



Ambition Aspire Achieve

Charity Registration Number: 1167816

COUNTY LINES

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation.

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

Are You Being Exploited? - Spotting The Signs

- At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends you and gains your trust. They also recruit through social media and/or through your peer group

- At the experience stage, you are initiated into the lifestyle by being offered gifts, money, drugs or alcohol as a way of gaining control over you.

- At the hooked stage, you become more involved in criminal activities and take on more responsibility within the group. You may initially feel like you are undertaking activities by choice.

- At the trapped stage, you may find you are trapped and unable to leave; you may be controlled through threats against yourself and your family and physically attacked to ensure you are too scared to tell anyone.

Worried About A Friend Being Exploited?

Are you worried that a friend or someone you know may be being exploited through County Lines activity? Then below are some of the signs to spot:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing for days or weeks at a time.
- Being found in areas away from home, particularly areas you would not expect them to travel to alone.
- Increasing drug use, or having a large amount of drugs on them when they do not use drugs themselves.
- Suddenly being secretive about who they are talking to or where they are going.

- Unexplained absences from school, work, college or training.
- Having large amounts of money on them, or having lots of new stuff such as clothes, jewellery or phones they usually wouldn't be able to afford.
- A change in behaviour - more disruptive, aggressive, anxious.
- Using drug-related or adult language you would not expect that young person to know.
- Having injuries that cannot be explained.
- In possession of hotel keys or keys to unknown places.



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Glossary Of Terms

Cuckooing - Cuckooing is when drug gangs take over the home of a vulnerable person through violence and intimidation, using it as their base for selling/manufacturing drugs

Going Country / OT / Going Cunch - This is the most popular term that describes county lines activity. It can also mean the act of travelling to another city/town to deliver drugs or money.

Trap House or Bando -A building used as a base from where drugs are sold (or sometimes manufactured). These houses usually are occupied by someone (usually adult drug users but sometimes young people are forced to stay in trap houses).

Trapping - The act of selling drugs. Trapping can refer to the act of moving drugs from one town to another or the act of selling drugs in one.

Trap Line - This refers to when someone owns a mobile phone specifically for the purpose of running and selling drugs.

Shotter - A drug dealer

OBS / OPPO - This refers to opposition as in a rivalling neighbourhood gang.

Help And Advice

Call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Crimestoppers - a free, confidential service where you can report information about a crime anonymously. Freephone: 0800 555 111

Web: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

National Council for Voluntary Youth Services - network of over 280 national organisations, and regional and local networks that work with and for young people.

Web: www.ncvys.org.uk

Victim Support - a national charity supporting people affected by crime. Web: www.victimsupport.org

Childline- you can contact Childline about anything.- Call 0800 1111