



“COUNTY LINES AND STREET CRIMES”

**HELPING ADULT SAFEGUARDERS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE
ADULTS AT RISK OF CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION**



Dean Coady OBE
Urban Pure Solutions

HEALTH WARNING

What is
'County Lines'
and what can I do
about it?



Child Criminal Exploitation - CCE
also affecting vulnerable adults
Perpetrated by drug traffickers and
other criminals, it's not new!.....

Child Criminal Exploitation is
Grooming for Criminal Purposes

Definitions

What is a Street-Gang

Street Gang

3 or more

Identity - name, colour

Territory

Criminal Acts

Rivalry

Prof John Pitts

Dying to Belong

Organised Crime can be defined as;
serious crime planned,
coordinated and conducted
by people working together on
a continuing basis



County lines gang 'recruited teen in 80 minutes via Snapchat'

By Colin Campbell
BBC South East Special Correspondent

🕒 14 April



County lines drugs trade



In a series of operations against county lines gangs since 2019, the **Home Office** said police have closed 4,755 lines, arrested 14,887 suspects and referred 7,267 children and other vulnerable people for safeguarding.



Organised crime threat greater than terrorism - National Crime Agency

🕒 1 November 2018

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The threat posed by organised crime in the UK is now greater than terrorism, the National Crime Agency has said.

Daily Mail interview with Director of NCA Lynne Owens

“Organised crime kills more citizens every year, more than war, terrorism and natural disasters COMBINED!”

National Strategic Assessment 2023
for Serious and Organised Crime



Illegal drugs costing UK society £21 billion

4500 Organised Crime Groups in the UK

59000 **KNOWN** Serious Organised Criminals

680 to 830,000 individuals posing varying degrees of threat to kids in the UK

Question:

Think of the number of young people you have met and/or supported that you know or believe to be involved with drugs.

Multiply that by the number of terrorists you have met/or supported.

What's your number?

What is County Lines?

From NCA Guidance and me!

The COUNTY LINES offending model involves GANGS and ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS (OCG'S) The 'County Line' is the mobile PHONE LINE used to take the orders of drugs. (The 'line' will usually be CONTROLLED BY A THIRD PARTY AWAY FROM THE FRONTLINE. (London, West Mids, Liverpool*****)

Illegal drugs are transported from ONE AREA TO ANOTHER, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by CHILDREN or VULNERABLE PEOPLE people who are coerced into it by gangs.

The dealers will ALWAYS target CHILDREN AND ADULTS - often with MENTAL HEALTH or ADDICTION problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement.

People exploited in this way will ROUTINELY be exposed to PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, and in some instances will be trafficked to areas a long way from home as part of the network's drug dealing business.

Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting INCREASED LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AND WEAPONS-RELATED CRIMES as a result of this trend.

In some cases the dealers will TAKE OVER a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as CUCKOOING. **

As we have seen in Child Sexual Exploitation, children often DON'T SEE THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS or realise they have been GROOMED to get involved in criminality.

