



Health Warning

Potentially distressing content.

Use of 'Street-language'

Participation is voluntary

Role protection

Aims-

1. Describe the meaning of County Line, Gangs and Organised Crime Groups.
2. Recognise the current County Lines Criminal Practices.
3. Review the correlation between County Lines, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery.
4. Gain enhanced youth engagement skills and knowledge to support children and vulnerable adults at risk of criminal exploitation.
5. Increase their personal resilience and awareness of the dangers and explore consequences of becoming involved in crime and carrying/using weapons.
6. State defences in Law and explore mitigating factors.
7. Pick and Mix!

PREPARE TO GET INVOLVED!



“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



Exploitation and gangs

2. In the past year, 11% of teenage children reported staying overnight somewhere without permission. Most did so rarely, but 3.7% said they went missing once or twice a month, and 0.9% as often as once a week.

1. In the past year, one in eight teenagers (12%) said they'd been asked to either sell drugs, transport drugs, or store drugs, weapons or money. Around a quarter of those who were approached to do one of these things **went through with it** — the equivalent of 120,000 13–17-year-olds in England and Wales.

3. Another sign of exploitation can be involvement in 'gangs'. In our survey, 2.4% of all 13–17-year-olds self-identified as having been in a 'gang' in the past 12 months – equivalent to around 90,000 13–17-year-olds across England and Wales.

4. Although only 2.4% of teenage children said they'd been in a 'gang' in the past year, this small group accounted for more than a third (39%) of all those who committed serious violence resulting in their victims requiring medical treatment.

5. Of those who said they were in a 'gang', 55% also transported or hid drugs, weapons or money when approached – around 1.3% of all 13-17-year-olds. Of those who said they were in a 'gang', 39% also said they'd been missing at least monthly in the past year.

6. Teenage children who identified as being in a 'gang' or being exploited were 15 times more likely to have carried a weapon compared to all 13–17-year-olds (32% compared to 2.1%). Use of class A drugs was reported by 3.6% of all 13–17-year-olds in the past year, but the proportion was substantially higher among vulnerable groups: 29% of those regularly missing from home, 52% of those in 'gangs', and 50% of children who were criminally exploited.

7. Teenage children who went missing monthly or more were around 18 times more likely to be victims of serious violence requiring medical treatment (28%) and 30 times more likely to have perpetrated it (25%), than those who never went missing (1.5% and 0.8%, respectively).

8. Violence continues to shape the lives of too many teenage children. In the past year, nearly one in five (18%) said they had been a victim, one in eight (13%) admitted to carrying out violence themselves, and half (50%) told us they had witnessed violence being committed against someone else. For many, these were not isolated incidents:

England | England Elections 2021 | London Elec

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

By Colin Campbell
BBC South East Special Correspondent

🕒 14 April



County lines drugs trade



2025 Summary of County Lines Reducing Harm Data and totals since 2022

2323 Lines closed –record high! (7558)

6293 arrests (22,286)

1126 line holders charged (2517)

£2.4 million cash seized

618 Knives seized

510 weapons seized in June 2025, firearms knives etc *****

3236 referrals for Vulnerable individuals (11540)



Organised crime threat greater than terrorism - National Crime Agency

🕒 1 November 2018

f 🗨️ 🐦 ✉️ Share



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



Question:

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

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 2024 of Serious and Organised Crime

Illegal drugs costing UK society £20 billion- drug misuse deaths up 60% over the last 10 years

4772 Organised Crime Groups in the UK 1500 County Lines Gangs

59000 **KNOWN** Serious Organised Criminals

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

What is County Lines?

From NCA Guidance, NCLCC, NPCC 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 Class A Drugs (The 'line' will usually be CONTROLLED BY A THIRD PARTY AWAY FROM THE FRONTLINE. (London, West Mids, Liverpool*****) External Lines – X-Border, Internal Lines– local, Media Lines – online. . Last year, 89 social media lines were reported by nine forces. This year 429 lines are being reported

Illegal drugs are transported from ONE AREA TO ANOTHER, often across police and local authority boundaries (not exclusively), usually by CHILDREN or VULNERABLE PEOPLE people who are coerced into it by gangs. (Trend –Cross-border is down 12% -1 - localised up 232% +18 - Increased number of Adults- less kids)

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 be exposed to DANGER, VIOLENCE, 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. (Missing From Home!!!!)

