

# Welcome | Croeso

The session will start shortly.

Please remain muted throughout the session and keep your camera turned off to avoid connection interruptions.

You are able to ask questions through the chat bar which will be answered at the end of the session.

## County Lines and Exploitation



**The  
Children's  
Society**





**TARIAN**

## **County Lines**

### **Raising Awareness**

# **ann craft trust**

acting against abuse

#### **FACILITATED BY:**

**DETECTIVE INSPECTOR RICHARD WEBER  
TARIAN COUNTY LINES COORDINATOR**



**The  
Children's  
Society**

# Background

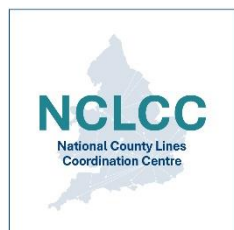


**WHY?**

Serious Violence  
Strategy launched



**WHAT?**



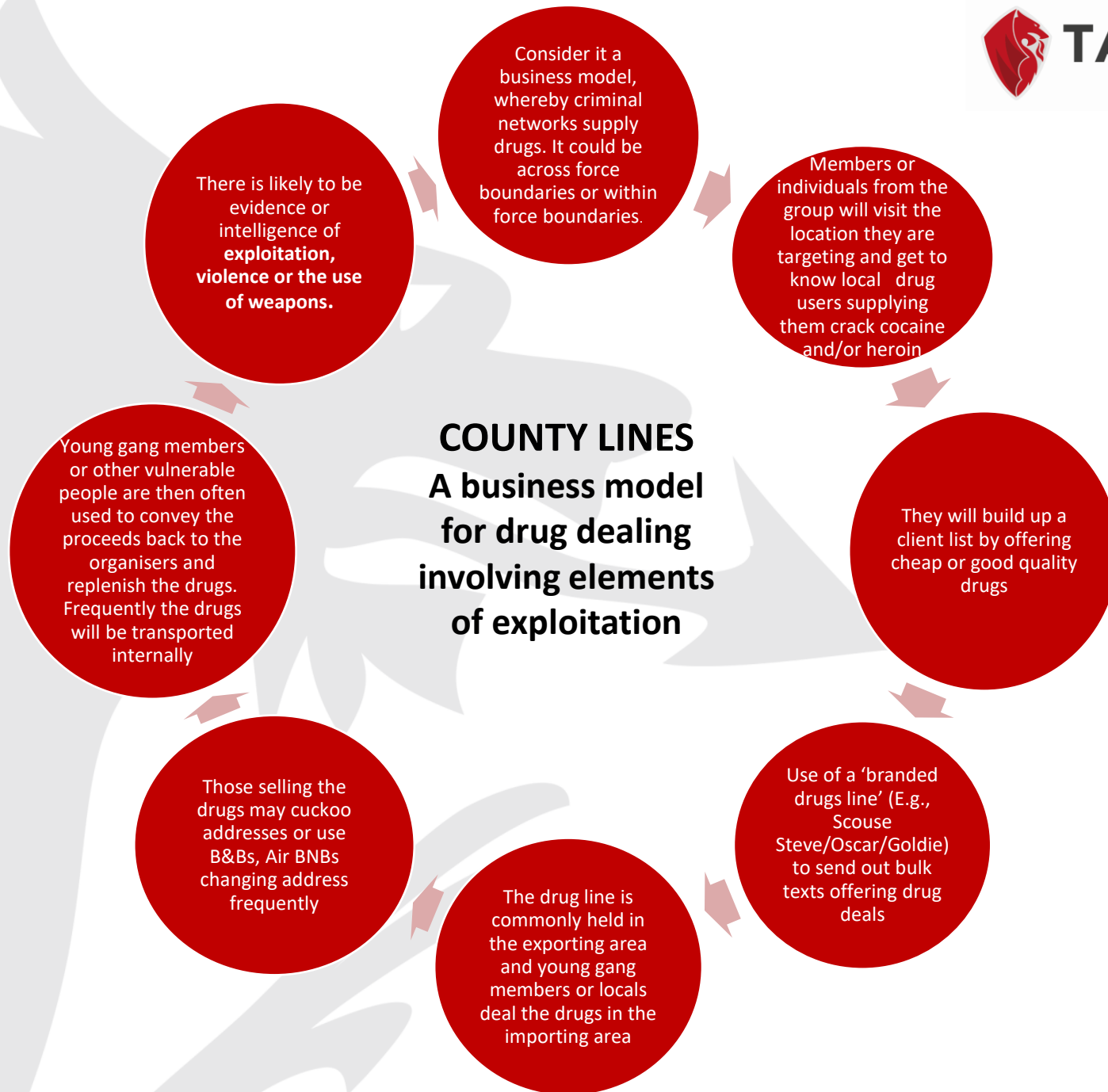
The  
Children's  
Society

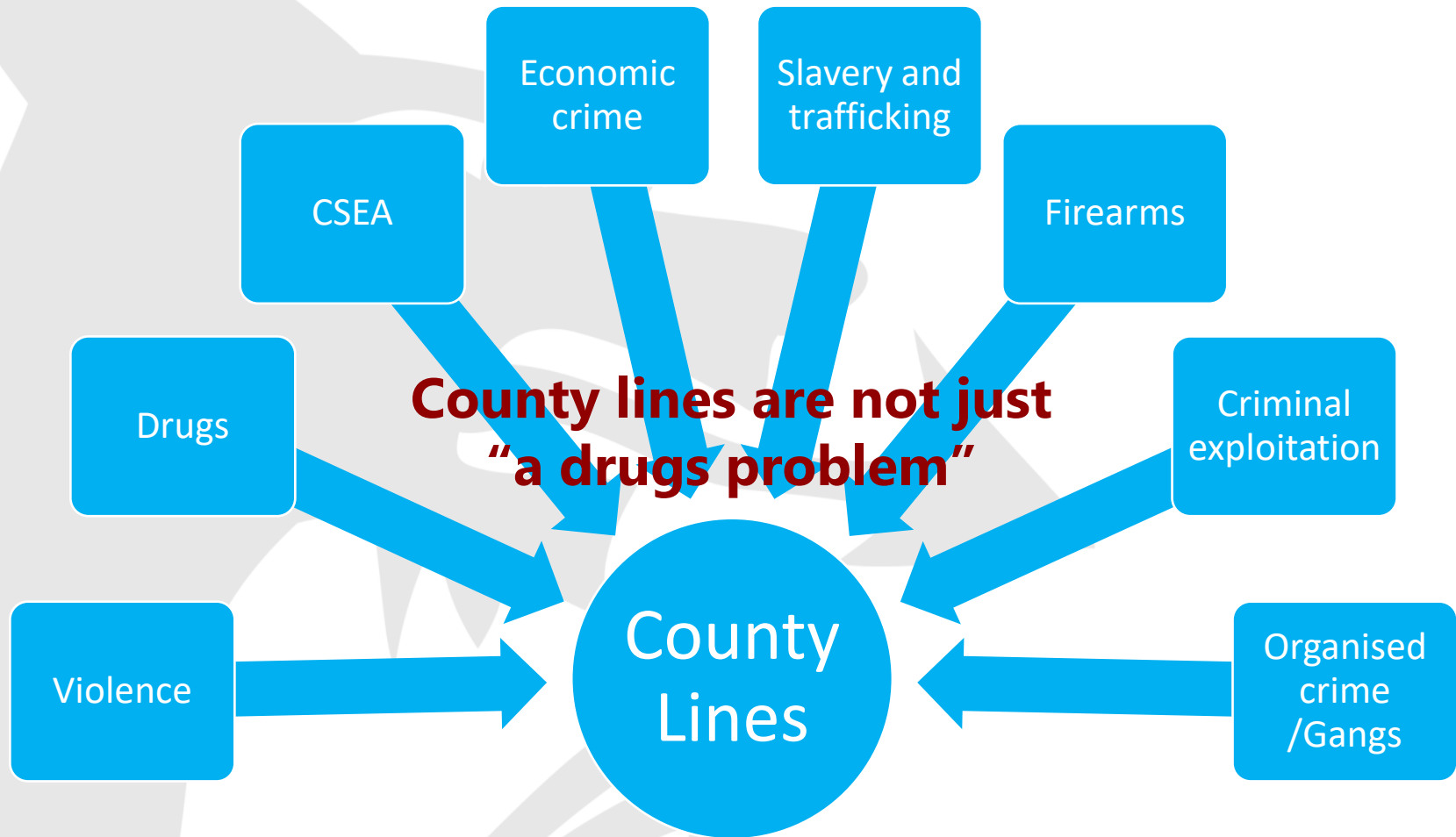


**TARIAN**

**WHO?**







# Who is vulnerable?

**Its complex and we need to be careful not to stereotype**

- Children as young as 11 years
  - 18-25 years of age is now the most common age group
  - Both males and females
  - Class A drug users
  - People with mental health issues or physical/learning difficulties
  - Those having prior experience of neglect, physical/sexual abuse
  - Lack of stable home, children in care
  - Social isolation
  - Connections with other people involved in gangs
  - Excluded from mainstream education
  - Foreign exchange students – (Money Mules)
  - Students
  - Even children who have had no previous contact with services – ‘clean skins’.
- The Childrens Society #LookCloser campaign identifies the above but also asks us to look past some of the stereotypes.



