Review of the Metropolitan Police Service Gangs Violence Matrix – A one-year update

MAYOR OF LONDON

OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

Introduction

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Gangs Violence Matrix (GVM) was developed in the aftermath of the 2011 London riots and is a tool used to identify and risk-assess the most harmful gang members in a Borough. From inception, the GVM has been controversial, and a number of in-depth reviews have been conducted, focusing on issues such as disproportionality and data protection.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, made a commitment to Londoners in his 2016 manifesto and his Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 to conduct a review of the GVM. This was published in December 2018 and was the largest and most comprehensive exploration ever conducted into the Matrix – exploring themes of impact, partnership views and disproportionality.[i] The Review set out nine recommendations to be completed by the 31st December 2019. Established within these recommendations was the need to systematically capture key elements of the Matrix process and report annually on outputs in terms of the Matrix population. This report forms one part of the full annual review.

The analysis does not intend to replicate the original comprehensive analysis exploring impact and process presented in the landmark Mayoral Review of the Matrix. The focus of this paper is to explore the population on the Matrix, with an emphasis on how the Matrix population has changed - if at all - in terms of size, demographics and harm in the period since the Mayoral Review was conducted and to highlight areas that still require improvements to systematic data capture.

The analysis in this paper was completed in autumn 2019 and uses Matrix data and crime data up to October 2019. The delay in publication of this paper is due to significant operational pressures relating to the COVID pandemic. The next review of the Matrix population is scheduled to be carried out in spring 2021 and will subsequently be published.

The backdrop of violence in London

As has been outlined previously, since 2014 England and Wales has seen a substantial rise in violence – be this knife crime (70%), knife violence with injury (VWI) (47%) or homicide (24%). This has also been seen within London, for knife crime (50%), knife VWI (8%) and homicide (27%). For a deeper exploration of the most recent MPS violence statistics – see **Table 1** below. Positively, there would appear to be signs that this violence has begun to stabilise in London – particularly the more severe type of offending - with more recent decreases being seen in knife crime with injury and gun crime offences.

Table 1: Metropolitan Police Service recorded crime statistics comparing 18/19 and 19/20

		2018/19	2019/20	% change
Violence Against Person	Violence Against the Person	209,121	219,751	5.1%
	Violence with Injury	77,145	77,493	0.5%
	Homicide	139	136	-2.2%
	Youth Homicide	29	34	17.2%
	Serious Youth Violence	7,800	8,220	5.4%
	Non-Domestic Abuse VWI	53,137	53,780	1.2%
	Violence without Injury	131,837	142,122	7.8%
Weapons	Possession of Weapons	7,647	7,376	-3.5%
	Knife Crime Offences	14,658	15,153	3.4%
	Knife Crime With Injury	4,469	3,983	-10.9%
	Knife Crime With Injury victims under 25 (non DA)	1,914	1,669	-12.8%
	Knife Crime with Injury Personal Robbery	614	557	-9.3%
	Knife Possession	5,425	5,399	-0.5%
	Gun Crime Offences	2,499	2,063	-17.4%
	Gun Crime Lethal Discharge	414	306	-26.1%
	Gun Crime Personal Robbery	626	484	-22.7%

To supplement our understanding - beside the official statistics – it is also useful to present what proportions of certain offences are believed to be related to gangs. As the previous Review indicated, the measurement of gang-related activity through police indices is likely to be inaccurate and may potentially underrepresent the true prevalence in this area. With this in mind, the proportion of incidences of 'gang involvement' would appear to have reduced across many violence measures (i.e., homicides, knife injury under 25, lethal barrel discharge) – see **Table 2**.

In addition to recording practices, the MPS suggest reasons for the reductions include the policing focus on gang criminality, the transference of violence into other related areas (e.g. organised crime and 'county lines') and a reduction in gang-related intelligence reporting.[1] Nonetheless, gang-related violence still accounts for a significant proportion of the most

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[1] It should also be noted that the level of investigative resource allocated to the most serious violence (e.g. homicides, firearms) will generate greater detail as to the activities and associations of those involved; gang associations may therefore be more apparent.

serious violence in London; over half of shootings and nearly one quarter of homicides are believed to be linked to gangs.

