Original content compiled by Scotland Yard's Special Crime Directorate.

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257 London Gangs
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1. Brent

Church Road Thugs - Cricklewood (SLK) - Thugs of Stone Bridge - Acorn Man Dem - Walthamstow / DMX - NW Untouchable - SK Hood - Church Road Man Dem - St. Ralph’s Soldiers - Greenhill Yout Dem - Out To Terrorise (OTT) - Harsh-Don Man Dem - 9 Mill Kids (9MK) - Shakespear Youts - Westside / Red Crew - Ministry of Darkness - Willesden Green Boys - Araly Yardies - Lock City - The Copeland Boys - Mus Luv - GP Crew (Grahame Park)

2. West London


3. Camden

Born Sick Crew - Centric Gang - Cromer Street Massive - Denton Boys - Drummond Street Posse - NW1 Boyz (Combo Gang) - Peckwater Gang - WC1 gang

4. Enfield

N9 Chopsticks Gang - Red Brick Gang - Shanksville (aka Tanners End Lane Gang) - Little Devils - Northside Chuggy Chix - Chosen Soldiers - South Man Syndicate - Boydems Most Wanted - EMD Enfield Boys - TFA Tottenham Boys - Tiverton Boys

5. Newham

Beckton Man Dem - JC Boys - Blackwater Man Dem - Forest Gate Man Dem - Paki Panthers - Tamil Tigers - African Devilz - Plaistow Man Dem - Ama Tugz - Stratford Man Dem - Jeepers - East Ham Boys

6. Waltham Forest


7. Hackney


8. Westminster

Queens Crescent - Abbey Road Man Dem - Lisson Man Dem

9. Haringey

G-Money - N Dot 22 - Wood Green Mob
10. Lewisham

Brockley Man Dem - Young Brockley Manz - Catford Wildcat - D-Block - Ghetto Boyz - SYD - Blues (Bromley) - Greens (Lewisham)

11. Merton / Wandsworth

Prime Time Soldiers - Battersea Marsh Boys - All Over Everywhere - Surrey Lane Man Dem - Terror Zone - Winstanley Boys - Digging Deep Graves - B-Town - South Man Syndicate (SMS) - Pink Ladies / Chicks - Wandsworth Man Dem - Menacing Kids - Wandworth Terror Zone - Gypset - Raynes Park Crew - ENS / YNS - Spray Can Army - No Remorse Shown - Stick Em Up Kidz - Young Stick Em Up Kids - Tooting Gang - Y-UGS (Young) - UGS (United Griffin Squad) - Muslim Boys - Croydon / Jaffna Boys

12. Lambeth


13. Harrow

SHE (South Harrow Elite) - Cheez Gang - The T Side - Harrow Boys - Aryali Gang - Pinner Massive - Game Over - MOD (Ministry Of Darkness) - STM - Bad Boys - No Tolerance

14. Southwark

Peckham Boys (Camden Estate) - Peckham Boys (North Peckham Estate) - Mash Force - Circle Boys & Dulwich Boys - Kennel Hill - Gloucester Grove Estate - Goldsmith Estate - Bermondsey Boys - Firehouse Crew - Woolly Road Manz & OTB

15. Hillingdon

NN (Nasty Niggers) - Risky Boys (Northolt) - AK47 Gang - Bombing Unit 1 - DTU (Don’t Touch Us) - Section 18 Crew - DK (Destroy Kids) - WDB (West Drayton Boys) - AK (Academic Kids) - Hillingdon Hard Core

16. Croydon

DSN Crew - Dem Twisted Soldiers - Gypsett - Terror Zone - Till Death Youths - Thornton Heath Man Dem - Pange Man Dem - Norwood Youts - Dark Side Ninjas / Younger DSN

17. Bromley

On Top Of The Rest - Albaboyz Fatal - Assassins - The Bloody Alboz - Greens (Lewisham) - Greazy Kamp - Blues (Bromley) - Penge Massive - Block Kids - Kidz da Hood

18. Greenwich / Bexley

Woolwich Boys - Younger RA - Ferrier Youts - KSB (Kids Spray Bro) - Cherry Youts - P.Dot - Plumstead Mans - Woolwich Manz - T-Block - RA Gang
The true scale of London's escalating gang culture is revealed for the first time today.

