



Do Now

County Lines, Gangs, Weapons, Drugs and Risks



Jay is thinking about his future.
He's been accepted for a place at
his school's sixth form.

Jay's brother, 17, walks in and bangs a wad
of twenty-pound notes on the table. He
carefully places a gun down next to the
money.

'Jay, you wanna work in Maccies and read
books for years, or you wanna make some
real money - now?'

**Discuss: What could Jay's brother be
doing to bring home wads of cash like
this?**



What do we mean by the words;
'gangs' and 'county lines'?

I think gangs are ...

I think county lines is...

County Lines, Gangs, Weapons, Drugs and Risks



Learning outcomes:

Describe the risks and dangers to young people and those around them who become involved in County Lines and Gangs.

Explain the penalties for handling weapons and how convictions for gang activity can affect a young person's future.

Gangs – A number of people form a group or gang, but in this case we mean one involved in illegal activity.

County Lines – a form of criminal activity in which drug dealers in major cities establish networks for the supply and sale of drugs to users in towns and rural areas, using other people (typically those who are young or otherwise vulnerable) to carry, store, and sell the drugs.

Jay may not realise it now, but his reaction to his brother's question could completely alter the course of the rest of his life.

Jay's brother has been part of a local gang for two years now. Jay has seen his brother come home severely beaten a few times, he has seen a knife in his room and a bag of drugs, he has heard his brother being threatened over the phone – and he always seems to have money too. But Jay has never seen him with a gun before.

Jay gets a knotted feeling in his stomach – **what do you think his instincts are trying to tell him?**



DID YOU KNOW?

Based upon recent research, it has been estimated that 30,000 to 50,000 children are being criminally exploited by county lines gangs in the UK.

Let's read together now how the UK government defines both county lines and child exploitation. Then discuss with a partner ready to feedback:

Is Jay's brother a victim or a criminal?

Jay's brother is both a victim and a criminal.

We know already he has been beaten and received threatening phone calls.

Yet we also know he's been handling illegal drugs and weapons.

Jay is 17, therefore in the eyes of UK law, although he is committing crimes, he is also a child being exploited.



networks involved
<, using dedicated

mobile phone lines or other form of 'dear line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons." ([Serious Violence Strategy](#))

While county lines victims are not limited to under 18 year olds, where a child is exploited, it is often described as child criminal exploitation.

The UK Government defines child criminal exploitation as:

"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." ([Serious Violence Strategy](#))

Around the mind map, write down as many ideas as you can to answer the question in your mind map bubble. You can add others which you think we may not have thought of before and **you can use the images as clues.**



Why might a young person be interested in joining a gang?



One reason a young person might want to join a gang is...



Let's go through our answers together and write down any new ideas we thought of.



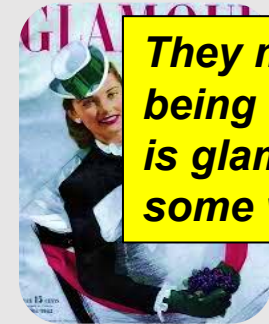
They may already have tried and be interested in drugs.



They may be attracted by money.



They may think being in a gang is glamorous in some way.



They may feel like they want to be a part of something and not have strong ties with their own family.



Why might a young person be interested in joining a gang?

They may think they'd get social media clout, or it would help a rap career.



One reason a young person might want to join a gang is...



They may think the opposite sex might fancy them more.

They may think they'd get respect from peers.



What is life like inside a gang? How do the victims on the inside and the outside of the gang suffer?

Watch the clips carefully and complete your table. We'll go through the answers together as a class afterwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpkVs1pFrtI>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdYq2dhQ3qc>