Table 2: The proportions of violence associated with gangs (MPS)

		2016	2017	2018	2019*
Homicide	**All Homicides**	**112**	**136**	**134**	**115**
	Gang related	29%	27%	34%	22%
	Homicide (Non-DA & Non-CT)	**95**	**115**	**105**	**115**
	Gang related	35%	32%	44%	22%
Firearms	**Lethal Barrelled Discharge**	**334**	**354**	**433**	**214**
	Gang related	50%	40%	49%	38%
	Lethal Barrelled Discharge - Victim Shot	**136**	**144**	**142**	**75**
	Gang related	62%	49%	63%	52%
Knives	**Knife Injury under 25 (Non-DA)**	**1853**	**2138**	**1827**	**1271**
	Gang related	26%	21%	19%	15%

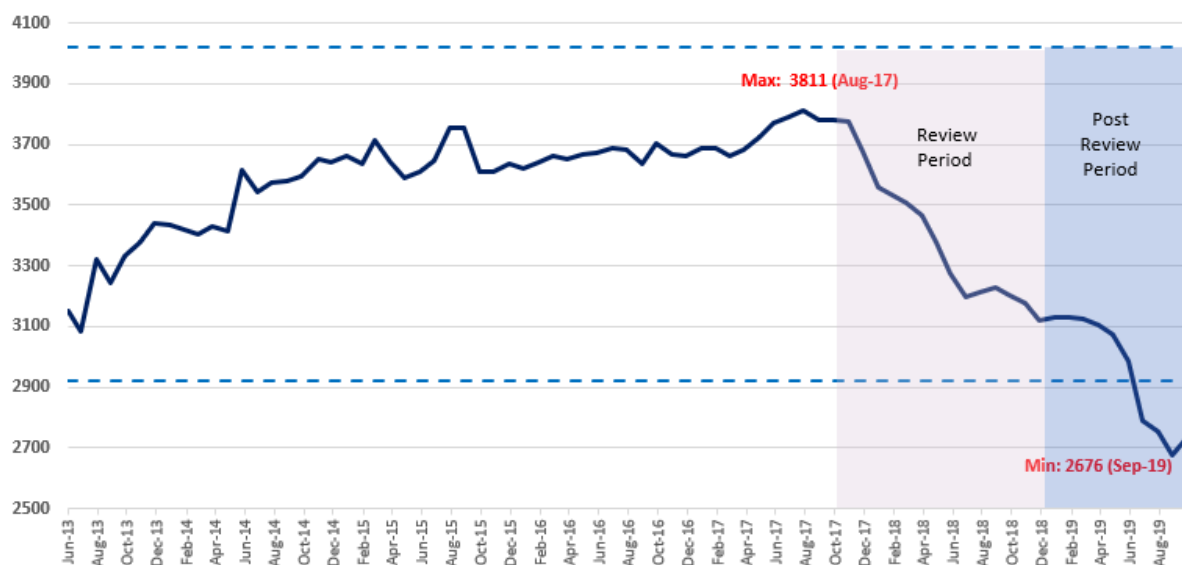*Up to and including 30th September.*

Exploring the Gangs Violence Matrix Population since the original MOPAC Review

A reducing population over time

The overall population of the Gangs Violence Matrix has steadily decreased since November 2017. The timings align with a number of reviews into the Matrix, such as the Information Commissioner's Office review (October 2017 to November 2018), the Amnesty review (mid 2017 to May 2018) as well as the period in which the Mayoral Review was taking place (Autumn 2017 to December 2018). However, as can be seen from