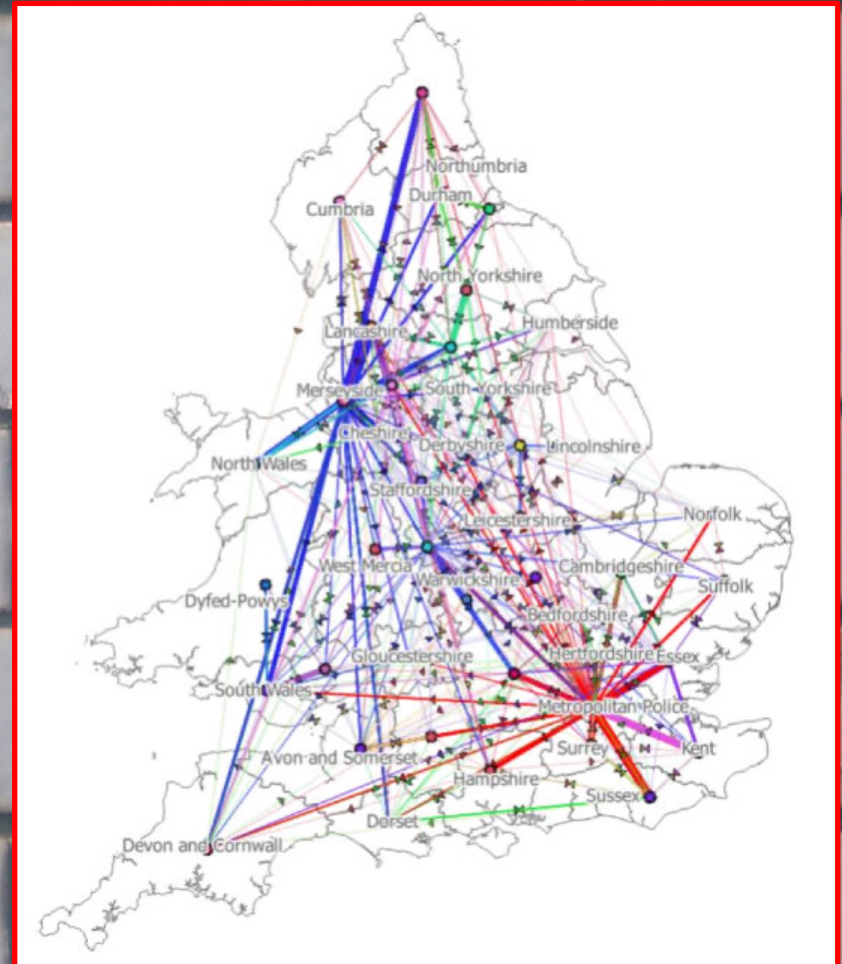
Dealers use INTIMIDATION, SEVERE VIOLENCE, ACID, GUNS AND KNIVES. £35,000 per week. £1.8 mill per year.

Revealed: County lines drug gang recruited 25 teenagers from London care homes to act as couriers peddling narcotics 70 miles away

Five of the victims were noticed when they were arrested by Hampshire police for drug offences in Portsmouth in 2014. The sixth victim, aged 19 at the time and classed as a vulnerable adult because of a learning difficulty, was flagged to authorities by an outreach worker.

At trial, he told the court when a user stole £100 cash and £100 worth of drugs from him, associates of Karemera staged a mock execution to terrify him into promising to return the money. He was stripped naked and had a gun placed in his mouth, the court heard.

The five remaining victims refused to provide statements to police. Instead, detectives pieced together the case against the three men using DNA evidence and mobile phone data.



How do vulnerable people get exploited ?

Offering an exchange – carrying drugs in return for money, clothes, drugs, status, protection, friendship, a sense of belonging or identity, or love!

Physical violence or threats of violence – intimidation, punishing victims and their families, involving weapons, knives and guns.

Abduction or kidnapping – victims forcibly moved and held in a location away from home.

Emotional abuse or psychological coercive control – manipulating, threatening, controlling or monitoring the movements of the victim.

Sexual abuse and exploitation – this can be experienced by **all** genders.

Blackmail – forcing victims to commit a crime so they can hold it over them and threaten to report it if they do not comply.

Grooming via Social Media.

Debt Bondage – own and inherited!

Financial exploitation – money laundering, targeting children and vulnerable adults to control, manipulate, or deceive them into facilitating the movement of illicit funds.

Gangs force thousands of teens to become 'money mules'

Youngsters have been approached with violent threats if they did not consent, say police

Barclays warns of 23% surge in Student Money Mule Activity- Squaring!



Don't miss out!

**Call Coads
24/7
Deliveries or Pick-
up**

**07888888888
Special Offers!**

Don't miss out!

