

# Serious Organised Crime & Child Criminal Exploitation Conference 2019

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

# David Harvie Crown Agent COPFS



CROWN OFFICE  
& PROCURATOR  
FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

**Maree Todd MSP  
Minister for Children and  
Young People**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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Paul Carberry

Action for Children – National  
Director for Scotland

# Service Origins and Development



- Serious Organised Crime Early Intervention Project
- Multi agency approach – shared information and intelligence
- Identified communities of need
- Mixed staff team including those with ‘lived experience’
- Engage at peak offending times (out of hours)
- Bespoke Action Plan for each individual
  - How and where we targeted them
  - Who could be approached in their network
  - Who could be a barrier
- Family Support
- Stabilise and engage in the programme
- Link into positive activity (training and employability)

# OC Group Network



# What Makes the Difference

- Organisational leadership and culture
- Partnership working – strategic, delivery, community
- Robust risk management
- The right balance of staff skills and experience
- Headhunted staff with knowledge of organised crime groups and communities
- Peer mentoring – involving those with ‘lived experience’
- Pro-social activities and networks
- Creative solutions, innovative ways of working
- Progression pathways, alternatives to career criminality
- Credibility with families and communities

# Desistance and Impact

- Edinburgh University Evaluation (2015) identified:
  - Perennial non-engagers
  - 93% social work involvement
  - 87% from pro-criminal families
  - 81% distributing/selling organised crime products
  - 75% of young people stabilised with no new offences
- Glasgow City Council analysis (2017-18) found:
  - 71% of participants kept out of secure care for at least six months – including those deemed “high risk” of entry to secure care by the children’s panel
  - Estimated £1m savings by preventing entry to secure care over the six month duration alone
- Latest evaluation of the most recent cohort (2018-19) finds:
  - Out of 49 young people, just four continued to offend after engaging with the project
  - 92% did not re-offend



# Future Evolution

- Investment of £4.6m secured from the UK Division of the National Lottery Community Fund:
  - Implement, deliver and evaluate four 'Proof of Concept' Pilots
  - UK coverage to test the concept over three years
  - Proven, core principles balanced with local refinements
  - Investment secured for Edinburgh circa £1.2m over three years
  - Phased roll-out, starting with Edinburgh as a position of strength
  - Build the UK evidence base, sustainability of learning
- Principles adopted by Home Office SOC Prevent Team
- Meeting with Deputy Mayor for London
- UK and international interest



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  

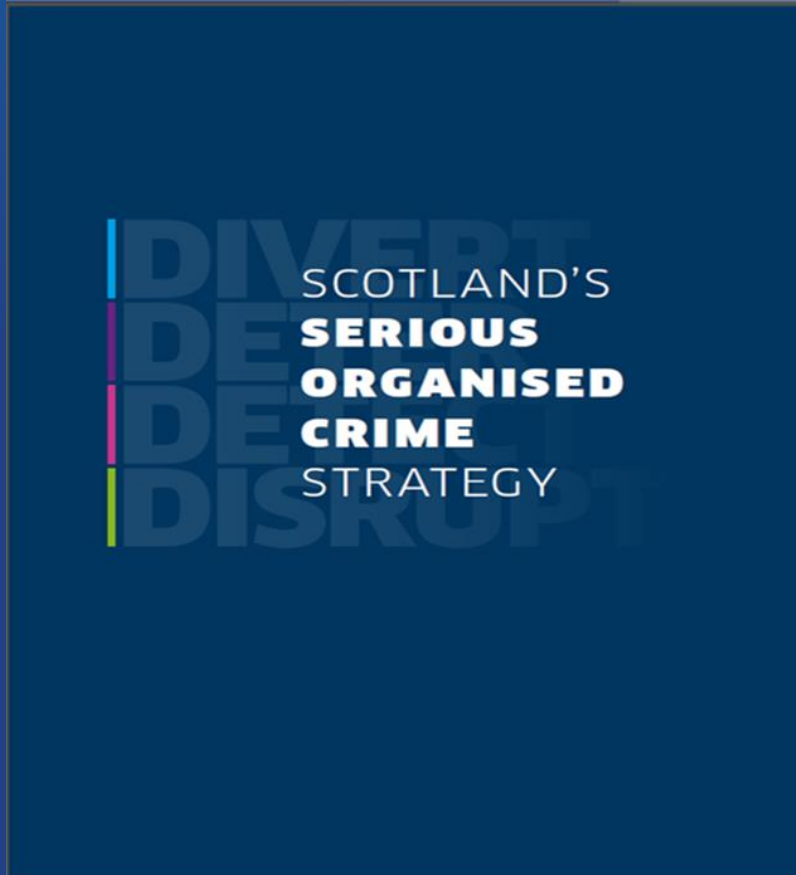
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**POILEAS ALBA**

# **Serious Organised Crime and Child Criminal Exploitation**

Chief Superintendent David Duncan, Divisional Commander,  
Safer Communities

# Scotland's SOC Strategy



- Reduce the harm caused by SOC
- Deliver through a 4 D approach



# What is Serious and Organised Crime?



- involves more than one person
- is organised; involves control, planning and use of specialist resources
- causes, or has the potential to cause, significant harm
- involves benefit to the individuals concerned, particularly financial gain.



# Working Together

## Scottish Crime Campus, Gartcosh



# SOC and Young People



- Raise awareness of the reality and consequences for young people
- Local interventions to support those at risk
- Effective rehabilitation



# County Lines



Gangs from cities in England are travelling to rural/coastal Scotland to deliver drugs and collect cash.

- Selling heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine, they use vulnerable young people to deliver drugs.
- This is called 'County Lines' because the gangs use one phone number 'line' to run their business in your area.

Are you being used in this way or do you know/suspect someone who is?

**Speak up. Stay safe.**  
Tell our charity what you know.

[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity.  
UK Registration Nos. 1108687/SC037960.

Scotland  
**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

- Recruit and exploit children/ young people in their own area to travel to rural/small towns to deal drugs
- Seek out the most vulnerable and groom them through the enticement of financial or material reward



# Vulnerable Children



**Speak up  
about criminals  
exploiting your  
community.**

Vulnerable people in  
your community are  
targets for violence, and  
trafficking of drugs.

#CountyLines

**Speak up. Stay safe.**  
Tell our charity what you know.

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Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity  
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Scotland  
**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

- Children from England travelling to Scotland to deal drugs
- Children in Scotland being used by English drug gangs





# Interventions in prisons to educate and support offenders away from SOC



- Police, SPS and partners
- 2016-2019: 49 programmes to 435 young people





**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  

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**POILEAS ALBA**

Chief Superintendent David Duncan

[Davie.Duncan@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Davie.Duncan@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

**R**ESearch  
**E**VIDENCE INTO  
**P**OLICY **P**ROGRAMMES  
AND **P**RACTICE



# *The Greentown Project: Lifting the lid on child participation in local criminal networks.*

Dr Catherine Naughton  
Prof Sean Redmond  
Eoin O'Meara Daly



An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of Children  
and Youth Affairs

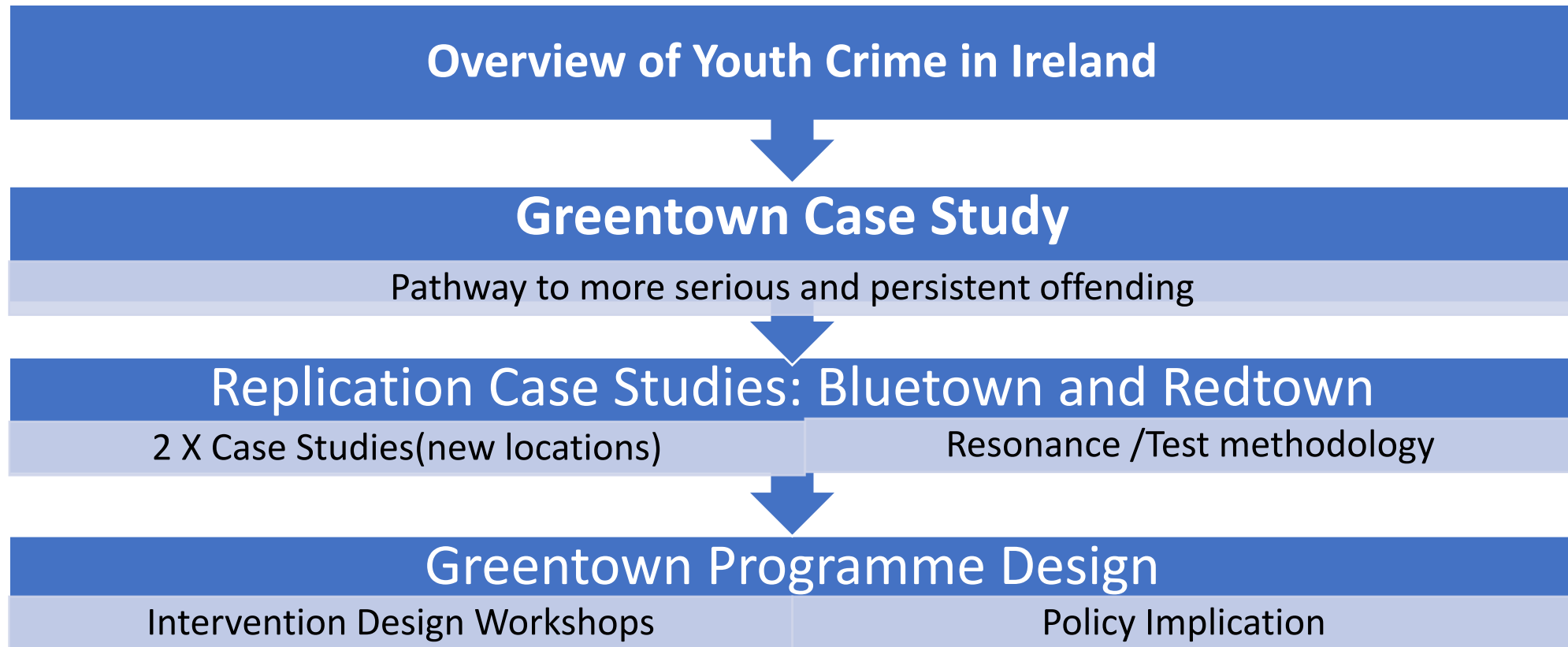


An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Justice  
and Equality



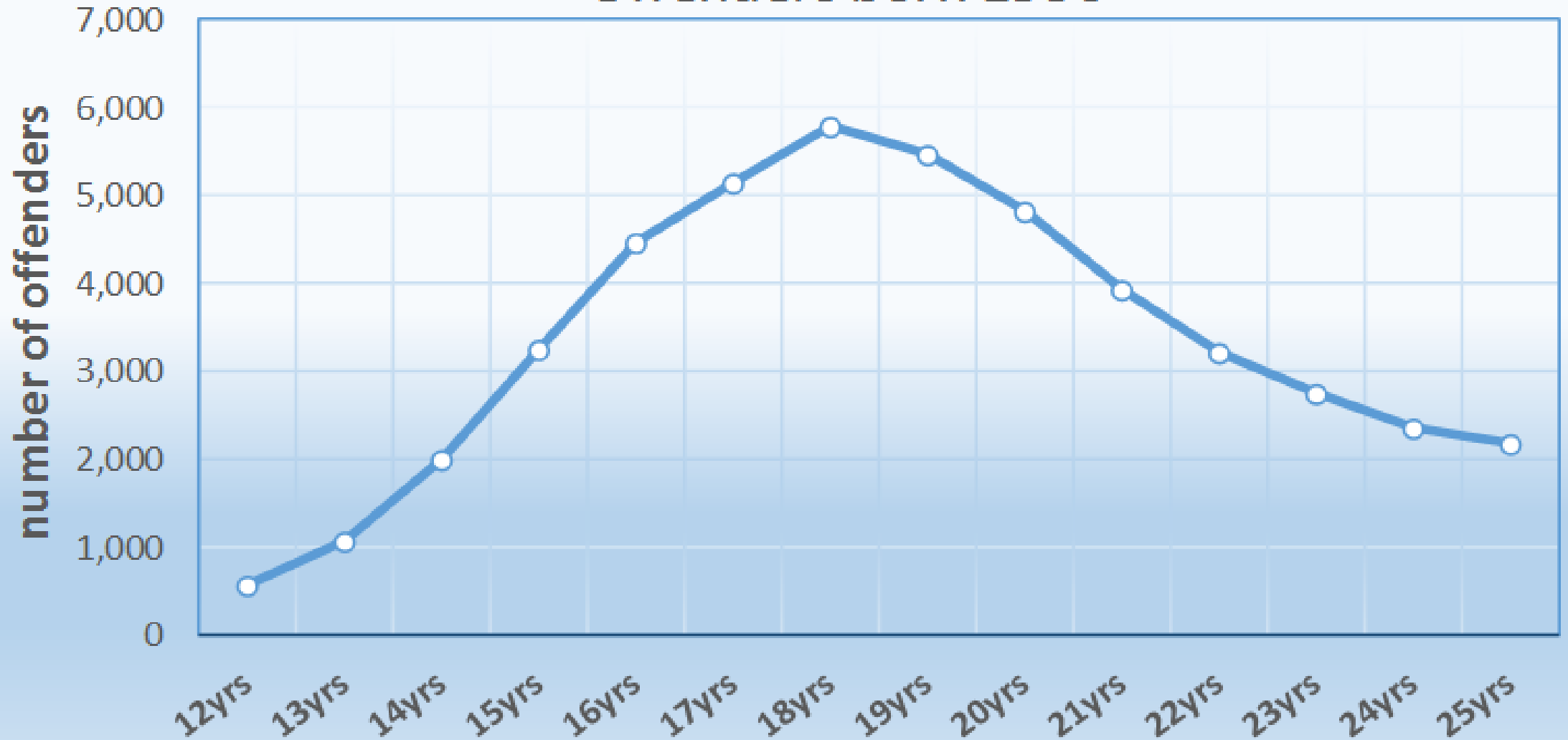
UNIVERSITY OF  
**LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

