

# County Lines

## Crimestoppers

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[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity,  
number 1108687 and SC037960 in Scotland

**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.

# What is County Lines?

‘County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”’

*Home Office: Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults:*

*County Lines Guidance, September 2018*

# Features of County Lines:

- Drug dealing line
- Criminal Exploitation
- Trafficking/slavery
- Cuckooing
- Violence

# Exploitation, Trafficking & Violence

- Exploitation is a form of abuse
- The grooming process is the same as other exploitative crimes, e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation etc.
- Gangs use young people to 'move' drugs & money
- Violence and the threat of violence is often used; for recruitment & if the drugs/money is missing.
- Weapons are sometimes used.

# Cuckooing

- Base identified by organised crime group
- Properties of vulnerable people 'taken over'
- Force or coercion used
- Usually takes place in multi-occupancy or social housing properties

# Signs & Indicators of Cuckooing

- People attending properties who aren't known by the occupant
- Occupant may seem in fear, or controlled, by the visitors
- Occupant may leave the property when visitors are present
- Weapons seen at the property
- Variety of vehicles attending the address
- Number of people coming or going, or someone other than the occupant staying at the property
- Increased activity – ASB/Police/Ambulance etc.

# Who is vulnerable?

- Children and young people – usually 15-16 yrs old
- Males and females
- White British children
- Social media used for initial contact
- Class A drug users' properties identified for 'cuckooing'
- Power imbalance/form of exchange

# Heightened vulnerability

- Previous experiences of neglect/abuse/exploitation
- Lack of safe/stable home environment/being in care
- Social isolation/difficulties
- Economic vulnerability
- Homelessness
- Associates
- Disability – physical or learning



# Signs to look out for

- Missing from school/home – being found out of area
- Unexplained money, phones, clothing etc.
- Excessive texts/calls
- Unexplained injuries/self harming
- Carrying weapons
- Parental/school concerns
- Association with different groups/social networks

# County Lines Terms

- Cuckooing
- Going Country
- Trap House
- Trapping
- Debt Slavery

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBUCxJhx3-o&feature=youtu.be>
- **\*\* Contains Offensive Language \*\***

# National Picture

- New National unit set up to tackle County Lines
- 1,000 lines in operation across the country
- 200 active investigations
- Believed to be in ALL forces across the UK