**Drug dealers are targeting students at
Britain's top universities with business
cards selling Buy One Get One Free
deals on MDMA and cocaine - and
some are even offering FREE SAMPLES**

Drugs kingpin, 22, who was trained by students in university halls of residence, is jailed for running Britain's biggest 'county lines' operation

- Michael Emeofa, 22, was drug runner for two Central Lancs University students
- When pair were caught peddling drugs he set up his own network in Coventry
- He even enrolled on a course and took a halls place to provide a cover story
- Operation flooded the Cumbrian town Barrow-in-Furness with class-A drugs
- He was sentenced to nine years in jail at Preston Crown Court after admitting conspiracy to supply controlled drugs of class A

By [ALEX WARD FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:14, 13 November 2020 | UPDATED: 22:14, 13 November 2020



Jaden poses on his moped in a video that was posted on Facebook as a tribute



Jaden Moodie 14 years of age, dealing drugs for the Beaumont Crew. Was stabbed seven times in the back after being knocked off his moped by a Mercedes containing four men from rival Mali boys. Despite Jaden - nicknamed JSav – boasting of being a “trapper kid” – slang for a drug dealer – on his own Facebook page, his family have denied he was affiliated to a gang. But one school friend had said that Jaden had confessed to close pals he feared was going to be attacked and that he “knew his time was up”.

The heart-breaking home video that proves no child is beyond County Lines gangs: Ben, 16, had a wholesome upbringing and was adored by his parents. But, as his shattered mother reveals, that wasn't enough to stop her finding him dead in a squalid hostel



An inquest heard he had also been ruthlessly exploited by drug dealers, who forced him to sell Class A drugs after he fell into debt and threatened to cut his fingers off.

He was arrested or questioned by police 26 times and admitted to A&E 12 times in the final year of his life, and a child protection strategy meeting was due to take place on the day he died.

Before he died, specialists from 12 organisations, including social workers and psychiatrists, had become increasingly concerned about Ben as he was frequently taking drugs, getting arrested, injuring himself and threatening to take his own life.



**Dad- Barry, Global Operations Manager for Mastercard
Mum – Kate, Tai Chi teacher and massage therapist**

Serious Violence Strategy April 2018

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.

They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

In 2019, at least 2000 + County Lines operating with 118 having direct access to guns.

In 2021 - NCA report 600 + County Lines

Child Criminal Exploitation 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 into any criminal activity

(a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence.

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

University: 'Dealing drugs was the only way I could afford degree'

🕒 29 January 2023



Drug dealers are targeting students at Britain's top universities with business cards selling Buy One Get One Free deals on MDMA and cocaine - and some are even offering FREE SAMPLES

Drugs kingpin, 22, who was trained by students in university halls of residence, is jailed for running Britain's biggest 'county lines' operation

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By [ALEX WARD FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:14, 13 November 2020 | **UPDATED:** 22:14, 13 November 2020

Typical Drug Dealers Business Card

Don't miss out!

**Call Coads
24/7
Deliveries or Pick-up**

**07888888888
Special Offers!**

Don't miss out!

THROUGHOUT TODAY'S INPUT – PLEASE CONSIDER MODERN DAY SLAVERY, PEOPLE TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL AND CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

You can contact UK Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre on 08000 121 700 - it's free to call, confidential and open 24/7



Grooming



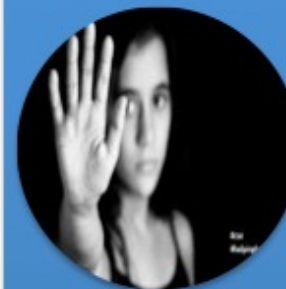
**Trafficking
of Children
and
vulnerable
individuals.**



**Violence,
Kidnap,
Guns**



**Debt
Bondage**



**Sexual
Exploitation**



Cuckooing

County Lines - Aspects of Threat, Risk and Harm

Slavery can be described as the status or condition of a person over whom any, or all, of the powers attaching the right of ownership are exercised.

