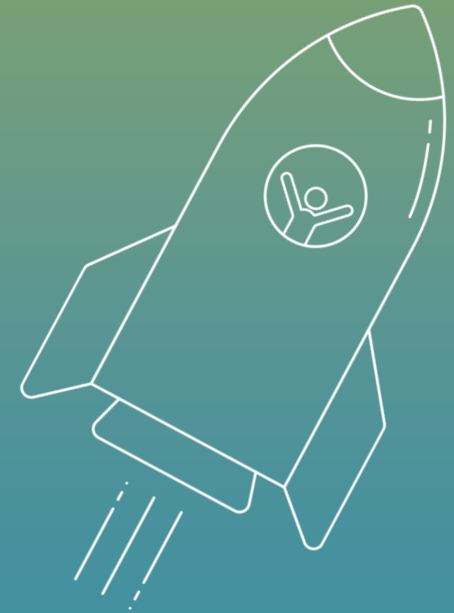




Gang Awareness

Know the Signs



GANGS AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Anna Smith – Gangs and Violence Reduction Service Training Lead

Joe Raby – Assistant Director of Justice

Catch22 is a **social business**, a not-for-profit business with a social mission.

For over 200 years we have designed and delivered services that build resilience and aspiration in people and communities.

Our vision is a strong society where everyone has a good **place** to live, a **purpose** and good **people** around them. We exist to ensure these are achievable for everyone, no matter what their background.



GANGS AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Community Model

Our work targets and builds on service users' strengths to prevent them from becoming involved in gangs and provides a range of interventions for gang-involved young people to support them to exit. We use a variety of methods to deter young people from engaging in, or continuing negative behaviours associated with gang activity by providing support to maintain or re-enter education, training, or employment, one to one key working and providing pro-social activity intervention. We work within the secure estate to support individuals' transition as they reintegrate back into community and support pro-social and crime free lifestyles.



GANGS AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Custodial Model

Catch22's [Gangs Service](#) was introduced in HMP Thameside in April 2013 to reduce the risk posed by gang-involved prisoners, and now runs in 2 other prisons. Run by professionals with an extensive knowledge and understanding of gang culture, the service aims to capitalise on the 'teachable moments' prompted by prison sentences to encourage people to leave gang lifestyles behind. Specifically, the service targets coping and communication skills, and identifies positive educational and employment opportunities for people to pursue on release.

Within our custodial gang service cluster, we have **HMP Thameside, HMP Oakwood and HMP Brinsford**. Workers are skilled in engaging a broad range of service users, backed with a good working knowledge of the environments they have come from as well as the issues they may face within prison.

Initial engagement identifies any issues related to gang involvement and sets out the support available. Where issues are identified, on-going support is provided to the service user. As part of this work a range of interventions is explored to decrease the impact of gang association and violence within the prison.



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- Increase understanding of gang culture
- Develop skills to recognise key warning signs
- Offer strategies to safeguard and manage associated risk



QUICK QUIZ!

What do you know already?

1. Youth Violence can be defined as violence involving young people, typically children, adolescents and young adults

FALSE

TRUE

2. Most future offenders can be identified in early childhood?

FALSE

TRUE

3. It was estimated in 2019* there were many children in gangs across the UK

4,000

16,000

27,000

4. Since 2014 the number of knife possession offences committed by 10 - 17-year-olds has increased by...

70%

24%

56%

5. Drill is a sub-genre of Hip Hop, and has been used to goad other gangs on social media sites?

TRUE

FALSE

6. For young people, ...% of first-time offences possessing offensive weapon

4%

21%

50%

7. What is meant by P and Food?

Friends and Drugs

Money and Drugs

House and Drugs

1. Youth Violence can be defined as violence involving young people, typically children, adolescents and young adults

TRUE

2. Most future offenders can be identified in early childhood?

FALSE

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TRUE

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21%

7. What is meant by P and Food?

Money and Drugs

STATISTICS

1. The Office of National Statistics reported at 9% increase in the number of potential child victims in December 2021.
2. In the year ending September 2022, imitation firearms offences rose 49% in comparison to statistics pre-pandemic
3. 62% were boys most likely to have been criminally exploited and 42% were girls most likely to have been sexually exploited.
4. Approximately 27,000 children identify as gang members