# Overview:

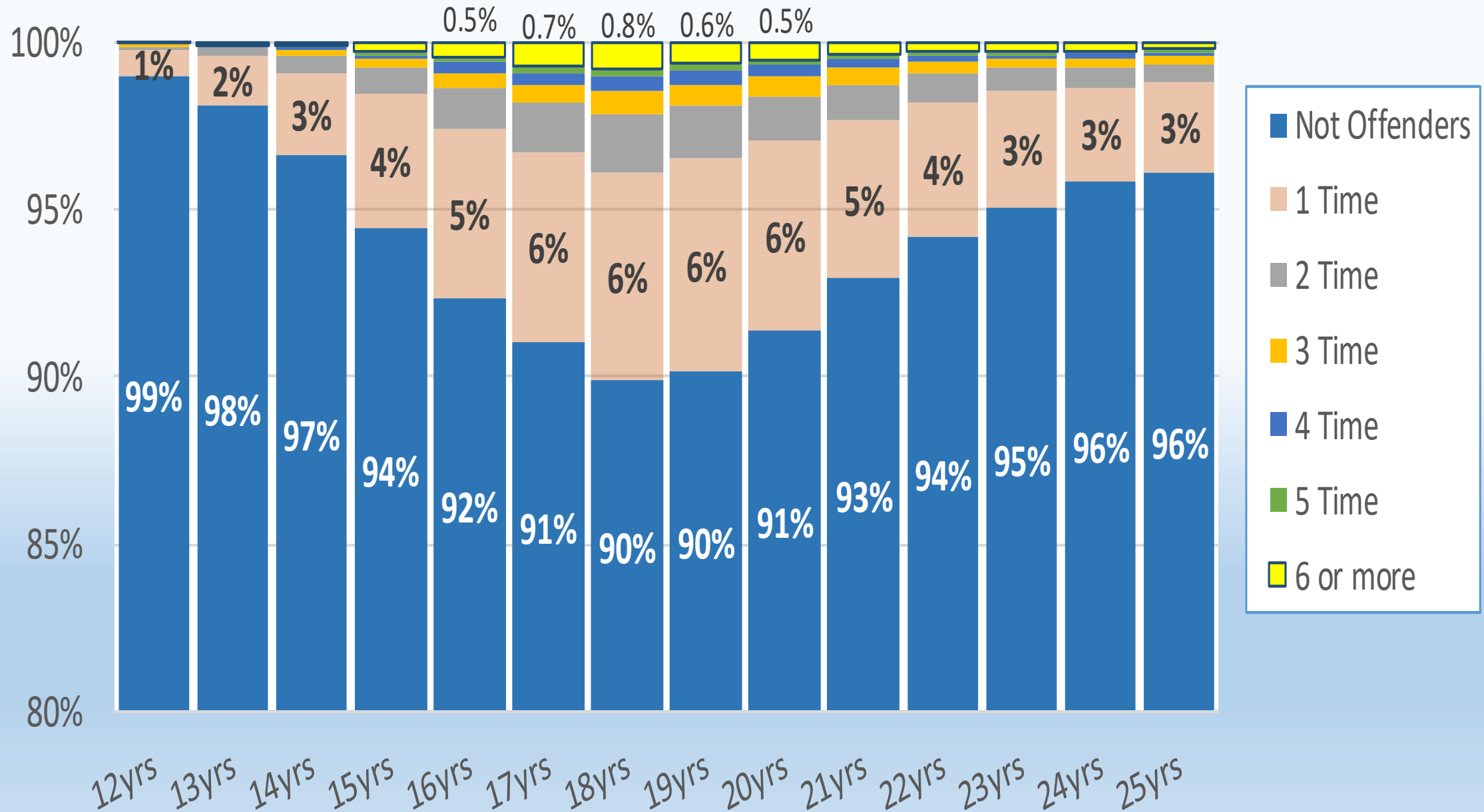


# Normal Youth Offending 'The Age-Crime curve Evidence'

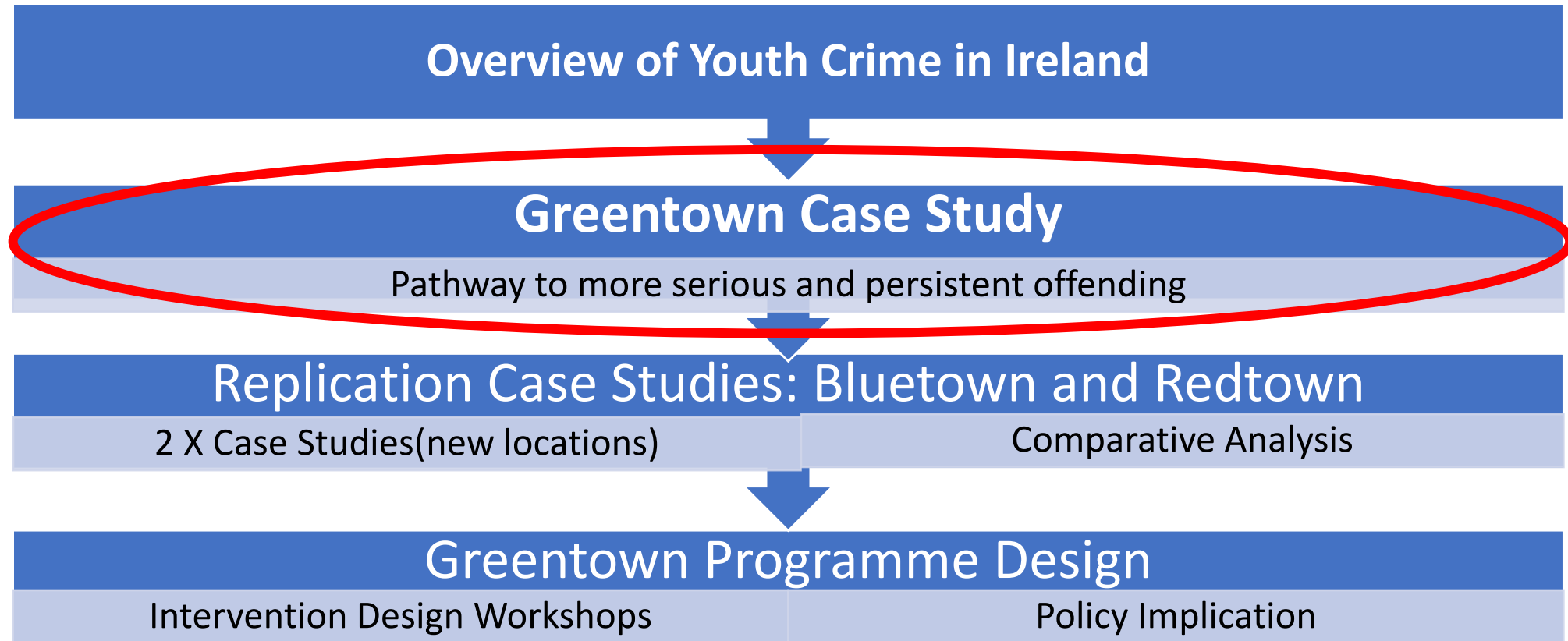
Offenders born 1990



# Age profile offending/non-offending (born 1990)



# Overview:



# Greentown Project

## Aim

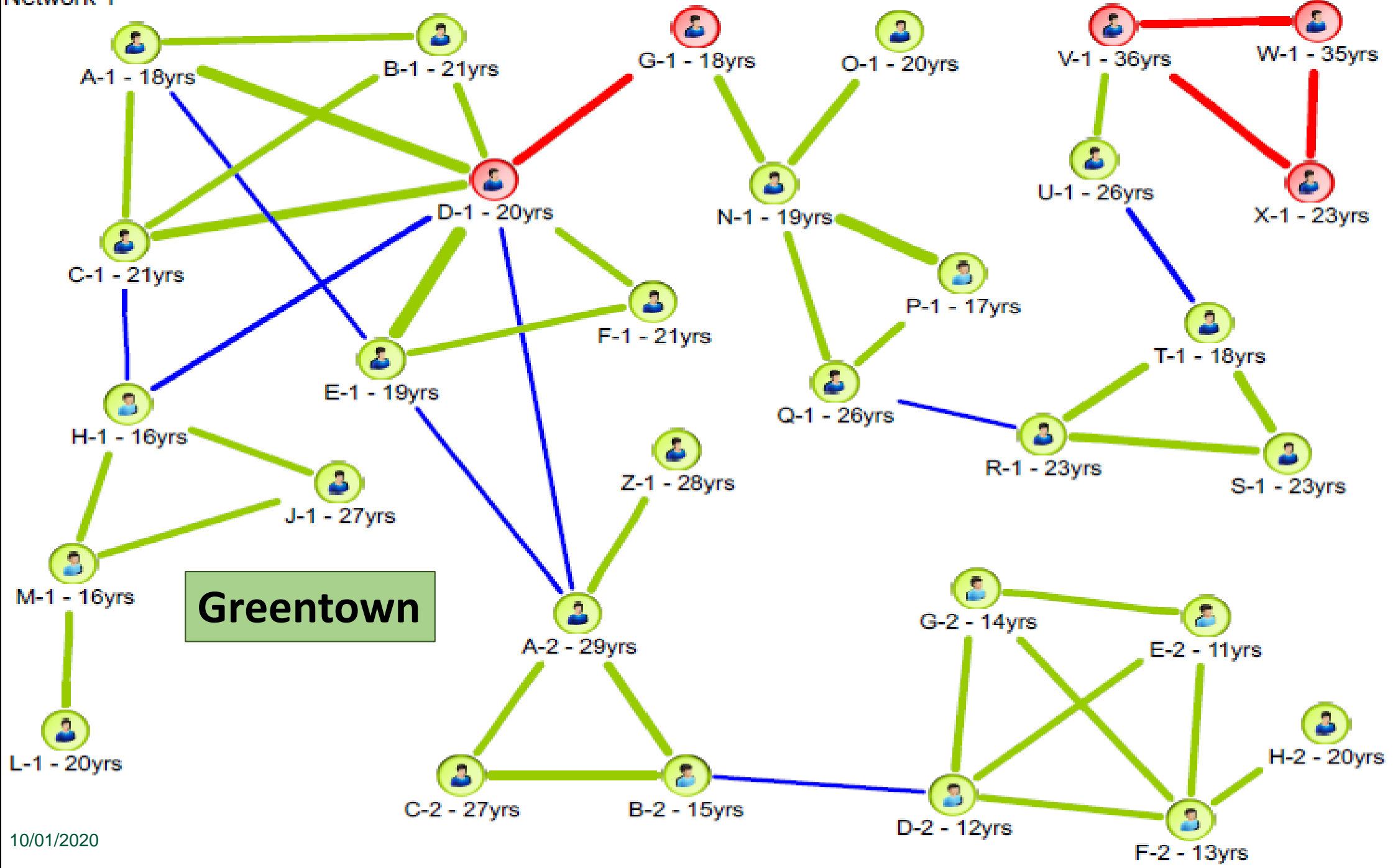
**To identify factors which impact on prolific and more serious offending**

- Adult involvement
- Focus on young people burglary and drugs for sale and supply
- Tapped into Police on the ground expertise
- In partnership with GSAS developed a local crime network in an anonymised provincial town in Ireland



<https://ulir.ul.ie/handle/10344/5793>





# Greentown Key Findings

## 1. Criminal network operating in Greentown

- **Complex relationships between adults and children**

# Original Greentown Key Findings

1. Network operating in Greentown – complex relationships between adults and children

## 2. Hierarchical

- **Core dominant crime family**
- **Generated a culture of fear and compliances both within the network and wider community. Sustained the network**