Graph 1, early summer 2019 saw a further sharp reduction in the cohort on the Matrix. Indeed, the Matrix population has reached its lowest total in six and a half years at 2,676 individuals during September 2019; itself a 30% decrease from the peak in August 2017. The move outside the dotted lines indicates a significant decrease in population compared to historical levels. The drivers for this shift are discussed in later in the report.
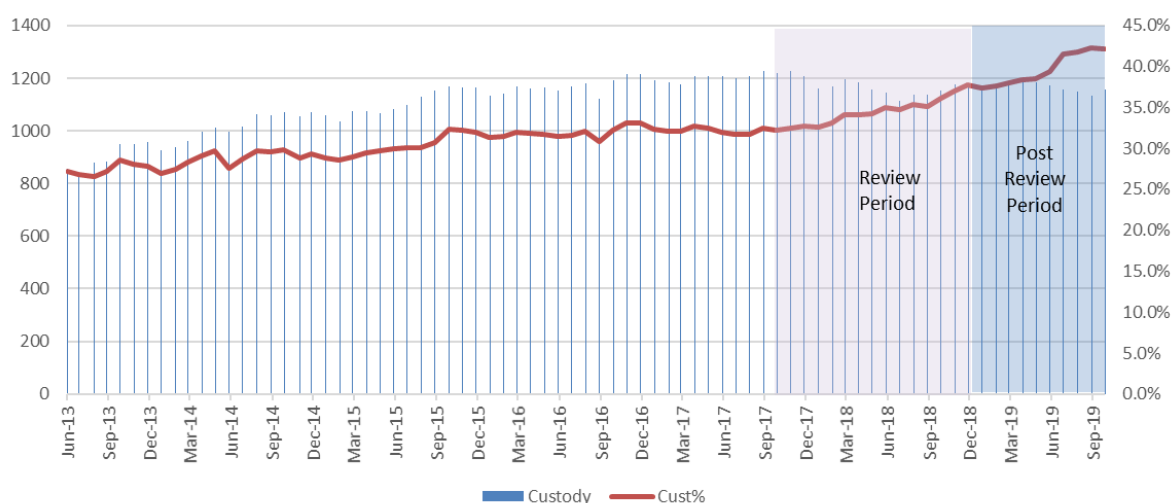
Graph 1: Matrix overall population over time

Individuals on the Matrix may be subject to certain controls from the courts if they have been found guilty of an offence – such as a custodial sentence or judicial restrictions such as Criminal Behaviour Orders, injunctions or restrictions on licence conditions. In a snapshot from October 2019, 51% (n=1,399) of Matrix individuals are subject to *some form* of control; this compares to 48% in a September 2018 snapshot from the original Matrix Review.

The proportion of Matrix individuals **in custody** has steadily increased over time (see **Graph 2**); since October 2018 the rate of this increase month-on-month has accelerated. A significantly greater proportion are in custody on the latest Matrix (October 2019; 42.1%) compared to the snapshot in the Matrix Review (May 2018; 34.3%).

Graph 2: Proportion of Matrix individuals in custody

In a snapshot from October 2019, 426 individuals are subject to one or more **judicial restrictions**.[2] Of these, 243 are 'live' and 183 in custody. 15% of 'live' individuals were subject to a Judicial restriction, a comparable proportion to the May 2018 figure used in the original review. Enhanced Prison Licence conditions account for nearly 60% of all Judicial Restrictions, whilst Criminal Behaviour Orders make up just over one third (36%). As with proportions in custody, there continues to be some significant Borough variation in the use of Judicial Restrictions). For example, of Boroughs with 100 or more 'live' individuals on their Matrix, Lambeth have 20% (n=29) subject to Judicial Restrictions whilst Westminster have only 10% (n=14).

Local variation remains evident in population change

As we have seen, the size of the overall Matrix population has been reducing – however, within this there remains considerable variation across London. Looking at long-term change, comparing average Borough Matrix population in 2019 to 2013, 20 out of 32 Boroughs decreased their Matrix population and 12 saw small increases. As **Table 3** shows, over a shorter term, comparing average population size between 2018 and 2019, 28 of 32 Boroughs saw decreases, with only four increasing, and all very small in real terms.

Table 3 also shows that Boroughs with average Matrix populations of over 100 (e.g. **Brent**, **Enfield**, **Waltham Forest**, **Southwark** , **Camden** and **Croydon)** have seen the largest decreases in average population. Conversely, the Boroughs of **Westminster** and **Islington** have seen substantial increases.

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[2] 47 individuals have two separate restrictions, and three have 3.

Table 3 also illustrates the substantial fluctuation between years, with some Boroughs experiencing significant population changes at various points in the intervening years. When we consider these changes within the context of the overall violence across Boroughs, we can see that the distribution of the Matrix population generally reflects the distribution of violence. In terms of looking at the relationship between Boroughs with significant Matrix population increases or decreases and levels of violence on the Borough, there is no compelling pattern.

