

County Lines Information Sheet

County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. 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.

National Crime Agency (www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk)

A common feature is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. Dealers will frequently 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.

Those who are exploited in this way, can be exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse. As in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality. So it's important that we all play our part to understand county lines and speak out if we have concerns.

National Crime Agency (www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk)

Creating Supportive Communities

Recognise everyone has something to offer

Discover skills, knowledge and assets available in your community

Identify and address local needs and challenges

Create and promote a healthy safeguarding culture

Involve people in acts of kindness and projects

Collaborate with local councils, authorities and other organisations

Celebrate key successes

Spotting the Signs

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

- Change in mood / behaviour
- Unexplained (expensive) items
- Absences from regular activities
 - Unusual friendships
- Disengagement with school
 - Unexplained injuries



Helplines & Advice

Modern slavery Helpline: 08000 121 700

NAPAC: 0808 801 0331

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Childline: 0800 1111

Local police 101 or 999 in an emergency



Wycombe
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**