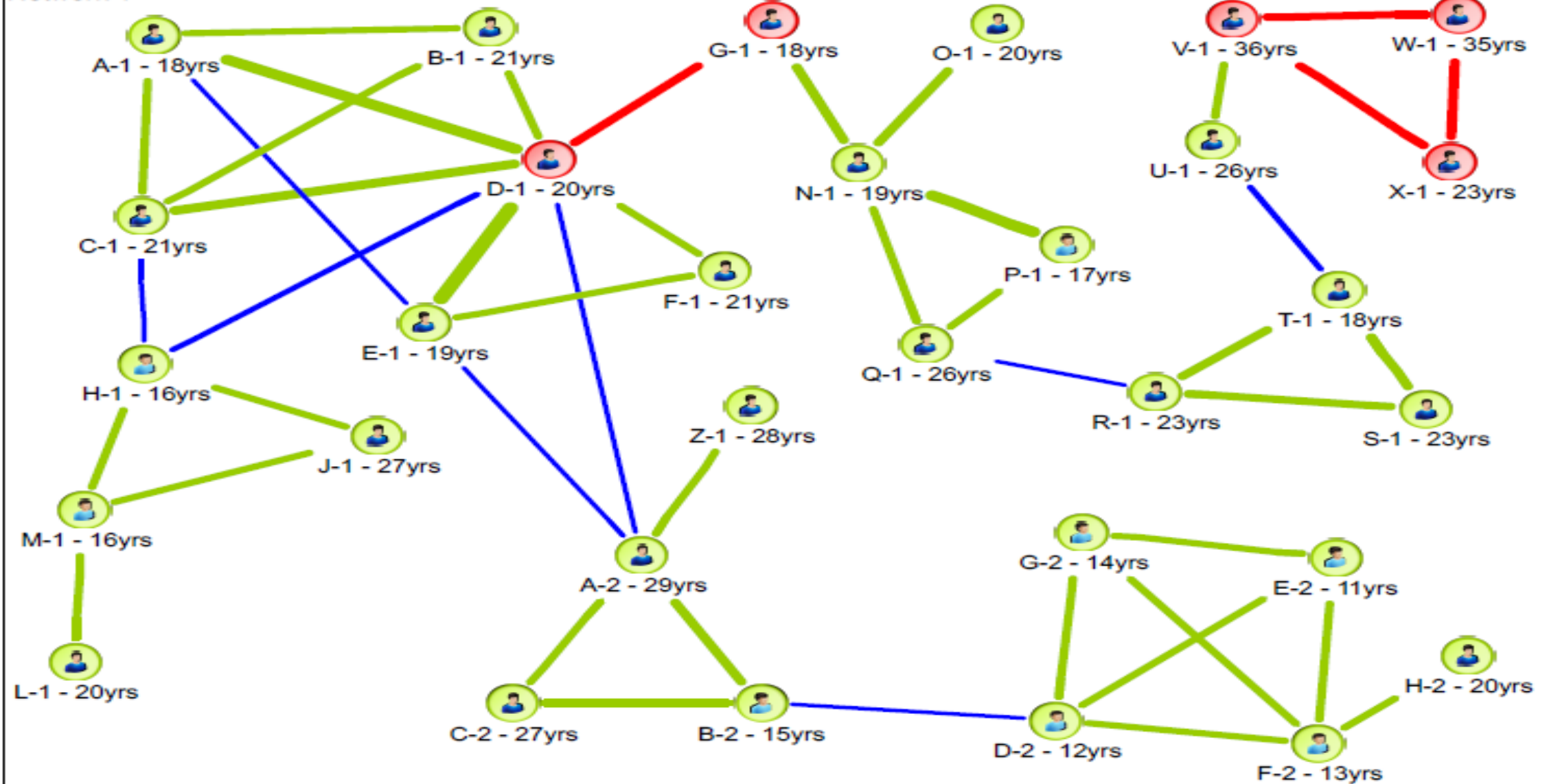
# Original Greentown Key Findings

1. Network operating in Greentown – complex relationships between adults and children
2. Hierarchical - generated powerful processes + culture of compliance- sustained the network

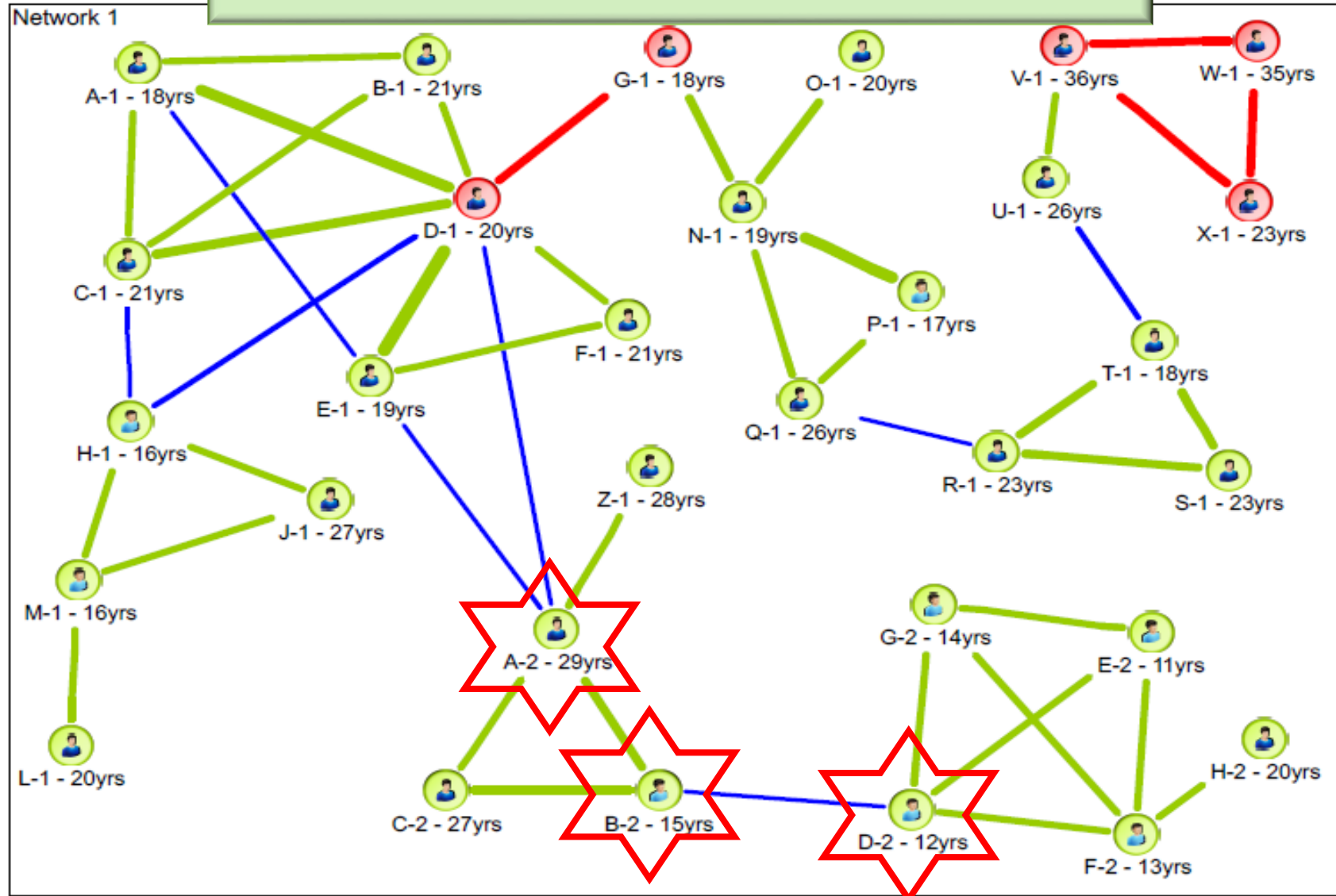
**3. Encouraged / compelled vulnerable children into atypical patterns of criminal behaviour**