ALSO CONSIDER;

**PHYSICAL AND
MENTAL HEALTH**



**I AM BEGGING YOU .
PLEAZ MAKE DEM
PACKAGES SMALLER...
I HAVTA TO PLUG DEM
AND DEY ARE HURTIN
ME.**

Anxiety disorders x 2

Psychosis x 4

Psych./Mental Health admission x 8

Suicide attempts x 13

Antisocial Personality Disorder x 57

St Giles JS

DEFINITION

Coercive internal concealment is one element increasingly common in County Lines activity. It involves drugs being moved from one place to another (or stored for a longer duration) hidden in body cavities, commonly the rectum or vagina, to avoid detection.

Criminal groups use threats, physical violence, and humiliation to coerce children or vulnerable adults into inserting drugs in their bodies. These processes are sometimes filmed, as a means of coercive control.

This is an act of exploitation, and does not indicate that the victim is complicit in drug supply. Care must also be taken not to criminalise children who may have been forced or coerced to commit the act of inserting drugs into other children.

COMMON TERMS

Several slang terms are commonly used in relation to coercive internal concealment.

Plugging, stuffing and **banking** refer to the hiding of drugs (often heroin or crack cocaine) being hidden in body cavities.

Spooning is the process of retrieving items that have been plugged rectally, with a spoon or similar object.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNAL CONCEALMENT

Internal concealment poses serious risks to the victim, including:

- drug leakage, impactions and obstructions, and overdose
- recurrent Urinary Tract Infections, faecal incontinence, nausea or vomiting
- physical damage, such as tears and abrasions
- soreness in the genital or anal areas, or Sexually Transmitted Infections
- trauma and psychological harm

SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNAL CONCEALMENT

Individuals who suffer this exploitation can see it as a means of protecting themselves from violence, to evade arrest and detection, and to avoid substances being seized by the police or rival gangs.

Coercive internal concealment is not always seen as a safeguarding concern, because the act is usually carried out 'voluntarily', i.e. victims are coerced into carrying it out themselves.

However, it is very much a safeguarding concern: treating it as a form of sexual violence can help to change attitudes towards criminally-exploited individuals, and ensure they receive adequate support to help them recover.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 cannot currently be used to prosecute individuals who perpetrate this abuse, because:

- coercive internal concealment does not usually meet the definition of assault by penetration, since victims are often groomed to insert drugs themselves
- evidence of a 'sexual motive' or 'sexual gratification' is required for prosecuting the act as a sexual offence
- prosecutors may be unwilling to take this route in court because they might risk losing an opportunity to sentence the perpetrator for other offences

The Children's Society recommends that this abuse is instead prosecuted under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

In an emergency, you should dial 999 and speak to the police.

You can also speak to your local police on 101, or speak to **CrimeStoppers** anonymously, on 0800 555 111. If you notice something linked to the railways, you should report your concerns to the **British Transport Police** by texting 61016.

If you have concerns, you must share them through your usual local safeguarding processes.

SERVICES THAT CAN OFFER ASSISTANCE

Children concerned about their own involvement, or that of someone they know, can call **Childline** on 0800 1111. This is a confidential service, with specially-trained counsellors.

Catch 22 works to help children and young people get out of situations they're worried about, and has helped many involved in County Lines.

St Giles offers specialist practical and emotional support to help young people make a safe and sustained exit from County Lines involvement.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

The government's **Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit** has been developed to support partners tackling child criminal and sexual exploitation, through measures such as Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders.

Public Health England's **County Lines exploitation: applying All Our Health** provides information about County Lines and Modern Slavery, as well as advice for health and care professionals, and a comprehensive list of resources, further reading and examples of best practice.



