



Working in Partnership with:



West Midlands
POLICE



CHILDREN IN COUNTY LINES AND HOW TO STOP IT

BY ALFIE ELLSON-GUIDON, JOHNNY CHARLESWORTH, JOWAD ALBADRY, KHYE ATHWAL, JOSH DENT

BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STOP THE LINES STOP THE CRIMES



CONTENTS

- **MAIN PROBLEMS**
- **WHAT IS COUNTY LINES?**
- **SUPPLY ROUTES**
- **CHILDRENS INVOLVEMENT IN CL**
- **OUR PLAN**





ISSUES AMONGST SUTTON COLDFIELD

Most
important

Children involved in CL



Pollution



Homelessness

Cost of Living



Littering

Loneliness

Least
important



ADVERT 'COUNTY LINES'





WHAT IS COUNTY LINES?



A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE GANGS AND ORGANISED CRIMINAL NETWORKS INVOLVED IN EXPORTING ILLEGAL DRUGS

- THEY ARE LIKELY TO GROOM CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS TO MOVE AND STORE THE DRUGS AND MONEY
- GROOMING IS A GRADUAL PROCESS WHERE THE GROOMER WILL BUILD UP TRUST WITH THE VICTIM USUALLY WITH GIFTS OR PROMISES IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING.
- THEY MAY USE COERCION, INTIMIDATION, VIOLENCE (INCLUDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE) AND WEAPONS.



**NEW PHONE. NEW BIKE.
NEW MATES. NEW CLOTHES.
NEW HABITS. NEW ATTITUDE.
THE SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION
CAN BE HARD TO SEE.**

Drug gangs are exploiting kids in our area.