# The Greentown Network

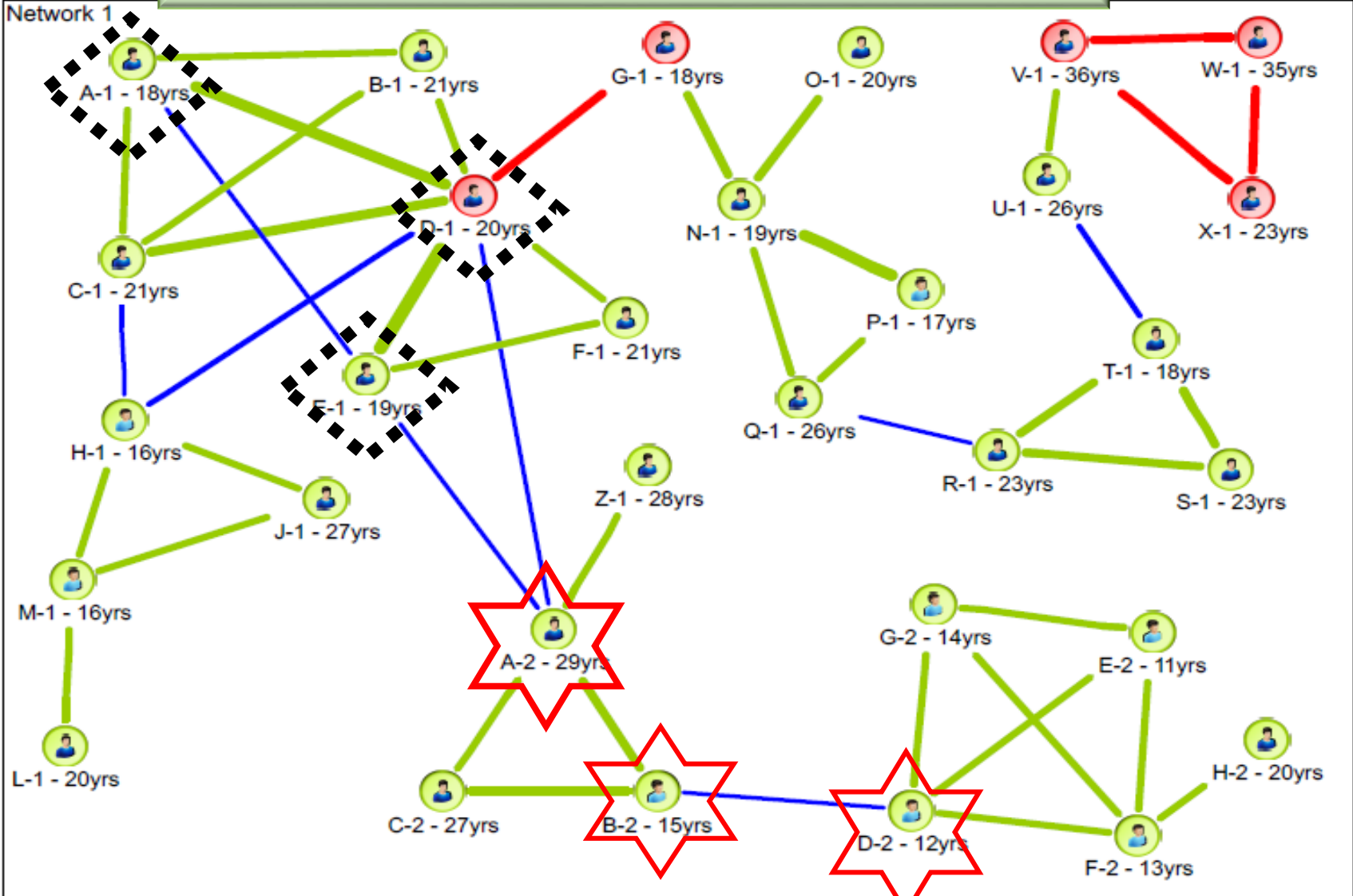
Network 1



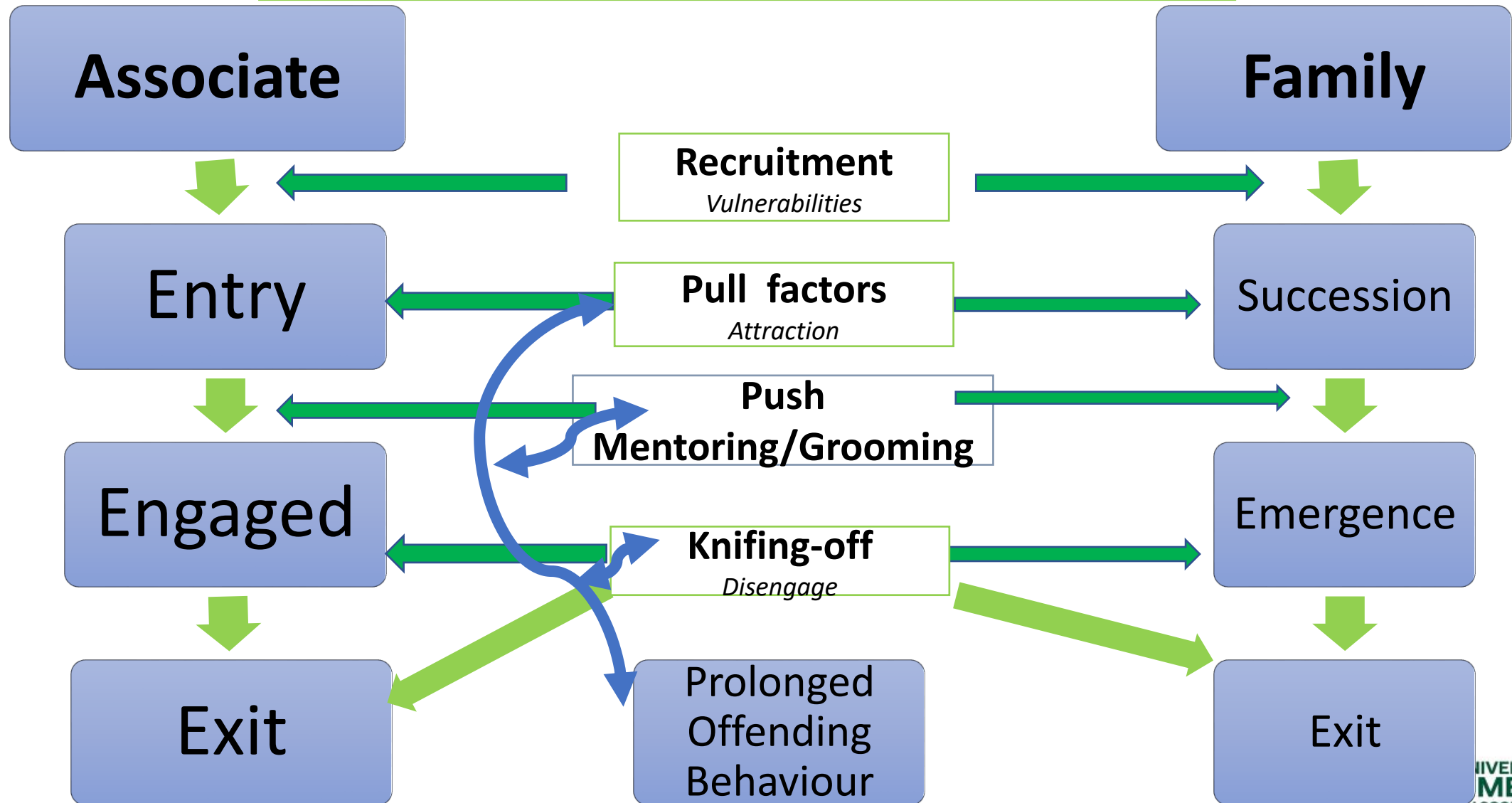
# The Greentown Network



# The Greentown Network



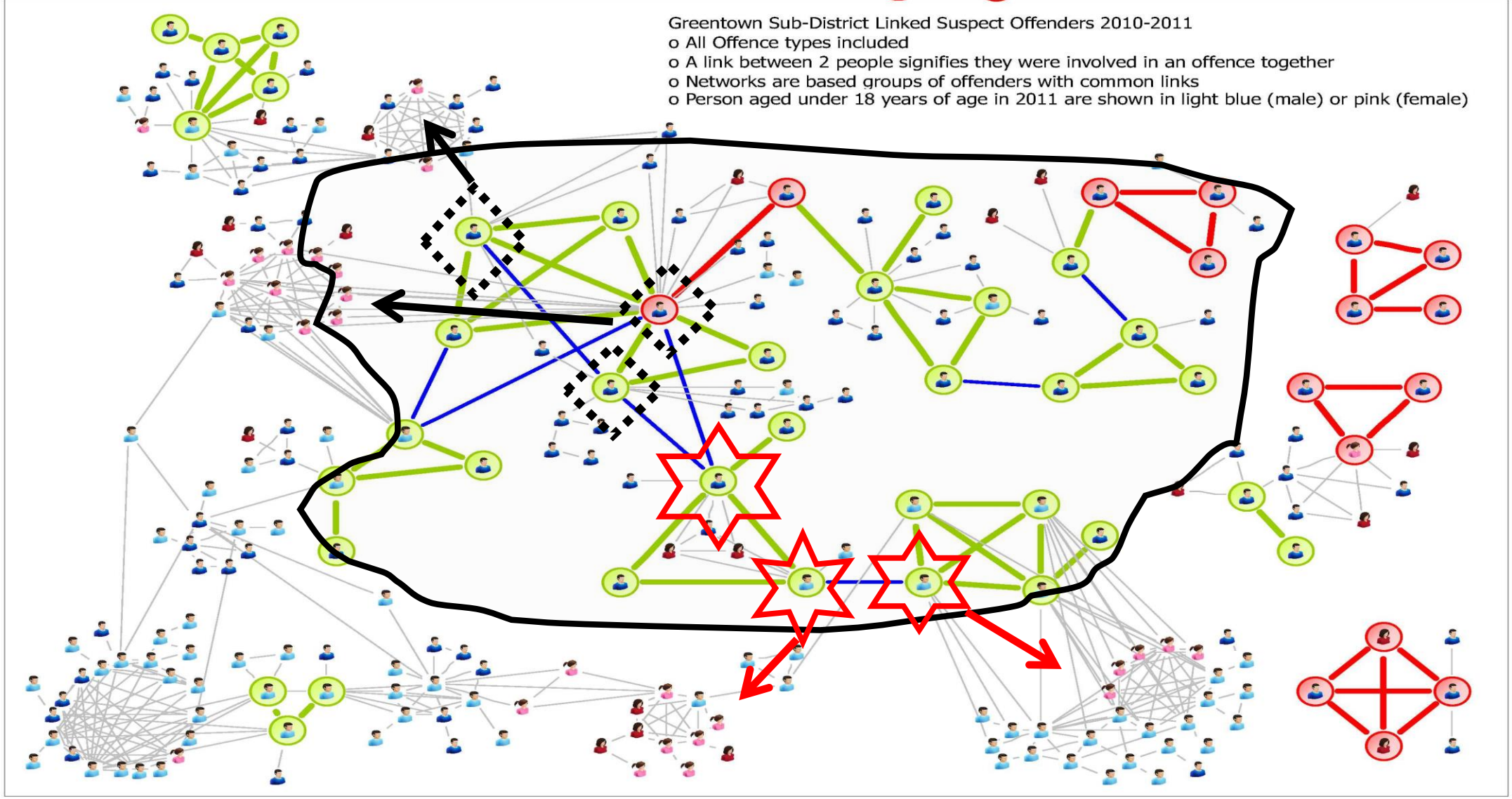
# Journey within the Network





### Greentown Sub-District Linked Suspect Offenders 2010-2011

- o All Offence types included
- o A link between 2 people signifies they were involved in an offence together
- o Networks are based groups of offenders with common links
- o Person aged under 18 years of age in 2011 are shown in light blue (male) or pink (female)



# Threats to mainstream assumptions

## Typical Offending

1. Individual focus of analysis
2. Deferred intervention for children
3. Formal criminal justice system has 'presence' and 'meaning' at neighbourhood level
4. Crime is a moral choice



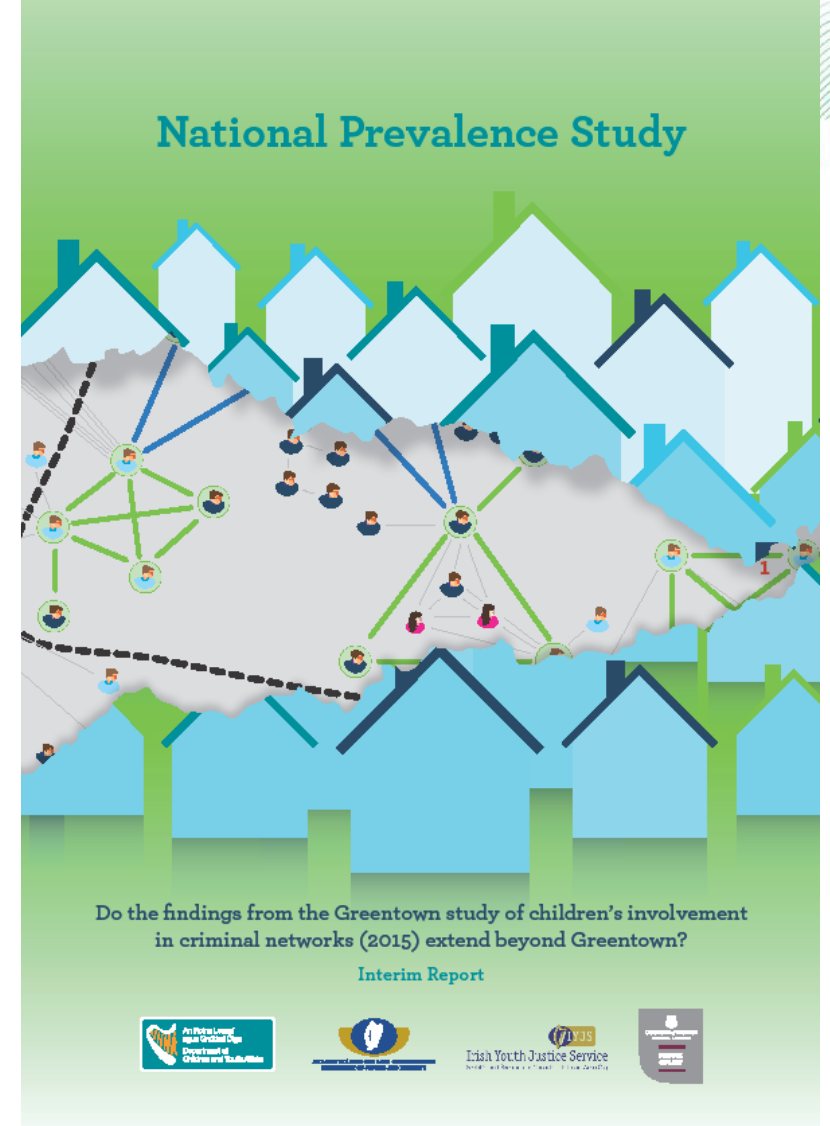
## Atypical Offending

1. 'Network' is a better unit of analysis
2. Groomed and coerced children, predatory adults – Deferred system is '*gamed*' by influential actors
3. Neighbourhood governance system trumps fears of formal system for those under the influence
4. Young peoples choices severely mitigated by circumstances

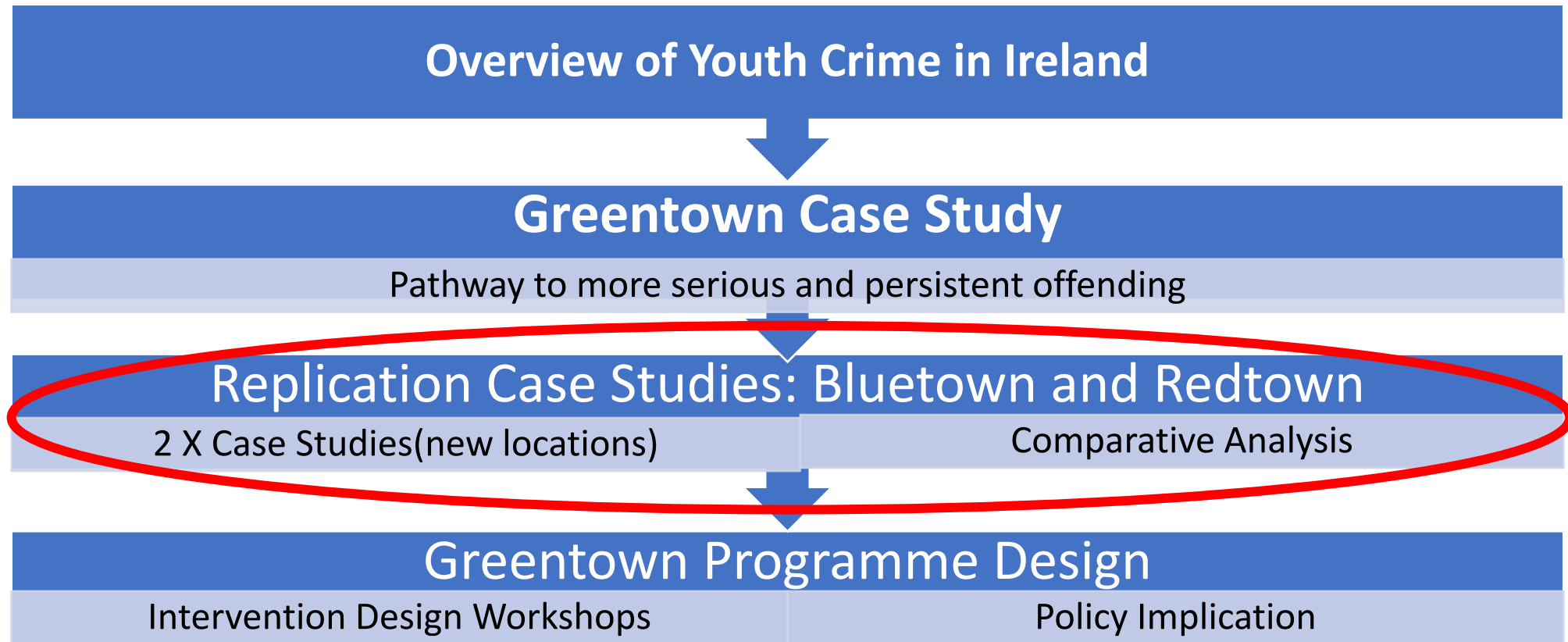
## JLO's perspective: About the children

- 86% aware of a child who is involved in very serious offending
- Children presented with complex needs
- Strong resonance with Greentown findings
- **1/8 of their case load** in both **urban and rural areas**