County lines:

A support resource for professionals working in education settings

**The
Children's
Society**



CRIMINAL, CIVIL AND PARTNERSHIP DISRUPTION OPTIONS FOR PERPETRATORS OF CHILD AND ADULT VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION

**KAY WALLACE NWG EXPLOITATION RESPONSE UNIT AND
RACHEL HOPPER BARNARDO'S NATIONAL COUNTER TRAFFICKING SERVICE.**



News > UK News

WASTED YOUTH Primary schoolboy, 9, becomes Britain's youngest ever crack cocaine dealer – and he's too young to charge

Alice Fuller

22:14, 5 Jun 2021 | Updated: 1:33, 6 Jun 2021

Children as young as EIGHT are used as drug mules by gangs making up to £5,000-a-day exploiting them to run narcotics over 'county lines' from UK cities to towns and rural areas

- City drugs gangs are getting children to deal for them in rural areas of the UK
- It allows them to keep raking in profits while reducing the risk of getting caught
- Conference in Parliament hears children as young as eight now being targeted

By [RICHARD SPILLETT FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 16:25, 14 September 2018 | UPDATED: 17:20, 14 September 2018



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Children as young as eight are being used as mules by 'county lines' gangs who traffic Class A drugs into rural areas of the UK.



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Teesside gangs 'recruit children, from age six, to deal drugs'

🕒 15 February 2019



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County lines drugs trade

'My safe little town isn't safe any more': the toll of the county lines drug trade

Sam, 16, was sucked into drug trafficking in Oxfordshire and ended up being stabbed 13 times



▲ Sam said the drug trade drew in people like him, from provincial towns, because of the money to be made.
Photograph: Tom Pilston for the Guardian

Sam has lived in the same English town his whole life, but recently a new craze has taken over his and other young people's lives in the area. It isn't the latest video game or fashion item, but rather teenagers in the region have increasingly been caught up in the county lines drug trade.

The challenges of tackling county lines in a rural area

A social worker researching how her region can tackle county lines and criminal exploitation shares the issues raised so far

June 26, 2019 in **Adults, Children**



The Dorset coast. Photo: Victor Ochieng/Flickr



By Tilia Lenz, lecturer practitioner consultant, Pan-Dorset & Wiltshire Social Work Teaching Partnership

Increased Vulnerabilities can include -

Prior experience of physical, sexual abuse and/or neglect

Lack of stable and safe home life parental/domestic abuse

Homeless insecure accom and/or immigration status – including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and other refugees

Social isolation

Economic vulnerability – skint!!

Gang connected – previous contact with criminal justice system

Physical disability/Learning difficulty/Mental Health issue

Looked after child, residential care, interrupted care history

Excluded from mainstream education

Living in social housing in a drug hotspot, especially young woman with kids

Substance misuse – drink and drugs



**Why do children
and vulnerable
adults get
involved in crime
and criminal
exploitation?**



Tooting



Digging



🏠 > News

Middle-class children 'being groomed to sell drugs'



A person is led away after a number of drugs raids in a housing estate in south London CREDIT: PA



Any child or vulnerable adult can be affected and it's important to recognise that it can still be exploitation, even if the activity appears consensual.

South Wales Police

What are some signs of criminal exploitation and county lines?

Returning home late, staying out all night, running away from home, truant

Being found in or seen to be visiting areas away from home

Increasing drug or alcohol use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs or money on them

Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going

Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work,

Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewelry – Smart but scruffy!

Missing name labels

Increasingly agitated, disruptive or aggressive behaviour – disproportionate responses to calls - sleep patterns

Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know

Coming home with injuries – HEALTH WARNING

What are some signs of criminal exploitation and county lines?

FROM A PARENT WHOSE CHILD WAS SUBJECTED TO CCE/COUNTY LINES

Awareness of 'Gang Boundaries'

Coached replies – "No Comment!"

