

About Abianda

2022



I feel like I am **living** now,
I can **breathe**.

Young woman's feedback



A B I A N D A



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Abianda

Abianda is a London-based social enterprise that works with young women affected by gangs and county lines, and the professionals who support them.

Our mission is to bring about a culture shift in the way services are delivered to young women affected by gangs and county lines, so that:

- they feel safe to access help
- they are no longer a hidden group in our communities
- they are free from harm and abuse

We do this by

- delivering frontline services to gang-affected young women aged up to 25
- delivering training and professional development programmes to professionals who work with them



Our Principles

We believe that:

- Young women are experts on their own lives.
- Young women have innate resources, competence and resilience.
- People affected by a problem are best placed to find the solutions.
- We must shift traditional power hierarchies in service delivery in order to enable young women's participation in solution building.
- We must support young women to have their voices heard in order that they can influence the design and delivery of services.

We therefore adopt:

Youth work principles

In our approach we:

- Work **alongside** young women
- Start from where they are and are led by their “felt needs”
- Respect their empirical knowledge of their own lives
- Encourage them to develop a “**critical consciousness**” of their worlds, their experiences, and how they are affected by these

Participation principles

In our approach we:

- Work in a **non-hierarchical** way
- Challenge unequal dynamics power & oppression
- **Tip the balance of power** in favour of young women
- Ensure young women inform future practice and services
- Recognise that young women are best placed to identify issues and solutions

Solution-focused brief therapy techniques

In our approach we:

- Work to the young woman's **best hopes** or desired outcomes
- Engage with **competence**
- Look for alternative narratives of her and her life where she has previously demonstrated competence
- Obtain detailed descriptions of what life will be like when changes are made
- **Trust** the young woman's ‘version of events’
- Are interested in the young woman and not the problem
- Develop techniques to understand and strategise around big and sometimes ‘unmanageable’ feelings



Services

Our **unique model of practice** addresses the barriers that stop young women from seeking help and offers an **equal, transparent relationship**

We help them to discover their own resilience and competence and to develop the power to change their situation.

Islington -The Star Project 1-to-1 & Group Work

A wraparound and advocacy service for young women affected by G&CL. Services currently available are:

- Islington 10-16-year-olds (co-located with Targeted Youth Support Service)
- Islington 16-24-year-olds (co-located with the Integrated Gangs Team)
- Greenwich 13-24-year-olds

Rescue and Response

A pan-London service supporting London young people aged up to 25 involved in or affected by county line activity funded by [MOPAC](#).

Delivered in partnership by:

- Abianda
- St Giles Trust
- Safer London Foundation
- London Borough of Brent

Schools

- Mission - bring about a culture shift in the way services are delivered to young women affected by G&CL.
- Funded by the Mayor's Office Young Londoners Fund to deliver works in schools to young female pupils and to staff to bring this culture shift to the classroom.

Consultancy

We upskill local authorities and communities to:

- better identify and consider young women and girls affected by, or at risk of involvement in G&CL;
- critically review and analyse cases and systems to support the gender-mainstreaming of provision for young people affected by G&CL;
- increase capacity of local authorities and partners to better respond to young women and girls affected by, or at risk of involvement in G&CL



Training

Core Module – Working with young women and girls affected by G&CL

An interactive 3-hour module delivered by our practitioners. This module must be completed before any further modules on our Star Project exercises or reflective practice.

- Attendees learn about Abianda – our model of practice, values and services.
- Provide an introduction to Solution Focused Practice,
- Explore and challenge the stereotypes and myths around young women, G&CL, and facilitate a critical discussion of the term “gang”.
- Address risks young women face, and the barriers to them accessing support.
- Share the ideal knowledge, skills and attitudes young women tell us they want professionals to have.
- Attendees will come away with enhanced understandings of how young women and girls are affected by G&CL, what stops them getting help, and how to respond.

Star Project Exercises:

- **Introduction to the exercise, its purpose and a pre-recording**
- **Abianda service users’ perspective**
 - Anger
 - Contextual Safety Planning
 - Relationship Mapping
 - Information Sharing

Reflective Practice – drawing on Abianda practitioners’ experiences of working with young women and girls affected by G&CL

- The Power of Language
- Supporting Young Women in Secure Accommodation
- Advocating for and with Young Women
- Resilience and Self-Care
- Reflections on Taking A Contextual Safeguarding Approach





— Testimonial



I especially like the ethos of Abianda as an organisation and am in awe of the amazing work that you do

Training Testimonials

