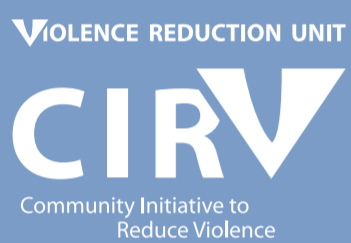




Further information and documentation relating to the CIRV project can be obtained from:

CIRV@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk

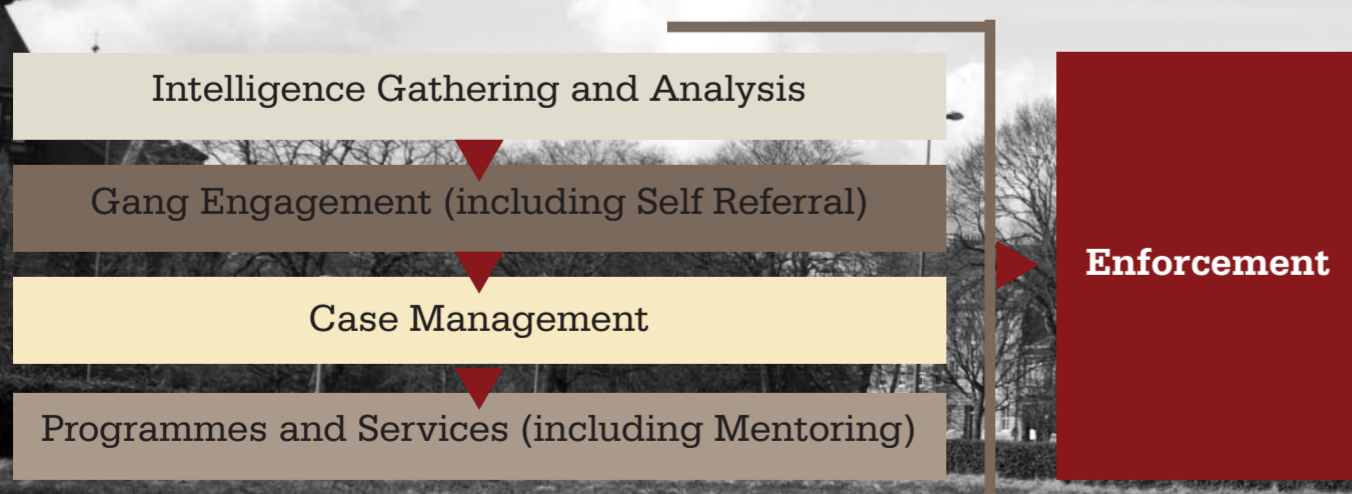


Introduction

The **Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)** is a multi-agency, community based, street gangs intervention service whose aim is to secure a rapid and sustained reduction in violent behaviour amongst gang members across Glasgow. The initiative has at its core a focused deterrence strategy coupled with diversion and personal development services. It is based on existing programmes introduced to tackle gang violence in the USA, but adapted to a Scottish context by Glasgow's CIRV Team.

A partnership group including police, social service providers and the community has been established to deliver a clear message to gangs: 'the violence must stop'. This message is communicated through a number of different mechanisms, including Self Referral Sessions, direct contact through street workers, police, prisons, teachers, school campus officers, community outreach workers and, when the time is right, the media.

The CIRV process can be summarised as follows:



A series of Practice Notes have been compiled to describe this process in greater detail. This Practice Note concentrates on the case management process.

Case Management

The case management system forms the central component of CIRV. It is designed and monitored to ensure it meets the individual needs of those who have given a pledge of transition to a non-violent lifestyle. All case conference processes are streamlined to facilitate this transition.

Once a street gang member agrees to engage with CIRV and gives a pledge to stop the violence, they are then referred to as a CIRV 'client' and immediately enter the case management process.

Why Do We Need a Case Management Process?

- Allows CIRV to track the progress of each individual client.
- Eliminates duplication by partner agencies and improves information sharing, resulting in a more co-ordinated service
- Engages with several hundred gang members at a time. A properly administered process allows the service to function at any required capacity, ensuring client progress is accurately tracked
- Ensures that any violent street gang members who have remained embedded within the criminal justice system but have disappeared 'off the radar' of support agencies due to their chaotic lifestyles are identified and re-engaged with mainstream services

What Does It Do?

- CIRV multi-agency case conferences look at each individual's needs and expectations
- They direct the appointed mentor or key worker to the most appropriate support for clients in terms of further education, self development opportunities or other identified needs
- All relevant partners with an input into the person's life have the opportunity to report on any personal or agency involvement to date
- The process is transparent and accountable, with a client centred approach
- It routes clients to the most suitable opportunities, programmes or services
- It provides employability support where necessary, with the potential for a CIRV mentor to be introduced to the client at any stage (see Mentoring Practice Note)
- It accesses social work, education, police, housing and community safety databases to source the most relevant, up-to-date information and ascertain any activity that is currently ongoing or planned with the client by these particular organisations

How Does It Work?

- The process begins once a young person is referred to CIRV for engagement and has signed a pledge of non-violence
- All CIRV partners check their databases to establish if the client is known to them
- The case conference process allows all partners with an input into the person's life to report on any involvement to date, in line with the CIRV Information Sharing Protocol.
- The Case Manager chairs each conference with support from police, social work, education services and any other appropriate agency. Education input for the under 16s age group is essential. CIRV project management's policy is not to hold case conferences unless a social work department representative is in attendance
- An individual action plan is created for each client and provided to the nominated CIRV mentor, employability key worker and/or service provider outlining required support in terms of further education, self development opportunities or other identified needs.

How Does It Work? cont.

- Employability key workers feed information to the process; ideally this will be the time to introduce the befriender or mentor to the client.
- A review date is set for each client.
- Where clients fail to keep appointments with CIRV, or have committed further violent offences during the period of engagement, they are considered for disengagement and targeted enforcement activity by the local police division or specialised police Gangs Taskforce. They are immediately removed from all forms of support programme.
- Following a suitable period of non-offending all disengaged clients are offered the opportunity to re-engage with CIRV.

The detailed CIRV case management process is included within the Co-ordinating Team's '**CIRV Toolkit**'. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Team.

The following diagram summarises the case management process.

