

Project L.O.Y.A.L

London Youth Ambassadors of Learning

by

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES (ICDI)

The Objective

- To develop grassroots baseline data on violent youth crime and its causes in London
- To use research results to propose an intervention model that integrates youth and community-based methodology in the reduction of occurrences of violent youth crime

The Research

- The study was carried out across 20 London Boroughs between 12 – 25 September 2008
- It sampled 1,914 respondents in three categories:
 1. Young People (in/out of school)
 2. Young Adults (18+ year olds)
 3. Parents/Carers/Guardians

Central Research Focus

- Why are so many youths interested in joining gangs?
- How has the growth of gang culture contributed to violent youth crimes?

Summary of Research Findings

- Gang membership is based on need for status
- Breakdown of family structure
- Policing deals with symptoms but does not address root causes
- Stricter deterrents are welcome by most
- Involving youth in solution-focused approach

The Premise for Project L.O.Y.A.L

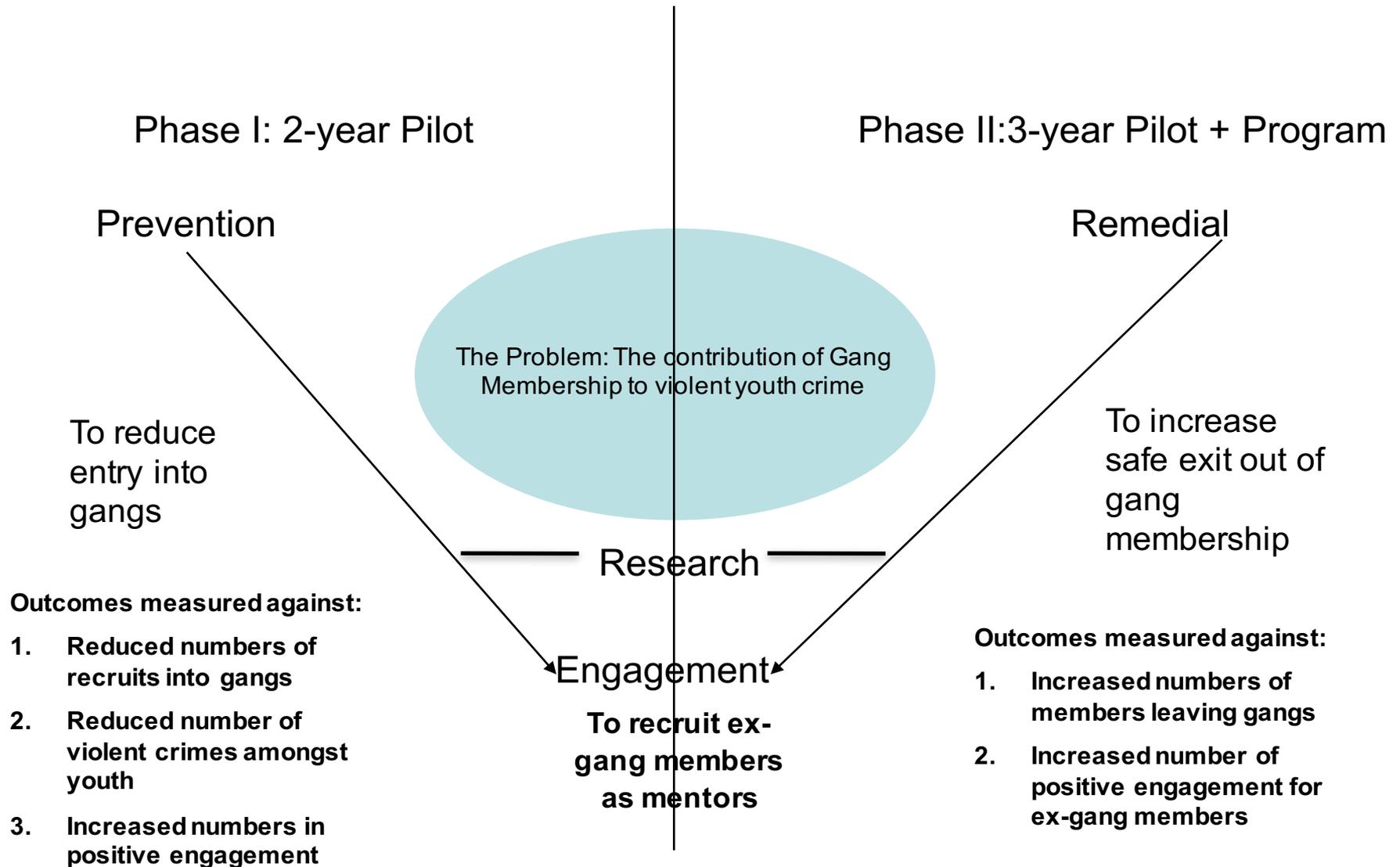
- There is an increased entry into gangs
- There is no safe exit from gang membership
- Lack of positive engagement of ex-gang members

L.O.Y.A.L: An Intervention Model

The proposed model is based on 3 points:

1. REDUCE entry into gangs
2. INCREASE safe exit out of gangs
3. PROVIDE positive engagement for ex-gang members

Project LOYAL: the Model



Project L.O.Y.A.L: Active Learning

Each phase of the pilots will be appended by research-based active learning that will apply what has been learnt (in Phase I) from reducing entry into gangs to increasing safe exit from gangs and sustaining this through ongoing positive engagement for ex-gang members.

Measuring Success

In the areas where this model is piloted the benchmark for success will be:

1. Numbers (reduced entry into / increased safe exit from gangs)
2. Numbers of those entering into and sustaining positive engagement
3. A reduction in violent youth crimes in pilot areas
4. An 'after-care' survey that tracks beneficiaries up to 9 months after preventative or remedial input

About Int'l Centre for Development Initiatives (ICDI)

An organisation dedicated:

- To qualitative research, engagement and advocacies for social, human and educational development
- To the engagement of 'at risk' youths and vulnerable gang members
- To encourage debate amongst youths, parents, government and media
- To drive change through campaigns and the delivery of responsive and high-quality programmes
- To strengthen the role of civil society groups in the fight against violent youth crimes