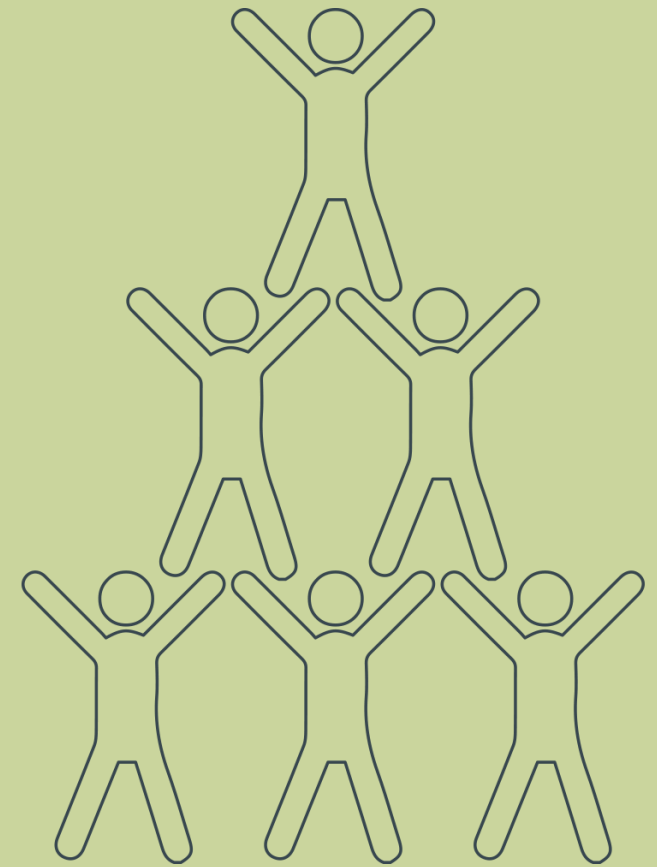
WHAT IS A GANG?

A gang is usually considered to be a group of people who spend time in public places that:

- See themselves (and are seen by others) as a noticeable group, and
- Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence.
- Have some form of identifying structural feature

They may also have any or all of the following features:

- Identify with or lay a claim over territory
- Are in conflict with other, similar gangs



URBAN STREET GANG (USG)

A relatively durable predominantly street based group of people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity.

ORGANISED CRIME GROUP (OCG)

A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain. The gain is mostly measured in financial terms. Crime is their 'occupation'.



