

Safeguarding

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: COUNTY LINES

Child Criminal Exploitation: County Lines County Lines

Criminal Exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns.

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 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;
- 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.

How does our curriculum help to protect children from County Lines exploitation?

The PSHE curriculum in Upper Key Stage 2 'Safer Spaces' talks about these types of risks such as, gangs, influence and the imbalance of power and provides children with strategies to help keep themselves safe and report and worries.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD,
DO NOT DELAY, TELL SOMEONE TODAY!**

*Designated Safeguarding Lead - Stacey Kendall - Head Teacher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Trisha Highton - Deputy Head Teacher
Safeguarding Governor - The Rev Dr Naomi Wormell*