Exploitation can happen  
anywhere

**Don't wait.**  
**Report it.**



# Push and pull factors

## PUSH

Those who have been victims of abuse  
 Those from households where DV has been a feature.  
 Children whose parents are vulnerable  
 Family breakdown  
 Those with disabilities/Those who are bullied  
 Absence of primary attachment figure

### What are ACEs?



Verbal abuse



Physical abuse



Sexual abuse



Incarceration



Domestic violence



Mental illness



Alcohol abuse



Drug abuse



Parental separation

ACEs and their association with health-harming behaviours in the Welsh adult population



## PULL



Glamour.

Being liked/fancied/ made to feel special/ trusted.

Receiving alcohol, drugs, money, food or gifts.

Getting a buzz and the excitement of risk taking behaviour.

Somewhere to stay where there are no rules or boundaries.

Being given lifts, taken to new places, having adventures with 'friends'.

A recent report by the YH ROCU into the use of SM and young people in CL concluded its not just about the money but also about trust, being part of something, having future and a second self. SM offers validation and praise which can quickly turn into and coercive control.



# Why are children and vulnerable adults used?

- Children and the vulnerable are seen as expendable.
- They can have different roles within the OCG / network.
- They are easy to manipulate / groom / exploit.
- Vulnerable to debt bondage
- They don't always see themselves as victims.