DRUG ACTIVITIES

Import and production

GANG HIERARCHY

Organised Crime

STREET VIOLENCE



DRUG ACTIVITIES

Import and production

Distribution



GANG HIERARCHY

Organised Crime

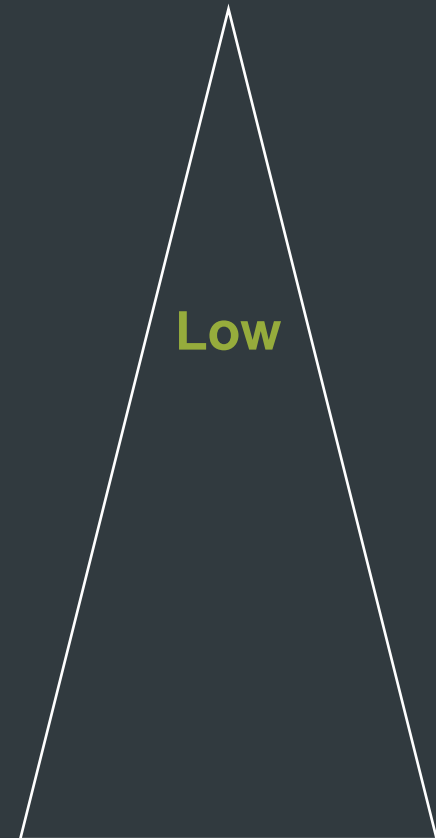


Street Gangs

Youngers and Soldiers

STREET VIOLENCE

Low



**DRUG
ACTIVITIES**

Import and production

Distribution



Delivery

Shotters



**GANG
HIERARCHY**

Organised Crime



Street Gangs

Youngers and Soldiers



Wannabees

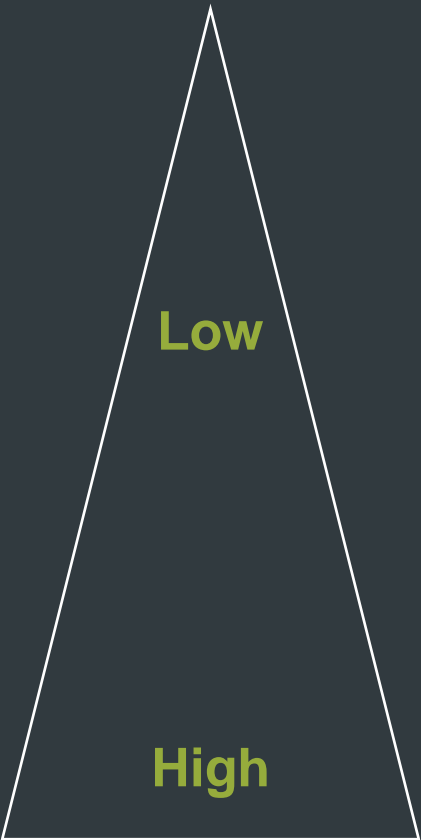


Reluctant Affiliates



Girlfriends

**STREET
VIOLENCE**



ROLE OF FEMALES IN GANGS

12,500 girls and young women estimated
to be involved in gangs

- Generally brought into the gang through a relationship with a male
- Will generally be used to hold, carry or transport weapons, drugs or firearms
- Can be used to launder money and banking
- Lure other females
- Some gangs require new members to commit a violent sexual offence as part of the initiation process



AUDIO OF SERVICE USER EXPERIENCE



A photograph of two young men standing in front of a chain-link fence. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored hoodie and a denim jacket, looking down at a smartphone held by the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a dark hoodie and a jacket, also looking at the phone. The image has a green and blue color overlay. In the top left corner, there are several diagonal lines.

WHY DO PEOPLE JOIN GANGS?

GENERAL INFLUENCE

Exploitation	Desire to belong
Vulnerabilities	Power
Status	Peer Pressure
Fear	Sex
Identity	Financial gain
Protection	Increase self esteem
Substance Misuse	Companionship
	Grooming

FAMILY INFLUENCE

Dysfunctional family set-up	Role models
Criminality	Lack of emotional stability
Neglect	Substance misuse
Gang involvement	Violence
	Deprivation

SCHOOL INFLUENCE

Learning difficulties	Exclusion
Inappropriate peer influences	Performance and attainment
Low aspirations	Labelling
Peer groups	Frustration
Protection	Rejection

COMMUNITY INFLUENCE

Poverty	Access and exposure to drugs
Exclusion	Money and sex
Inclusion	Feeling unsafe
Social capital	Protection
High crime rate	
Rites of passage	

SIGNS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT



- Having money which cannot be accounted for
- Returning home with new possessions
- Losing possessions
- Multiple phones
- Weapons
- Disengagement from learning
- Violent incidents with other pupils in school
- Truanting from lessons
- Exclusion/refusal to attend school altogether
- Change in language; clothing; gang signs
- Substance misuse

- Not returning home until late at night
- Missing episodes
- Being the victim or perpetrator of violent/property/drug crimes
- Having friends or family members who are gang members
- Change of friendship group
- Withdrawal from family life
- Sexual maturity
- Having and using 'street names'
- Physical Injuries
- Mental Health
- Loss of appetite, concentration and sleeping

GROOMING LINE

The process of grooming and gang recruitment

TARGETING
STAGE



EXPERIENCE
STAGE



HOOKED
STAGE



TRAPPED
STAGE



GROOMING STAGES

The process of grooming and gang recruitment

TARGETING
STAGE



Friendship

Groomer/gang builds a friendship with the young person. Making them feel like a valued member of the group. Often gifts them with money, alcohol, drugs, lifts to places etc.

