

County Lines

Solihull

County Lines Definition

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised crime networks involved in exporting 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) and weapons.

Characteristics of a "County Line"

Urban Locality



VULNERABILITY / EXPLOITATION



Smaller Locality

Class A drugs

Another CL enterprise

Existing local group

Increase in violence

Drug Users

Cuckoo addresses

Vulnerable females

Exploitation

County Lines can effect anyone but the below factors can escalate risk:

- NEET
- MISSING - (often found in other cities/ towns) 115% ^ reports
- Child protection
- In care – 10,000 children in care/ missing
- Learning difficulties
- ACES
- Excluded from school
- Signs of abuse being exploited... or not?
- Often begin to become criminalised
- Range of backgrounds
- OR NONE OF THE ABOVE!

Its Complicated...?



How can you help?

You have regular contact with students and families and on occasion enter their homes. Think beyond your students. Is there a risk? Can we intervene?

- Help us spot the signs? – inform your staff
- Report safeguarding concerns via MASH
- Report intelligence via the police 5x5 intelligence form
- Refer to the Engage Service