



Thematic Review Briefing Serious Youth Violence

Introduction

In 2021, five Croydon teenagers lost their lives due to serious youth violence, four of them were under 18. The Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership conducted a thematic review involving seven young individuals charged in connection with three of these deaths. This review seeks to learn from the support provided to these seven individuals, shedding light on outcomes, especially when support ended, to enhance local safeguarding practices.

The Key Lines of Enquiry

1. Review the support provided.
2. Review current community support provision.
3. Learn from the families (including the families of the children who died).
4. Include the Voice of the Child, to understand what daily life looks like.
5. Identify where and/or why support ceased and explore the learning outcomes.
6. Learn from the experiences of front-line practitioners.

Safeguarding Concerns



- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- County lines
- Complex family dynamics
- Domestic abuse within the family
- Drift and delay in responding to referrals
- Exclusion or prolonged absence from education
- Involvement of statutory services from an early age
- Lack of cultural understanding
- Missing episodes
- Poor mental health
- Offending behaviour
- Substance misuse

Extracted from CSCP Thematic Review: Serious Youth Violence
[- Read full report here](#)

Findings

Key Line of Enquiry 1

Assessing the scope of support:

- Professionals offered a broad array of services.
- The predominant observation is that these services were deployed belatedly and in response to crises.
- There is a lack of conclusive evidence regarding the effectiveness of these interventions.

Key Line of Enquiry 2

Evaluating termination and learning outcomes of support:

- Assessing the outcomes of support was challenging, as system records primarily captured interaction dates rather than tangible outcomes.
- The absence or inconsistency of consent significantly hindered the achievement of positive progress.

Key Line of Enquiry 3

Considering the Child's Perspective, Understanding Their Daily Life, and Exploring Reasons for Ineffective Support:

- Professionals possessed a deep understanding of the children under their care.
- Unfortunately, existing systems and records do not routinely capture the lived experiences of these children.
- The poor neighbourhood environment had a detrimental impact on their sense of belonging

Key Line of Enquiry 4

When reviewing current community support provision, it's worth noting:

- The significance of relationships that offer practical and meaningful support.
- The potential for empowering the community to serve as sources of positive role models.
- The possibility of the Council and partners collaborating with the community on a more equitable basis

Key Line of Enquiry 5

When learning from families, including those who have experienced the loss of children:

- It becomes apparent that parents may benefit from earlier interventions, ideally provided within the community and by community members themselves.
- The observation is that addressing youth involvement in knife-related incidents often necessitates a swift and robust response.

Key Line of Enquiry 6

In the process of learning from front-line practitioners about what works effectively:

- It is evident that building trusted relationships demands both time and scope to develop.
- The importance of having an experienced workforce really hits home.
- It is also worth noting, the numerous instances of innovative and highly effective direct interventions.