



# Child Criminal Exploitation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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# London dealers commute to Cambridge to sell Class A drugs

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- ▶ Criminals from London are commuting to the university city of Cambridge to deal Class A drugs such as crack cocaine and heroin, police have revealed.
- ▶ Police say they have arrested and charged a number of dealers who have travelled from London to cash in on higher prices paid for hard drugs in the regional city.
- ▶ They say dealers from the capital are targeting "vulnerable drug users" in the city to "take advantage of them."
- ▶ Seven suspected dealers with London addresses have been arrested in Cambridge so far this year. Last year 14 dealers from London were arrested in the city.
- ▶ Local officers are now appealing for help from residents to spot the interlopers and report them to police.
- ▶ The alert comes as Scotland Yard warned recently that some of London's most notorious gangs are extending their range of operations to regional cities as far afield as Edinburgh.

Taken from front page [London Evening Standard](#)

# What is Child Criminal Exploitation (Gangs)

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- ▶ Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and 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**. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity **appears consensual**. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

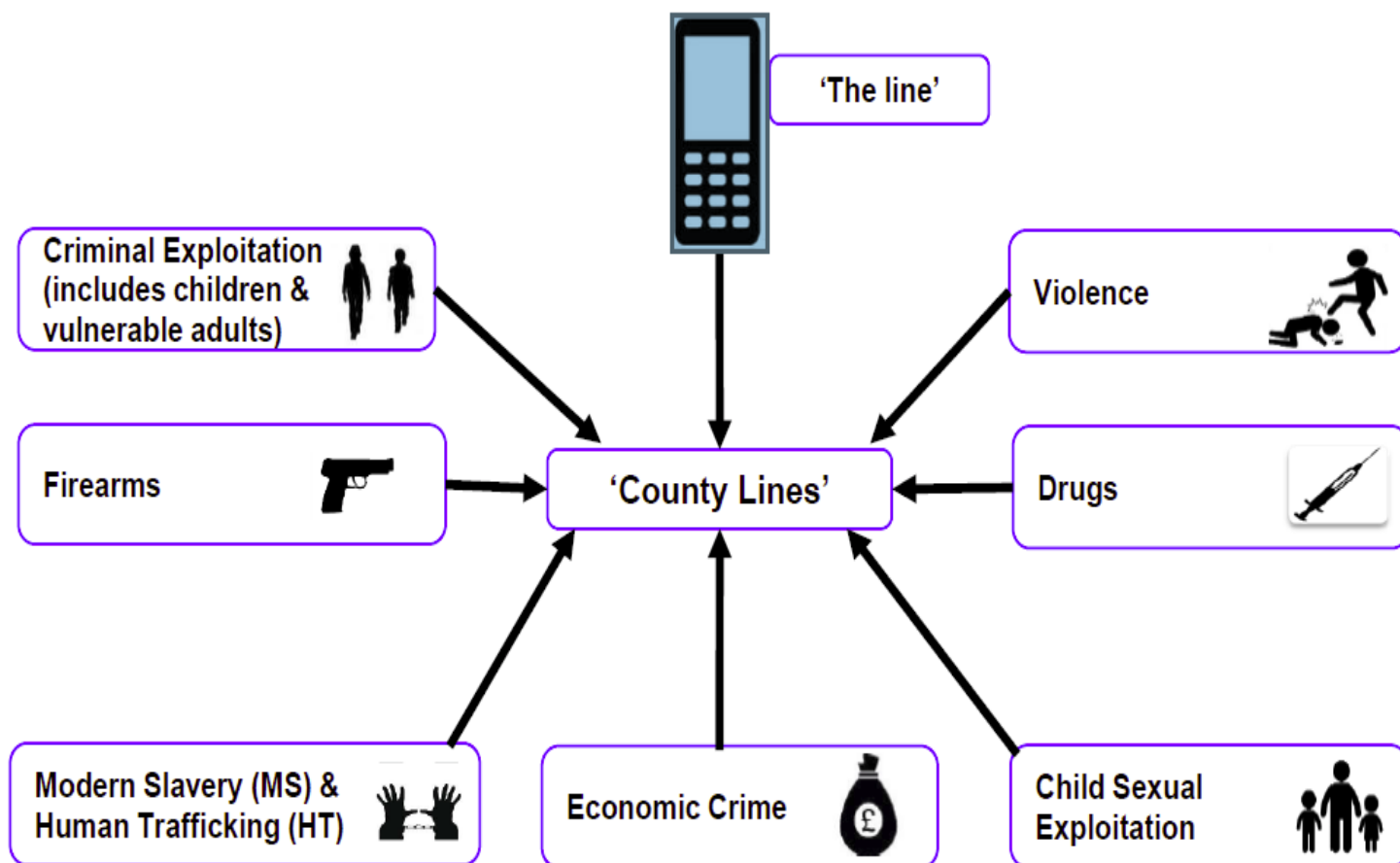
# "County Lines"