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.

3 in 4 CL Criminals are linked to VI and WE. Currently 354 in jail for Murder. 2216 Weapons. Dealers use INTIMIDATION, SEVERE VIOLENCE, ACID, GUNS AND KNIVES. £35,000 per week. £1.8 mill per year.

Setting up a County Line

A. Non // 2:17 PM

CAN U DO US 2 B AND A W

A. Non // 2:17 PM

RED LION BUS STOP 10
MINS

A. Non // 2:17 PM

NICE 1!

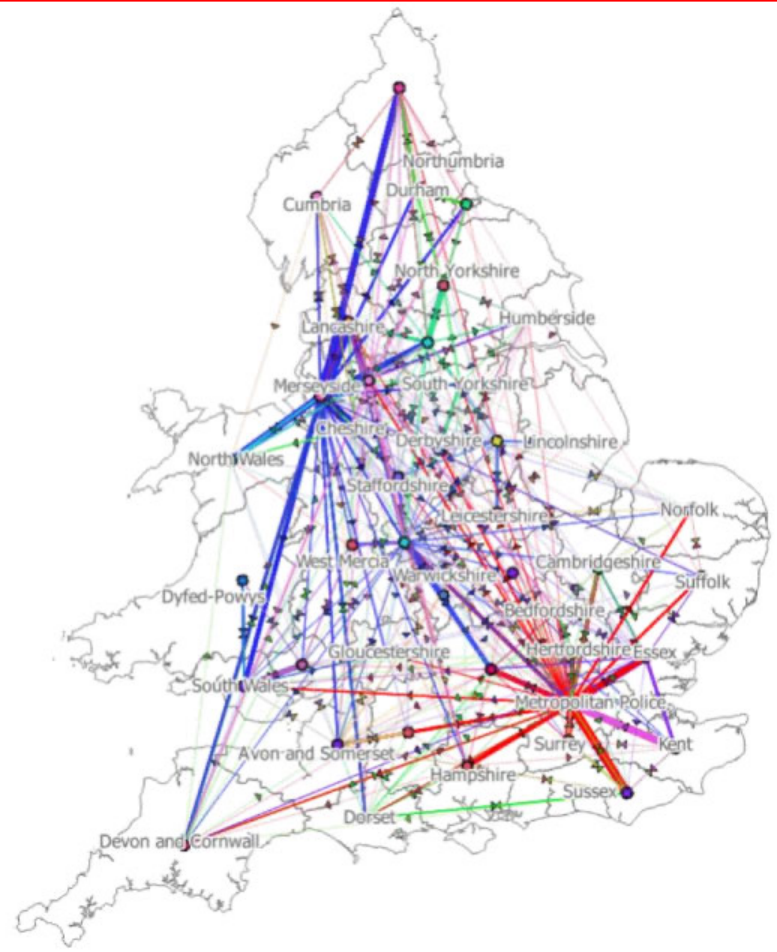


Revealed: County lines drug gang recruited 25 teenagers from London care homes to act as couriers peddling narcotics 70 miles away

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.



6,544 County Lines have been recorded this year – external and internal lines only; social media lines are not counted

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 – 'Eazy-cash!'

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

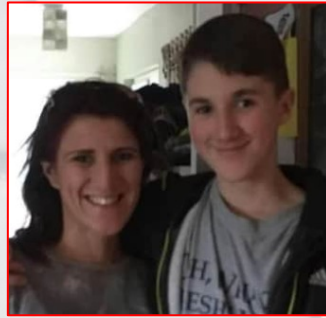


**Working in the Community
has it's challenges.....**



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**

Policy paper

Crime and Policing Bill: Child criminal exploitation and 'cuckooing' factsheet

Published 25 February 2025

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[Print this page](#)

What are we going to do?