National Prevalence Study Report  
2017 <http://hdl.handle.net/10344/6313>

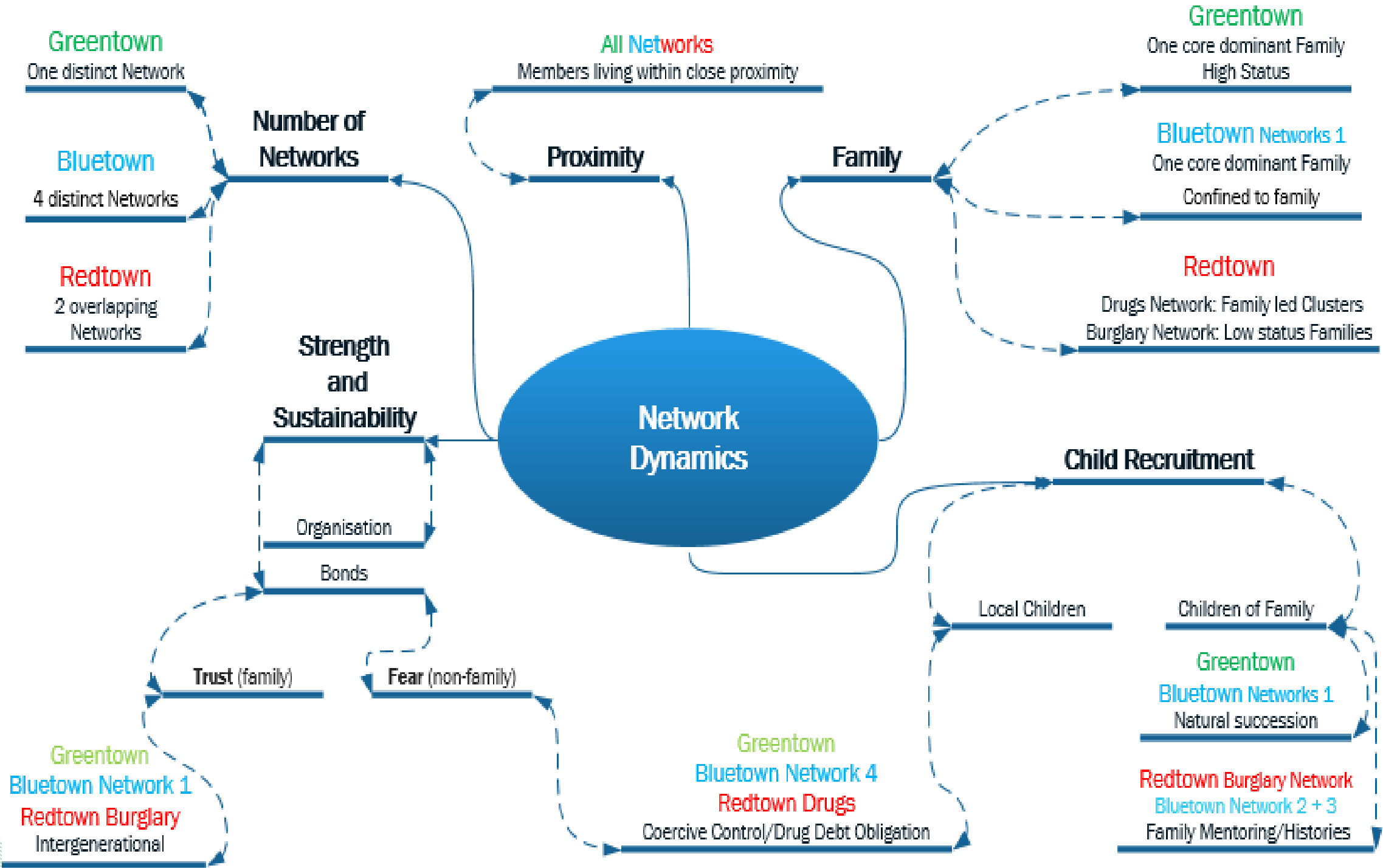


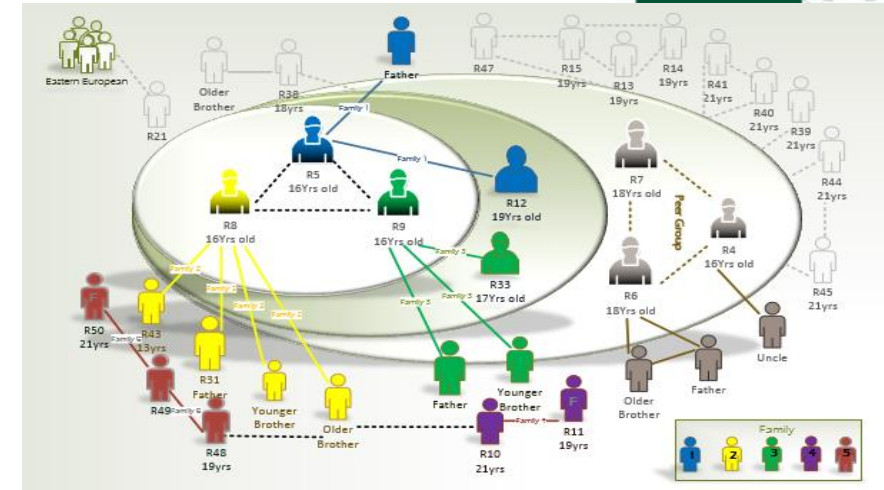
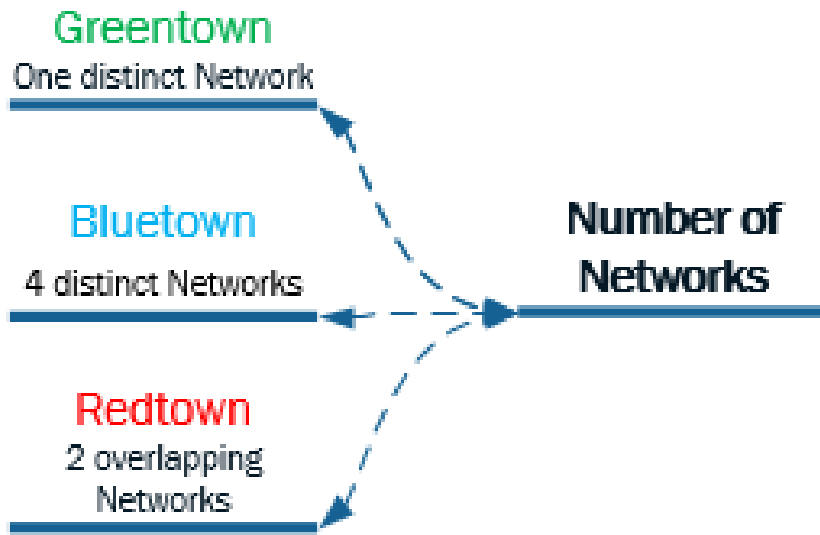
# Overview:



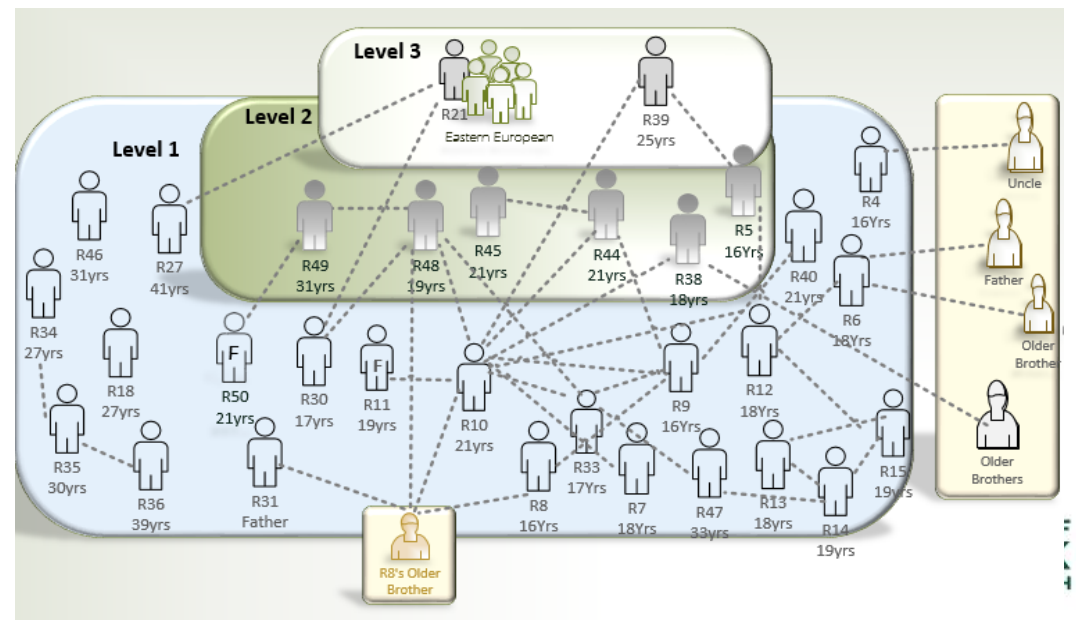
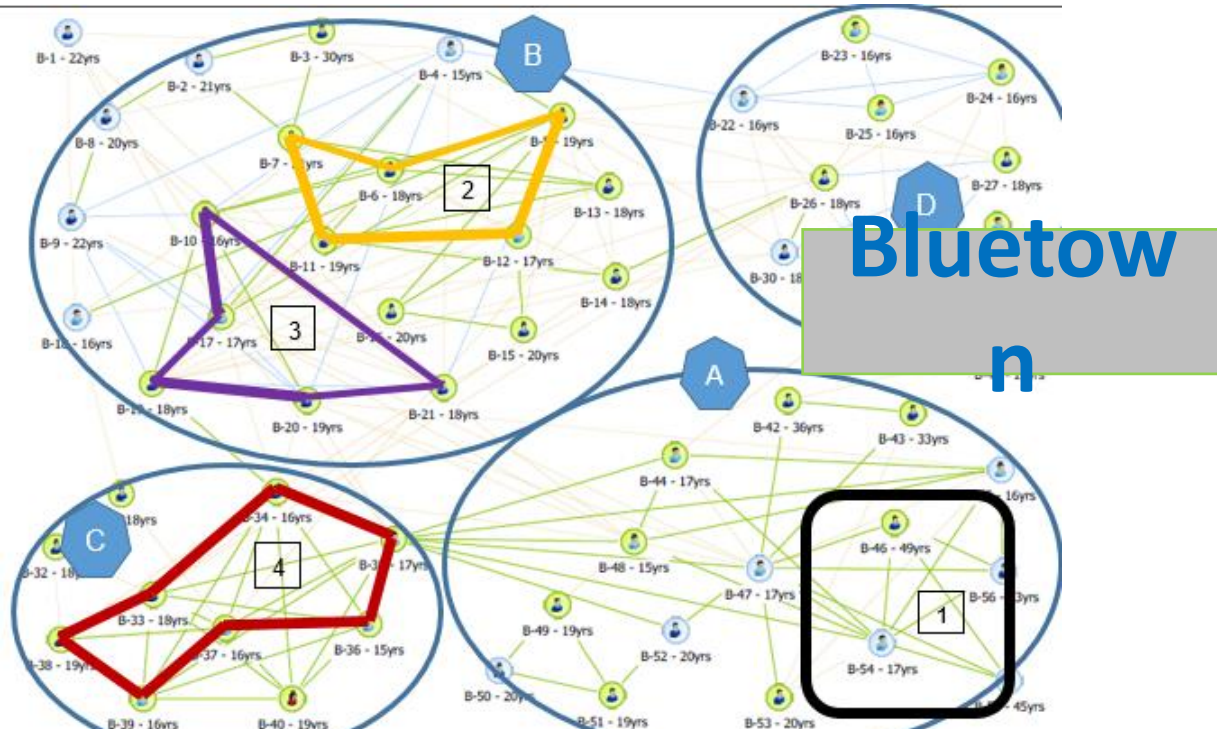
# Ranking list of Irish Garda Sub-districts 2014-2015

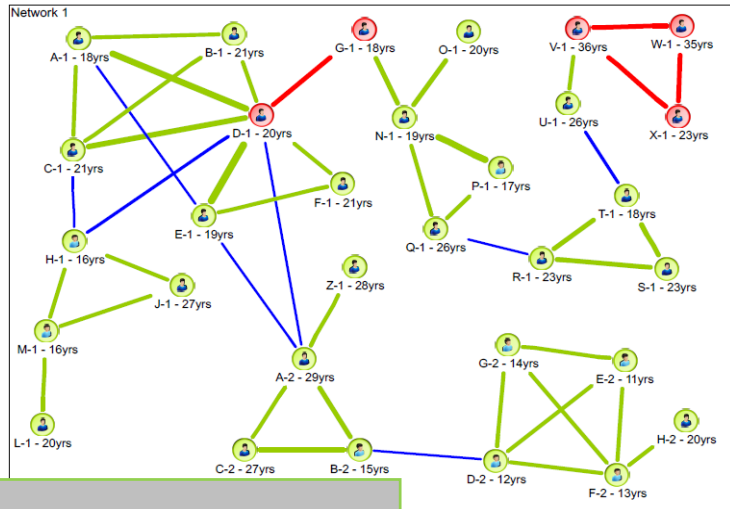
Ranking	Sub-District	Burglary	Drugs Sale/Supply	Total	Burg/Drugs Per 1,000 12- 17yrs
1	Bluetown	234	8	242	35
2	Greentown	112	0	112	32
3	Redtown	78	7	85	31
4	AreaX	57	7	64	20
5	AreaY	61	0	61	29
6	AreaZ	56	3	59	35