- Children are less likely to be stopped.
- The criminal isn't caught with drugs and so there is less likelihood of conviction.
- Vulnerable people have addresses that can be used by drug dealers to run their business from / accommodate runners / stash drugs.
- The train / public transport network is used because of the ease of use, links to other areas and because children don't drive.



**Whilst children and vulnerable adults are mostly commonly used – anyone can become a victim.**



# Spot the Signs

Mae gangiau sy'n gwerthu cyffuriau yn **camddefnyddio** ac yn **cam-drin pobl sy'n agored i niwed**

## Gweld yr arwyddion?

**Nifer o ymwelwyr anghyffredin?** Mae gangiau yn meddiannu cartrefi preswylwyr lleol - gan ei ddefnyddio fel man gweithredu

**Teithio ar eich pen eich hun?** Mae gangiau yn gorfodi pobl ifanc i gario cyffuriau i mewn i'r sir

**Ar y ffôn?** Dyma sut mae aelodau'r gangiau yn cyfathrebu gyda'i rhedwyr

**Yn cario neu'n gwerthu cyffuriau?** Mae uwch aelodau o'r gangiau yn osgoi cael eu dal drwy ddefnyddio eraill i werthu eu cyffuriau drostynt

**Cariad newydd?** Mae aelodau o'r gangiau yn meithrin perthynas amhriodol â phobl ifanc drwy ddatblygu 'cydberthynas' â nhw i'w gorfodi ac i'w rheoli

**Mwy o arian yn sydyn?** Mae gangiau yn denu unigolion gydag arian, rhoddion a chyffuriau ac o ganlyniad maent yn teimlo bod dyled arnynt i'r grŵp

**Ofnus?** Mae gangiau yn dominyddu drwy godi ofn a thrais

Helpwch i ddiogelu eich cymuned, **RIPORTIWCH EF**. Nid oes rhaid i chi fod yn gant y cant, mae pryder yn ddigon