# Local Picture



[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

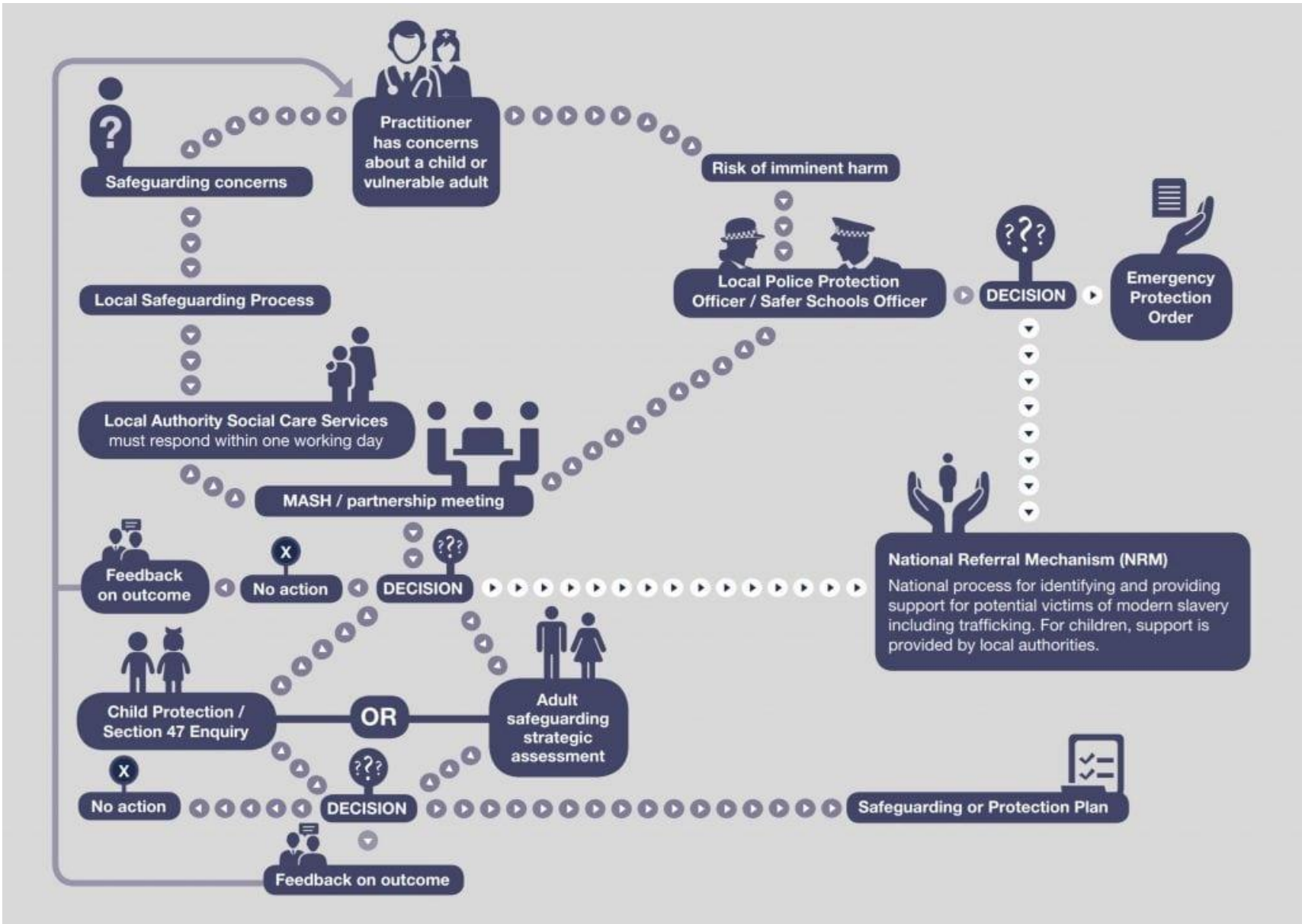
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# Case Studies