We are creating a new standalone offence to prosecute adults committing child criminal exploitation and creating a new regime for child criminal exploitation civil preventative orders to prevent exploitative conduct committed by adults against children from occurring or re-occurring.

We are also creating a new bespoke criminal offence to tackle the practice known as 'cuckooing' (home takeover), whereby criminals take control over the home of another person to use it for criminal activity.

These measures will contribute to the government's Safer Streets Mission.

The bill will make it an offence for an adult to use a child to commit any criminal activity. The offence will target the inherent imbalance of power that is unduly exercised by an adult who uses a child to commit crime and, as such, culpability will be restricted to adults aged 18 and over and victims will be limited to children under the age of 18. The new offence will carry a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Civil restrictions and powers also coming!

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.

How many County Lines do you think are operating as we speak, in the UK?

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.

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



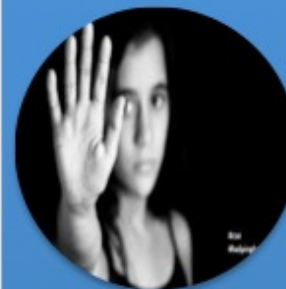
**Trafficking
of Children
and
vulnerable
individuals.**



**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.

runaway helpline

SafeCall Service



Who can I
talk to that
understands...?

I have been told to hold
drugs and weapons.
What do I do...?

What choices
do I have...?

If I don't deliver the
package, I am in fear of
what they might do...

SafeCall is a
confidential
telephone support
service for young
people that are
caught up in gangs
and county lines.

We listen to what you
have to say, and we
will never judge you.

We talk through
your options
with you.

SAFECALL
It's your call.

Open 7 days a week, 9am - 11pm. Call or text **116 000**. Visit www.runawayhelpline.org.uk/safecall-service



Disrupting County Lines

Policing Strategy 2024–2027



County Lines

Strategic Threat Risk Assessment

On average, how old
do you think a child
drug runner is?



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



Share



63
shares

13
View comments

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.

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

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Middle-class children 'being groomed to sell drugs'



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

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

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

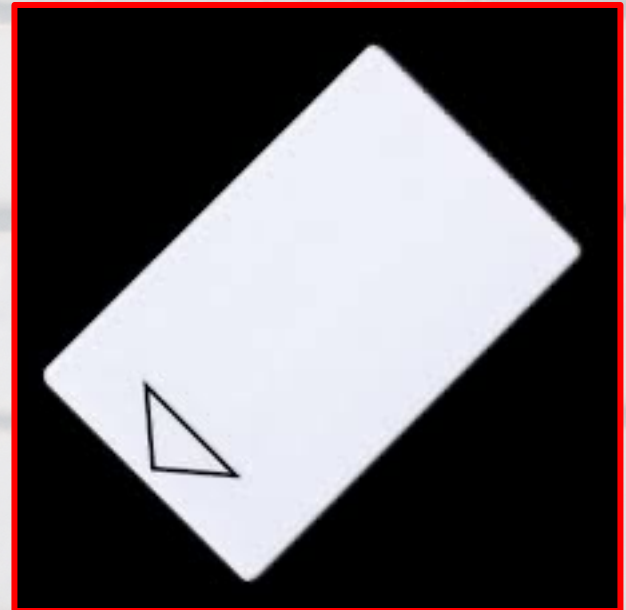
Cleaning a 'pinging' phone

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

Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Order

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.

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

Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Order



The STPO has been put in place for 10 years and prevents Smith from owning more than one mobile device and having any unsupervised contact or communication with anyone under the age of 18.

SKY News 5th April 2024

A drug dealer has been jailed for more than five years and given Bedfordshire's first slavery and trafficking prevention order (STPO) for running a county lines operation.

Schimarr SMITH, 20, trafficked two teenagers from Luton to Cambridge to sell drugs and placed them in drug dens so they were easy for his customers to reach.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of modern-day slavery offences, and conspiracy to supply cocaine and heroin.

At his sentencing on Thursday, Judge Johnson said while Smith had been a victim of modern slavery himself when he was younger, he had perpetuated the cycle instead of breaking it by finding two boys "ripe for exploitation".

