

**TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER** WE SEE YOU. THE GREAT BRITAIN mosaic creative




## Breaking County Lines

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## Breaking County Lines

**WHAT**  
**WHERE**  
**WHY**  
**ACT**



## Breaking County Lines

**SAFEGUARDING:**  
Always seek help and advice if you have any concerns that someone is being exploited or abused. Your safeguarding lead/ police or social care will be able to offer advice on these situations.

Please do not investigate situations without professional advice as this could put you at risk of harm yourself.

## Breaking County Lines

**WHAT**

**MODERN SLAVERY**

**County Lines**

- Forced or Compulsory Labour
- Slavery
- Servitude
- Human Trafficking

Modern slavery is a serious crime that violates human rights. Victims are forced, threatened or deceived into situations of subjugation, degradation and control which undermine their personal identity and sense of self.

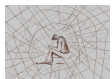
## Breaking County Lines

**WHAT**

'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.'

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy)




## Breaking County Lines

**WHAT**

'The criminal gangs operating in England are complex and ruthless organisations, using sophisticated techniques to groom children and chilling levels of violence to keep them compliant. They prey upon marginalised children who have often been let down by multiple agencies. Many of these children don't feel that they have any choice about their situation.'


Anne Longfield - Children's Commissioner - February 2019



## Breaking County Lines

**WHERE**

- 2,000 + individual deal lines in the UK
- Controlled by Organised Criminal Networks
- West Midlands
- Males
- Exploitation
- Drugs



NCA: County Lines Drug Supply, Vulnerability and Harm - 2018

## Breaking County Lines

**WHERE** Learning the lingo

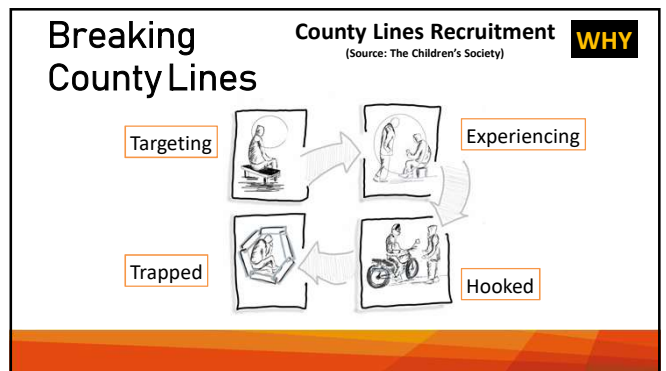
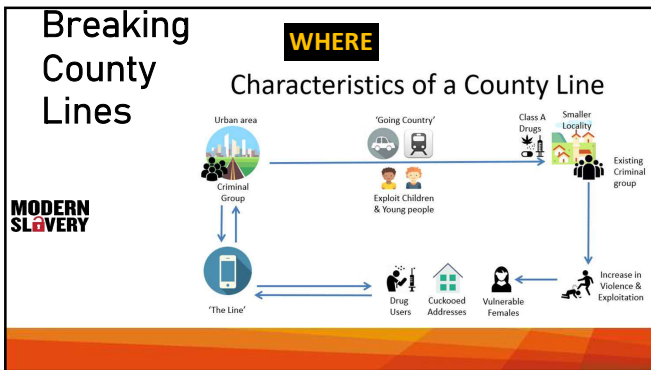
**Deceived and indebted**  
These are young people who are deceived into being drug couriers through being put into situations where they have to pay off a debt to the gang. This may include providing them with a mobile phone which is then later stolen by the gang resulting in the debt.

**Faces and Elders**  
These are middle-ranking gang members. They are the buffer between those at the top and those on the street and could be disposed of if required. Those lower down in the gang will often look up to and be intimidated by the elders. They often use violence.

**Trap House**  
A building used as a base from where drugs are sold (or sometimes manufactured). These houses usually are occupied by someone (often adult drug users but sometimes young people are forced to stay in trap houses).

**Wannabes**  
May aspire to climb up higher in the gang. They may want what they see as the glamour or sense of belonging that comes with being in a gang or they may believe that this is the only way they can earn money or gain the drugs they need.

**Cuckooing**  
Cuckooing is the taking over of a vulnerable person's home to use and sell illegal drugs from for a short period of time. The individual may have a mental/physical illness or may be promised free drugs in exchange for their house. The vulnerable person may also be sexually and physically abused throughout this process.



## Breaking County Lines

Some signs to look out for in your Nightstop / Opendoor Young Person **ACT**  
(Adapted from [NCA](#))

- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Your young person going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Your young person travelling in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- Unexplained injuries

## Breaking County Lines

Some signs to look out for in your Nightstop / Opendoor Young Person **ACT**  
(Adapted from [NCA](#))

- An increase in visitors and cars to your house or flat
- New faces appearing at your house or flat
- Change in the young person's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way the young person dresses
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community

## Breaking County Lines

**ACT** Prevention

As we have seen 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.

## Breaking County Lines

**ACT** Prevention

HOW TO KEEP VULNERABLE PEOPLE SAFE & PROTECTED

1 GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO CARE ABOUT THEM AND LOOK OUT FOR THEM

2 GOOD PERSONAL AWARENESS OF HOW THEY CAN BE AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION & MANIPULATION. THEY SHOULD BE CONCERNED

3 STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SAFE, ASSURANCE AND LINKS

3 KEY ELEMENTS OF PROTECTION

## Breaking County Lines

**ACT** Raising the alarm!

Who to call if you are concerned:

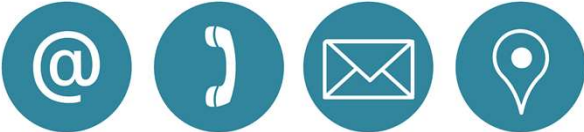
- YMCA Opendoor Team
- Local police: **999 in an emergency**
- Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 (if you would prefer to remain anonymous)
- Modern slavery helpline: 08000 121 700
- Childline: 0800 1111

## Questions?

### Film



[Girls under the radar \(Danielle's story\)](#)  
3m 25sec



### Contact

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