

## Geo-mapping of risks and vulnerabilities

### Margate Multi-Agency Taskforce

#### Key points:

- Using 'Peer Group Analysis' (Visual Network Charts) to aid identification and assessment of safeguarding risk for young people, plus using the charts to facilitate sharing of case information from: Schools, Pupil Referral Units, Youth Offending Service, Children's Specialist Services, Drug/Alcohol Treatment Services, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Using qualitative data from our multi-agency Family Support Panels (FSPs) for gang affected and exploited young people, to enhance understanding of risks and grooming mechanisms/gang tactics, etc.
- Generating new format representations of key data based on per 1,000 population, to improve strategic and tactical understanding of threat, risk and vulnerabilities

#### Joint safeguarding approach in the multi-agency Margate Task Force (MTF) in Kent

#### Interim report from Police Inspector Mark Pearson (Margate Task Force 'Delivering Effective Integrated Services')

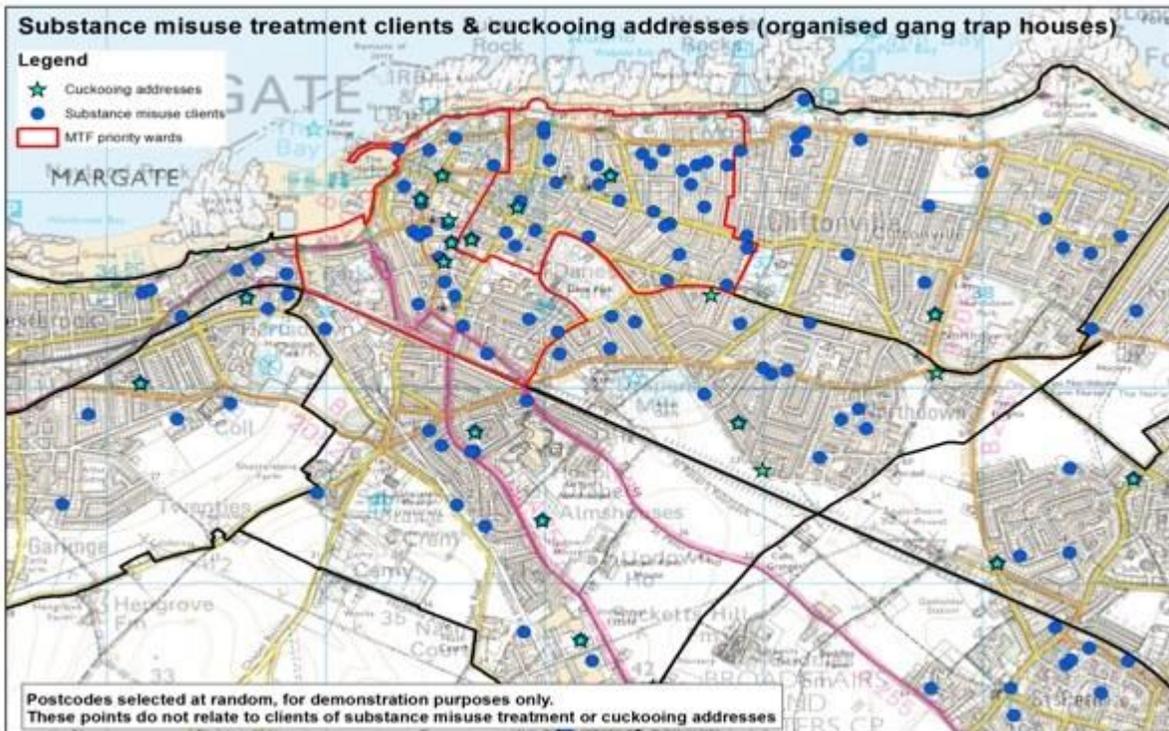
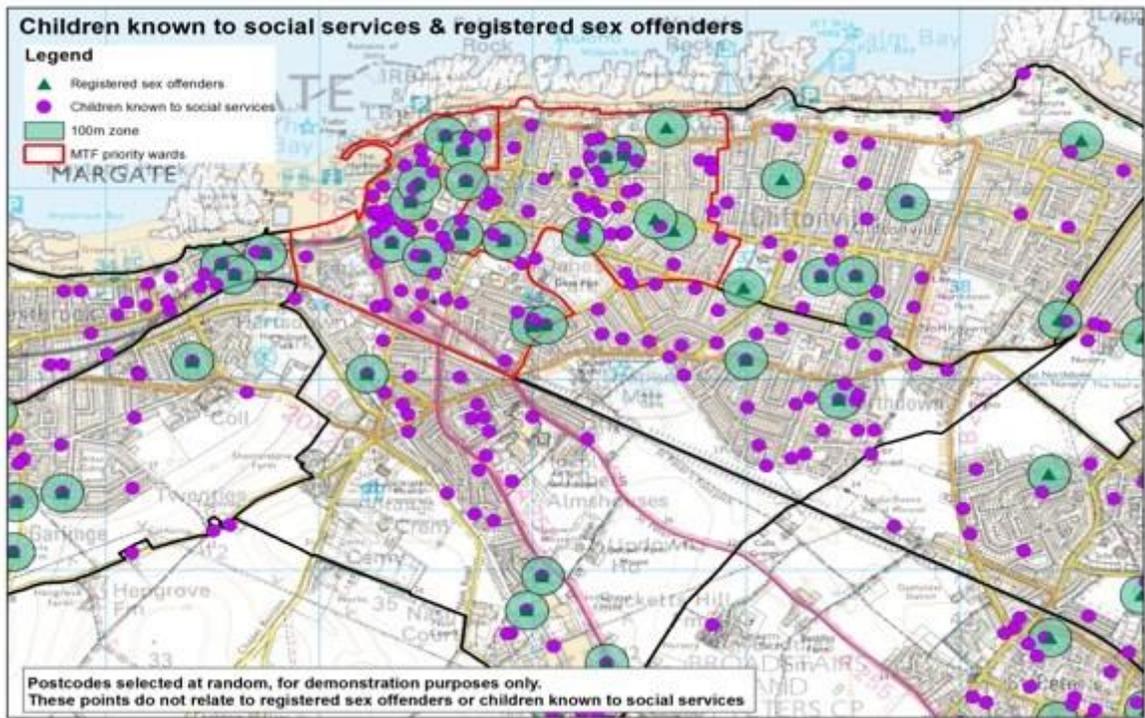
The Margate Task Force (MTF) is a multi-award winning, co-located, integrated services team that jointly tackles highly complex and challenging issues, such as child protection, exploitation, safeguarding, crime, welfare dependency, health, drugs and quality of life. The team comprises 40 members of staff from 16 different agencies and commissioned services - a mixture of full time, part time and task allocated resources. They target some of the most deprived wards in Kent.



