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COUNTY LINES AWARENESS GUIDE FOR PARENTS



County Lines – Behaviours & Traits

Are you concerned your child or someone you know may be involved in County Lines?

What is County Lines?

County Lines is the term used to describe gangs and organized criminal activity. Particularly around the transporting of drugs around the UK. County lines tends to exploit young people and vulnerable adults, to carry drugs, money and weapons, by means of violence and intimidation.

Here are some things to look out for:

- The **Young Person** is withdrawn from their family
- The **Young Person** loses interest in school.
- Their attendance drops. Although some will continue to go to school and keep good attendance to avoid suspicion
- **He/She** will have multiple phones
- **He/She** might start speaking aggressively about another group of young people
- **He/She** might be afraid or wary when entering certain areas
- **He/She** may show concern when an unknown group of people enter their area

- Emotionally withdrawn and “switched off” but can also show frustration and rage
- **He/She** will start to use slang you haven’t heard before
- **He/She** have unexplained money, phones and other possessions
- Staying out later than usual and breaking rules set by parents (more than the average young person would)
- Start dressing differently, or in a particular style/uniform/colours, similar to that of the group of young people they hang out with
- Stop doing activities such as sports and other positive activities
- They have a new nickname
- They may come home with injuries and not want to explain how or why they got them and refuse treatment
- **He/She** will start associating with known or suspected gang members
- Their behaviour changes and they adapt a certain way of talking or even hand signs in pictures
- Their schoolbooks and bags or even walls will carry a certain ‘tag’ in graffiti style
- They will talk a lot about another young person who is clearly having a lot of influence over them
- They start hanging out with a new group of people and stop speaking to old friends

Who can it affect?

- Any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years
- Vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years

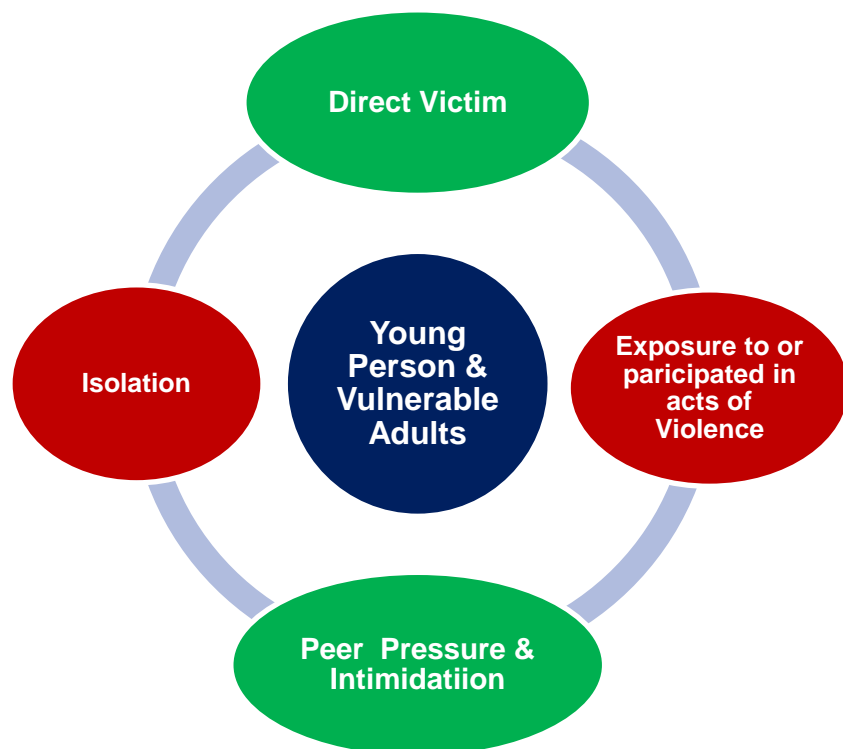
How can it affects those involved

Force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Mental Health

Witnessing repeated traumatic events, can evoke feelings of anger and fear, that not only lead to physical complications, but mental health conditions. Being constantly exposed to such disturbing things, whether it's first-hand or second hand, will affect their mental health.

