

Meeting Notes

24 March 2016, 10am-1pm

Attendees

Hannah Bowman, Arts Against Knives
Lee Dema, St Matthew's Project
Steve Griffith, Copenhagen Youth Project
Alex Melhuish, Redthread
Jean-Pierre Moore, LB Haringey
Stu Thomson, Knight's Youth Centre
George Turner, Carney's Community
Kieran Watt, Leap CC
Janita Halsey, Hackney Quest
Mary Riley, Masbro Youth Centre
Alexander Rose, Lifeline Project HMPI YOI Isis
Federica Tremaichi, The Integrate Movement
Anthony Meyer, The Integrate Movement

1. London Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Network (LGSYVN) and the Tackling Youth Violence Network (TYVN)

We discussed the new LGSYVN which is being set up by MOPAC and LVSC. The first meeting of this network took place in December 2015 and the second meeting is on 29 March 2016 (see terms of reference and minutes from first meeting).

At the moment, the members of the TYVN feel there is scope for both networks to co-exist, as they offer a different focus. LGSYVN provides a forum to hear from MOPAC and potentially feed into consultations and co-production opportunities. The TYVN is more practitioner-led and should have a focus on peer learning and collaborative working.

London Youth informed that we have put ourselves forward to co-chair the LGSYVN meetings to ensure there is communication between both networks and to continue to ensure that the views and voices of our members and front-line youth professionals are represented.

As part of the discussion, we agreed to add some standing agenda items to all TYVN meetings:

- a. **Local updates:** this will provide an opportunity for the pan-London group to hear about issues discussed at local networks or groups, represent the voice of the young people they work with and share any interesting information they may have learned about in other meetings
- b. **Exploring collaboration:** this will be a time for participants to get together and discuss and explore ways in which they could work together
- c. **Focussed discussion:** the group will discuss their experiences around a particular relevant topic. If relevant, London Youth will identify a guest speaker or organise a training session to take place at the next meeting. This way we will ensure that guests' contributions are relevant to the specific needs identified by the group.

We also agreed to use some time to discuss topics raised at LGSYVN meetings. At the end of the year we will revisit this discussion and see if the by then potentially more established LGSYVN is more or less similar to the TYVN and whether there is potential to merge both groups.

2. Mental health and youth violence

The group discussed some of the challenges they have faced working with young people who need mental health support. Some of the issues identified by the group were:

- A rising trend in sexual violence suffered by girls in their early teens, which then leads to self-harm, depression and anxiety
- The challenges around supporting young people in their mid-teens when they start showing what could be early stages of mental health disorders
- The effect that parents' mental health will have on their children
- The links between substance misuse and mental health, especially in young teenagers
- How young people with poor mental health are targeted and approached by gangs
- The challenges faced when trying to support young people with mental health needs as they transition from primary to secondary school and the lack of support found (especially when they attend academies)
- Specialist mental health providers, such as CAMHS are not always equipped to work with young people – one participant explained how it worked best for them when youth workers were directly supporting young people with advice from CAMHS workers

Different mental health training was discussed. Two attendees had taken part in the [Mental Health First Aid](#) training. This training aims to:

- Recognise the signs and symptoms of common mental health issues
- Provide help on a first aid basis
- Effectively guide others in the right direction towards support

The group also spoke about the [MAST](#) training, which is available until 31 March and is funded by MOPAC. This training seemed to have mixed reviews depending on the facilitator.

Finally, we had a presentation by [The Integrate Movement](#), to introduce their approach to mental health support for young people. If members of the TYVN are interested, there may be some scope for London Youth to offer free training to the group. [MAC-UK's website](#) has additional information on its origins.

A paper on Integrate will soon appear in the *Child and Adolescent Mental Health* paper. An abstract can be found online at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/camh.12137/abstract>
The full paper is available on request.

If you would like to get in touch with Integrate directly, please email Anthony Meyer at anthony@integratemovement.org.

3. Additional information

Restorative Justice: invitation to tender

Restorative Justice provides an important opportunity to help victims cope and recover from the effects of crime and for the offender to understand the impact that the crime has had on their victims.

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is commissioning a victim led pan-London Restorative Justice Service for London.

This opportunity offers a grant up to the value of £1,300,000 over two and a half years, commencing in June 2016 to November 2018.

The Service has two core elements, which the providers must bid for both;

- **Service Part 1:** To develop a pan London Restorative Justice (RJ) operating model.
- **Service Part 2:** To run a pan London RJ Service.
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A competitive, conditional grant award process is being used to commission this Service. The deadline for the submission of final bids will be 6pm on Friday 29 April 2016.

Due to mix of skills and experience required consortia bids are strongly encouraged.

More information available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/support-victims/victims-services>