

## PROJECT IDEA

## *IDÉE DE PROJET*

The Project Idea Form is a public document, if you wish to keep it private at between the JS and your partnership at this stage, please advise your Facilitator / *Le Document Idée de Projet est un document public, si vous souhaitez qu'il reste privé entre le SC et votre partenariat pour le moment, merci d'en informer votre coordinateur de l'animation.*

Project Name / *Nom du projet* :

Gang Exit Model

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Specific Objective / *Objectif spécifique* :

Keep only one and erase the others/ *Garder un seul et effacer les autres*

1.2 - Increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially disadvantaged groups through social innovation.

*1.2 - Accroître la qualité et l'efficacité des prestations de services en faveur des groupes les plus défavorisés socialement et économiquement, par l'innovation sociale*

Summary description of the project idea (1 page max.) / *Description synthétique du projet (1 page max.):*

The Gang Exit Model aims to assist gang involved and gang affected young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods avoid or exit gangs and to be reintegrated into mainstream society through positive pedagogical practices and employment.

The project aims to identify the nature of the problems associated with reports of illicit markets, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Safeguarding issues associated with groups of young people in the target areas. The project further aims to describe and assess existing interventions and service provision and, where relevant, highlight gaps and anomalies. The project will present a solid foundation for an evidence-based strategy for a co-ordinated response to crime and ASB issues manifesting in the target areas while at the same time developing innovative social interventions.

At 6 pilot sites, the partnership will trial new methods of rapid assessment and action research led social innovation to help build new partnerships. These partnerships will focus on improving relationships between communities, disaffected young people, mainstream services and the jobs market. The project will assist to address the harms of drug related crime in Europe by developing new interventions to address gang drug distribution networks. The main aim is for gang affected young people to exit the alternative economy and contribute to the legitimate economy.

The cross-border partnership brings together universities, local charities, social entrepreneurs, local authorities, youth projects and local police and rehabilitation services. This multi-disciplinary partnership will oversee and participate in outreach to target groups in neighbourhoods to enable community involvement in local project design and delivery.

The project will produce three outputs:

- 1: A new social innovation model based on rapid assessment and action research: this model will include new ways of identifying gaps, reaching relatively deprived communities and gang members, reducing crime via stakeholder involvement.
- 2: An essential component for the project is strategic direction. Each area will produce strategic plans for local multi-agency groups that include members of the criminal justice system, businesses, local community leaders, community charities, universities and local authorities. This group will have the bridging capital to enable local services manage re-entry into mainstream community life for previously disenfranchised young people.
- 3. The project will create new training and skill recognition schemes helping young people who are gang affected put the skills used in the alternative economy into mainstream legal jobs, helping give them a real alternative to illicit activities. The pathway to desistance involves building creative and productive relationships utilising a variety of engagement methods.

By working across borders, this France Channel England project will help tackle problems associated with gangs and drug markets at main entry/leaving points in France and England. The project will benefit from best practices developed to address gangs in different neighbourhoods present in the channel area.

#### *Need and demand / besoin et demande :*

Although some would argue “youth gangs” are not a new phenomenon (Pearson 1985, Davies 2008, Hallsworth 2013), others report rapid global and local developments that are giving rise to worrying new changes in group youth offending, (Pitts 2008, Hagedorn 2008, Andell and Pitts 2017).

In many relatively deprived communities of the channel area there is a rise in violence associated with new types of drug distribution networks which often involve children and young people.

Local communities blighted by these issues suffer from additional disadvantages through downturns in the local legitimate economy and disinvestment by businesses (Lupton et al 2013). With a local downwards economic cycle, communities suffer from a lack of opportunities for their young people whilst at the same time the demand for consumer success increases. This social dynamic creates both push and pull factors which can result in criminal activities (Young 1991).

This project aims to tackle challenge 7 and 8 of the cooperation programme, as these communities are at risk of social and economic exclusion and although they are not considered part of the active population, the unemployed young people who participate in drug distribution networks have skills that would benefit mainstream businesses.

A further and related challenge in these neighbourhoods is concerns regarding the sexual exploitation of young vulnerable women. This project will also seek to address this issue and include this group in the action research process.

#### *Examples of concrete actions / Exemples d'actions concrètes :*

The project will utilise best practice to Increase the quality of service delivery in 6 coastal districts; 3 in the UK, Suffolk, Essex and Kent and 3 in France, Pas de Calais, Seine Maritime and Somme.

First steps will include a Rapid Assessment Exercise (RAE) in each area to identify the nature and extent of the issues to be addressed whilst at the same time building relationships in the locales.