A statue of Lady Justice, the personification of the goddess of justice, stands atop a pedestal. She is blindfolded, holding a sword in her right hand and a pair of scales in her left. The background is a clear blue sky.

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**Stigma and Jail
Hierarchy**

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

A photograph of a prison corridor. A guard in a white shirt and dark trousers is walking away from the camera down the center of the hallway. The hallway has white walls, a dark floor, and a metal railing on the right side. There are cell doors on the left, some with numbers like 41 and 42. The corridor is long and brightly lit by windows at the end.

PRISON MATHS

5 years jail.

52 weeks x 5 = 260 weeks, 260 x 7 =
1820 days,
£500 divided by 1820 = **Doing jail
for 28p a day**

Min wage April 2026 is £8
1820 days in jail x 8 hours a day work
x £8 per hour = £116,480

**What do you think Natasha should do and
what could she say to Lee to get out of the
situation?**

The Pizza Project

Share this info with your parent/carers

Let your parent/carer know, that if they ever get a call from you saying you want to stay out and get **"Pizza with friends"**, and you don't say a name of that friend....that means;

"I am in trouble, come get me now!" Tell them they should ask **"Where you now?"** saying they are pure mad at you and they are coming to get you right now. Also, if you move they will call police on you as they are sick of you ignoring your curfew!.

(Make sure you tell parents/carers that you might be on speaker and can't speak freely)



1. If someone's trying to get you into a car, take you out of the area or somewhere you just don't want to go....



2.....Tell them your parents have got you on a curfew and you have to be home in ten minutes or they will go mad!



3. IF THIS DON'T WORK



4. Tell the 'baddies' you will make a call home to see if you can sort something out. Put the phone on speaker and call home, asking to stay out a bit later to get "Pizza with friends" and let your parents/carers have a proper kick off with you, saying they are coming for you right now and if you are not there, they are going to call the cops on you.

Also tell parents/carers, if they ever get a text from you that says "Pizza with friends" or Burgers, or Chicken or any food! and it has three Pizza or food emojis at end of your message, 🍕🍕🍕 - this means; **"I am in trouble!"** and they should call you, telling you they are coming for you **immediately!** These streets are getting tough, so put on your tracking app.



News ▸ Greater Manchester News ▸ Manchester Crown Court

True scale of modern day slavery exposed as police smash city centre cannabis farm



Modern Slavery – a cost of the war on drugs

TRANSFORM
Getting drugs under control

Danger of 'modern day slavery' after police raid cannabis factories

South Cambridgeshire police raided three cannabis factories in the war on drugs.



K.N.I.F.E.



K.N.I.F.E.

Key Statistics (Latest 12-Month Data, 2024–2025)

Knife-enabled offences - 51,527 offences recorded

Knife-enabled homicides/Fatal stabbings - 196 deaths

40 victims under 18 were killed with a sharp instrument in England & Wales

The overall number of knife and offensive weapon offences dealt with by the Criminal Justice System (CJS) increased to 20,754 in the year ending March 2025.

Knife-crime remains 64% higher than it was in 2016

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

(This took me hours and everyone seemed to be giving a different story!!!)

2024 – 14.4 million kids in UK, approx 402,000 children were classed as ‘in need’, GOV UK 2025
50,000 children are on Child protection plans - Gov UK.
1 in 10 children have experienced neglect – 1 in 20 Sexual Abuse – 1 in 14 Physical Abuse - NSPCC
2.8 million children aged 8 to 16- suffer probable mental health - 1.6 million possible mental health disorder.
Around one-third of children in England (0–15 years) are estimated to live with a parent experiencing moderate to severe mental ill-health symptoms. Children’s Commissioner
105,000 children affected by high-risk domestic violence- Barnardo’s (1 in 5 NCDV)
3.25 million children whose parents use substances problematically (ADFAM)
751,000 children aged 10-15 are living in a family with a mental health problems, domestic violence and alcohol and/or substance abuse. BBC
4 million children living in food poverty – Local Gov. Authority
200,000 Children have a parent in prison in 2025
10,885 children permanently excluded from school in England (2023/24)
954,952 children suspended from school – (2023/24)
6.6 million households in UK claiming Universal Credit. Gov.UK May 2025
1 million children are carers – Children’s Trust
30,000 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.
This rises to over 300,000 of young people who know someone in a gang, and up to 500,000 when including groups of young people in groups exposed to ‘risky behaviour’ associated with gangs. NYA
2017 and 2022, online grooming crimes surged by 82%, with 73% involving platforms like Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp
Over 200,000 incidents of children reported missing each year (1 in 10 Care/ 1 in 200 mainstream)
1.7 million children with special educational needs (SEN) 2024
19125 NRM Referrals - 6000 children were children 2025 Gov. UK.
120,000 Children missing education, including those waiting on a school place and those in receipt of unsuitable education.
March 2023 to 24 -15,750 episodes of need occurred where child criminal exploitation was identified as a concern