GROOMING STAGES

The process of grooming and gang recruitment

TARGETING
STAGE



EXPERIENCE
STAGE

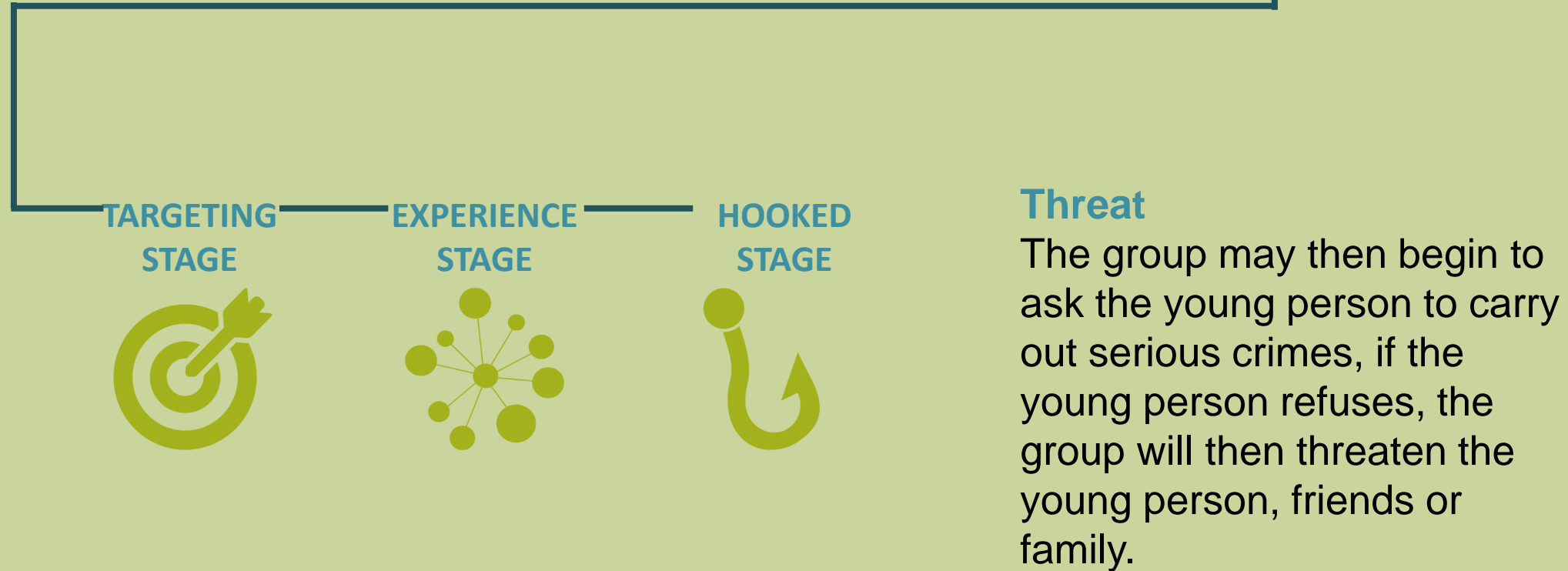


Trust

They then give responsibility to the young person. I.e. – Holding a package overnight – in return they received £50. This makes them feel like the group trust them. The young person may feel in debt to the group gang “for everything they’ve done for them”.