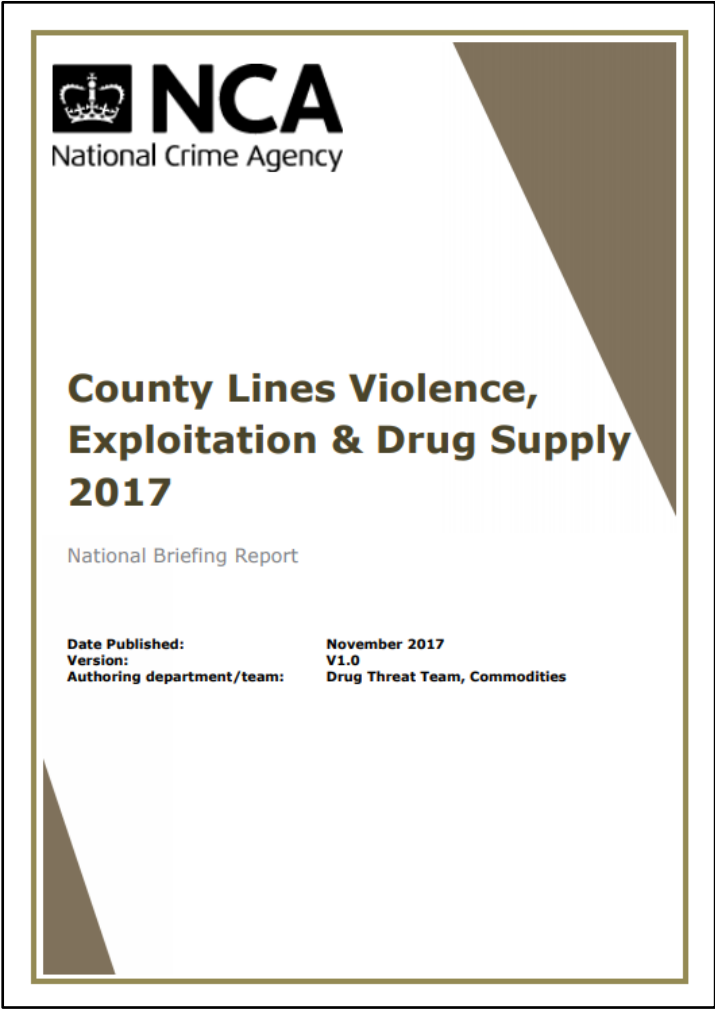
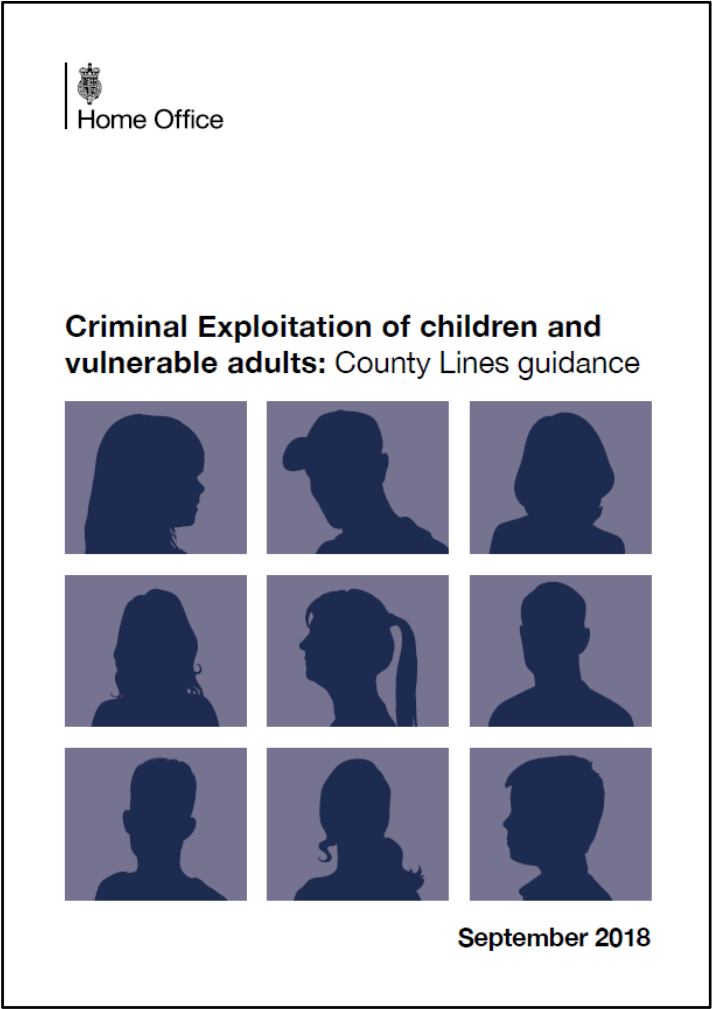
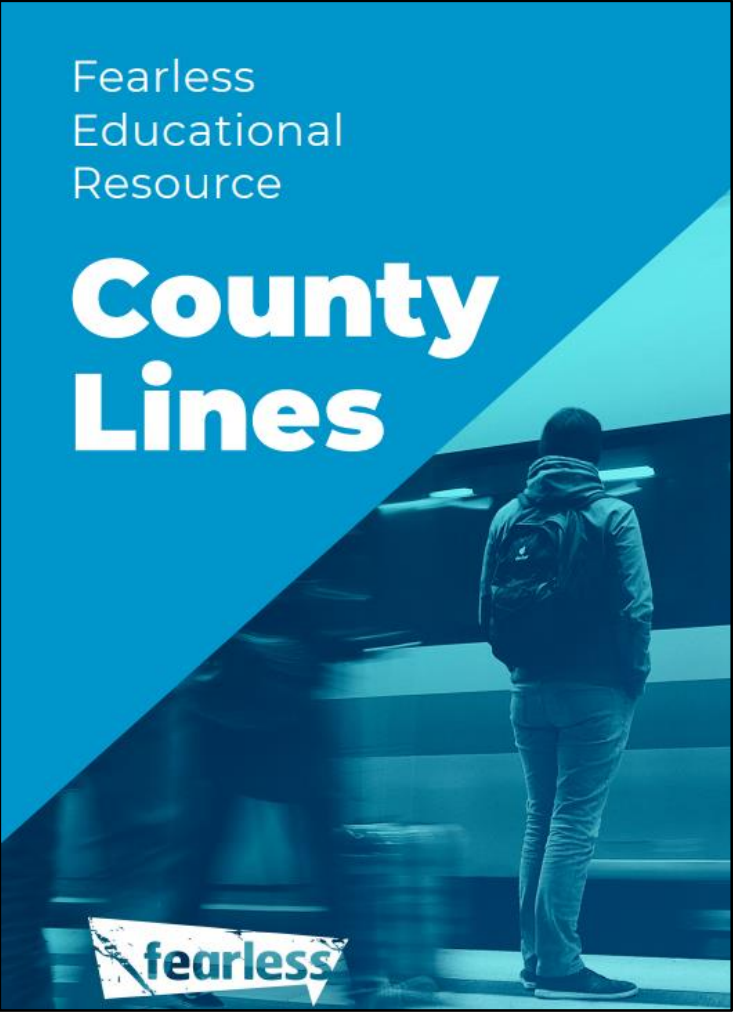
# What to do:

- Dial 999 if there is immediate danger
- Complete the Partnership Sharing Form – as agreed with the Council & Police
- Contact your Designated Safeguarding Lead
- First responders should refer any young person suspected of being a victim of trafficking to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- Report anonymously to Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111 or [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

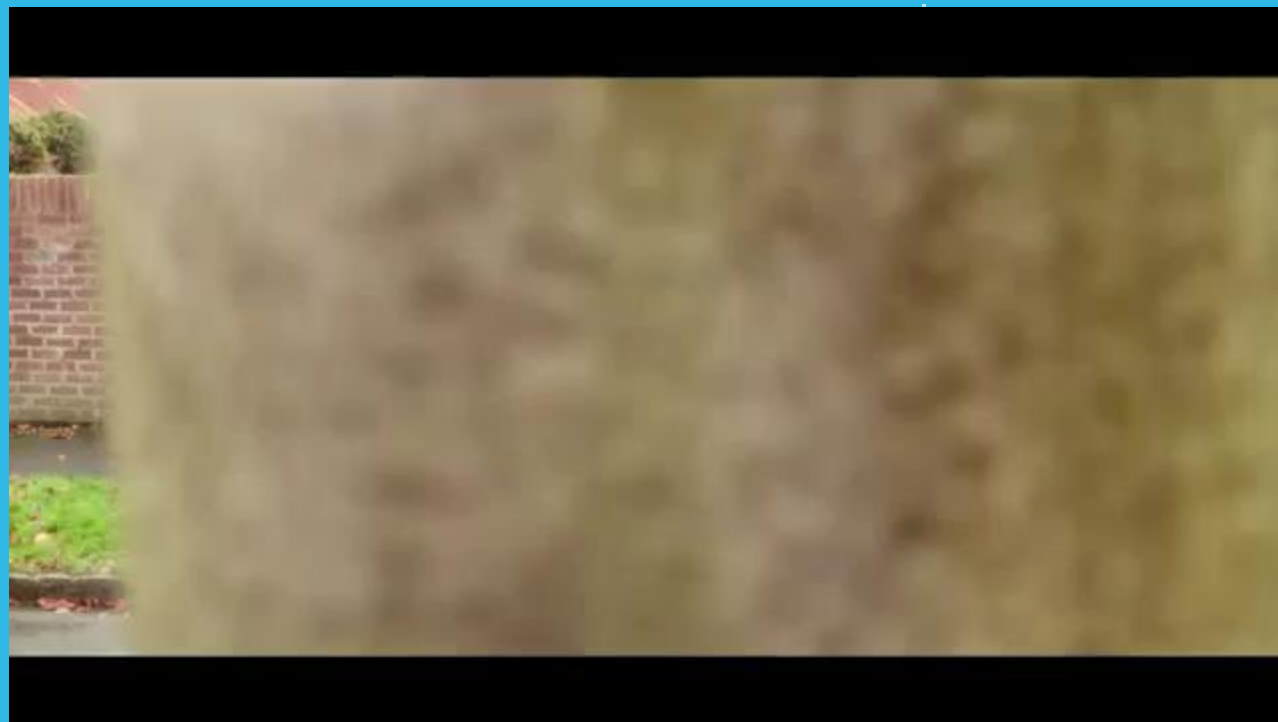




# Resources



The cycle continues...



# Thank you

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