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.

THE TIP

OF THE

ICEBERG



STREET - STRONG
STREET - SAFE

If Adam and Natasha were
your family, and they asked
you for advice about
working for Lee,

What would you say to
them???

**I'm lucky, It could never
happen to anyone I
know....could it!**

?



?

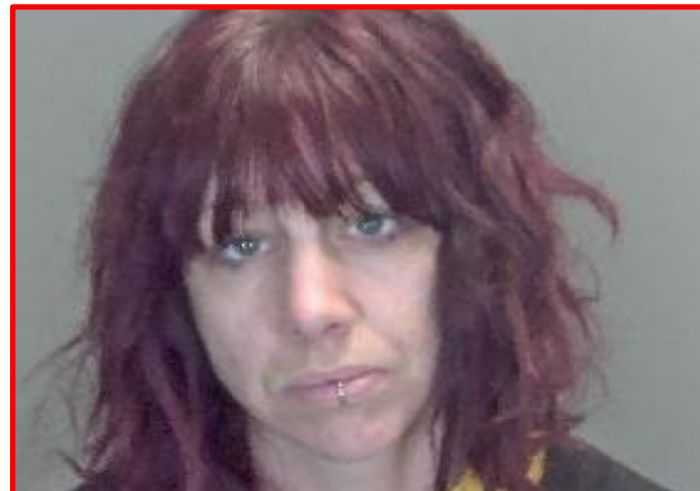
+



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

[Who's this guidance for?](#)[What is county lines exploitation?](#)[Forms and methods of exploitation](#)[Case study \(British Transport Police\)](#)[Who is vulnerable to county lines exploitation?](#)[Signs to look out for](#)[What to do if you are concerned](#)[Case study \(North Wales Police\)](#)[Ways of working](#)[Case study \(Catch22\)](#)[Other useful resources](#)[Print this page](#)

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.

What can we do?

- Clear ownership of responsibility of vulnerable people
- Share information
- Build relationships with other agencies
- Developing information, where appropriate
- React quickly to pre-cursors
- Educate and increase awareness



- **Homework**
- NCA Guidance and
- National Referral Mechanism 5 days, 45 days
(NRM Referrals in 2014 were 127, in 2017 was 690, in 2020 was 2500, in 2022 was 16921, in 2023 was 17004 and in 2025 is 19125. (**6000 KIDS**)
- Palermo Protocol
- Modern Day Slavery Act

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.

Did we achieve our Aims-

1. Describe the meaning of County Line, Gangs and Organised Crime Groups.
2. Recognise the current County Lines Criminal Practices.
3. Review the correlation between County Lines, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery.
4. Gain enhanced youth engagement skills and knowledge to support children and vulnerable adults at risk of criminal exploitation.
5. Increase their personal resilience and awareness of the dangers and explore consequences of becoming involved in crime and carrying and using weapons.
6. State defences in Law and explored mitigation.

DID YOU GET INVOLVED!!!



Best wishes from the Who Dares Wins - SAS training team to all that have come on this training.

Keep fighting the good fight - sharing knowledge that increases Safeguarders and Partner agencies responses to Criminal Exploitation and Mental Health issues in the community.

**Always a little further!
Bill, Rudi and Chris**



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

Any Questions?

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<https://urbanpuresolutions.com/county-lines-child-criminal-exploitation/>