



Home Office

Learning from the Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme – gangs and safeguarding

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Three teenagers arrested and charged after £3,600 haul found

Young boys used to courier class A drugs

LONDON gangs are hiring teenage boys from care homes to travel to north Essex to deliver class A drugs.

Three boys were arrested and charged after £3,600 of drugs were found in a taxi in Clacton.

The action was part of the joint Operation Saturn being run by Essex and Met Police officers.

Police spotted a silver taxi in Beach Road, Clacton, with three young male occupants, at 9pm, on October 15.

The car was followed and stopped in Holland Road, Clacton.

Drugs were found in a rucksack in the footwell and inside the

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underpants of two 16-year-olds.

A 14-year-old from Clacton and the 16-year-olds from London were arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine and heroin.

A 16-year-old was sentenced to an 18-month detention and rehabilitation order at Chelmsford Youth Court on Friday, after admitting the charges.

Another 16-year-old appeared at Colchester Youth Court yesterday.

The court heard the youth, who

cannot be named for legal reasons, had gone missing from his London care home more than two weeks earlier.

He was taken to Clacton by a south London drug gang.

The court heard he claimed to be working for the gang fearing if he did not, his family would be hurt.

The hearing was told he would be given drugs and a list of pre-determined locations to sell to drug users.

A pre-sentence report will be prepared and he will be sentenced at Bromley Youth Court next month. A 14-year-old from Clac-

ton denied possession with intent to supply cocaine and heroin.

He admitted possession of cannabis.

His solicitor, Caroline Woodley, told the court: "Gangs are working with young boys and drugs are being brought into Clacton.

"It is not something the 14-year-old is involved in."

Colchester Youth Court heard he lives in Clacton and had befriended a co-defendant.

The 16-year-olds admitted owning the rucksack and supplying the drugs found.

The 14-year-old will stand trial in January.

Cross cutting issue – and it's not hidden, we're just not looking for it



It's all of these things.....

Emerging findings - over 500 practitioners interviewed

- Serious group offending exploits vulnerable cohorts physically, financially and sexually, across boundaries and regions
- Practitioners almost always perceive and talk about linkages between gang activity, drug markets, violence against women and girls, CSE and in some cases Prevent and trafficking
- Most of those interviewed assume that analysts, senior officers and partnerships know about these things
- Illegal drug markets underpin most of the violence and exploitation – yet very little seems to be known about it at a local level

This raises a number of challenges for areas.....

- The need to understand the relationship between street gangs and illegal drug markets
- Links between the vulnerable and gangs e.g. care homes, missing young people, schools absence and exclusions
- The vulnerabilities experienced by gang-associated women and girls
- The exploitation of children by gangs and organised crime groups (sexual exploitation or exploitation in order to commit crimes such as drug dealing)
- Gang members and associates moving into other areas, such as shire counties or seaside towns, to commit crime
- The use of social media to facilitate violence and intimidation
- The links between health, particularly mental health, and gang violence

How do partnerships respond to this?