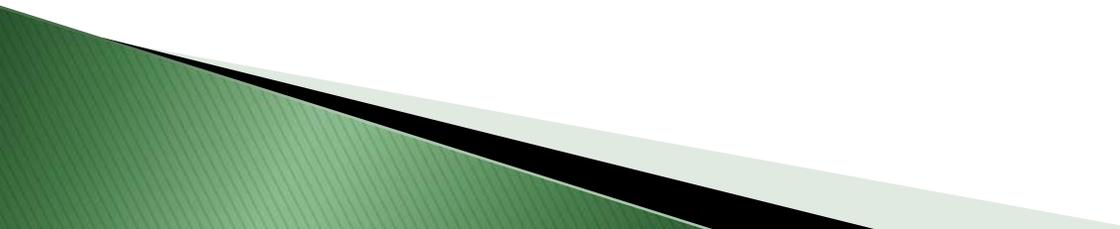


County Lines and Exploitation



Media Headlines

- ▶ **“Thousands of children used as drug mules by 'county lines' gangs expanding into rural parts of UK”**

- ▶ “County lines groups use younger members of their groups to identify and target other children, either through personal or social media links,”
 - ▶ Peer on peer abuse
- 

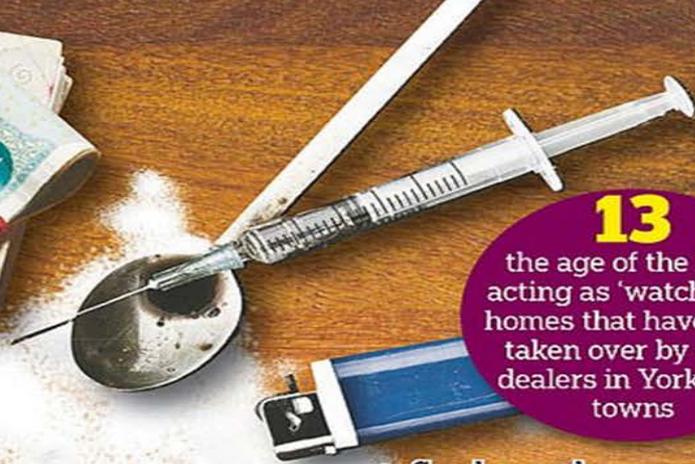
- ▶ **'My safe little town isn't safe any more': the toll of the county lines drug trade**

- ▶ “Private school pupils are being recruited by county lines drug gangs”

- ▶ **Affluent children attending private schools are being groomed into selling drugs because they are less likely to be suspected by the police, a group of government agencies has warned.**

- ▶ “Gangs keep children in their service by enforcing drug debts – frequently inflated or made up – and by threatening family members to ensure their obedience”.

"This really is the face of modern slavery".



1,000
county line gangs
are believed to be
operating in
Britain

13
the age of the boys
acting as 'watchers' at
homes that have been
taken over by drug
dealers in Yorkshire
towns



188
people in Gloucestershire,
including 37 children,
have been arrested under
suspicion of being
involved in county
lines since
Nov 2016

51
children arrested
in Suffolk for
drug dealing
in 2017



A vulnerable young woman from London was abducted and taken to sell Class A drugs in South Wales. The woman's phone was destroyed and she was held at the address for five days

Police reported that
40%
of London's most violent
gangs are running
county lines in north
Hampshire.

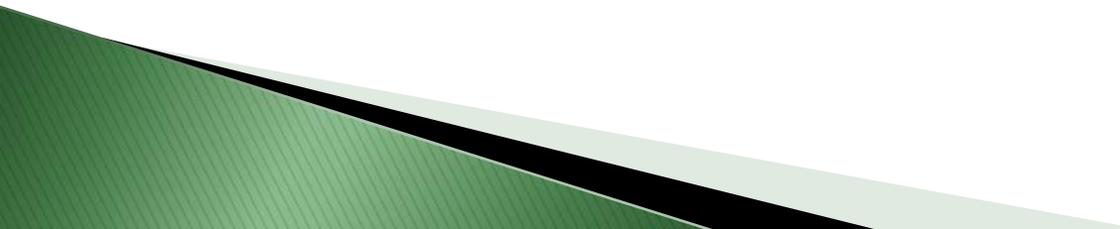
What is County Lines

- ▶ “County Lines is a term used for organised drug dealing networks, usually controlled by a person in an urban location, who distributes drugs across a county via runners”.

Sexual Exploitation

- ▶ “Groups then exploit them sexually and coerce them to take and deal drugs,” the NCA report said. “There are also reports of young women being pimped out by their partners to settle drugs debts.”
- ▶ Sexual grooming was also found in some areas seeing girls being coerced into “relationships” with gang members.

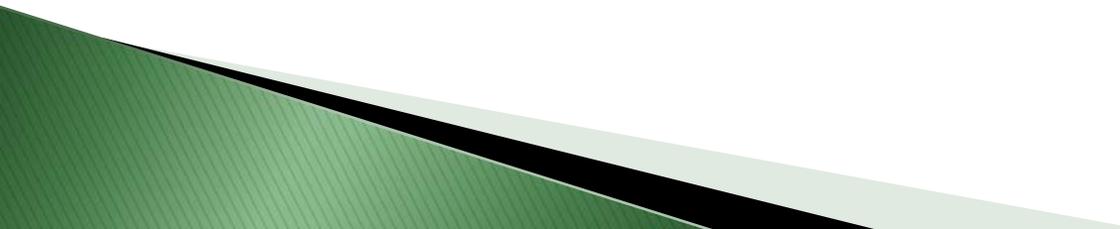
Cuckooing

- ▶ **Cuckooing** is a form of crime in which **drug** dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for **drug** dealing.
 - ▶ As of the 2010s, **cuckooing** is becoming an increasingly common problem in the South of England and the West Midlands.
- 

Why could you be at risk?

- ▶ “County Line gangs target young affluent teens and children or “clean skins” without a record”.

How can you help

- ▶ You have regular contact with young people in the local area.
 - ▶ Spot the signs and report
 - ▶ Little bits of information can help to piece together a picture
 - ▶ Help to protect others
- 

We need your help

Know the signs to spot



Has a child or young person gone missing from school or home?



Are they meeting with unfamiliar adults or is there a change in their behaviour?



Are they using drugs and alcohol?



Have they acquired money or expensive gifts they can't account for?

Look out for your community

For more information and advice about county lines visit www.dc.police.uk/countylines

To provide information either report via 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111



Home Office

Working in partnership with

CrimeStoppers.



Devon & Cornwall Police



Children travelling in taxis or private hire vehicles may be being exploited by gangs involved in drug crime.

Know the signs to spot.

County lines gangs use children to courier drugs and money across the country. Many of these children travel by taxis or private hire vehicles.

Have you seen:



A child, sometimes as young as 12, travelling alone



Are they travelling during school hours or unusual hours (early in the morning, late at night)?



They might seem unfamiliar with the local area, or not have a local accent



Are they travelling a long distance?



Are they paying for these journeys in cash?

If you see something that doesn't feel right, or looks suspicious, concerning a child or young person you should report it to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.



Home Office

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CrimeStoppers.

County Lines Spot the signs



People traveling to the county to sell drugs



Carrying large amounts of cash or mobile phones



Signs of packing - Vaseline, cling film and baby wipes



Unusual number of visitors



Is somebody scared or being threatened?



Where have missing children been?

Call: 101
Textphone: 18001 101
Visit: www.cambs.police.uk
Follow:      CambsCops
Subscribe: [@Cops.org.uk](https://twitter.com/Cops.org.uk)

#safercambs