A project team within the MTF has implemented a number of project streams focussing on 'Early Intervention'. The project is funded by the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) Transformation Challenge Award (TCA).

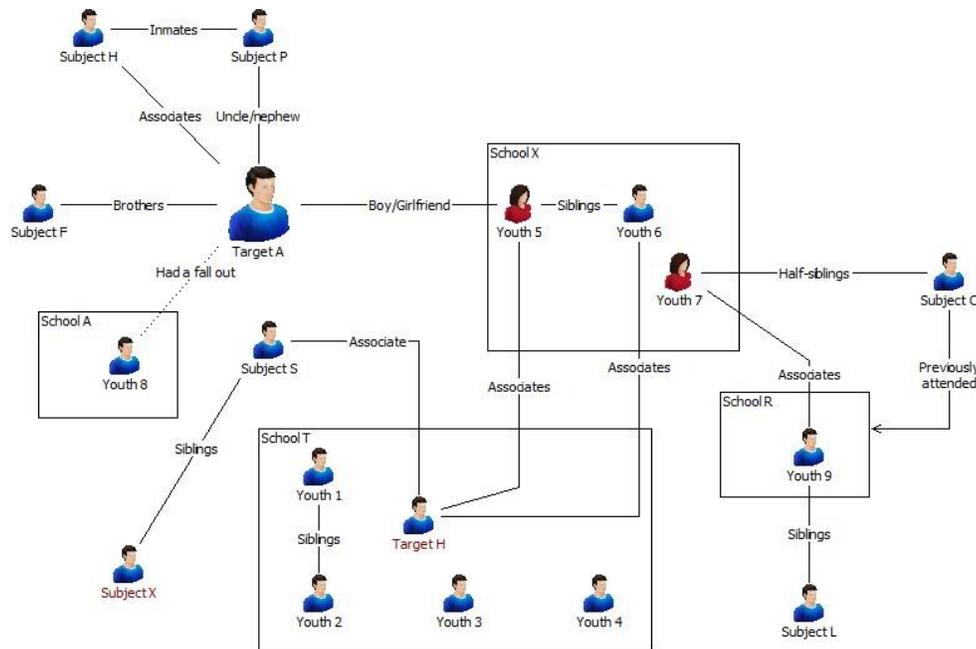
The project work streams comprise the following: -