**Vulnerable people** are being **used and abused** by drug dealing urban gangs

## See the signs?

**Unusual number of visitors?** Gangs take over local residents homes - using it as a base to operate from

**Travelling alone?** Gangs coerce young people into carrying drugs into the county

**On the phone?** This is how gang members communicate with their 'runners'

**Carrying or selling drugs?** Senior gang members evade detection by getting others to deal their drugs

**New boyfriend/girlfriend?** Gang members groom young people forming a 'relationship' to coerce and control them

**Come into money?** Gangs entice individuals with cash, gifts and drugs which leaves them indebted to the gang

**Scared?** Gangs dominate with fear and violence

Help protect your community, **REPORT IT**. You don't have to be certain, just concerned

# What is Cuckooing?



*Criminal exploitation of vulnerable people involving the use of their homes as a base for criminal activities, through intimidation or in exchange for drugs.*



# Spot the Signs

## A yw eich cymydog yn cadw cwmni **drwg**?

Mae **gangiau** sy'n delio mewn cyffuriau yn dod yn ffrindiau i bobl sy'n agored i niwed ac yn cymryd eu cartrefi drosodd - gelwir hyn yn '**Cuckooing**'

### Gall gweithgarwch anarferol gynnwys:

- llawer o wahanol bobl yn mynd a dod o gyfeiriad
- pobl yn mynd a dod ar adegau rhyfedd o'r dydd a'r nos
- arogleuon amheus yn dod o'r adeilad
- ffenestri wedi eu gorchuddio neu'r llenni ar gau drwy'r amser
- ceir yn tynnu mewn y tu allan i'r tŷ neu gerllaw iddo am gyfnod byr
- cynnydd mewn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol o gwmpas yr adeilad

Os ydych yn credu eich bod wedi dod o hyd i 'cuckoo' cyffuriau, **RIPORTIWCH EF.**

## Is your neighbour keeping **bad** company?

Drug dealing **gangs** are befriending **vulnerable people** and taking over their homes - this is called '**Cuckooing**'

### Unusual activity could include:

- lots of different people coming and going from an address
- people coming and going at odd times of the day and night
- suspicious smells coming from the property
- windows covered or curtains closed all the time
- cars pulling up to or near the house for a short period of time
- an increase in anti-social behaviour around the property

If you think you have spotted a drugs 'cuckoo' **REPORT IT.**

# Reluctance to inform others

- Police involvement could end the supply of drugs
- Criminal proceedings against themselves
- Victims fear eviction from their home
- The 'cuckoo' could use violence to prevent the victim from speaking to police.



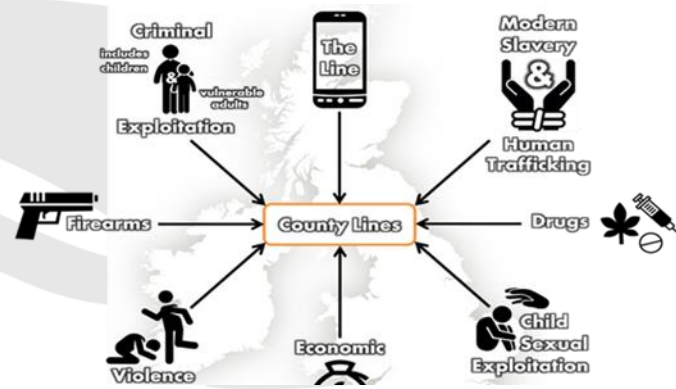
# What does the national County Lines picture look like?

Around 600 lines consistently recorded despite Lockdown and Operation Venetic.

Main exporting areas remain;  
London  
West Midlands  
Merseyside

## October 2024 – CL Overview

580 Dealing Lines  
494 Line 'brand' names  
789 Individuals  
148 Under-18s  
10.2% Lines linked to Serious Violence  
12.4% Lines linked to Firearms  
17.6% Lines linked to cuckooing



Methodology remains largely the same though there is some evidence of some groups varying their tactics such as sending blank text messages.

**Local groups in Southern Wales are mirroring the County Lines methodology** - the threat, risk and harm of these groups is no different to those from outside the area and should be treated in the same way.