Table 3: Average monthly Matrix population, change and violent crime statistics

Borough	Average Monthly Matrix Population							Short Term Change (18 to 19)	Long Term Change (13 to 19)	Key Offence Types (Oct 2018 - Sep 2019)						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*			Total Notifiable Offences	Robbery	Violence with Injury	Youth Violence	Gun Crime	Knife Crime	Knife Crime with Injury
Lambeth	226.3	236.0	253.8	231.5	315.0	291.6	249.4	-14%	10%	35,961	1,299	3,514	683	121	581	205
Westminster	189.8	213.4	240.5	242.3	248.3	261.3	238.6	-9%	26%	81,091	4,432	3,962	829	113	1,147	194
Brent	323.6	455.0	286.3	283.3	254.6	212.5	195.2	-8%	-40%	30,405	1,379	3,063	660	102	613	155
Waltham Forest	237.4	301.8	223.0	213.6	213.5	204.8	157.2	-23%	-34%	24,152	837	2,091	527	87	368	119
Newham	198.0	183.5	195.3	202.6	213.7	191.3	147.0	-23%	-26%	36,329	1,842	3,225	789	87	701	187
Barnet	110.3	120.0	106.3	137.9	190.7	155.1	140.8	-9%	28%	30,853	1,134	2,284	587	95	456	113
Enfield	221.5	265.2	277.3	297.6	252.6	157.0	133.6	-15%	-40%	29,901	1,566	2,768	884	108	736	167
Islington	70.4	96.4	175.8	157.0	153.4	139.8	133.0	-5%	89%	29,839	1,502	2,354	491	49	528	119
Hackney	140.0	136.1	145.3	137.8	108.6	116.0	121.0	4%	-14%	34,364	1,991	3,021	656	85	702	192
Greenwich	123.3	125.7	138.2	153.9	164.7	137.7	120.4	-13%	-2%	28,501	847	2,844	656	61	424	149
Haringey	169.4	201.2	195.3	182.3	153.7	123.6	114.4	-7%	-32%	32,300	2,482	2,767	689	128	925	189
Tower Hamlets	115.6	164.9	152.8	138.8	125.0	119.1	99.8	-16%	-14%	34,785	1,410	3,032	687	50	562	146
Southwark	176.8	181.4	193.8	181.3	168.3	114.9	97.4	-15%	-45%	39,379	2,382	3,308	733	94	760	202
Wandsworth	153.3	117.5	94.4	100.9	109.0	110.1	94.0	-15%	-39%	25,942	873	2,333	476	41	409	123
Ealing	97.2	83.1	83.3	72.3	85.8	83.2	88.0	6%	-9%	31,114	1,233	2,909	626	63	520	158
Barking & Dagenham	72.9	73.5	101.7	115.0	123.8	101.2	79.4	-22%	9%	19,903	1,091	2,177	649	64	462	106
Camden	150.3	87.6	74.5	81.2	84.3	77.3	77.2	0%	-49%	38,952	1,866	2,332	477	51	562	144
Lewisham	90.3	61.7	124.0	116.0	123.3	90.2	72.0	-20%	-20%	28,786	1,246	3,045	729	94	583	172
Croydon	133.0	95.7	96.2	108.2	109.0	79.9	69.4	-13%	-48%	33,172	1,146	3,480	869	91	517	166
Harrow	75.5	78.1	64.3	64.9	69.3	72.4	68.0	-6%	-10%	17,166	606	1,564	344	22	252	66
Hammersmith & Fulham	50.6	31.8	43.5	48.0	56.7	72.8	66.0	-9%	30%	23,721	883	1,908	438	43	412	107
Redbridge	25.3	27.1	37.8	38.0	43.7	49.1	45.6	-7%	81%	24,002	1,013	2,170	598	72	386	111
Kensington & Chelsea	59.6	52.3	51.7	52.8	46.2	43.5	38.4	-12%	-36%	24,436	894	1,475	261	31	353	114
Merton	37.2	54.3	55.8	56.5	58.0	39.9	34.4	-14%	-7%	14,483	428	1,369	352	35	245	71
Bromley	13.4	15.6	27.2	44.9	39.5	30.9	28.6	-7%	113%	24,600	449	2,126	508	32	225	59
Havering	14.8	20.3	23.5	39.1	42.9	31.9	23.6	-26%	60%	19,183	724	1,881	553	45	287	67
Bexley	13.0	14.8	15.9	14.5	15.4	24.2	22.6	-6%	74%	17,863	356	1,868	443	38	181	48
Hillingdon	4.0	21.7	59.0	73.5	49.1	20.8	21.6	4%	440%	27,077	821	2,505	620	40	382	107
Sutton	4.2	5.0	5.1	2.8	2.8	3.3	5.6	72%	34%	13,645	293	1,442	386	23	145	39
Hounslow	34.1	92.5	105.1	80.7	29.6	7.3	5.0	-31%	-85%	26,607	792	2,463	587	70	372	111
Richmond-Upon-Thames	3.0	4.0	5.1	7.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	0%	-33%	12,778	469	882	323	16	200	38
Kingston-Upon-Thames	4.5	3.4	4.2	3.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	0%	-78%	13,108	350	1,230	324	12	155	38
Average	104.3	113.1	114.2	115.0	114.2	98.9	87.2		-16%	28262.4	1207.4	2418.5	576.1	64.5	473.5	124.4