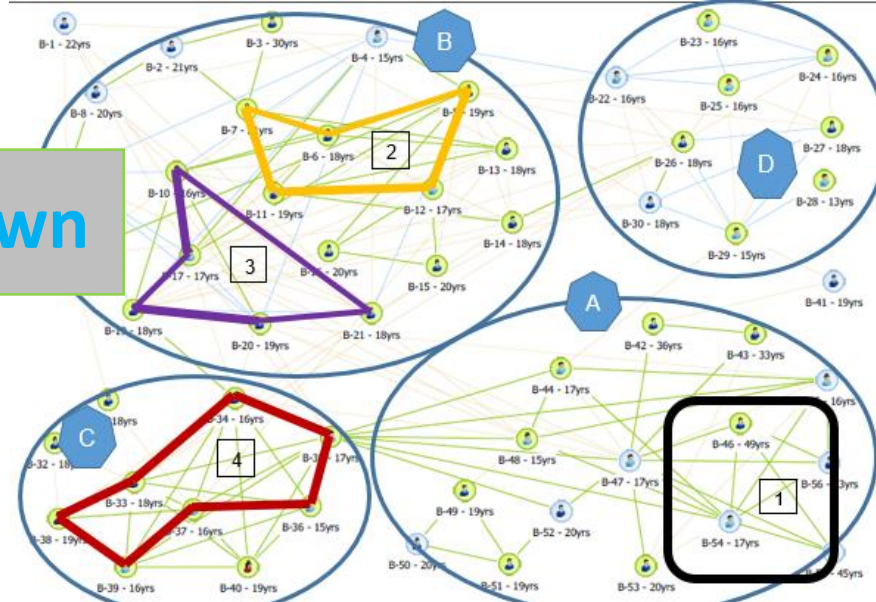
**Redtown**





**Greentown**

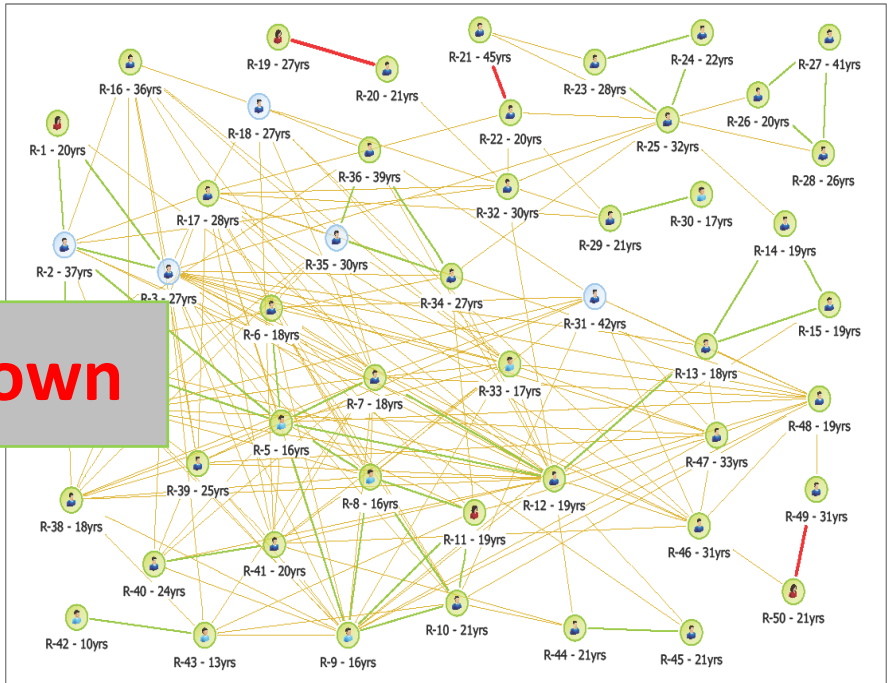
**Bluetown**



All Networks  
Members living within close proximity



**Redtown**







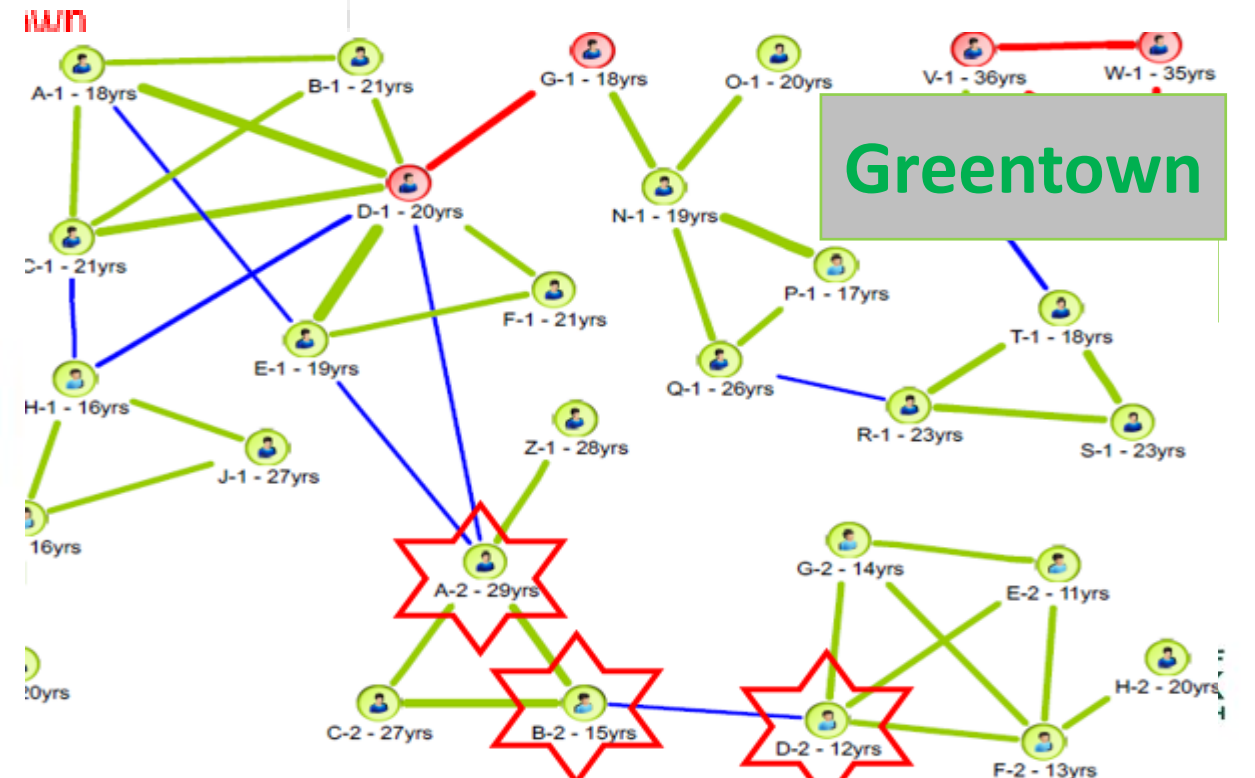
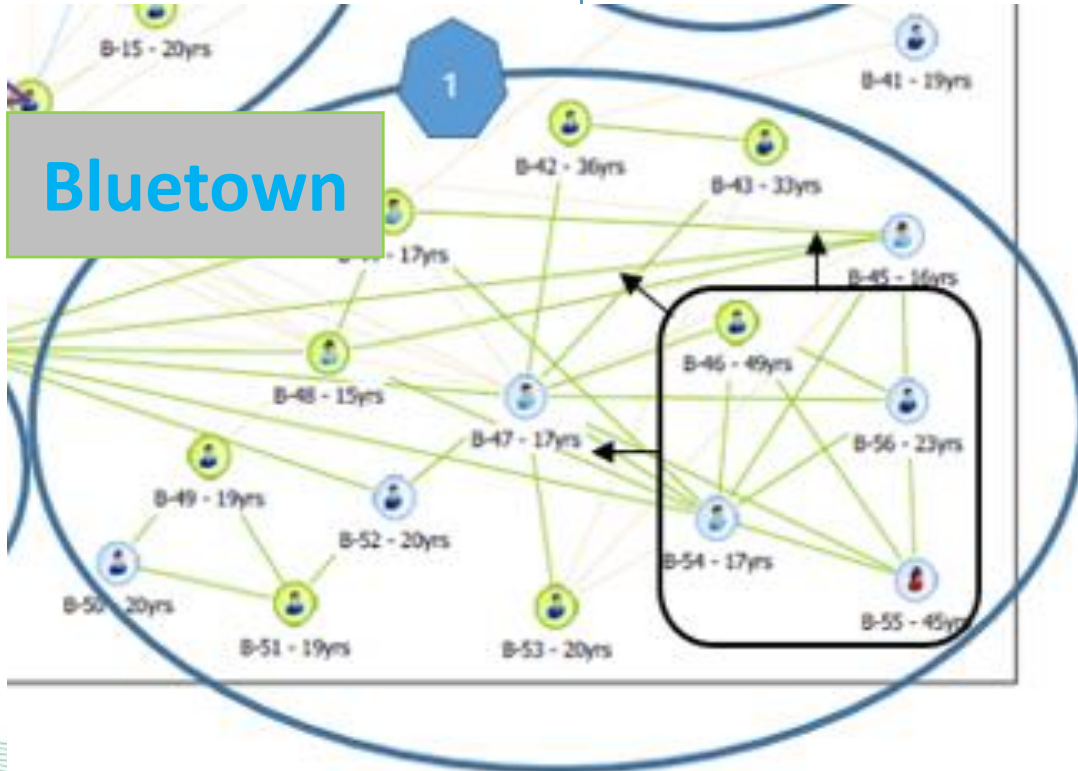
# Greentown

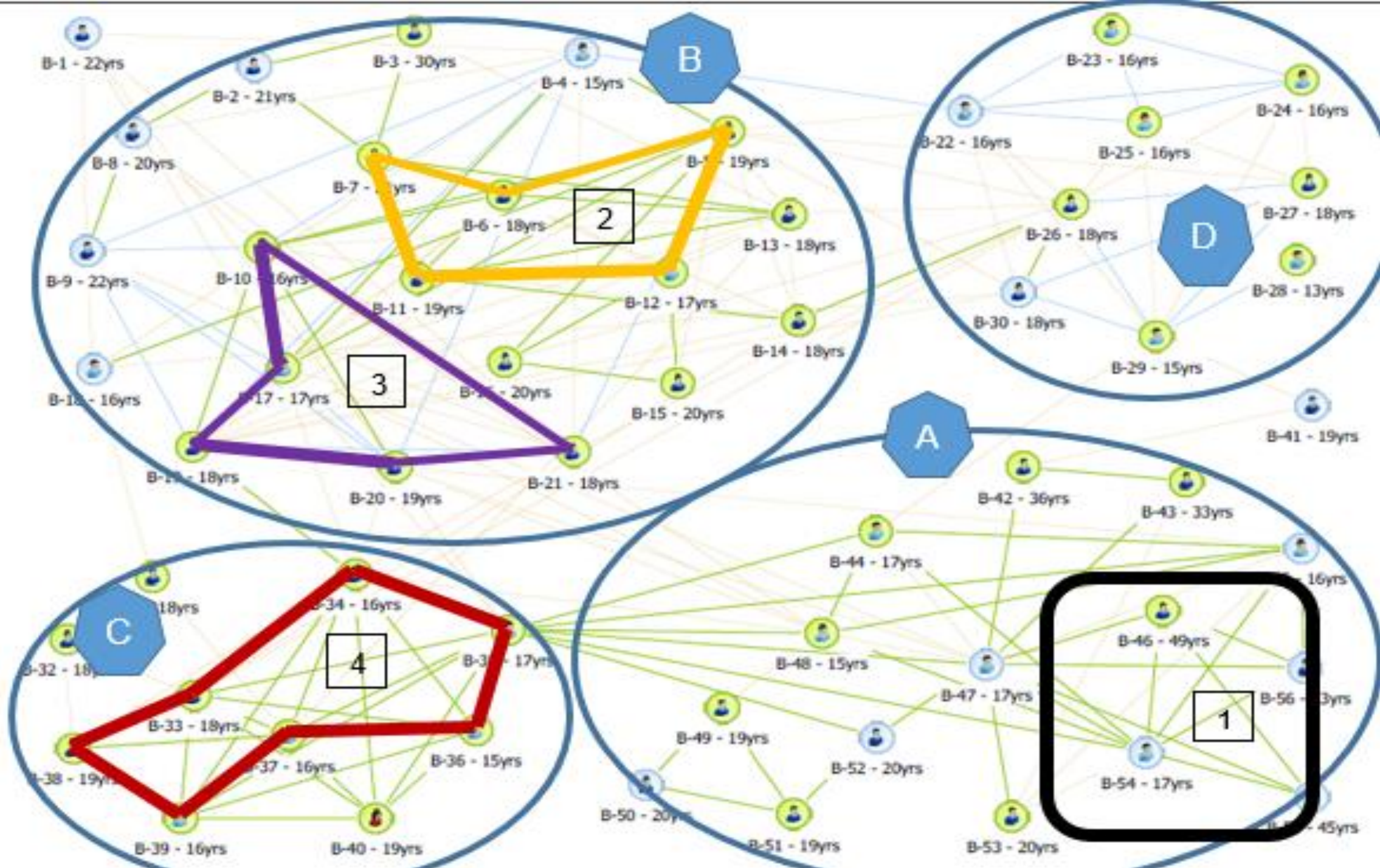
One core dominant Family  
High Status

# Bluetown Networks 1

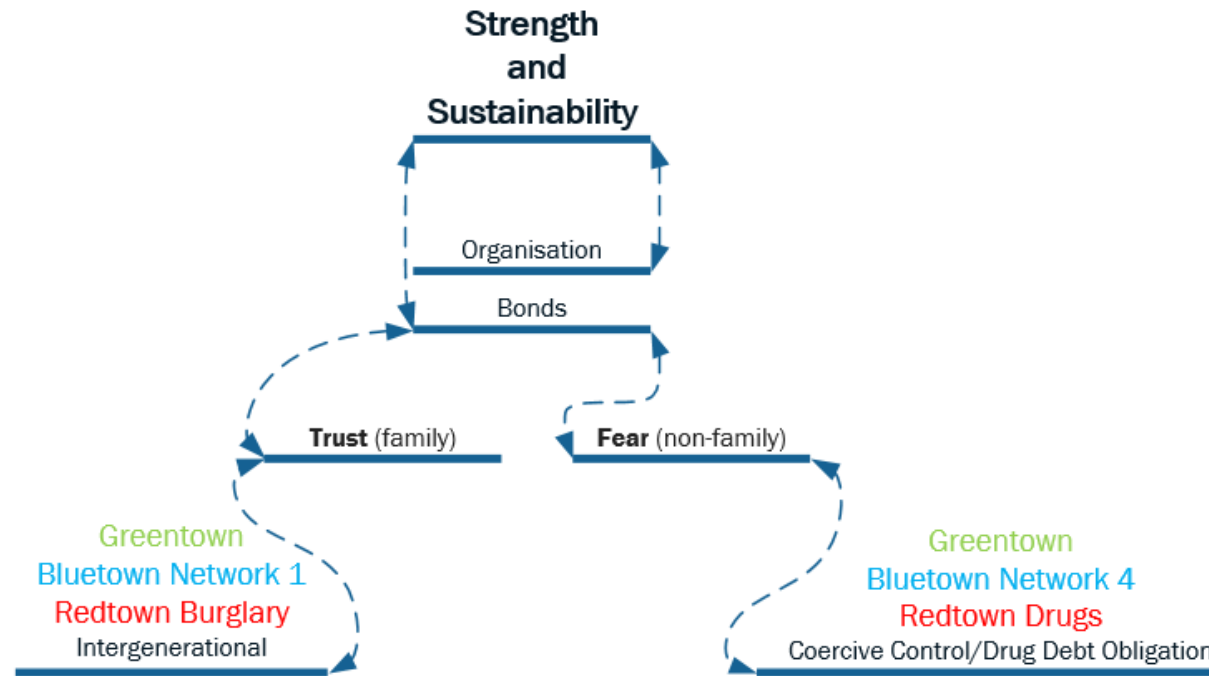
One core dominant Family  
Confined to family