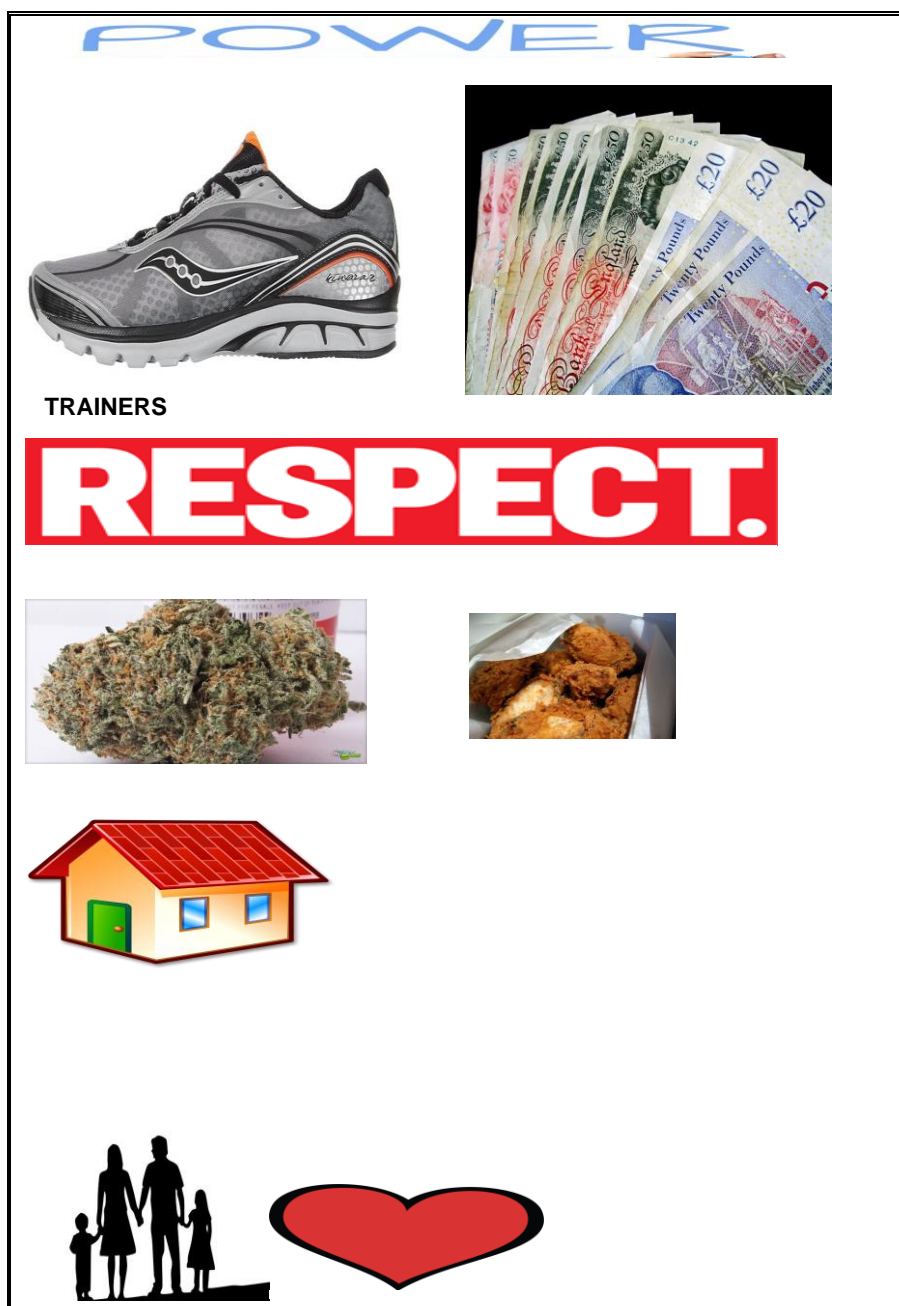
RISK FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MENTAL HEALTH



