



County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation

July 2019

How confident are you in understanding County Lines ?

- What is County Lines ?
- The commodity (crack cocaine, heroin)
- Motivation
- Key features (Phones, travel, violence, targeting the vulnerable)
- Exploitation of children – MET IOW
- What you can do

Explanation

- Crack cocaine and heroin street supply into another County
- From an “Urban Hub” (eg London, Liverpool, Manchester)
- Pay as you go mobile phone with a brand name
- The use of Hire cars and Railways
- Aggravating features (Cuckoo nesting vulnerable adults, Child exploitation, Violence and weapons)

Who is more vulnerable to County Lines Exploitation ?

- The national picture continues to develop but there are recorded cases of;
- Children as young as 12 years old being exploited by gangs to courier drugs out of their local areas.
- Both male and females are being used.
- 15-16 years is the most common age range.
- White British children are being targeted as gangs perceive them more likely to evade police detection.
- Increased use of social media to make initial contact with children and young people, 'grooming' them to become involved and giving incentives and rewards.

Motivation

- This is a lucrative business, the criminal intent is not perversion or cruelty of the vulnerable.
- This is about money, bling and status
- The dealers are often (victims of society) who have limited access to role models
- The Crack Cocaine and Heroin supply trade is perhaps the most lucrative criminal enterprise.
- A kilo of heroin costs £40,000, breaking it down into 10,000 street deals of £10 can make you £200,000- by using cutting agents.

Commodity

- It is generally not Cannabis supply
- It is generally not MDMA or other party drugs
- It is generally not powder cocaine (recent reports suggest this on the rise)
- It is generally not other crime types, albeit the aggravating features of the MO often bring charges of Murder, assault, Sexual assault, Money laundering, Modern day slavery

Crack cocaine

- Crystallised powder cocaine that is washed up or cooked with baking soda
- Highly addictive. Its smoked not snorted and reaches brain fast
- Extreme high lasting 20 mins. (Falling off a cliff, pulling out in front of a junction)
- Small white (candle wax) rocks less than the size of a 5p piece, often with a yellow tint.
- Often called white, rock.
- Deals are often buy 2 for 3, and a rock is approximately £10 or £20

Heroin

- From opium poppies in the Afghanistan, Pakistan region
- Brown, sandy in colour. It can be white.
- A small bag less than the size of a 5 piece is £10.
- It's a “downer”, lasts 4 hours and gives a fuzzy sensation (Mothers womb/ wrapped up in a duvet).
- Highly addictive, smoked or injected.
- Users often offset heroin against crack (one of each)

Hire cars/ Trains

- Discreet hire cars from legitimate companies
- Often rack up thousands of miles
- The use of back street lease companies provide layers of smoke screen
- Trains are popular

Child exploitation

- Generally from the London estates.
- Cheaper labour.
- Influenced by lifestyle and material assets.
- Starts off friendly, then can turn into a debt bond.
- Sending them back with this bond is a risk.
- A small percentage in Hampshire use children.
- The impact on local children is generally low.
- Child Sexual Exploitation – Deceiving, coercing, controlling or manipulating a child for the purpose of sexual activity.
- Child Criminal Exploitation – Deceiving, coercing, controlling or manipulating a child for the purpose of criminal gains.

Cuckooing

- A flat/house as a base often only for hours but can last days.
- Vulnerable user
- This is Home invasion- addicts, dogs, sexual acts
- Balance between MDA act- allowing premises to be used and treating them as a victim.

Violence/ Weapons

- Boiling water, acid, irons, stabbings, sometimes the use or threat of firearms.
- Readable access to firearms
- Turf wars are rare in the counties and not present on the IOW.

Mapped Drug Networks

- Recognising the transient nature of the networks, the constabulary have produced a ratification process Similar to the OCGM process
- The constabulary currently have 73 Mapped networks (Feb 2019), 29 in the North, 27 in the East, 17 in the West, 0 in the IOW.

Is this County Lines ?

- A 16 year old male reported as missing from London – considered at risk due to his age and link to gangs.
- He recently failed to appear at court for alleged involvement in a stabbing.
- He was found in possession of a 6” kitchen knife and 30 wraps of drugs.
- While in custody he was found to have significant burns to his body, consistent with having been burnt by boiling liquid. He would not disclose any further details however it was suspected this may have been caused by those responsible for placing him in Southampton to deal Class A drugs.
- REAL THREAT OF HARM.

Missing, Exploited, Trafficked.

- The IOW MET team is managed by PC Justin Clarke & PC Katie Sheasby, based at Newport police station.
- METRAC meetings are held every month and is a Chaired meeting. A number of agencies attend, including Barnardo's, Education, Health, CSD, CAMHS and others who have specific links to the child in question.
- IOW MET have approximately 20 children for multi-agency management and have 13 repeat missing children that are subject to police management. That involves a NPT officer linking in with the child and parents/guardians to manage risk and reduce missing episodes.
- Operation Trench is a policing priority on the IOW – drug dealing and use among young people as well as exploitation considerations.
- Dean Thistlewood is the Education Welfare officer and link into METRAC.



Other child exploitation

- Bulk shoplifting
- Burglary
- Car washes
- Take away shops
- The children commissioner for England estimated 46,000 were involved in criminal gangs in the UK in 2017.

Is this a MET case ?

- A vulnerable young female from IOW is a regular missing person, previous model student, lives at home with parents.
- Now a repeat Misper, doesn't attend school, shoplifting, assaulted parents, violent and aggressive behaviour, using drugs and supplying drugs, unexplained gifts - clothing.
- Behaviour recognised at school – requests for mental health assessments. Lack of engagement with CAMHS and no formal diagnosis.
- Behaviour worsened, truanting continued and poor friendship group resulted in planned move to other school.
- Attendance has improved at school, behaviour at home has worsened resulting in criminal offences, now managed by YOT and NPT SPOC.
- Drug use has continued however lack of engagement has affected police action in relation to friendship groups, no access to her mobile phone and tablet – under review.

What you can do

- Complete Community Partnership Information form (5 Key areas of intelligence)
- Criminality
- Associations
- Mode of transport
- Telephone numbers
- Addresses

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION FORM (CPI)

Community Partnership Information

Guidance: This form is for the sharing of non-urgent information by partner agencies. This includes information that relates to the **Missing, Exploited and Trafficked** agenda and related issues, such as **Modern Slavery**. This form can also be used for information relating to **Community Cohesion** and related concerns such as; **Tensions, Political Unrest, Racial and Religious** issues, **Immigration, Asylum and Refugees, Anti Social Behaviour** and information associated with **Gang Activity**. The information you provide may be sanitised and used in subsequent partnership forums for the purposes of identifying and mitigating risk. Completed forms should be sent electronically to 24/7-Intel@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. Any questions or concerns regarding this form can be raised with your police contact, or to FIB. The form is not a referral form, nor does it replace any pre-existing referral or notification mechanism

Information (including date & location):

Your name:

Your organisation:

Your telephone number:

Your email address:

Information Source:

Where did this information come from (name/DoB/address)?

Can they be re-contacted? What are their contact details?

How did they find this information out?

When did they find this information out?

Who else have you shared this information with?



Available on

www.safe4me.co.uk

Go to resources section
Reporting and information
sharing