Leaving home – no explanation

Condoms and Vaseline

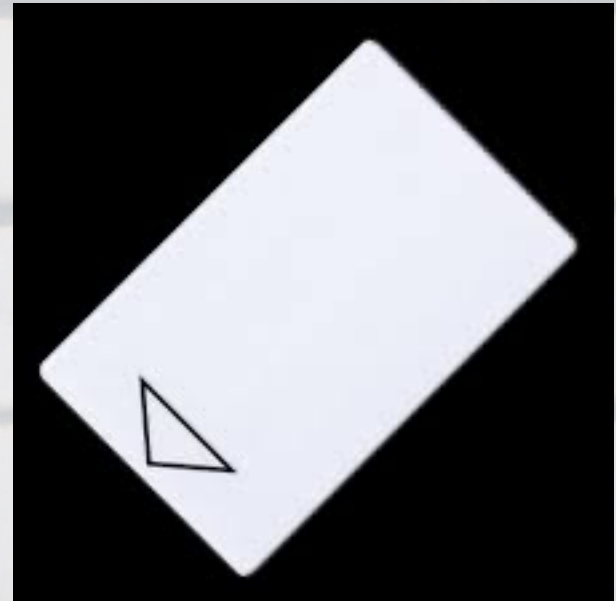
Cleaning a 'pinging' phone

Missing or Discovered Knives

Rolling Pin/Cling Film/Paracetamol

Train Tickets/Receipts

Having hotel cards or keys.





Airbnbs used as drug dens by expanding 'county lines' gangs, officials reveal

**APPROPRIATE
LANGUAGE:
CHILD SEXUAL
AND/OR CRIMINAL
EXPLOITATION**
GUIDANCE FOR
PROFESSIONALS

In collaboration with



VS VICTIM
SUPPORT



BOYFRIEND/PARTNER!

RELATIONSHIP!

PROMISCUOUS!

PROSTITUTION!



How does the Modern Slavery Act 2015 apply to members of a County Lines drug gang?

EXAMPLES OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY INCLUDE:

- 
1. Bonded labour
 2. Child labour
 3. Human trafficking
 4. Forced marriage

Under section 2 of the MSA 2015, a person commits the offence of human trafficking if they arrange or facilitate the travel of another person with a view to that person being exploited.

This section specifies that travelling can include travel within the same country.

Section 3(6) holds that exploitation can refer to the provision of “services of any kind” from children and vulnerable persons.

Therefore, an individual who uses children or vulnerable people within the County Lines drug distribution model could therefore face being charged with a human trafficking offence as well any relevant drug offences.

'County lines' heroin dealer jailed under child trafficking law

4th Oct 2018

Zakaria Mohammed, from Birmingham, recruited children to sell drugs in Lincoln



▲ Zakaria Mohammed is thought to be the first drug dealer convicted in the UK for breaching the Modern Slavery Act by trafficking children. Photograph: West Midlands police

A drug dealer who used three children from **Birmingham** to sell crack cocaine and heroin to addicts in a Lincolnshire town has been jailed for 14 years after admitting charges of modern slavery.

In what the prosecutors described as a landmark case, Zakaria Mohammed admitted using two boys aged 15 and a 14-year-old girl to deal on his behalf from a flat in Lincoln that was also occupied by two heroin users.

Mohammed, 21, transported the children, drugs and money between Birmingham and Lincoln. He operated the line remotely; taking calls and then telling the children when and where to make sales.

Police said he made profits of £500 a day. Yet his young dealers benefited little from the ring. In a "filthy, cold" flat identified by the investigation, three "drawn, tired and hungry" youngsters were found living alongside two hard drug users "surrounded by used syringes".

"They were not wearing new trainers or designer clothes ... they didn't have new phones or gadgets," said DI Tom Hadley, the senior investigating officer in the case. "They were not making money - they were having their childhood stolen from them by Mohammed who considered them



Defences at Law Sect 46 MSA

For an individual under 18 years old, they would have a defence if they:

- (a) Commit an offence as a direct consequence of their being a victim of slavery or relevant exploitation; and
- (b) A reasonable person in the same situation and having the person's relevant characteristics (including their age) would have committed the offence.

- Stigma -
Slavery and Trafficking
Prevention Order

GANG TENSIONS!

