

## Briefing Note – County Lines

- County Lines is a problem happening nationally
- County Lines is an adaptive and changing model
- County Lines means – ‘County’ the area of operation, usually one location to another such as city to city, or city to rural community. ‘Lines’ means the phone lines attached to this group or operation where communication around drug and money happens.
- The main operations model as above and in the additional sheets is still happening. However, we are also seeing adaptations to this where local children and vulnerable people have been groomed to be runners, but move up the command chain and are forced to recruit local people.
- Children and Vulnerable people are groomed and exploited into undertaking criminal activity or their properties being used for criminal activity, methods used can be blackmail, fear, intimidation, threats, violence and so on.
- Children and Vulnerable people can be set up, so that they are robbed of drugs and/or money, leading to the gang creating a owed debt, called debt bondage, meaning these people are forced to ‘work’ for free until their debt is repaid (which is rarely likely to be repaid)
- There can be cross overs between Children and Vulnerable people who have been groomed and exploited as victims, having to undertake activities that now see them classed as perpetrators.



@StGilesTrust



@StGilesTrust



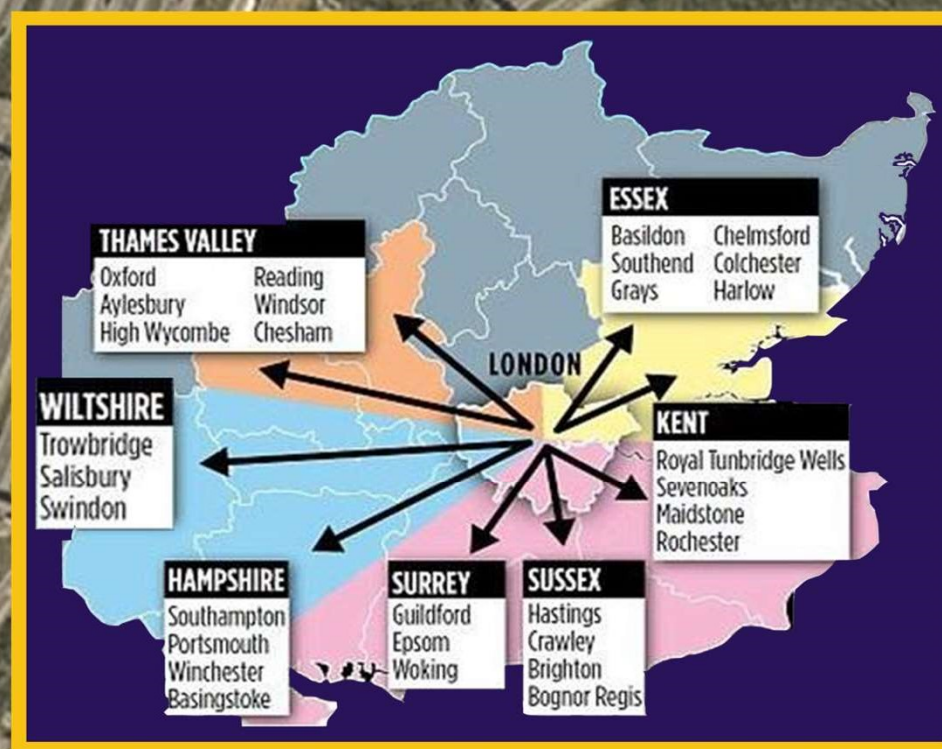
@St\_giles\_trust

**St Giles**

Turning a past into a future

## WHAT IS COUNTY LINES?

“County lines” - In the criminal world ‘County Lines’ is referred to as; Country, Cunch, O.T, Out There, Out of Town, and various other colloquialisms. Drug Operations/phone lines are set up in regional areas by Entities most commonly originating from major cities. Young people are being exploited as couriers, runners and taking up other functional roles.



# COUNTY LINES: THE PROCESS



County Town where there is a market for drugs is researched and targeted.  
Dealer/Gang move in and begin marketing/promoting product.



Brand name is given to the phone number used to sell drugs. This is shared within the drug user community



Children & Vulnerable adults are groomed and recruited by the Gang/dealer and used as runners, transporters and couriers.



Cuckooing: The taking over of an address usually belonging to a vulnerable adult.  
The address tenant is likely to be a drug user and dependant on dealer/gang.



Drugs, money and other items are transported by train and car.  
Young people may transport drugs by carrying them internally ('plugging').

## CONTACT DETAILS | Q&A

### For further information or enquiries:

To discuss the range of community based services, additional services, spot purchase information or to make a referral, please contact:

**Chris Charles-Wyatt – Community Services Team Leader**

[Chris.Charles-Wyatt@StGilesTrust.Org.Uk](mailto:Chris.Charles-Wyatt@StGilesTrust.Org.Uk) or call 07387411017

Or

**Justine Jenkins – Wales Manager**

[Justine.Jenkins@StGilesTrust.Org.Uk](mailto:Justine.Jenkins@StGilesTrust.Org.Uk)



@StGilesTrust



@StGilesTrust



@St\_giles\_trust

**St Giles**

Turning a past into a future