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- ▶ Term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting **illegal drugs** into one or more importing areas (within the UK).
- ▶ Using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line".
- ▶ They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and
- ▶ Use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

## 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:



# "County Lines " Cont.

- ▶ Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:
- ▶ can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- ▶ can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- ▶ can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- ▶ can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- ▶ can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- ▶ is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

# County Lines

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- ▶ The national picture on county lines continues to develop but there are recorded cases of:
- ▶ children as young as 12 years old being exploited or moved by gangs to courier drugs out of their local area; 15-16 years is the most common age range
- ▶ both males and females being exploited
- ▶ Its not just out of county, local children are being targeted as well

# County Lines

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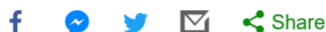
- ▶ the use of social media to make initial contact with children and young people
- ▶ class A drug users being targeted so that gangs can takeover their homes (known as 'cuckooing').
- ▶ We do know that county lines exploitation is widespread, with gangs from big cities including London, Manchester and Liverpool operating throughout England, Wales and Scotland.





# Peter Anderson: County lines pair guilty of Cambridge murder

29 January 2019



County lines drugs trade



CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE

Juned Ahmed (l) and Ashraf Hussan had both admitted drugs offences before being found guilty of murder

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## Features

# Stourbridge Common

- ▶ A county lines drugs runner and his "protector" have been found guilty of murdering a man on a city common.
- ▶ Peter Anderson, 46, was stabbed eight times in Cambridge in July after arranging to buy drugs from an operation known as the RJ Line.
- ▶ Juned Ahmed, 18, and Ashraf Hussan, 20, were "willing to use force" after Mr Ahmed had been robbed the previous day, Cambridge Crown Court heard.
- ▶ The pair, both from east London, had denied murder.
- ▶ They are due to be sentenced on 22 February

# Heightened vulnerability

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- ▶ lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example)
- ▶ social isolation or social difficulties
- ▶ economic vulnerability
- ▶ homelessness or insecure accommodation status
- ▶ connections with other people involved in gangs
- ▶ having a physical or learning disability
- ▶ having mental health or substance misuse issues;
- ▶ being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)
- ▶ being excluded from mainstream education, in particular attending a Pupil Referral Unit.
- ▶ having prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse

# Signs and Indicators

- ▶ persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;
- ▶ unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones
- ▶ excessive receipt of texts / phone calls and/or having multiple handsets
- ▶ relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- ▶ leaving home / care without explanation
- ▶ suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- ▶ parental concerns
- ▶ carrying weapons
- ▶ significant decline in school results / performance
- ▶ gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- ▶ self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

# What we know in Cambridge

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- ▶ Significant activity in most if not all areas of the city
- ▶ Increase in violent crime especially those involving weapons
- ▶ Growth area due to transport links, deemed to be affluent area. Transient population making it easy to hide in plain sight!
- ▶ Multi Agency mapping activity is beginning to understand the scale of the issue
- ▶ Partnership intelligence is increasing

## How are we responding?

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- ▶ We have full commitment from all statutory partners and voluntary groups to share information
- ▶ We have a robust meeting structure in place.
- ▶ We work closely with local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships.
- ▶ We continue to map our “hotspots” and provide multi agency responses to tackle them.
- ▶ We continue to provide training to schools, professionals, community groups and the night time economy

# So where do you come in?

- ▶ Information is the key
- ▶ Its important that if you see something ,say something!
- ▶ The mapping is only as good as the information it receives
- ▶ We have had some success with community intelligence

## What else can we help you with?



### Report a crime online

Report a crime online if you do not require immediate police attendance.



### Report a concern

Tell us information you have about criminal or suspicious activity in your community.



### Report a vehicle collision

Report a vehicle collision online if you do not require immediate police attendance.



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# ► Questions?

► [www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk)

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