- Geo-Mapping of agencies' data to better identify and assess safeguarding risks by highlighting 'super-hotspots' requiring joint agency interventions



- Using 'Peer Group Analysis' (Visual Network Charts) to aid identification and assessment of safeguarding risk for young people. The charts facilitate sharing of case information between Schools,

Pupil Referral Units, Youth Offending Services, Children’s Specialist Services, Drug/Alcohol Treatment Services, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.



- Using qualitative data from multi-agency Family Support Panels (FSPs) for gang affected and exploited young people, to enhance understanding of risks and grooming mechanisms/gang tactics, etc.
- Generating new, innovative ways to represent key data based on per 1,000 population, to enhance strategic and operational understanding of threat, risk and harm.

Of particular note are the ‘client focussed’ Family Support Panel (FSPs) comprising skilled staff from Drug & Alcohol Support, Specialist Nursing, Mental Health, Police, Youth Offending Service, Early Intervention Services, School Welfare, Joint Family Management, and Domestic Abuse Services. The Panel sit together in a semi-circle formation with parents and siblings of the gang affected/exploited young person.

With the permission of participants, the FSP session is recorded and it lasts about 50 minutes using a basic cognitive-behavioural approach that explores emotions, causal factors and commits to jointly responding to multiple problems identified – participants have often referred to it as the ‘power of the semi-circle’, as it has proved highly cathartic and beneficial to all participants.

The cohort of ‘gang affected/at risk of exploitation’ for the panels is drawn from objective multi-agency ‘Peer Group Analysis’ (Visual Network Charts) of young people in schools. This is a proven method in Organised Crime investigation.

The Panel has a strong set of educative components focussing on ‘grooming mechanisms’, ‘gang recruitment techniques’, drug/alcohol advice. In addition, safeguarding advice is given to parents and younger siblings of the affected client.

Forensic Psychologists from the University of Kent at Canterbury (UKC), Centre of Research and Education – Forensic Psychology (CoRE-FP), researched the adult variant of these panels and found efficacy both for clients and participating agencies.

The panels provide a rich source for understanding exploitation tactics and sadly perpetrators are ‘grooming’ young people with no criminal background in periods as short as 8 weeks – going from ‘clean skin’ to fully fledged participating gang member dealing drugs for them. Such powerful qualitative evidence about the relentless intimidation and targeting of our most vulnerable children has generated new understanding and identified better opportunities for early intervention. **A particular patterning being analysed is the recruitment of young people with special educational needs and disabilities.**

The transformative approach is reaping positive rewards; offering better, timelier joint responses to the complex needs of our most vulnerable young people and their families. This integrated focus on key areas of threat, risk and harm, supported by enhanced ‘safeguarding’ information sharing, generates sustainable positive outcomes for so many who in the past would have progressed towards entrenched reoffending, and suffered increasing levels of violence, trauma and substance misuse.

Material based on article that appeared in AYM Newsletter November 2016. To join AYM visit <http://aym.org.uk/>



[DOWNLOAD](#) a briefing paper that explains the local partnership working arrangements in Margate (**Margate Task Force MTF**)

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