* Time periods are June on year stated to May folowing year, inclusive. 2019 relates to June to September inclusive.

A change in demographics of those on the Matrix

A number of findings emerged from the original Matrix Review in terms of population change and demographics – such as the almost exclusively male population, the over-representation of young Black males when compared to other databases or cohorts, the substantial proportion that had remained on the Matrix for a number of years, as well as the number of individuals with a long term 'Green' harm banding or 'zero harm' score.

Table 4 below presents the demographics of the Matrix *over time*, compared with additions for 2018 (Review year) and 2019 (the first year subsequent to the Review). This enables us to begin to explore whether the demographics of the group are changing.

As can be seen, in terms of gender, the proportion that is male has not changed in the two most recent years – the Matrix cohort is, and has always been, made up almost exclusively of males (99.7% in 2018; 99.6% in 2019). In terms of age of the cohort, the proportion and count of **under-18** individuals have appeared to *decrease* subsequent to the original Review - from 14% in 2018 (n=442) to 6% in 2019 (n=169) – which at an individual level is a 62% reduction in this cohort. At no other time in Matrix history has the proportion of under-18s been this low. A similar picture emerges when looking at the proportion of the Matrix that is under 25 (a reduction from 72% in 2018, to 64% in 2019).

Historically, the Matrix has been comprised disproportionately of Black African-Caribbean males. When examining the two previous years, the proportion of the Matrix that are BAME has remained stable; 88% in September 2018 to 89% in October 2019. Similarly, the proportion of Black African Caribbean individuals has remained stable; 80% in September 2018 to 81% in October 2019.

Table 4: Matrix demographics over time

GVM Snapshot Comparison		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Real % Change
Total Population		3331	3594	3612	3704	3783	3223	2746	-14.8%
	Live	71%	70%	68%	68%	68%	65%	58%	-23.9%
	Custody	29%	30%	32%	32%	32%	35%	42%	1.9%
Gender	% Male	99.1%	98.9%	99.3%	99.3%	99.3%	99.7%	99.6%	
Ethnicity	% White	13%	14%	14%	14%	13%	12%	11%	
	% BAME	87%	86%	86%	86%	87%	88%	89%	
	% Black African-Caribbean	*78%*	*76%*	*77%*	*77%*	*78%*	*80%*	*81%*	
Age	Overall (Avg)	20.8	21.5	21.5	21.9	22.2	22.8	23.3	
	Live	20.5	21.2	21.2	21.7	22.0	22.5	22.9	
	Custody	21.4	22.0	22.1	22.4	22.6	23.4	23.8	
	% U18	19%	15%	16%	14%	14%	14%	6%	-61.8%
	% U25	86%	82%	80%	76%	73%	72%	64%	-25.2%
RAG Status	Red	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	
	Amber	40%	33%	34%	34%	31%	31%	30%	
	Green	54%	62%	61%	61%	64%	65%	66%	
	% of GVM Green U18	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	2%	-69.4%
	% of GVM Green 18-24	37%	41%	39%	38%	38%	37%	34%	
Live	Red	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%	
	Amber	39%	32%	33%	33%	31%	31%	31%	
	Green	57%	65%	63%	63%	65%	66%	66%	
	% of Live GVM Green U18	9%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	3%	-67.3%
	% of Live GVM Green 18-24	39%	43%	40%	38%	37%	37%	36%	
Custody	Red	12%	9%	8%	7%	8%	6%	7%	
	Amber	43%	37%	37%	35%	32%	31%	29%	
	Green	45%	54%	56%	58%	60%	63%	64%	
	% of Custody GVM Green U18	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	
	% of Custody GVM Green 18-24	31%	38%	37%	39%	39%	37%	32%	