For an individual over the age of 18, they would have a defence if they:

- (a) Commit an offence because they are compelled to do so,
- (b) They are compelled as a result of slavery or relevant exploitation; and
- (c) A reasonable person with relevant characteristics in the same position as the person would have no realistic alternative to committing the offence

K.N.I.F.E.



K.N.I.F.E.

Wednesday 24th July 2024

Figures released by the Office For National Statistics today reveal that knife-enabled crime in England and Wales has risen by 4% in the year ending March 2024, with police recording 50,510 offences.

This marks a significant 78% increase over the past decade. Despite this rise, the current levels remain 3% lower than the pre-pandemic period ending in March 2020, which saw a record high of 51,982 offences.

There was a significant 13% rise in the number of robberies involving a knife or sharp instrument compared to the previous year, but in contrast, there has been a 3% decrease in the recorded offences of "possession of article with a blade or point," dropping from 28,391 to 27,470 in the same period.

K.N.I.F.E.



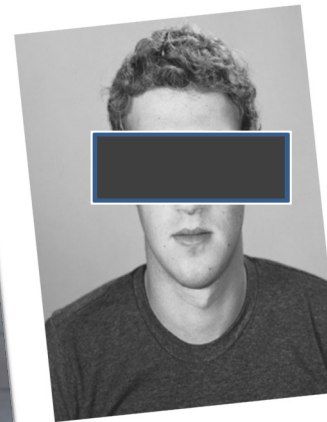
Killed
R.I.P



Nicked



Injured



Family
destroyed



Employment
And Travel

“The Children’s Commissioner’s Report into Childhood Vulnerability and Childhood Local Data on Risks and Need and own research open source data

In 2023, 14 million kids in UK, over 403,000 children were classed as 'in need',
51,000 children were on protection plans - Gov UK.
106% increase in child cruelty and neglect offences in England in the past 5 years

2.7 million children aged 5 to 17- suffer probable mental health disorder.
1.6 million children with parents suffering mental health problems
800,000 children living in homes with domestic violence- Barnardo's
478,000 children whose parents use substances problematically
105,000 children who are living in a family with a "toxic trio" (mental health problems,
domestic violence and alcohol and/or substance abuse)
4 million children living in food poverty – Local Gov. Authority
312,000 Children have a parent in prison in 2023 (Prison Advice/Care Trust)
3104 children permanently excluded from school in England 2023
247,366 children suspended from school 2023.
5.1 million households in UK claiming Universal Credit. Gov.UK 2023
800,000 children who care for their parents or siblings – Children's Society.
309,000 children are in local authority alternative provision or PRU's.
60,000 young people (aged 10-17) identify as a gang member or know a gang member who
is a relative.
300,000 young people know someone in a gang
190,000 children reported missing 2023 (1 in 10 Care/ 1 in 200 mainstream)
1.5 million children with special educational needs (SEN) 2023
5,500 children identified victims of modern slavery in 2023 - Unseen.
7019 Children NRM Referrals 2022 - Youth Justice League
**At least 27,000 children are county lines gang members, with an additional 120,000
children – one in every 25 teens in England- estimated to experience broader risk
factors associated with exploitation. Children's Commissioner for England July 2023**

THE
TIP

OF THE

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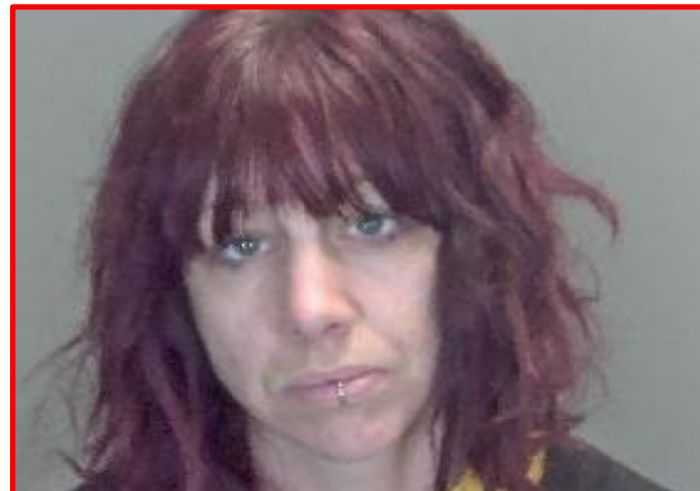