**Targeting of line holders and safeguarding is being prioritised.**

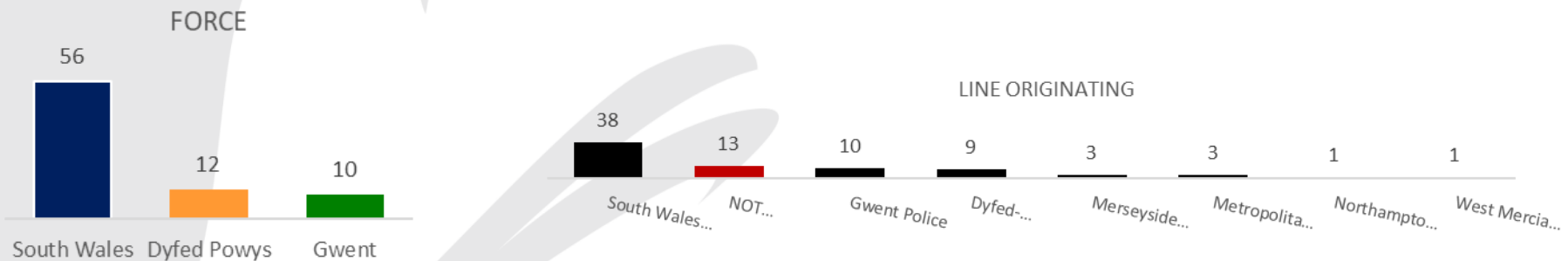


## And in Southern Wales Tarian area?

Historically the Southern Wales towns and cities have been targeted by groups from Merseyside, London and the West Midlands.

Very few areas are untouched. This is not just a big city issue. Towns as small as Brecon, Llandrindod, Newtown, Bridgend and Pontypridd have been targeted.

In October 24 there were 78 lines recorded in the southern Wales Region. Most are local lines with a number from Merseyside, the West Midlands and London.





The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) County Lines and Gangs alongside the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) have today (5/11) released the County Lines Strategic Threat Risk Assessment covering the period from April 2023 to March 2024.

Key findings within the assessment reveal that:

- The County Lines threat has become more localised, with fewer lines running outside force boundaries and fewer children recorded by the police as involved in any capacity.
- County Lines is a higher risk enterprise for those criminals' intent on controlling lines.
- External lines (cross a force boundary) have reduced by 12.2%, whilst internal lines (start and end within a force boundary) have increased by 232%, year-on-year. This represents the shift from a traditional County Lines Business Model to one that is more local.



# And the link to children, young people and vulnerable adults?

- 3 boys exploited by a West Midlands CL using a cuckooed address of vulnerable adults in Gabalfa, Cardiff. Two of the boys were 14 years old from the Rumney area and one stated he had informed his teacher he was being contacted by males from the Birmingham area.
- 19 year old from Cardiff found at a cuckooed address in Bridgend operated by males from Cardiff. The same line sent out bulk text messages and used young runners in the Tonypandy area – CC line
- Newport males found running lines in Neath and Llanelli – Stock and Liam lines
- ALPO Line – males aged 16/17/18/19 from Cwmbran recruited into County Lines



## Worth noting

- Use of `clean skins`
- Care homes and Universities targeted in areas such as Swansea
- LAC placements can cause issue - Birmingham subject of CL placed in Cwmbran involved in a number of incidents
- County Lines nominals from London had enrolled at College in Newport but had never attended lectures.



# Camfanteisio ar Blant **Croesi'r Llinell**

Mae grwpiau o droseddwr cyfundrefnol yn meithrin perthynas amhriodol â phobl ifanc drwy ddatblygu 'cydberthynas' â nhw i'w gorfodi ac i'w rheoli er mwyn iddynt droseddu.