Snapshots all from October of given year apart from 2018 which relates to Septmember snapshot prsented in original review.

Matrix Churn – who has been removed since the original Review?

One clear area of interest is a richer exploration of the churn that has been observed. As previously outlined, there has been a marked reduction in the overall size of the Matrix cohort. Over three times as many individuals have been removed from the Matrix than added since May 2018. This section explores the additions and removals to the Matrix.

Additions to the Matrix

There have been 339 'new' individuals ***added*** to the Matrix after May 2018. **Table 5** provides an overview of those new additions as well as how this compares with those added to Matrix in previous years. As an overview, we can see:

- The proportion that are male has remained stable – again almost all new additions are male.
- There are some changes in terms of ethnicity. The proportion of new additions that are white has increased, from 10% in 2018 (n=24) to 20% in 2019 (n=24); whilst BAME overall has reduced from 89% in 2018 (n=197) to 79% in 2019 (n=94), as well as Black African Caribbean from 82.8% in 2018 (n=183) to 66% in 2019 (n=78).
- Under-18s have reduced significantly, so much so that only 25% (n=30) of new additions during 2019 were this age, compared to 42% in 2018 (n=94).
- Significant variation between Boroughs in terms of numbers added to local Matrix; this may be reflective of local priorities, resourcing and recent gang tensions. For example, one Borough's Matrix population more than doubled between September and October 2019 as 71 individuals were added due to an increase in gang tensions on the Borough.

Of note, the original Mayoral Review highlighted the heavy disproportionality in terms of BAME and specifically Black African-Caribbean males. When focusing purely upon those new additions we do see a more proportionate group and one that, whilst still above the general population, is more aligned to the proportions of specific crime types. For example, figures from the original Review show Black African-Caribbean men as offenders for 68% of homicides (victim under 25); 63% of gang-flagged violence, and 57% of knife injury (victim under 25 non-domestic abuse); more commensurate with the 66% of new additions to the Matrix that were Black. However, we do acknowledge that young Black males continue to be disproportionately represented on the Matrix.

Table 5: Additions to the Matrix

Additions to Matrix	Base	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six	Year Seven*
	2012	Jun 13-May 14	Jun 14-May 15	Jun 15-May 16	Jun 16-May 17	Jun 17-May 18	Jun 18-May 19	Jun 19-Oct 19
Male	**99%**	**98%**	**99%**	**98%**	**98%**	**99%**	**99%**	**100%**
White	13.5%	15.2%	17.6%	20.2%	13.0%	17.7%	10.9%	20.3%
BAME	**86.5%**	**84.8%**	**82.4%**	**79.8%**	**87.0%**	**82.3%**	**89.4%**	**79.7%**
Black African Caribbean	*75.9%*	*75.2%*	*67.3%*	*69.0%*	*78.9%*	*74.6%*	*82.8%*	*66.1%*
U18	**25.7%**	**31.9%**	**40.7%**	**48.6%**	**52.3%**	**55.6%**	**42.4%**	**25.0%**
U25	85.8%	86.2%	84.9%	90.2%	91.5%	93.8%	94.0%	83.9%
Average Age	**20.4**	**20.2**	**19.7**	**18.8**	**18.4**	**18.0**	**19.4**	**20.4**
TOTAL ADDITIONS*		896	1070	803	673	611	221	118

Year Seven data is Jun-19 to Oct-19 inclusive. No duiplicate counts. Total removals by year are based analysis of monthly snapshots and is indicative only.

