

# Facts & Advice about County Lines

**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.

## Where is this happening?

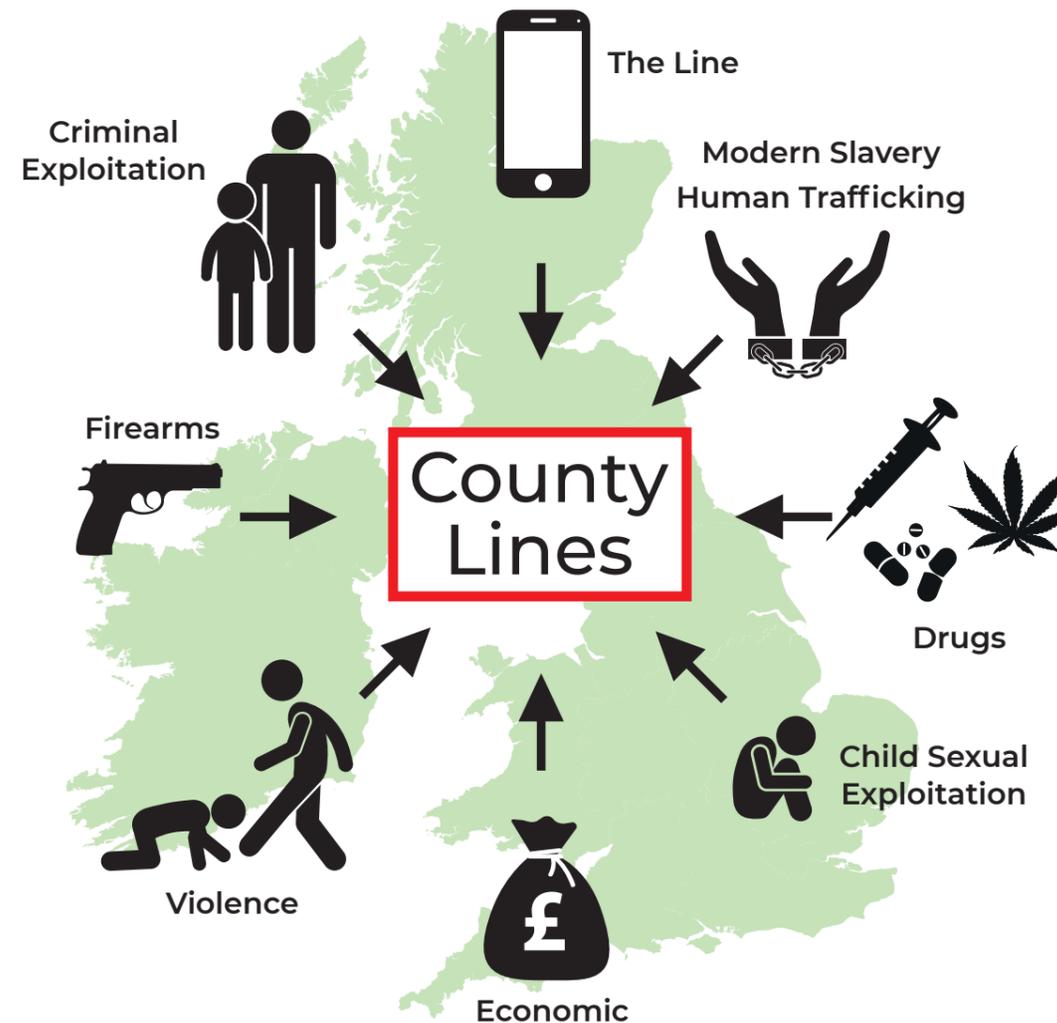
Whilst London, Merseyside and the West Midlands continue to be the dominant urban source of county lines offending, local lines have quickly mirrored the business model.

This is not just a big city problem with smaller towns also being targeted. The student community can also be vulnerable to County Lines. With the constantly changing student population, drug dealers can go unnoticed and move about freely and may even use student accommodation. Many students are away from home for the first time, have financial issues and are unaware of the environment and individuals who surround them.

## What's 'Cuckooing'? (Named after the cuckoo bird who takes over the nest of another)

Drug dealers will take over the home/accommodation of an individual, usually vulnerable, for a short period of time, and use it as a base for drug dealing. Some signs of possible cuckooing are:

- An increase in people entering and leaving
- An increase in cars, bikes and taxi's outside
- Possible increase in anti-social behaviour
- Increasing litter/take away's, which is far more than would be for one individual
- Signs of drugs use
- Suspicious vehicles or people at an address
- Occupier leaving and returning to the address of numerous occasions for short periods



## Signs to be aware of for possible victims

- Change in behaviour
- Signs of assault and/or malnutrition
- Access to numerous phones
- Use of unusual terms e.g. going country
- Associating with gangs or known individuals
- Unexplained travel including bus or train tickets
- Missing or not attending lectures
- Unexplained gifts (clothes, trainers) and cash

**Communication**  
+  
**Movement**  
+  
**Violence**  
+  
**Vulnerability**  
= **County Lines**

This crime is often associated with other serious crimes such as sexual exploitation, violence, money laundering and human trafficking.

Watch this short video which explains what a County Line is - <https://youtu.be/DdYq2dhQ3qc>



## NEED HELP AND ADVICE?

Call free: 0300 7904044.  
Email: SWANSEA@newidcymru.co.uk  
FOR HARM REDUCTION ADVICE VISIT:  
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Os nad yw'n achos brys, rhwch wybod ar-lein

Ar-lein 101 DI-ARGYFWNG	999 ARGYFWNG	If it's not 999, report it online	Online 101 NON-EMERGENCY	999 EMERGENCY
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