## Gweld yr arwyddion?

- Perthnasau yn chwala â theulu a ffrindiau
- Cwrdd â/cyswllt gan oedolion dieithr
- Mynd ar goll o'r ysgol neu'r cartref
- Newidiadau mewn ymddygiad gan gynnwys troseddoldeb
- Rhoddion/eiddo newydd heb esboniad
- Defnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol
- Arwyddion o niwed corfforol gan gynnwys yn rhywiol
- Arwyddion o niwed emosiynol - hunan-niweidio, hunanladdol

Dywedwch wrth rywun - nid oes angen i chi fod yn sicr, dim ond yn bryderus **RIPORTIWCH EF.**

# Exploiting children **Crosses the Line**

Organised crime groups are grooming young people, developing a 'relationship' with them to coerce and control them to commit crime

## See the signs?

- Breakdown of relationships with family and friends
- Meeting with/contact from unknown adults
- Going missing from school or home
- Changes in behaviour including criminality
- Unexplained gifts/new possessions
- Using drugs and alcohol
- Signs of physical harm including sexual

Speak out - you don't have to be certain, just concerned **REPORT IT.**



# Dioddefwyr nid troseddwyr?

Cydnabod y dylai plant ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed ac sy'n cael eu gorfodi i droseddu gan grwpiau o droseddwr cyfundrefnol, **gael eu diogelu ac nid eu cosbi**

## Troseddoldeb Llinellau'r Sir

Codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r bygythiad i bobl ifanc ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed ac sy'n cael eu camddefnyddio a'u cam-drin gan gangiau stryd trefol i wneud eu gwaith brwnt, gan eu helpu i osgoi cael eu dal.

Mae plant mor ifanc â 12 mlwydd oed yn cael eu defnyddio gan grwpiau o droseddwr cyfundrefnol sy'n meithrin perthynas amhriodol â nhw ac yn eu danfon ar draws siroedd yn cario cyffuriau, arfau ac arian.

# Victims not criminals?

Recognising that children and vulnerable adults who are forced to commit crime by organised crime groups should be **protected not punished**

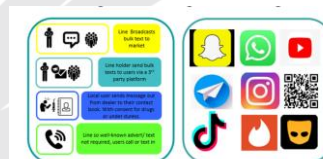
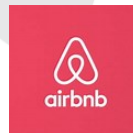
## County Lines Criminality

Raising awareness of the threat to young people and vulnerable adults who are coerced or forced by urban gangs to do their 'dirty work', helping them evade detection.

Children as young as 12 years old are being ruthlessly groomed and exploited by organised crime groups who traffick them across counties carrying drugs, weapons and money.

# Tactics Employed and Trends

- Use of fake and legitimate taxis used to facilitate County Lines activity
- Use of the rail and bus networks
- Fake livery and uniforms
- Use of electric scooters to facilitate supply
- Hotels, B&Bs, Airbnb's being used
- Care homes targeted in some areas
- Universities/Higher Education/schools sometimes targeted
- Move to Apps and Social Media





# So what is your role?

This needs to be a multi-agency response.

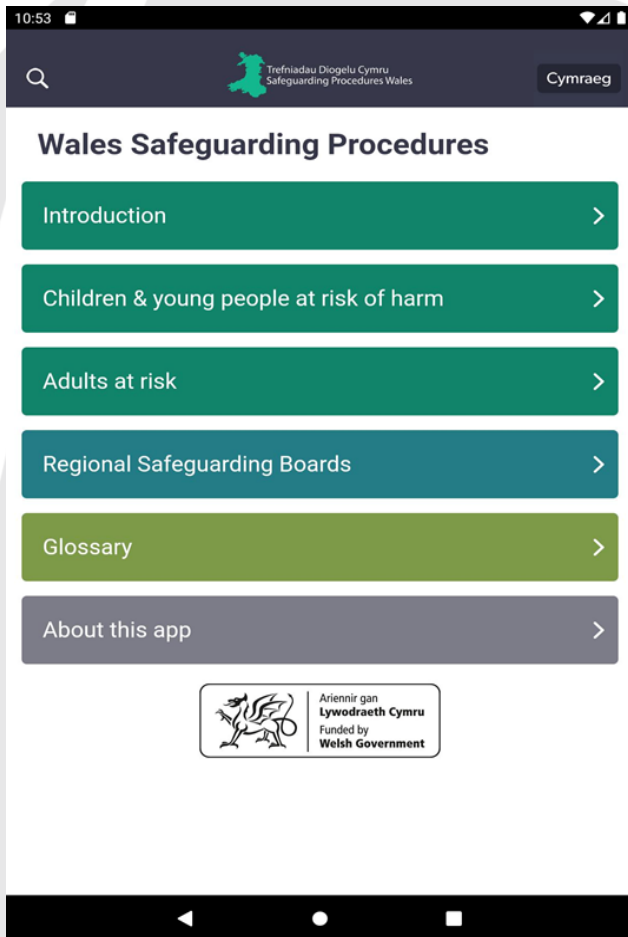
We need to:

- Use a 4 'P' response – Pursue, Protect, Prevent, Prepare
- Identify potential victims and perpetrators.
- Train our workforce and our partners, so that we all know how to spot the signs and ensure that appropriate activity takes place.
- Ensure that partner intelligence is captured
- Ensure that there is safeguarding of vulnerable people, target hardening of victims and locations – (For example, if we identify a cuckooed address, we need to prevent the victim from being further exploited in the future - This means working with our partners).
- Understand what legislation we can use to tackle county lines criminality. E.g. Closure Orders
- Have effect partnerships with other organisations and agencies.
- Take responsibility



# Wales Safeguarding Procedures

## The 'statutory duty to report' explained



For the purposes of this guidance a duty to report to the local authority will be taken to mean a referral to social services who, alongside the police, have statutory powers to investigate suspected abuse or neglect. The term 'practitioner' has been used as a blanket term to describe anyone who is in paid employment as well as unpaid volunteers.

A report must be made whenever a practitioner has concerns about a child under the age of 18 years who:

- is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm
- and**
- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).

If any person has knowledge, concerns or suspicions that a child is suffering, has suffered or is likely to be at risk of harm, it is their responsibility to ensure that the concerns are referred to social services or the police who have statutory duties and powers to make enquiries and intervene when necessary.

**THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF PERSONAL CHOICE.**

# How do I share the information I have?

- Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon? Is someone in immediate danger? Do you need support right away? If so, please call 999.
- If the information is more general in nature and there is no immediate risk then call 101 for non-emergency enquiries or submit information online. Each area has its own local procedures.
- Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously online <http://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or on <tel:0800555111>
- If the need is not immediate then many organisations will be able to share information by way of a MARF or referral into the local MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) – speak with your Safeguarding Leads.

# Useful resources

- Government advice -County lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. Brings together documents and promotional material related to the government's work to end criminal exploitation  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/county-lines-criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults>
- What is County Lines?  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=50&v=3ILaguFXHr4&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=50&v=3ILaguFXHr4&feature=emb_title)
- 'Are You Listening?' –New film to tackle Child Criminal Exploitation -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbY7zCJCi3w&feature=youtu.be>
- SchoolBeat.Cymru have developed a lesson for delivery in schools to educate young people about one of the most significant issues that affect our communities-Criminal Exploitation of Children and County Lines -  
<https://vimeo.com/436784100/96042b5590>
- Crimestoppers #Fearless -<https://www.fearless.org/en/campaigns/county-lines>
- The ruthlessness of a County Lines perpetrator -<https://tinyurl.com/yya3x43c>

# What does success look like?

## County Lines

Strategic Threat Risk Assessment

April 2023 to March 2024  
Financial Year



16. With high confidence, the County Lines Business Model is changing and becoming more localised. It is also riskier for offenders. This is attributed to the strong law enforcement focus on County Lines since 2018, particularly through activity funded by the County Lines Programme. Since it launched in 2019:<sup>1</sup>

- **5,627 County Lines have been closed**
- **16,536 people have been arrested**
- **8,817 individuals have been referred by police to safeguarding**

<sup>1</sup>Figures are correct as of 15 March 2024<sup>4</sup>

ITV NEWS

Your Area ▼ Cost of Living Advice Ukraine Politics Royal World Climate Health

### Man shares 'luck' surviving stabbing at 16 as new report shows one in six teens experience violence

WALES | CHILDREN | YOUNG PEOPLE | KNIFE CRIME | ⌚ Monday 13 November 2023 at 7:03pm



- ITV News Wales Correspondent [Richard Morgan](#) reports on a new report on knife crime and speaks to teen stabbing victim Wes Cunliffe



# Contact details

**Richard Weber**

Detective Inspector – County Lines Co-ordinator

TARIAN Regional Organised Crime Team

07584 770614

01656 869211 Ext 62679

Email: [richard.weber@south-wales.police.uk](mailto:richard.weber@south-wales.police.uk)