



Merton Youth Justice / CSE

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Road up to now ...



- Established MASE with CSE Protocol and screening tools
- G-MAP and Youth Justice Risk panels with Protocols and information sharing
- Recognised increase in county-lines
- Low referrals for boys to CSE (seen as different exploitation – or offending behaviour) = falling through gaps in processes

How children are exploited into lines

- Children showered with gifts, promise of easy money and respect
- After few low risk tasks children are given more responsibility – tasked to travel further away with weapons and drugs, given larger packages of drugs to distribute
- When in possession of the drugs (or money from a sale) the recruitment gang orchestrate a knife/gun point robbery
- The child is now in debt to the gang and forced to work back the loss
- Young people arrested with Class A drugs are criminalised – often waiting long periods for the court outcome with no intervention due to forensic processes

Safeguarding issue



Children are being

- forced to work on behalf of violent gangs
- raped and filmed performing sexual acts to hold them to ransom
- forced to conceal drugs inside their bodies, sometimes forcibly
- beaten and tortured, living in constant fear
- sent away to live in unsanitary conditions, in crack houses, sleeping next to unpredictable adults
- being convicted of crimes under duress
- threatened about their families safety for unpaid debts

Children are losing their childhood Children are losing their lives

Source: Home Office training package

Pan-London CP Procedure



- The London Child Protection Procedures, Part B3 Chapter 12 *Safeguarding Children affected by Gang Activity / Serious Youth Violence* outlines that a child who is affected by gang activity or serious youth violence may have suffered, or may be likely to suffer, significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

What we've done so far



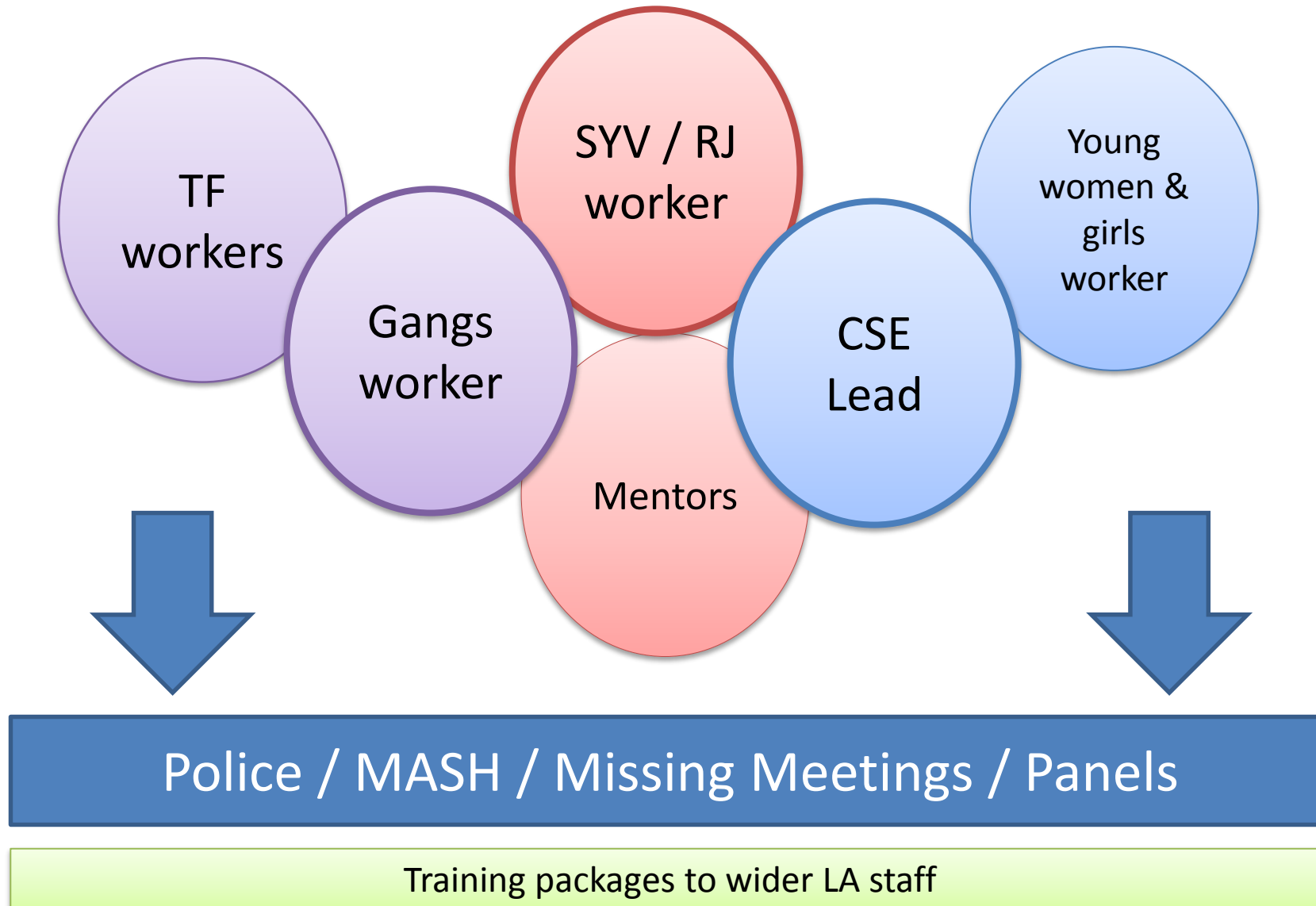
- Expanded the Serious Youth Violence Protocol to include Criminal Exploitation
 - Gives description of County Lines and Modern Slavery
 - Includes local mapping and stats
 - Provides screening tool
 - Process for multiagency meetings (prior to serious incident threshold and more than gang link)
 - Highlight PanLondon CP procedure

Work with Victims



- Funding bid for young people arrested for PWITS in county locations – 2 P/T mentors recruited to engage and offer alternatives via ETE options and incentives to engage
- National Referral Mechanism. Referred one YP (Heroin plugged, Brighton, LAC)
- YJ team – Forensic Psychologist (trauma work)
- Catch22 – work with missing YP and CSE
- Jigsaw4U – work with young victims

'In-house offer' / joint work



Contextual Safeguarding



- Useful framework for encouraging colleagues to think about risks outside of the home
- CSE meetings use for recording risks across contexts – and action planning
- SYV and Criminal exploitation protocol will use a similar ‘matrix’ for the multiagency meeting.
- All in a “try it and see” phase