A police document names 257 gang names - an increase of 100 in just three years. The bewildering array is shown on a map compiled by analysts at Scotland Yard's Specialist Crime Directorate.

It comes after the shooting dead in Liverpool of 11-year-old Rhys Jones. In London, 18 teenagers have been murdered this year in gun and knife attacks.

Scotland Yard says their list includes some names which could be "posturing" on the internet by youths, and others which are not deemed to be dangerous. But it includes some of the most serious gangs being targeted by the Yard.

They include the Peel Dem Crew in Brixton, the MDP - or Murder Dem Pussies - in West London, the Peckham Boys, the Tottenham Man Dem and others not previously known such as the G street gang.

Of the gangs named, around 50 are believed to be causing significant "harm" to communities through crime or anti-social behaviour. Half of all the gangs are involved in assaults or robberies, and over a quarter in murder.

The gang map shows Hackney has the biggest number of names identified by researchers with 33, followed by Lambeth with 27. Other boroughs with high gang numbers include Brent, 25, Merton and Wandsworth, 25, Waltham Forest, 17, Enfield, 15, Newham, 13 and Southwark, 12.

However, police say the boroughs with the greatest gang problems where groups are engaged in offending and causing serious harm are Hackney, Waltham Forest, Brent, Lambeth and Wandsworth.

The majority of gangs in Lambeth are described as "Trident-based", mostly black gangs engaged in gun crime and drugs.

In Wandsworth police have noted emerging Tamil gangs. There is also concern over a rise in the number of girls joining gangs. There are three all-girl gangs, one of which is engaged in serious assaults and robberies and its members regularly carry knives.

The number of young people engaged in gang activity could be more than 5000 and a quarter of all young offending is now gang related.

The 257 total is far higher than another recent report to the Metropolitan Police Authority which put the figure at 171. Cindy Butts, deputy chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority, said:

"Gangs have always been there but there has been a huge increase in gang activity in the past few years.

"Agencies, including the police, have taken a long time to wake up to the problem so gangs have grown and become stronger. Now when you get a gang in a neighbourhood, young people are scared. They feel it's safer to be in than out. It is a vicious circle. There is a greater level of awareness among the police about how prevalent gangs are. They have a better understanding of how they operate, for instance the postcode rivalry between gangs and the way they use internet sites such as YouTube and MySpace."
But the police still need to put more effort into understanding gangs, why young people get involved and the best ways to get them out."

Ms Butts said gangs were posting messages on the internet taunting each other which is fuelling gang rivalry. Most gang members are teenagers but there are older figures who are major influences.

Some are organized and are into drug dealing or robberies of cash in transit. Detectives say they have evidence of children in school uniform holding up security guards delivering cash. Many gangs are based on postcodes while many have links to the music industry.

One detective said: "Some of these gangs are becoming like the Mafia, they are so established that they are building up their own support network which is almost rivaling the welfare state. It makes it harder to get people to become witnesses."

He added: "We are dealing with younger and younger members who are trying to get their spurs in the gang by acts of extreme violence. There seems to be a ready supply of firearms."

Commander Shaun Sawyer, the head of the Yard’s Violent Crime Directorate which is spearheading the fight against gangs, said police had launched Operation Curb six weeks ago to tackle gangs.

He said: "We have been focusing on people under the age of 20 who have been engaged in serious violence involving guns and knives. That is our priority but we are now expanding our remit to tackle anti-social behaviour."

By Justin Davenport, Evening Standard Crime Correspondent