Removals from the Matrix

A total of 1,072 individuals have been *removed* from the Matrix since May 2018. See **Table 6** for an overview as how this compares to previous years and removals. Overall, findings indicate:

- The proportion of under-18s and under-25s removed has appeared to gradually decrease over time. To illustrate, only 4.2% of removals in 2019 were under 18 compared to 12.7% in 2018 and 21% in 2012.
- The proportion of those removed by ethnicity has remained relatively stable over time – for the BAME population this figure has remained around the 83-85% mark. Within this, the proportion of Black African-Caribbean removals has fluctuated, increasing overall since 2016.
- Again, there is much variation between Boroughs in terms of numbers removed.

Table 6: Removals from the Matrix

Removals from Matrix	Base	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six	Year Seven*
	2012	Jun 13-May 14	Jun 14-May 15	Jun 15-May 16	Jun 16-May 17	Jun 17-May 18	Jun 18-May 19	Jun 19-Oct 19
White	13.8%	18.4%	19.2%	16.7%	17.5%	15.0%	13.0%	14.5%
BAME	**86.2%**	**81.6%**	**80.8%**	**83.3%**	**82.5%**	**85.0%**	**86.2%**	**85.4%**
Black African Caribbean	*70.8%*	*70.9%*	*65.6%*	*74.9%*	*67.3%*	*75.8%*	*79.3%*	*75.0%*
U18	**21.4%**	**16.1%**	**11.5%**	**11.3%**	**13.5%**	**12.7%**	**9.8%**	**4.2%**
U25	77.7%	82.0%	73.5%	74.2%	69.9%	66.3%	64.3%	51.9%
Average Age	**21.6**	**21.5**	**22.4**	**22.6**	**22.6**	**23.0**	**23.2**	**24.5**
TOTAL REMOVALS*		750	1064	697	631	1006	600	472

Year Seven data is Jun-19 to Oct-19 inclusive. No duplicate counts. Total additions by year are based analysis of monthly snapshots, and is indicative only.

The MPS 'Green Review': analytical insight

The original Review of the Matrix identified a substantial number of individuals on the Matrix with a 'Green' harm banding and a 'zero-harm' score, and in turn recommended a *'thorough reappraisal'* of these individuals. As a result, beginning in March 2019 the MPS undertook the review of all individuals on the Matrix with a 'Green' harm banding, with a focus on 'live' individuals (i.e. not in custody). The MPS stated that a total of 1,338 individuals were identified, of which 488 (36% of the group) have since been removed. Above all other factors, this removal of Green individuals is the largest contributor to the overall reduction observed in the Matrix population.

This is evidenced in the data:

- Analysis demonstrates that since April 2019, at least 511 individuals have been removed from the Matrix, almost all (93%, n=473) were green status.
- 315 of these had a zero-harm score at the time of their removal.
- The average age of those removed has steadily increased since the last analysis.

In addition to removing low harm individuals who had been identified as having no recent police intelligence or activity against them, the Review sought to establish the validity of those remaining on the Matrix. To this end, using a recent snapshot (n=2,727), the MPS identified a total of 696 individuals with intelligence logs referencing the requisite two of more pieces of intelligence demonstrating gang membership. 527 of these were added centrally as part of the 'Green Review', and 169 by Boroughs. This equates to 26% of the total population, and approximately 44% of the 'live' population at the time of analysis, indicating a substantial information gap.

A key question for the 'Green Review' is whether the most appropriate individuals have been removed. Preliminary analysis has been conducted to explore the offending behaviour of this 'Green' cohort (the bulk of all removals) subsequent to their removal. This analysis has limitations, with no comparison group and a focus upon 'charges' as opposed to 'conviction' - it is not as robust as the analytics undertaken within the original Review. Nonetheless, this can be a useful indicator of offending for this group.