Graduation day 2013



Arrested 2018 - bailed



Angela Davey in February 2018. Photo: Norfolk Constabulary

Arrested Feb 2019

Angela Davey. Graduate. had a successful career as secondary school History teacher, happily married with two children.

Marriage broke down, was left destitute and homeless. Got onto Tinder, got a drug-dealing boyfriend. Ended up homeless, sleeping in doorways. Became involved with a County Lines drugs gang taking and dealing heroin and crack cocaine. Served up a UCO. Arrested, charge, she went on the run.

Feb 1st 2019

UEA graduate turned drug dealer arrested in London after two months running

Serious Violence Strategy Duty of Care

What are you doing to play your part?

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Duties to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence

(1) The specified authorities for a local government area must collaborate with each other to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

(2) The duty imposed on the specified authorities for a local government area by subsection includes a duty to plan together to exercise their functions so as to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

(3) In particular, the specified authorities for a local government area must—

- (a) identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area,
- (b) identify the causes of serious violence in the area, so far as it is possible to do so, and
- (c) prepare and implement a strategy for exercising their functions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

(4) In preparing a strategy under this section for a local government area, the specified authorities for the area must ensure that the following are consulted—

- (a) each educational authority for the area;
- (b) each prison authority for the area;
- (c) each youth custody authority for the area.



Guidance

Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines (accessible version)

Updated 20 October 2023

Contents

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Who's this guidance for?

Criminal exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults for the supply of drugs, and transportation of the associated money and weapons, has a devastating impact on victims, families and local communities but is often not recognised by those who are best placed to spot it. This guidance is intended to explain the nature of this harm to enable practitioners to recognise its signs and respond appropriately so that victims and potential victims get the protection and support they need.

This guidance is primarily aimed at frontline staff in England and Wales who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This includes professionals working in:

- education
- health
- adult social care, children's social care and early help/family support
- housing
- the benefits system
- policing
- prisons, probation and youth justice
- multi-agency partnerships
- related partner organisations, for example in the voluntary sector.

The signs and vulnerabilities associated with county lines exploitation may present differently to different professionals and safeguarding processes will vary depending on local contexts. However, the information provided here is intended to be useful to all. This document provides links to other resources to assist professionals to consider in further detail how this guidance relates to their role and responsibilities. It may also be helpful for carers, parents and others in the community, although they are not the primary audience.

This guidance does not attempt to provide information about the entirety of the county lines issue or the UK Government's response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

County Lines

National County Lines Coordination Centre

The Children's Society, #LookCloser exploitation awareness campaign

The Children's Society, County lines and criminal exploitation toolkit

The Children's Society, Debt Bondage in a Criminal Exploitation and County Lines Context – a support resource for professionals.

NCA, Money muling - National Crime Agency – NCA advice for young people, parents and education professionals on money muling.

NHS, County Lines: Coercive Internal Concealment – a rapid read document on internal concealment.

College of Policing, Children and young persons – authorised professional practice for policing on intimate and strip searches of children and young people.

•Department for Education, Working together to safeguard children – statutory guidance on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Guidance

National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales)

Updated 14 May 2024

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:

Human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour

An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation.

If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the Single Competent Authority (SCA) can fully consider the case.

You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim.

STREET - STRONG
STREET - SAFE



**Thanks for taking part in
today's workshop.**

Any Questions?

Dean Coady OBE
deancoady@urbanpuresolutions.com

Insta- deancoads
X - #Dean@UrbanPureHelp