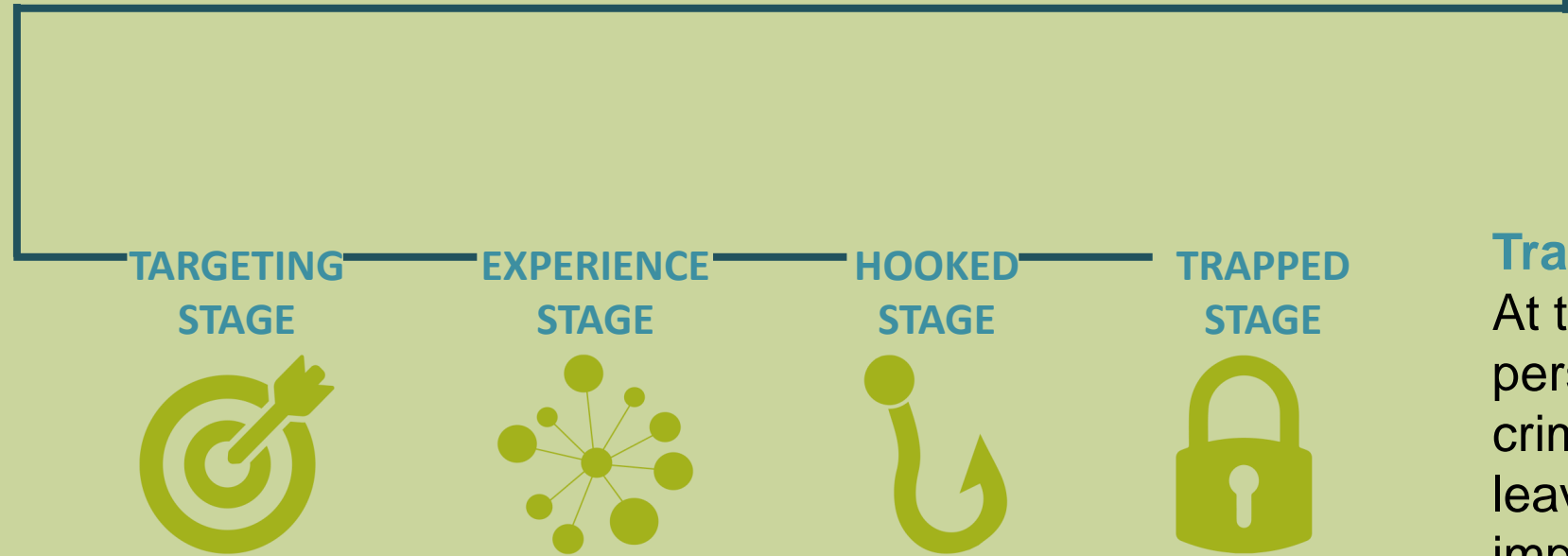
GROOMING STAGES

The process of grooming and gang recruitment



GROOMING STAGES

The process of grooming and gang recruitment



Trapped

At this stage the young person is entrenched in the criminal group. At this point leaving the gang feels impossible and could result in risk of harm or death.



CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION



“

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group **takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive** a child or young person under the age of 18; it does not always involve physical contact and can also occur through the use of technology; and it is broader than just county lines, **including children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft.**


”

EXAMPLES OF CCE

- A 13 year old boy from St Helens was found in North Wales dealing Class A drugs in exchange for receiving a new pair of trainers and £2,000
- A 14 year old girl was asked to be a look out whilst a burglary took place in the promise she would then be in a relationship who she perceived as her boyfriend
- A 7 year old boy was asked to store weapons under his bed on behalf of his mum's partner so his mum could receive help with paying her rent
- A 16 year old girl was asked to deal drugs to her friends in School in exchange for status within an OCG



CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION



“Child Sexual Exploitation is a **form of child sexual abuse**. It occurs where an individual or group **takes advantage of an imbalance of power** to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person **under the age of 18 into sexual activity** (a) in exchange for **something the victim needs or wants**, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited **even if the sexual activity appears consensual**. Child sexual exploitation **does not always involve physical contact**; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

DfE, 2017



EXAMPLES OF CSE

- A 14 year old girl receives drugs from a 20 year old woman after flashing her bum.
- A 16yr old female is invited to a party and offered drugs and alcohol in exchange for giving oral sex.
- A drunk 16 year old boy needs money for a taxi home, but only gets some when he pulls his pants down and lets a 40 year old male touch him.
- A 17 year old male says he will be a 16 year old girl's boyfriend if she sends him sexual images online first.
- A 21 year old woman tells a 15 year old boy she will be his girlfriend but only if he has sex with her first.



WHAT IS COUNTY LINES



“

County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The ‘County Line’ is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend.

”

Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones

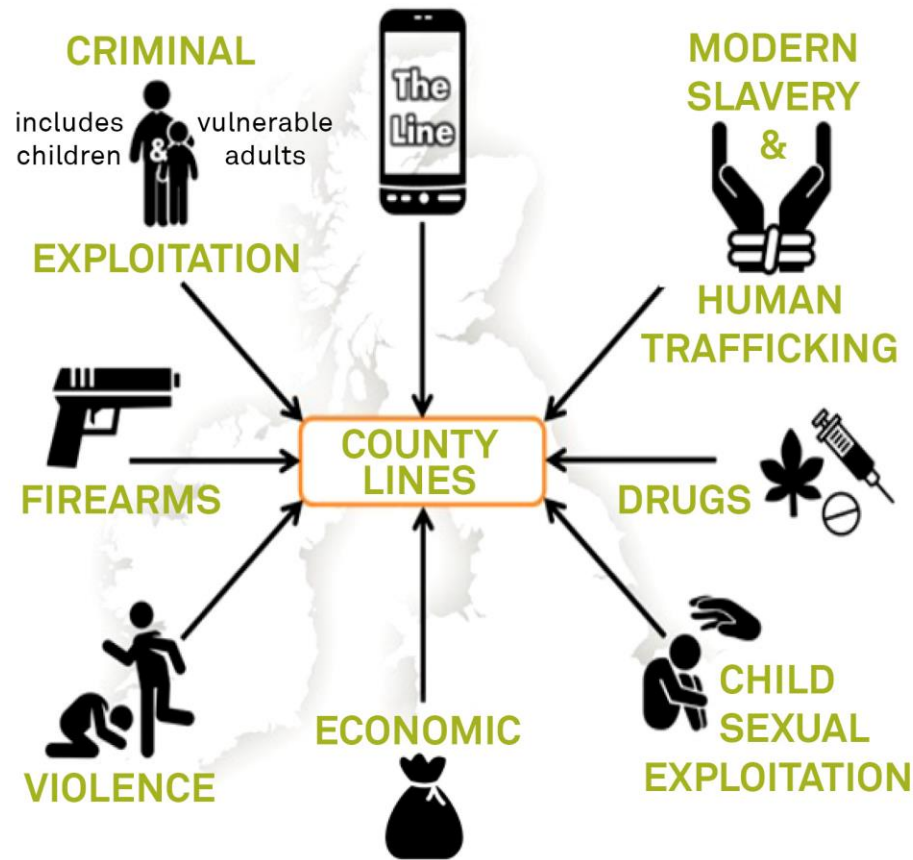
Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going

Suspicion of physical assault/unexplained injuries

Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know

Self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing

Relationships with controlling/older individuals or groups



Carrying weapons

Parental concerns

Having hotel cards, keys or train tickets to unknown places

Significant decline in school results/performance

Leaving home/care without explanation

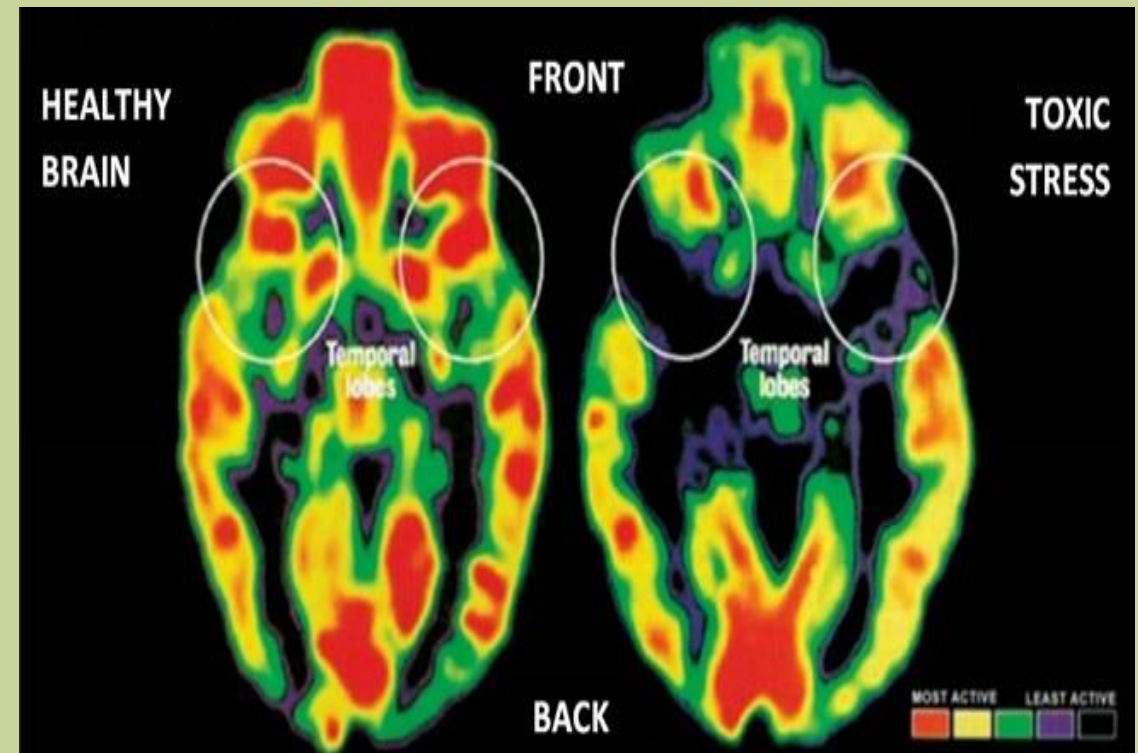
Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks

Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls

Persistently going missing from school or home and/or being found out-of-area

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE'S)

- Creates harmful levels of stress
- Impacts healthy brain development
- Result in long-term effects on learning, behaviour and health
- associated with a range of poorer health and social outcomes in adulthood
- Risks increase as the number of ACEs increase
- Heightened risk of being drawn into offending behaviour
- More likely to be coerced and manipulated into criminal exploitation and or gangs
- Developmental Trauma - live in an almost permanent state of hyper vigilance
- psychological impairment



Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Your exposure to traumatic event can happen in one or more of these ways:

- You experienced the traumatic event
- You witnessed, in person, the traumatic event
- You learned someone close to you experienced or was threatened by the traumatic event
- You are repeatedly exposed to graphic details of traumatic events (for example, if you are a first responder to the scene of traumatic events)



SALES ASSISTANT

JOB DESCRIPTION

- 3 weeks work but opportunity for extension dependent on skill level
- Accommodation and food provided
- Travel expenses paid
- Provided with a work mobile phone and work equipment required to fulfil job role
- Opportunities for promotion
- Designer work uniform provided
- Opportunities to meet new people
- Opportunities to travel
- Must be able to work flexible and unsociable hours
- If work completed ahead of schedule individual will still be paid full pay
- Cash in hand – Tax Free
- Open to all ages; no minimum age

SALARY:
£2,000.00
(3 weeks work)

SALES ASSISTANT

JOB DESCRIPTION IN REALITY

- 24/7 work; Coerced and threatened to deal further; no choice not to work
- In-habitual and dangerous living accommodation
- Trafficked across the Country via different methods of transport
- Provided with a phone 'line', drugs (Class A), drug paraphernalia and weapons
- Given responsibility within the OCG/ Urban Street Gang; drug dealing and increase in violence to earn 'status'
- OCG branding or clothing given as gifts so CYP is in debt
- Planned assaults and thefts on CYP to ensure debt
- Placed at serious risk of harm from drug users and rival gangs
- Missing a phone call has consequences of serious violence
- Risk of criminal record and having to relocate due to reprisals
- Risk to health by ingesting drugs to hide from authorities
- Threat to own life, family's life and even death

SALARY: £2,000.00

(3 weeks work)

**ILLEGALLY GAINED;
24 x 21 = 504 hours of
work / £2000 = £3.96
an hour = less than
minimum wage!!**

TERMINOLOGY – ASSIST IN SPOTTING SIGNS

Caught a body
Splashing
Chinged
Turned pack
Smoke
Bando or traphouse
Nitty
o.t or country
dot or doti
op or ops
Skeng
Motif

Murder
Stabbing
Stabbed
Murder victim
Gun
Drug den
Drug user
County lines
Shotgun
Opposition/rival gang
Handgun
Party

Lackin
Bands
Whippin
Wass
Wet
G.M
Finessed
Took them trips
Neeks
Dipped

Without a weapon
Money
Cooking crack
Talking rubbish
Not respected
Gang member
Robbed
Looking for Ops
Disliked person
stabbed

CHECK POINT!

- Had discussions with your manager/safeguarding team
- Completed exploitation Screening Tool (Local Authorities model)
- Referred to a local authority MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)
- Completed of on-line Multi Agency Referral Form MARF.
- Had a discussion with Community Police Officers, they are often based in each of the areas across the town/city
- Had a discussion with Catch22 or similar agency
- If County Lines (drug lines) is a concern, completed a National Referral Mechanism (NRM*) to determine whether young adult/child can be defined as a victim of modern slavery/ trafficking due to Child Criminal Exploitation/ exploitation.



QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU

