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Proud of our people

Proud to improve

Proud to lead



# *Proud to Protect*

PROUD OF WHAT WE DO • PROUD OF WHO WE ARE



## Our Vision is:

To be outstanding in the service we provide



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POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



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# What is 'County Lines'



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# Objectives

- To provide an understanding of what constitutes 'county lines' offending
- To illustrate such offending and its impact on vulnerable people
- To provide police contact details for partnership workers who see evidence of what they believe may be 'county lines' offending



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# County Lines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLhGpS1f-F0>



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19 April 2017 at 9:00pm

# Mother describes agony of watching her child, 14, being groomed by drug dealers



## Drug gangs 'extending out of cities', report warns

© 12 August 2015 | UK

f t Share



# Children 'Trafficked' Around UK By Drug Dealers

Sky News speaks to one ex-gang member who admits sending up to 10 vulnerable young people a year into small towns across Britain.

21:25, UK,  
Wednesday 14 January 2015



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## What is County Lines?

- County lines is a term used by the police and other law enforcement agencies to describe an approach taken by some criminal groups within the UK to distribute drugs and conduct other criminal activities in other areas of the country.
- The offenders often originate from large urban areas and use children and other vulnerable people to deliver drugs/ other illegal commodities to customers.
- This often involves deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming.
- The proceeds of this criminality are returned to the large urban areas from which the criminality originates.



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## “The Line”

The County Lines model is linked by a marketed mobile phone line, known as the ‘line’

Traditionally the ‘line’ is kept away from the area where the drugs are sold and a relay system is used to contact those acting as dealers in the county location.

Gang members travel between the urban and county locations on a regular basis to deliver drugs and collect cash.



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# Exploiting Children and Vulnerable Adults

- Typically children are exploited to deliver drugs from the urban location using intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming.
- This is commonly conducted by the child or vulnerable adult using rail networks, taxis, hire vehicles or vehicles owned by vulnerable adults
- Offenders and Organised Crime Groups ‘recruit’ and exploit children and teenagers to deal on their behalf in areas where there is little or no intelligence known about them to frustrate local police intelligence systems.
- Children are seen as easily controlled and an inexpensive resource.



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# ‘Cuckooing’

This is a term used to describe activity which often accompanies ‘County Lines’ offending. It involves a local property, generally occupied by a vulnerable person, being taken over by County Lines offenders and being used as a base for their activities. The use of the property is usually secured by force or coercion. This is known as **‘cuckooing’**.



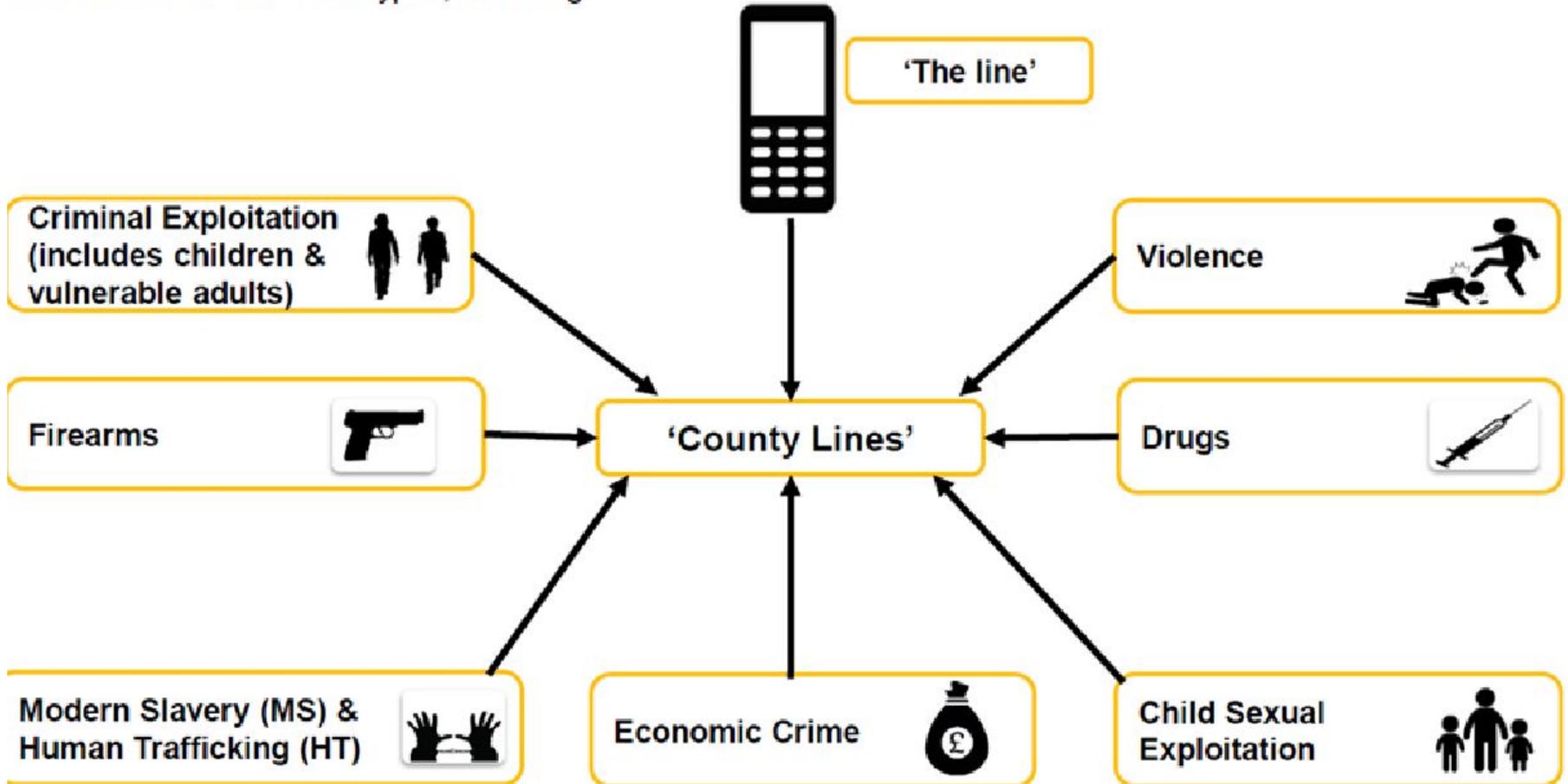
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# Features of 'County Lines'

'County Lines' is not solely a drugs issue as it cross cuts a number of other thematic areas and crime types, including:



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# County Lines in Northumbria?

- Historically there has been no intelligence of ‘County lines’ activity in the Northumbria area. There are indications that this is changing and that this activity is becoming an issue.
- The accurate recognition and reporting of ‘County Lines’ is key to successfully combating this activity and protecting those affected by it.



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# What if I have concerns?

- Contact Northumbria Police by telephone on 101 or 999 in an emergency
- Email  
-[forceintelligence@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:forceintelligence@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)



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