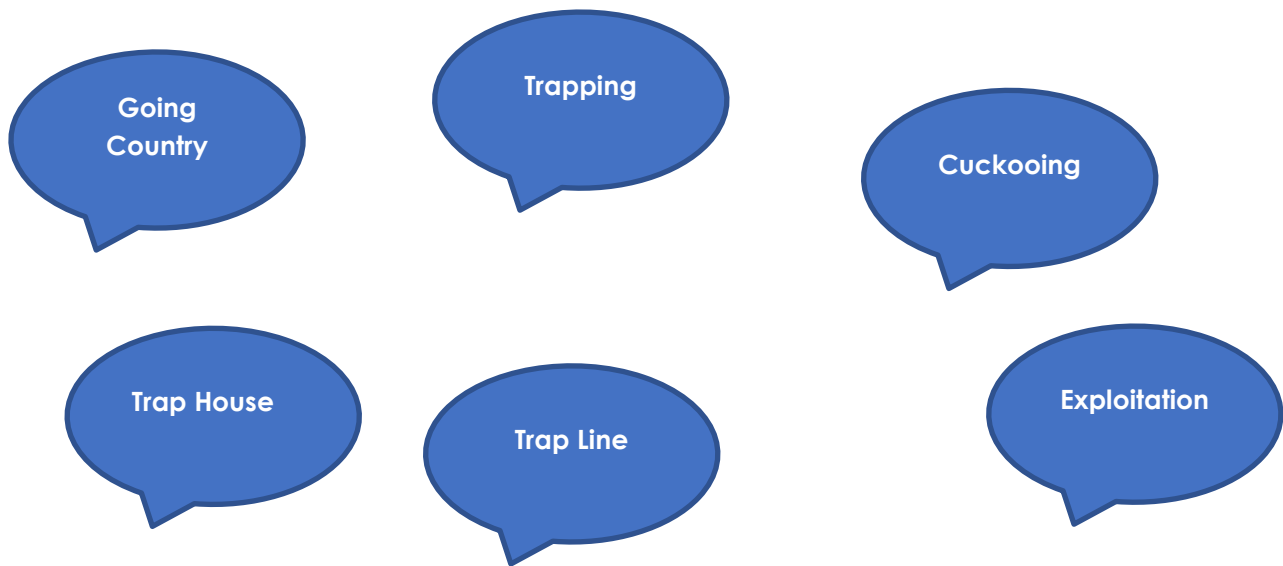
HOW ARE PEOPLE RECRUITED

The county line gang leaders will offer or promise young people a variety of things to get them to join and get involved in their gangs and operations.

They will entice them with by offering the following:



WORDS USED IN REFERENCE TO COUNTY LINES



6 REASONS WHY GANGS USE YOUNG PEOPLE

- Clean skin – No previous convictions
- Reduced sentence from courts
- Cost to 'employ' is lower
- Disposable
- Attract less attention
- Easier to groom and maintain control - Debt bondage - Fear/ threats/ violence - Don't see themselves as victims – They think it gives them **Status** and **Respect**.

RISK TO YOUNG PEOPLE



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. The victim may have been criminally **exploited** even if the activity appears consensual.

WHAT THEY GET FORCED TO DO

- Carry the drugs • Sell the drugs
- Carry weapons getting Injured
- Stab/kill a rival
- Robbery
- Take all the risks for the Gang Leaders.

SOME SLANG WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS

SLANG WORD	MEANING
Bagging	Used to describe someone packaging drugs for distribution
Bando A trap house	short for abandoned house
Bottle	To insert something into your rectum or vagina for later retrieval eg drugs
Box	Large quantity of drugs (usually costing thousands of pounds)
Bust	To do lines of cocaine
Cunch	Out-of-town locations where drugs can be sold
Door/Key	A kilo of drugs
Flippin Chickens	chicken' A is another word for a kilo of cocaine
Scene	A place where drugs are used.
Score	To buy drugs
Serving/Slanging/Flipping	The act of selling drugs
Stuff/Plug	To insert something into your rectum or vagina for later retrieval eg drugs.
Trap	The area where drug deals are carried out.
Trap House	Area or house usually and frequently occupied by drug dealers/drug users
Trapping	Selling drugs on the street

WHO YOU CAN TALK TO FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

Your child's school

Friends & Family

A Professional helping the family

Local Authority Duty & Advice Services

Leicestershire Police – 0116 454 1004

If you know a child/young person is in immediate danger call 999 or
101 for advice (if not in immediate danger)

Leicestershire County Council – 0116 305 0005

Leicester City Children's Social Care Team – 0116 454 1004

Leicestershire & Rutland Children's Social Care Team – 0116 305
0005 (24hrs)

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000 E: help@nspcc.org.uk

The Children's Society – www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Reference – Home Office & Leicestershire Police

USEFULL LINKS

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

<https://safeguarding.network/safeguarding-resources/child-criminal-exploitation/county-lines/>

Fearless.org

<https://youtu.be/kYcTPZpgrx0>