Family









NETWORK	Ranked Stability	Level of Organisation	Family Trust bonds	Coercive Controlling Influence from		Predominant crime
	1 = Most stable 7= Chaotic			Family	External	
Greentown	1	High	Yes	Yes	No	Property crime
Bluetown Network 1	2	High	Yes	Yes	No	Property crime
Bluetown Network 4	3	High		No	Yes	Illicit drugs
Redtown Drugs Network	4	Moderate		Yes (Drug debt obliged)	(family off the map)	Illicit drugs
Bluetown Network 3	5	Moderate		-	emerging	Emerging drugs network
Redtown Burglary Network	6	low		-	-	Burglary/ anti-social
Bluetown Network 2	7	Chaotic		No		Burglary/anti-social

# Network Disruption

Strong Family Bonds  
Organised-Fear based (Drugs)

Chaotic

Peer Relationships  
Low Status Family bonds

Stable Networks



Greentown  
Bluetown Network 1  
Bluetown Network 4  
Redtown Drugs Network

Redtown Burglary Network  
Bluetown Network 2 and 3

Evidence of 'growing out of crime'  
Bluetown Area D  
Redtown (Maternal support)  
Greentown (less embedded)

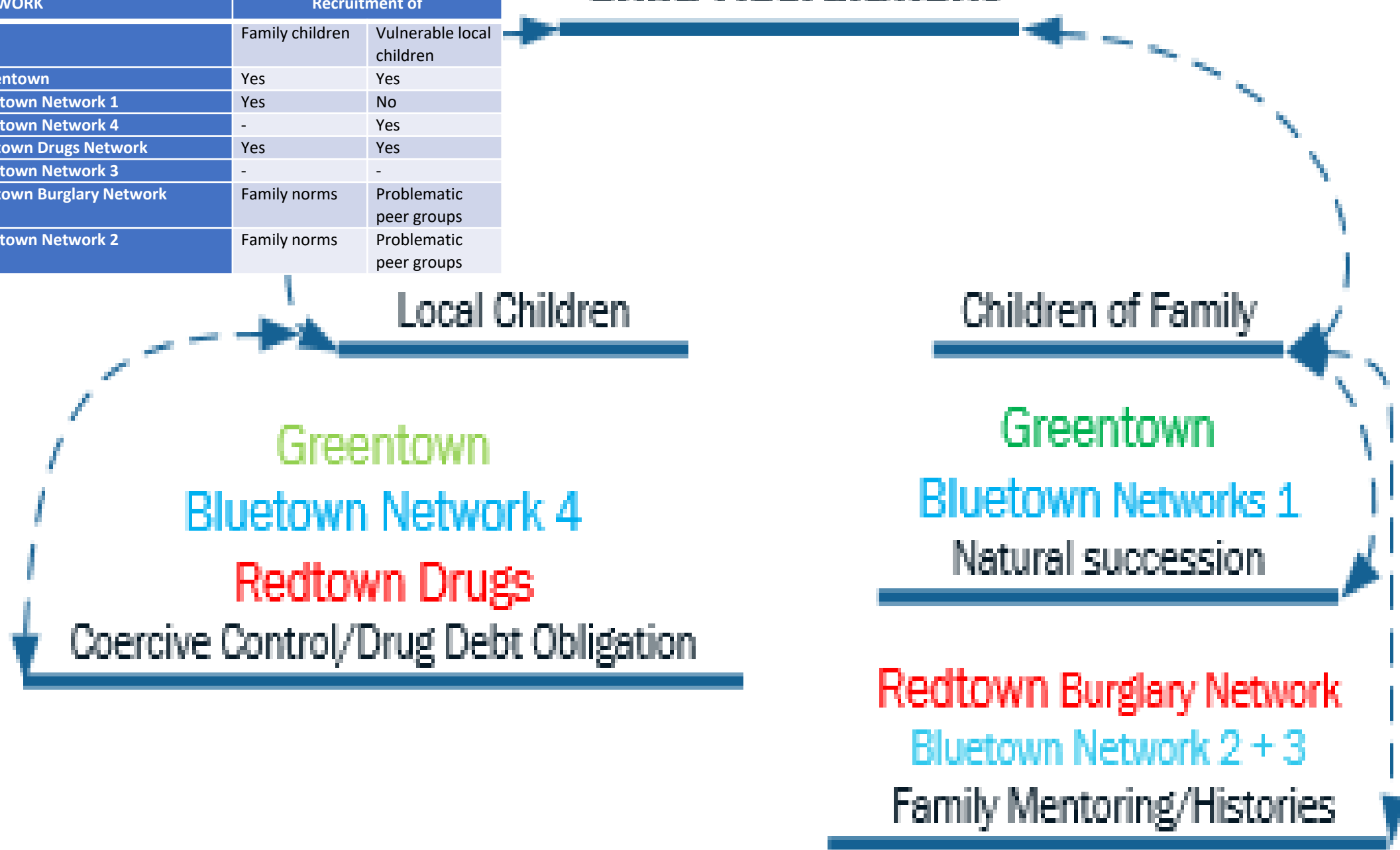


Unstable Networks



# Child Recruitment

NETWORK	Recruitment of	
	Family children	Vulnerable local children
Greentown	Yes	Yes
Bluetown Network 1	Yes	No
Bluetown Network 4	-	Yes
Redtown Drugs Network	Yes	Yes
Bluetown Network 3	-	-
Redtown Burglary Network	Family norms	Problematic peer groups
Bluetown Network 2	Family norms	Problematic peer groups



Local Children

Children of Family

Greentown

Bluetown Network 4

Redtown Drugs

Coercive Control/Drug Debt Obligation

Greentown

Bluetown Networks 1

Natural succession

Redtown Burglary Network

Bluetown Network 2 + 3

Family Mentoring/Histories



# Children's Contexts

Young people lived with

- Economic deprivation
- Multiple adversities (parental loss, incarceration of family members, physical and emotional neglect and abuse, Parental substance abuse and mental health issues, Family violence and abuse)
- Poor guardianship and supervision
- School exclusion
- Lack of pro-social, activities and community membership
- Problematic peer groups

# Attraction to Networks

- Physical gains:

Access to illicit drugs, alcohol, money (career option)

- Psychosocial gains:

Identity : Acceptance, Belonging, Meaning and purpose

Occupation: Provided an opportunity for success

Status : A sense of power and importance within their neighbourhood

# Retention within Networks

Fear and intimidation

Development of substance misuse issues

Drug-debt obligations



# Eco-System

## Physical

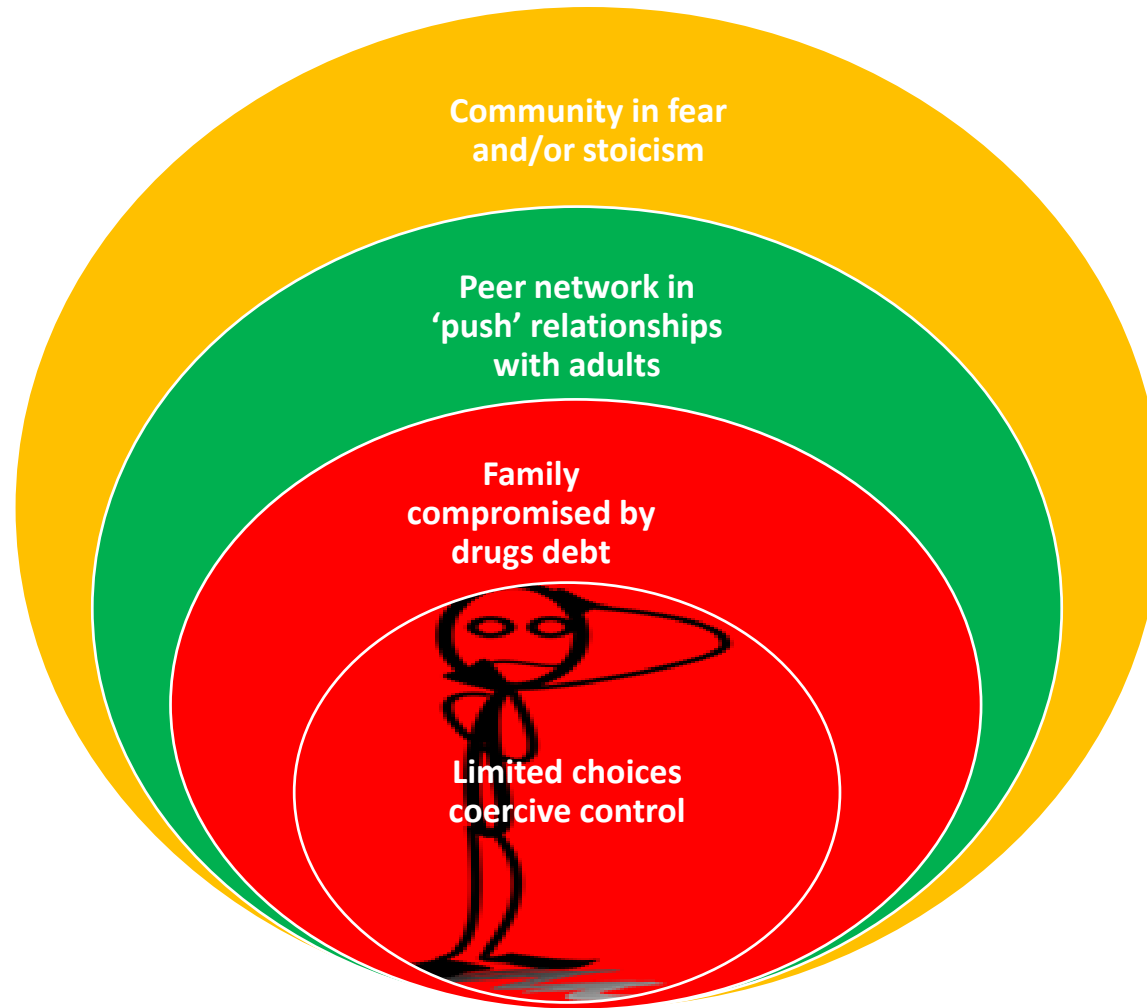
Money, Drugs/alcohol

## Psycho-social

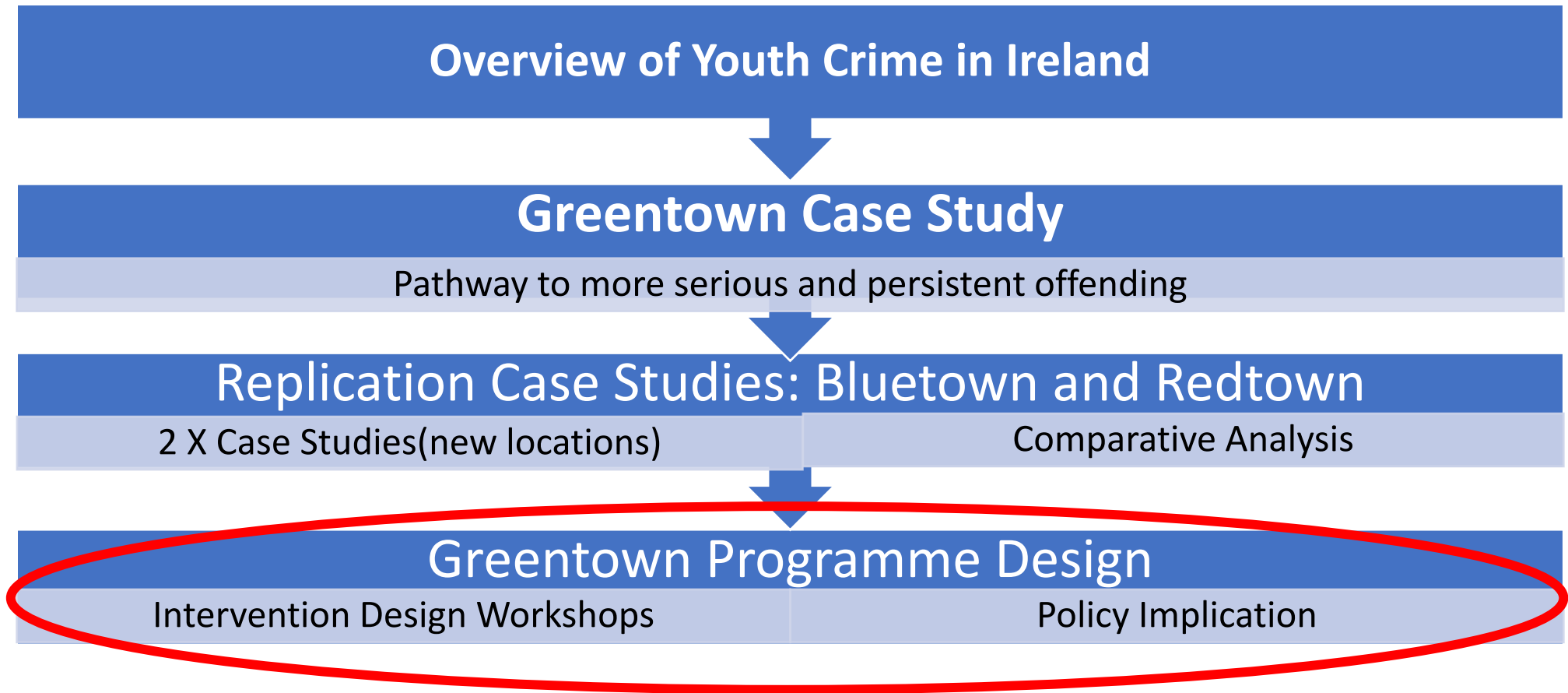
Belonging/Status

Safety

Purpose/meaning



# Overview:





An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Justice  
and Equality

**RESEARCH**  
**EVIDENCE INTO**  
**POLICY PROGRAMMES**  
**AND PRACTICE**



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Thank you



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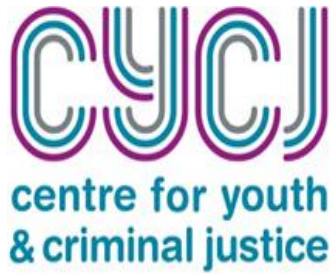


An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of Children  
and Youth Affairs



# First Workshop Session

11.30am – 12.15pm



# Lunch

12.15pm – 1pm

# Human Trafficking & Exploitation

Peter Hope-Jones  
Team Leader  
Human Trafficking Team



**The Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

# Human Trafficking Team



## Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

### TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

“ When this happened I didn't feel like a human being. You are less than a human being and you close up”

“ It is embarrassing that in the 21st century, this still goes on and it's getting worse. The more people are poor the more they can be trafficked”

“ People need to know what happens to us. Poverty meant I had no options”

“ I need someone I can totally believe in, who can lead me on the right way and make me feel safe”

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# What is human trafficking?

