

Biography

Andy Newsam

Serious Group Offending, Gangs and Weapons Strategy Manager

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Andy has a degree in Social Work from the University of East London in 1994 and has since worked in practitioner and management posts in Local Authority Youth Offending Teams, most recently as the Acting Senior Youth Justice Manager. Here he had responsibility for overseeing the delivery of services for young people in the Youth Justice System with a focus on Public Protection, the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Program, the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy, as well as leading on the Local Authorities Tackling Gangs Strategy. Through these experiences Andy began to understand the complexities of how young people are affected by gangs in their communities.

Andy joined the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in September 07, with a policy lead for Serious Group Crime. The YJB is funded by the Home Office to advise the Home Secretary on the operation of the youth justice system and to monitor the performance of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and promote good practice.

Youth Justice Board research into Group offending and gangs highlighted a need for more focused work in this area. The Serious Group Offending, Gangs and weapons Strategy Manager was created in order to pull together the strands affecting this emerging issue. Andy has a national brief and is developing a strategy to shape the Youth Justice Boards future work in this area and enable YOT's to work more effectively when engaging with gang affected young people. This includes the development of guidance around identification, screening and assessment, data recording and risk management as well as identifying and showcasing innovative programmes of prevention and intervention.

Andy also works strategically with partners in the Regional Government Offices, the Police, Department for Children Schools and Families, and the voluntary sector to ensure cohesive approaches to tackling gangs. Andy is at the cutting edge of emerging initiatives in tackling gangs. Most notably Andy has been integral in the development of software systems deployed in all Local Authorities, enabling Youth Offending Teams to Map gang activity and scope gang membership, hostility and violent incidents.