-long term misery
- 24/7 Shopping
- Surrounding accommodation is affected
- Move on, only when they have to
- What's left?

My role

Matrix Managed:

- Tendring District Council
- Essex Police
- Family Solutions

Funded by:

- Department for Works and Pensions

My Role

- Benefits
- Accommodation
- Emotional support
- Practical support
- Advice
- Professional liaison
- Referrals
- Partnership working

Case Study

- B. has been using heroin for the past 15 years
- B is unemployed and claiming ESA
- Due to a lack of funds, and an dependency on Class A narcotics, B became a target for gang activity
- B was offered 2 x brown 1x white for the use of his property-around £15 worth of class A's (Two wraps of heroin, one rock of crack cocaine)
- Dealers occupied B's home, and forced him to sleep on the floor-had no respect for the property or belongings
- There was a constant stream of activity, day and night
- B was threatened with torture, when he complained, and forced to run drugs (with similar threats)
- Eventually the Police became aware of the drug dealing, and raided the property
- B asked for support, and was referred to me.
- B is engaging with drug and alcohol projects, filling time with positive daytime activities, volunteering, and reducing his use via a methadone programme.
- B would like to use his experiences to provide vulnerable people with the tools to avoid the pitfalls of being cuckooed

What can you do?

- Report anything suspicious
- Email me: reastwood@tendringdc.gov.uk
- Call me: 07733 087 629

Remember

- This is happening now in your county, in your town
- Once the gangs are established it will be difficult to remove them
- Criminals do not respect geographic boundaries
- We are all obliged to act to protect the vulnerable
- Once we lift the lid it cannot be replaced.