1. The project will deliver the following appropriate concrete actions:
2. Bespoke gang exit strategies for each project area.
3. Sustainable mechanisms to deliver the appropriate strategic aims
4. Projects to engage with gang affected young people and stakeholders which may include:

- *Multi-disciplinary out reach teams to engage with gang affected young people in their own neighbourhoods.*
- *Peer education and intervention projects to build pro-social networks*
- *New forms of enforcement practices which reach beyond the present ing issues.*
- *Gang and Sexual Exploitation Prevention Programmes in schools and community centres.*
- *Employment schemes through working with local procurement processes, local employers and young people. Development of apprenticeship schemes with local businesses.*

All these actions will be based on a baseline research (Rapid Assesment Exercice) and will be built with continuous action research where the university partners are physically involved in the trialling of the services and consultation. This applied form of academic practice owes its origins to an approach, described by Pawson & Tilley (1994) as Realistic Evaluation and is rooted the Participatory Action Research, pioneered by Kurt Lewin in the 1940s and 1950s; which he describes as ‘a system of progressive problem-solving’.

#### *Changes that the project will contribute to /Changements auxquels le projet contribuera :*

The project will help reduce harms from local drug distribution networks and reduce risks in gang affected neighbourhoods to assist local economies to thrive. The project will empower gang involved and gang affected young people by building their resilience to the grooming techniques to enable them to contribute to the legitimate economy.

The project will also help to create safer more integrated communities with improved business opportunities for a better skilled workforce. Opportunities will be developed to assist young people find employment and careers locally, thus making an impact on relative deprivation.

The project will create a model of social intervention through action research that can be easily replicated and integrated for partnerships continuing this work. In order that local services can:

1. Assist vulnerable young people and their families in order to prevent possible involvement in any emerging youth gangs.
2. Help young people involved in illicit markets and their families in order to promote their desistance from youth crime.
3. Safeguard young women vulnerable to sexual victimisation and exploitation and their families

4. Disrupt any links between middle market criminal business organisations responsible for the supply of illicit commodities with young people at the street-level
5. Identifying any cross-border issues and the mechanisms whereby they might best be addressed
6. Identifying mechanisms for evaluating the impact of the strategy on an on-going basis

*Cross border added value / Valeur ajoutée transfrontalière :*

By working across borders, this France Channel England project will help address issues arising from different levels of the drugs business impinging into local drug markets at main entry/leaving points for drugs in France and England.

The project will also benefit local communities and professional stakeholders by developing best practices from knowledge exchanges from different environments. Frequently community groups move between borders and regions and by developing ideas and best practices of what works for who, where will assist in preventing existing and future harms. Any cross-border issues and the mechanisms whereby they might best be addressed will be highlighted and actioned.

*Capitalisation on previous initiatives/ Capitalisation sur de précédentes initiatives:*

The project will capitalise on the County Lines project in Ipswich (Andell and Pitts 2017) which has developed local strategies and mechanisms to address local gang distribution networks. The project will draw further on UK and international best practice identified in future literature searches.

*Sustainability/Durabilité :*

There is evidence that social scientific research in applied fields is most effective, and the prospects of replicability are enhanced, where the process is interactive, with young people, professionals and other stakeholders responding to the emerging findings as the project unfolds. Indeed, it has been argued that this form of research holds the key to the development of effective sustainable practices. Therefore once action research cycles have been initiated they will continue with cycles of look, think and act.

*Partners (with their geographical areas) already involved in the project idea / Partenaires (en précisant leur zone géographique) déjà impliquées à ce stade d'idée de projet:*

University of Suffolk, Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Commission for Racial Equality, Suffolk Youth Offending Team, Eastern Enterprise Hub – East of England, University of Essex, University of Kent.

Potential partners sought (skills wanted) / *Partenaires potentiels recherchés (compétences recherchées)* :

England / Angleterre :

...Anglia Care Trust, Essex and Kent YOS, Equalities and Human Rights Commissions in Essex and Kent Prison and Probation Services in each region, Police Services in each region, VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) in each region, specialist resettlement and re-entry projects, employment projects who have experience of the proposed client group.

France / France :

...Universities of Arras, Rouen, and Amiens, equivalent statutory and voluntary bodies in each region.

Start date and end date of the project / *Dates de début et de fin du projet:*

...October 2018 end June 2023

Estimated project cost / *Coût estimé du projet:*

6M Euros.

Other comments / *Autres commentaires :*

...

Has a programme facilitator from the InterregVA FCE Joint Technical Secretariat provided advice to the project applicant? / *Un coordinateur de l'animation du Secrétariat Technique Conjoint FMA a-t-il conseillé le porteur du projet ?*

Keep only one and erase the others/ *Garder un seul et effacer les autres*

Yes / *Oui*

No / *Non*

If yes, facilitator's name / *Si oui, quel est le nom du coordinateur de l'animation ?*

Name / *Nom:*

Alexander Larter