A person commits an offence if that person

- a) takes a relevant action, and
- b) does so with a view to another person being exploited





# Relevant Action & Exploitation

- Recruitment of another person
- Transportation or transfer of another person
- Harboursing or receiving of another person
- Exchange or transfer of control over another person
- Arrangement or facilitation of any of the above
- Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour;
- Prostitution or sexual exploitation;
- Removal of organs;
- Securing services and benefits.

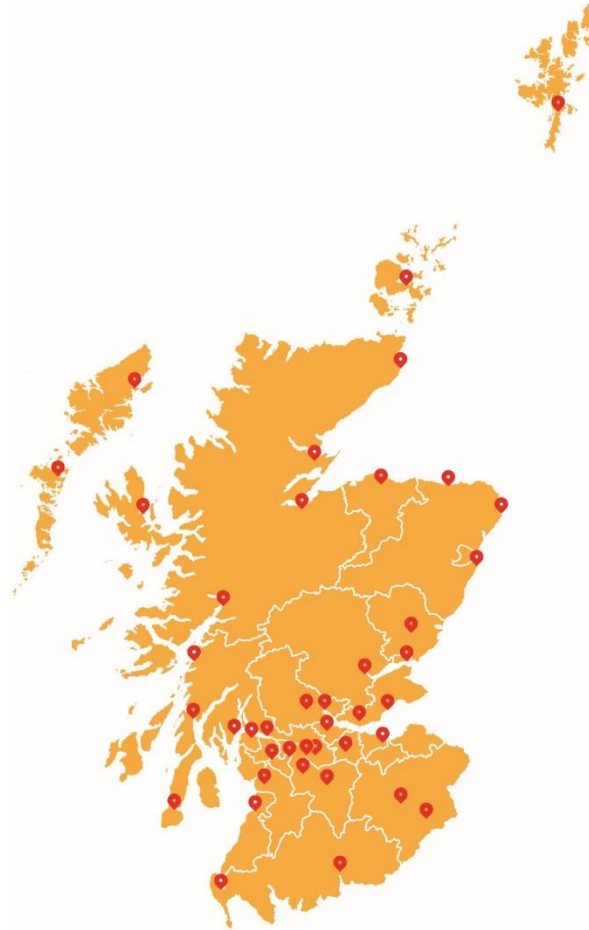


# Common myths about human trafficking

- Restricted movement
- Movement or crossing borders must have occurred
- People can agree to being trafficked and exploited
- Victims/survivors will be relieved or grateful for being recovered
- Not taking opportunities to escape
- Receiving payment for services
- **It doesn't happen in Scotland**





Based on information provided  
by Police Scotland, TARA, Migrant  
Help, Scottish Guardianship Service



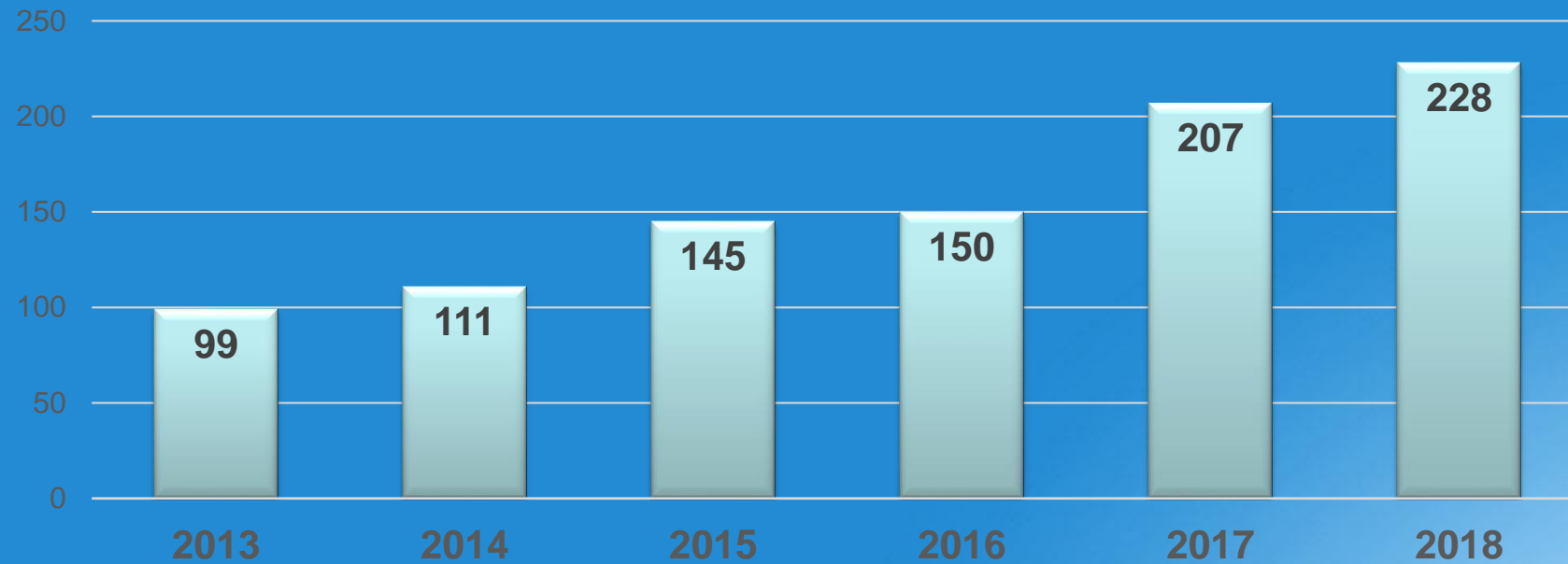
## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

People are being trafficked in  
every corner of Scotland.  
If you see something suspicious,  
report it.

-  Places where human trafficking has been identified in Scotland
-  Local Authority areas where human trafficking victims have been recovered

# NRM Referrals

2013 – 2018



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# Child Trafficking & Exploitation – 2016-2018

	2016		2017		2018		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Domestic Servitude	6	0	3	1	1	0	<b>11</b>
Labour Exploitation	6	19	9	28	5	29	<b>96</b>
Sexual Exploitation	5	1	8	2	11	1	<b>28</b>
Unknown	4	6	4	8	5	1	<b>28</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>163</b>



# Child Trafficking & Exploitation - 2019

	Q1		Q2		Q3		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Domestic Servitude	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
Labour Exploitation	2	13	1	16	5	23	60
Sexual Exploitation	4	0	7	2	5	3	21
Unknown	0	3	0	3	2	6	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>



# Child Criminal Exploitation

**CCE** can be defined as “exploitation which occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. Any child being forced or coerced to commit crime must be seen as a victim of exploitation.” ( *UK Government, County Lines Exploitation guidance for Practitioners, 2019*)

**County Lines** is a subset of CCE and is a term often used in England to describe gangs and organised criminals networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK)

**Cuckooing** is the term often used to describe young members of the group who travel to Scotland to deal drugs, often using the method of cuckooing in the impacted area. This is a tactic used by gang members to take over someone’s home by intimidation or other means.



Any child being forced or coerced to commit crime must be seen as a victim of exploitation, rather than a suspect

In cases where a child has been criminally exploited the child's safety is paramount and child protection procedures must be activated immediately.

An Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) must be convened as soon as reasonably practical.

Tackling child exploitation and trafficking requires a multi-agency response at all levels.

Any suspected victims of child criminal exploitation should be referred to the NRM.



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# Scottish Government Response to CCE

- Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy
- National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
- National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children and Young People.



# Police Scotland Response to CCE

- Police Scotland remains committed to tackling groups utilising the county lines model in Scotland. The main focus has been on protecting those vulnerable people who are exploited by the groups: victims of cuckooing, juveniles trafficked from their home forces and coerced into dealing drugs and vulnerable drug users who are used as sub dealers and safe houses.
- A cuckooing initiative has been implemented in partnership with local councils in North East Division. The initiative aims to identify, engage with and safeguard those at risk from cuckooing. A large number of people have been successfully identified and ultimately provided with support from partner agencies to tackle a wide range of issues pertaining to their drug use.
- Other divisions have facilitated events and training with local councils, housing staff and landlords to highlight cuckooing and increase intelligence sharing.



# Police Scotland Response to CCE

- Importance has also been placed on highlighting the vulnerability of juveniles involved in county lines drug dealing to ensure that they are appropriately dealt with and safeguarded. This has involved successful collaborative working between law enforcement and social work departments across Scotland and force areas in England. **Officers are encouraged to familiarise themselves and make use of the National Referral Mechanism.**
- Enforcement action has been taken on a number of individuals which has resulted in the recovery of large amounts of Class A drugs, weapons and money. This has ultimately disrupted the practices of significant county lines groups impacting on Scotland.
- Police Scotland continues to collaborate with and feed into the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC). This has provided a valuable mechanism for developing intelligence and sharing best practice to ensure county lines are tackled in the most effective way possible.



# Police Scotland Response to CCE

The importance of recognising the vulnerability and exploitation aspects when dealing with young people from out with the force area has been highlighted in a memo available to all Police Scotland officers. The memo encourages officers to consider the following when dealing with a young person who normally reside in another force area:

- Liaison with home force of young person in respect of intelligence and to facilitate transfer of information and continuity of processes
- Consideration of liaison with local social work to provide initial support and services
- Consideration of liaison with social work in young person's home area to obtain all relevant information
- Debrief process to identify further vulnerabilities including exploitation
- Remarks in the Standard Prosecution Report (SPR) to ensure Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) are advised of vulnerabilities involved



# Police Scotland Intelligence

- Figures from November 2019 indicate that of the 22 groups known to be operating a county line in Scotland, nine groups (41%) have exploited or trafficked out of force juveniles. **Two groups (9%) have exploited or trafficked local juveniles.** These young people are often threatened or coerced into travelling to Scotland and used to deal drugs on behalf of the groups. Intelligence indicates that some groups are known to actively recruit young people from care establishments in England.
- The number of children identified as being involved in county lines drug dealing in Scotland has increased over the last year. This may be due to an increased awareness amongst officers with regards to identifying the vulnerability of juveniles that they come into contact with. Increased awareness of vulnerability has been a key focus for Police Scotland in their response to county lines.



# Lord Advocate's instructions on prosecution of victims of offences

- **Section 8 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015** provides for the Lord Advocate to publish instructions about the prosecution of a person who is, or appears to be, the victim of an offence of human trafficking or of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.
- The instructions must include factors to be taken into account or steps to be taken by the prosecutor when deciding whether to prosecute an individual.
- **In respect of children (under the age of 18) this must be considered when the child does an act that constitutes an offence as a consequence of the child being a victim of human trafficking or of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. There is no element of compulsion for children.**





- Tackling any form of violence is a key priority for the Scottish Government.
- Scotland has adopted a public health approach to violent crime, focusing on tackling the underlying causes through primary collaborative prevention and early intervention work.
- Our aim is to divert people away from a potential life of crime, gangs and violence, with our partners working with individuals to build their capacity and potential to make positive life choices.
- We have invested more than £20 million in violence prevention over the last decade.



- Almost 22,000 investigations take place for missing people in Scotland each year.
- Almost two thirds (63%) relate to a child or young person, many of whom are vulnerable and over half are looked after.
- **When a child or young person is missing they are more likely to be exploited or harmed.**
- **A missing episode may be the first sign that something is wrong and the child is being exploited or involved in criminal activity.**
- The National Missing Persons Framework emphasises the need for everyone who returns from a missing episode to receive a return discussion to begin to understand the reasons they went missing a whether support can be provided – **this may include support for child criminal exploitation.**





- In January 2019, Crimestoppers Scotland launched a national campaign to highlight the pain and suffering inflicted on communities by County Lines criminals. The campaign encouraged the public to provide information about County Lines activity they knew of or suspected 100% anonymously.
- Fearless is Crimestoppers reporting service for young people, educating and empowering them to make informed decisions about providing information on crime and harm 100% anonymously via their online reporting form on Fearless.org. The annual Scottish Government grant funding to Crimestoppers helps to maintain the presence of Fearless in Scotland.
- A national Fearless County Lines campaign was also delivered in January 2019, with a simple call to action for young people to anonymously provide information about County Lines activity they knew of or suspected. The national campaign saw a 649% increase in Scottish web users accessing the Fearless County Lines information web page, with 4 pieces of actionable information received relating to the campaign.



# Tools and Powers Available to Disrupt Perpetrator Behaviour

- Human Trafficking Aggravators
- Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Orders
- Trafficking and Exploitation Risk Orders



# Resources Available