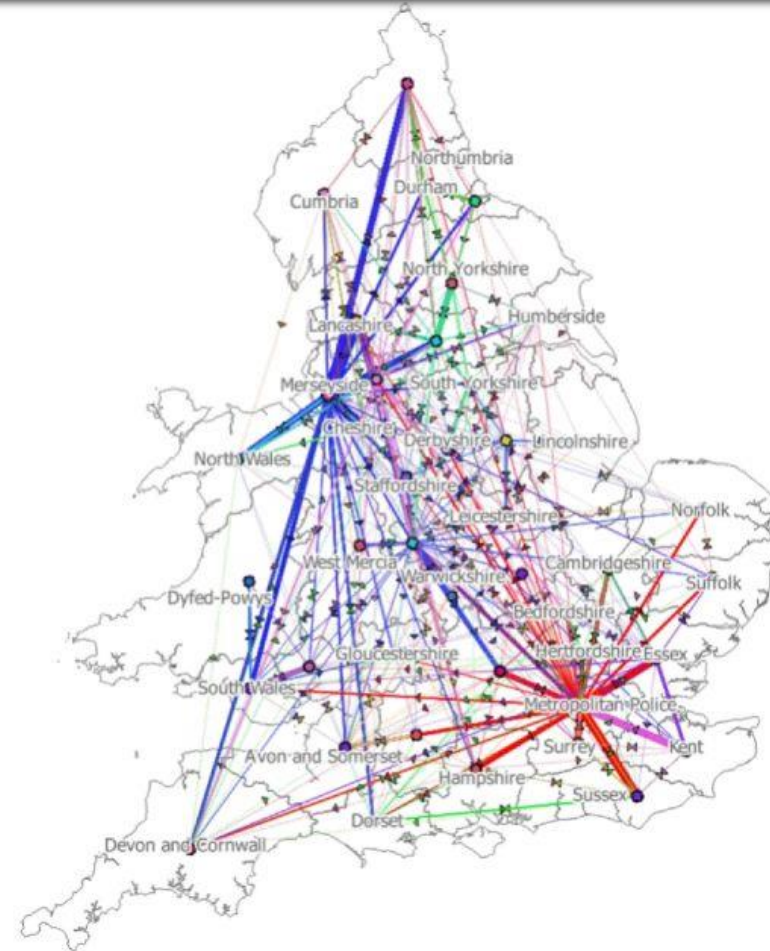




SUPPLY ROUTES

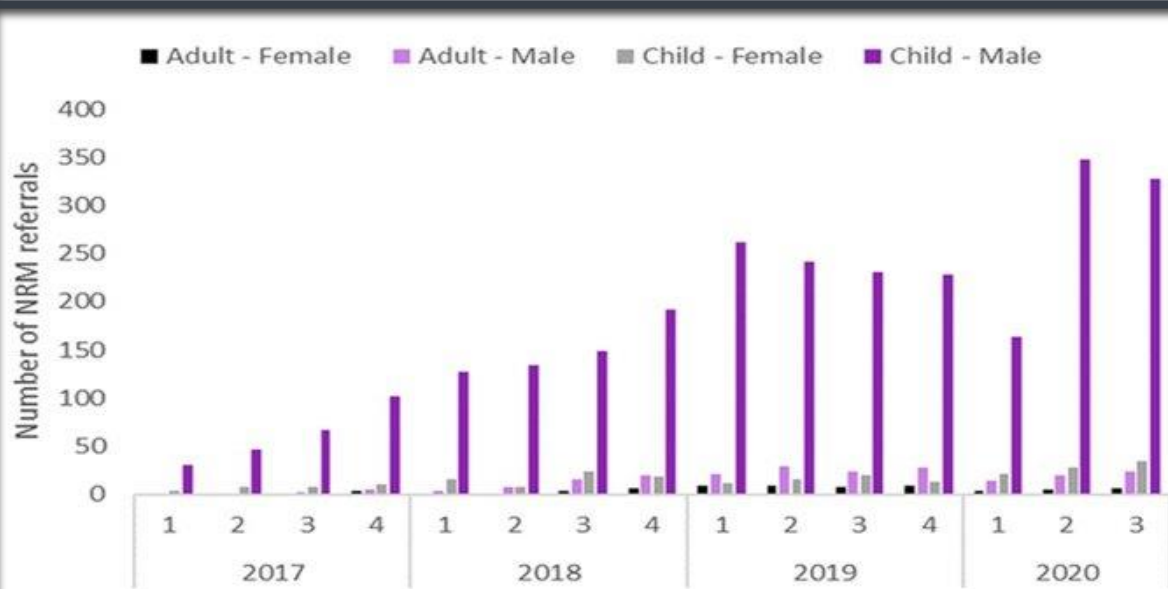
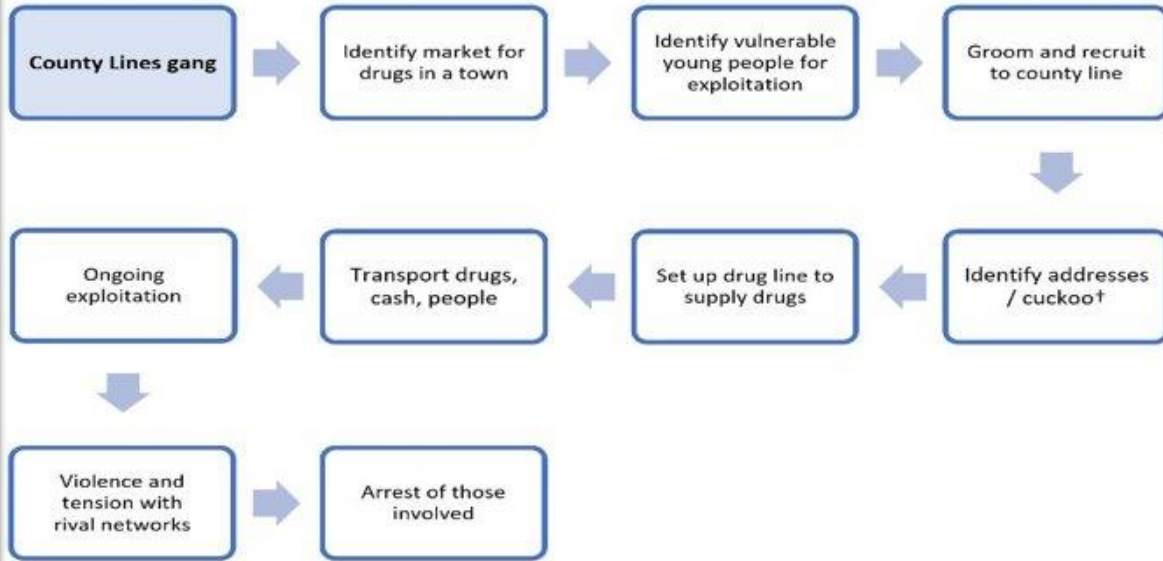
THE PICTURE ON THE RIGHT SHOWS THE SUPPLY ROUTES OF GANGS IN THE UK. EACH ONE OF THOSE LINES MAKES AN AVERAGE OF £800,000 PROFIT PER YEAR.

