

Typical feature of county lines criminal activity:

- ▶ drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns.
- ▶ Missing episodes can affect children under the age of 18 years; or vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- ▶ May appear consensual;
- ▶ force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- ▶ perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults
- ▶ power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ILaguFXHr4>

Some indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation are listed below, with those at the top of particular concern:

- ▶ • Persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;
- ▶ • Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones • Excessive receipt of texts / phone calls
- ▶ • Relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- ▶ • Leaving home / care without explanation
- ▶ • Suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- ▶ • Parental concerns
- ▶ • Carrying weapons
- ▶ • Significant decline in school results / performance
- ▶ • Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- ▶ • Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

Criminal exploitation and county lines:

- ▶- What are county lines?
- ▶- Where do we find this occurring?
- ▶- Who are particularly vulnerable?
- ▶- What age groups are victims?
- ▶- What are the signs?