- The analysis included all 'Green' individuals that were removed between May 2018 and May 2019 that had been on the Matrix for at least six months (n=583). **The majority of removed individuals had no charges in the six months before OR after removal (81%, n=473).**
- Results indicate that 11.8% of the individuals removed were charged with a new offence in the six months *subsequent to removal* (n=69).
- Whilst there is no comparison group in the current analysis, there are relevant findings on which to reflect. Within our original review – 19.8% of all Matrix individuals and 17.6% of Greens were convicted of an offence in the six months of removal from the Matrix.
- Whilst the victimisation data is less robust, analysis also indicated that the cohort removed were subject to extremely low levels of victimisation.
- Overall, findings are supportive of an argument that the vast majority of Greens removed were involved in zero or very low prevalence recent offending or victimisation and would therefore appear to have been appropriately removed.

Insights and intervention data

Understanding the nature and impact of non-enforcement interventions to which individuals on the Matrix are referred is crucial to any holistic assessment of the current approach to policing gangs. At the time of the original Review, there was a paucity of intervention data – i.e. the documentation of what the Matrix individuals had received (either enforcement or therapeutic) whilst on the Matrix. The original Review highlighted this absence of systematic data and made a specific recommendation that it be addressed.

> *'That the MPS improves systematic data capture across all aspects of the Matrix process. To include but not limited to: nature and extent of police activity for those on the Matrix; and nature and extent of non-enforcement interventions (needs, referrals, uptake and outcomes).*

Intervention data (i.e. type, numbers engaging, and recording method) was requested from all BCUs by MPS Central Intelligence in October 2019. Only two BCUs provided responses, and even within these responses, genuine detail was severely lacking. To illustrate, one Borough provided a list of *potential* interventions and highlighted that half of their cohort have at some point engaged – but provided no further detail on either. The other Borough provided some information on caseload but no detail on engagement, intervention or outcomes. Several ad-hoc examples of individual 'good news' cases on interventions were also provided, which whilst positive, do not help us to understand the overall picture.

The need for systematic data capture on this cohort for issues such as needs, referrals, outcomes and so on is an enabler for better working. It would lead to improved decision-making, the ability to evidence referrals aligned to need, understanding outcomes – as well as allowing for much more sophisticated analysis and insight on what worked and its impact.

Since the completion of this Review in 2019, we have learned that recording of interventions will improve when the MPS transition to a new IT system with a case management function from 2021. In the meantime, a pilot to record interventions offered to those on the GVM went live in September 2020 in Central North BCU (Camden and Islington) and Central South BCU (Lambeth and Southwark). This pilot will run for three months. At the conclusion of the pilot findings will then be reviewed and consideration given how to progress this work.

Summary

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, made a commitment to Londoners in his manifesto and his Police and Crime Plan to conduct a review of the MPS Gangs Violence Matrix. This was achieved and published in December 2018. This review outlined the need to report annually upon the progress made across a number of recommendations. This report forms part of this first full annual review and has had an exclusive focus upon the Matrix cohort and how it has changed, if at all, in the first year since the review.

Overall, the current report does illustrate changes to the Gangs Violence Matrix population of 2019 compared to previous cohorts. As a whole, there are far fewer individuals on the Matrix. Demographically there has been little change - the majority remain male and Black African-Caribbean - although there are signs that new Matrix additions during 2019 are slightly less disproportionate. The cohort are now also less likely to be young (i.e. under 25), and almost all of the decrease can be attributed to the removal of hundreds of individuals with a 'Green' harm banding. Analysis further indicates little evidence that this group has offended subsequent to being removed.

Finally, one of the Review recommendations was to improve the systematic data capture on individuals on the Matrix, especially around needs, referrals and outcomes. Whilst there is some evidence that Matrix administrative data (e.g. reasons for removal, evidence of gang affiliation) is now collated in a more standardised manner, significant gaps still remain. With regard to intervention data, the current report was unable to obtain any such data. However, we have since learned that the MPS have commenced a pilot to record intervention data in two BCUs, and recording will improve when the MPS transition to a new IT system in 2021. Such data is an enabler of all around better working and decision making, and as such remains a critical area to focus on.

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[i] MOPAC (2018) *Review of the Metropolitan Police Service Gangs Violence Matrix*. London: Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. Available from: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gangs_matrix_review_-_final.pdf