IN TOTAL £800,000,000 IN PROFIT IS MADE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.





CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN CL



- THE EXACT NUMBERS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY COUNTY LINES IS UNKNOWN YET AN ESTIMATED 27,000 CHILDREN IN ENGLAND IDENTIFIED AS A GANG MEMBER.
- 91% OF THOSE INVOLVED IN COUNTY LINES ARE **MALE**, HOWEVER FEMALES ARE **UNDERREPRESENTED** IN THE DATA.
- MEN HAVE HIGHER **TESTOSTERONE** LEVELS THAN WOMEN, MEANING THAT THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO DISPLAY AGGRESSION (GOTTESMAN, 2014). THIS IS WHY MEN TEND TO ENGAGE MORE IN AGGRESSIVE AND/OR CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR.
- BOTH FEMALES AND MALES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION LINKED TO COUNTY LINES (BICKMAN, 2011).
- NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (NRM) IS THE NATIONAL PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING AND PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY INCLUDING TRAFFICKING.






OUR PLAN : STEP 1



- WE ARE GOING TO USE BUSINESS CARDS CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
 - INFO ABOUT COUNTY LINES
 - WHAT TO DO IF INVOLVED
 - HOW TO TELL IF SOMEONE IS INVOLVED

What do I do if I'm involved in County Lines? Contact one of the three organizations for anonymous reporting/support ↓

- 1 National Crime Agency** <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>
- 2 Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111
- 3 Fearless** <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/more-info/crime-types-explained/county-lines>



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- GROOMING IS A GRADUAL PROCESS WHERE THE GROOMER WILL BUILD UP TRUST WITH THE VICTIM USUALLY WITH GIFTS OR PROMISES IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING.

How to tell if someone is involved:

- Returning home late
- Being found in areas away from home
- Start/Increase in drug use
- Being secretive about who they are talking to or where they are going
- Unexplained absences
- Unexplained money or new items they would not normally be able to afford
- Change in behavior (more aggressive, paranoid, anxious etc.)
- Using drug related/adult language you would not expect them to know
- Unexplained injuries
- In possession of hotel keys/keys to unknown places



- DISTRIBUTED DURING AN ASSEMBLY WITH ASSISTANCE FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE.
- THERE ARE 9,200 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SUTTON COLDFIELD, SO IF WE BOUGHT 10,000 CARDS, IT WOULD COST £265.





OUR PLAN : STEP 2

- NEWSLETTER
- THIS WILL BE AIMED AT FAMILIES AND PARENTS, TO EDUCATE THEM ABOUT COUNTY LINES AND DANGERS. THIS CAN BE SENT OUT VIA WM NOW (WEST MIDLANDS NOW). THIS IS AN EMAIL BLAST THAT PEOPLE CAN SIGN UP FOR. THIS WILL BE COMPLETELY COST FREE.
- EACH SCHOOL WE WORK WITH WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT WM NOW AND ADVISED TO SIGN UP AND COMMUNICATE THIS TO PARENTS.





OUR PLAN – STEP 3



- WE WILL ALSO BE PUTTING INFORMATION IN SCHOOL PLANNERS REGARDING EXPLOITATION AND COUNTY LINES. WE WILL CREATE AND MARKET THE INFORMATIVE SEGMENTS AND SUGGEST THIS IS INCLUDED IN LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS STANDARDIZED PLANNERS. THIS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025.

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**STOP THE LINES
STOP THE CRIMES**

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WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE INCLUDED?



INFORMATION ON COUNTY LINES

- Statistics related to county lines
- information from national crime agency



What to do if involved in County Lines

- Apps/websites to help escape county lines
- step by step guide how to get help



Signs of involvement

- How to tell someone else is involved
- what to do if you suspect some else's involvement



SCHOOLS WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH:



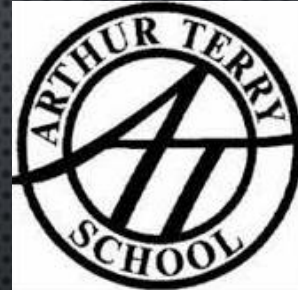
PLANTSBROOK
(1519 students)



JOHN WILLMOTT
(950 students)



FAIRFAX
(1583 students)



ARTHUR TERRY
(1730 students)



BISHOP WALSH
(1067 students)



SUTTON GIRLS
(1228 students)





CONCLUSION



Thank you for
listening to our
presentation.

We will now
open the floor
to any
questions.

