

**For further information:**

[National Crime Agency](#)

[Children's Society](#)

# SAFEGUARDING



If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding or welfare of a child or family in school, please speak in confidence to one of the following people.



**Ann-Marie Kedzior**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Carla Lawes**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Samuel Gregory**  
Deputy DSL



**Emma Colley**  
Deputy DSL



**Krupa Nanda**  
Deputy DSL




**Wayne Holder**  
Deputy DSL




**Holli Elverstone**  
Deputy DSL

Our DSLs can  
be identified  
by their **red**  
**lanyards.**



# COUNTY LINES

*Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School*



### **What is County Lines Exploitation?**

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

The crime is called county lines because a single telephone number is used to order drugs, operated from outside the area.

Vulnerable children and adults are being recruited in large cities to transport cash and drugs all over the country. This keeps the true criminals behind it detached from the act and less likely to be detected or caught.

### **Child Criminal Exploitation**

Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and 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. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology

They recruit vulnerable adults and children to act as couriers to move drugs and cash to suburban or rural areas. They often set up a base in a rural area, taking over the home of a vulnerable person and use adults and children to acts as runners for drugs.

### **How to spot possible victims**

There are several signs to look out for when someone has been lured into this activity. These include:

- Change in behaviour
- Signs of assault and/or malnutrition
- Access to numerous phones
- Use of unusual terms e.g. going country
- Associating with gangs
- Unexplained bus or train tickets
- School truancy or going missing
- Unexplained gifts (clothes, trainers) and cash

One of the key factors found in most cases of county lines exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange. Where it is the victim who is offered, promised or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (such as money, drugs or clothes) and intangible rewards (such as status, protection or perceived friendship or affection). It is important to remember the unequal power dynamic within which this exchange occurs and to remember that the receipt of something by a young person or vulnerable adult does not make them any less of a victim. It is also important to note that the prevention of something negative can also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a young person who engages in county lines activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family.

### **Key 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.

Signs:

- An increase in people coming and going
- An increase in cars or bikes outside
- Litter outside
- Signs of drugs use
- You haven't seen the person who lives there recently or when you have, they have been anxious or distracted.

#### **GOING COUNTRY**

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.

#### **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 HOUSE**

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) location.

#### **TRAP LINE**

This refers to when someone owns a mobile phone specifically for the purpose of running and selling of drug.