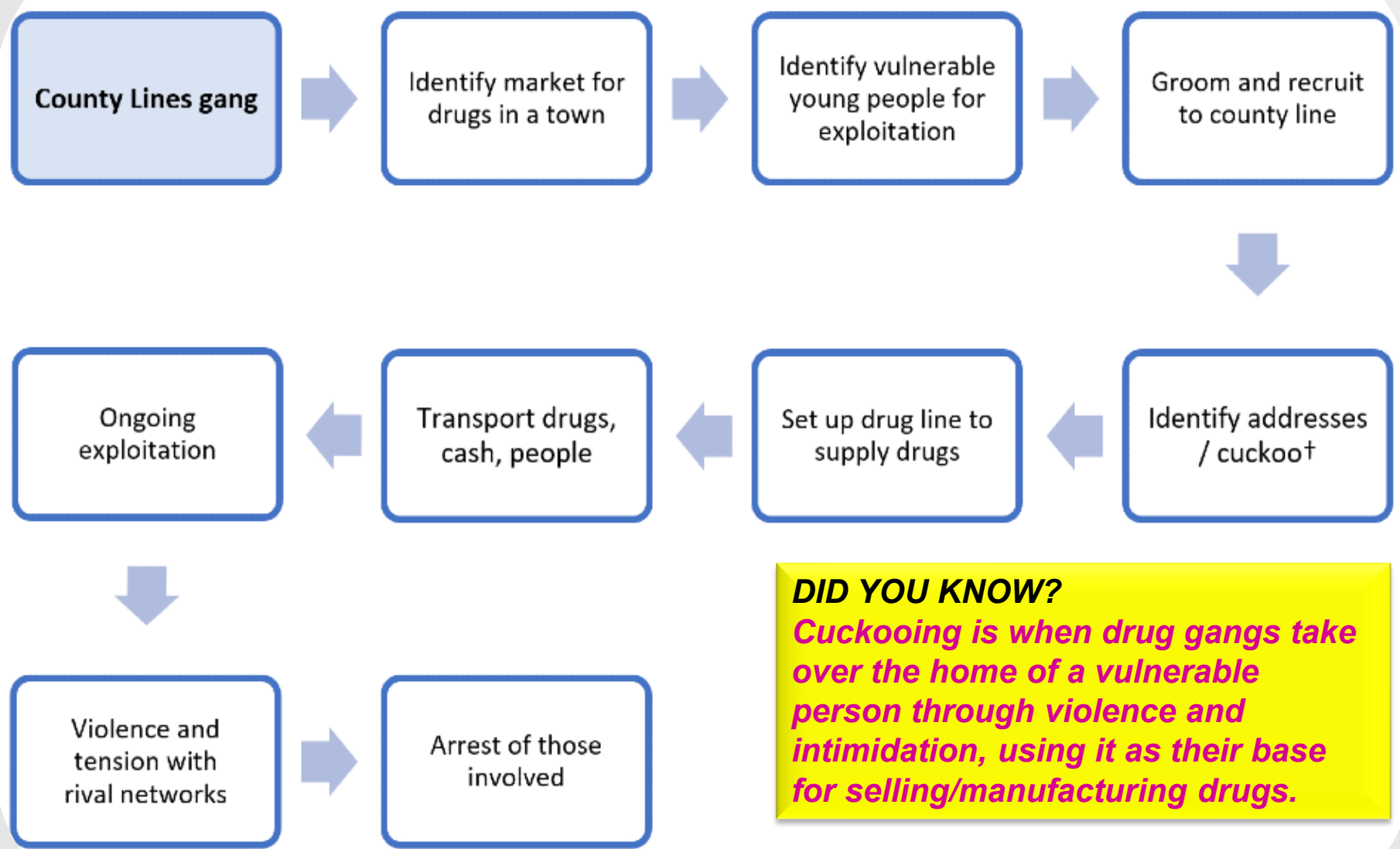


How do young people become involved and what can happen to them?	How does the exploitation affect males and females differently?

Let's go through our ideas together now. Don't forget to add in any new information you may have missed at the time.



How do young people become involved and what can happen to them?	How does the exploitation affect males and females differently?
Nicole was short of money and had tried various jobs. She needed money and did not have a supportive home and family life.	Nicole had to do whatever she could to get out alive – for many females this means sexual acts to get out of a situation alive. She had a miscarriage at 13.
Nicole was used as a drugs mule, she had to go from train station to train station doing drug drop-offs.	Sexual violence and weapons can be used on any young people involved.
Young people are often targeted if they are vulnerable – in care homes, or families going through conflict or they are drawn in via social media.	Both sexes can become indebted quickly – gangs make you feel you owe them. Sex slavery or prostitution is usually forced on the females (but this isn't always the case).
Both can get caught in the turf-wars and crossfire – maybe even to the point they catch a bullet.	Both can have violence inflicted upon them in order to be controlled.



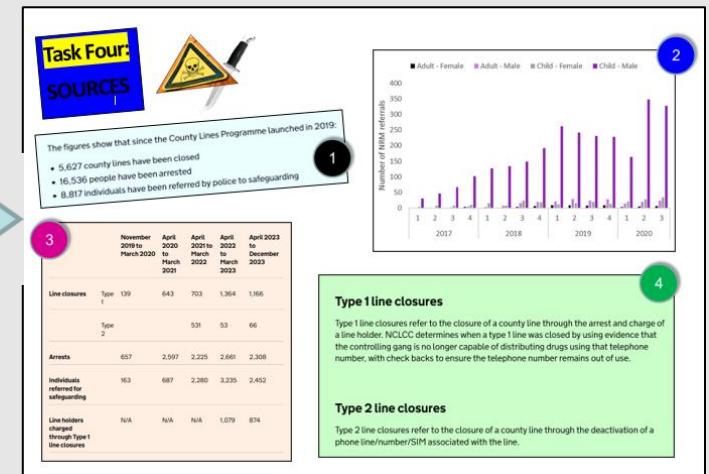
DID YOU KNOW?
Cuckooing is when drug gangs take over the home of a vulnerable person through violence and intimidation, using it as their base for selling/manufacturing drugs.

County Lines, Gangs, Weapons, Drugs and Risks



You have just been given a source sheet full of data about the extent to which the UK police are successfully cracking down on county lines.

Using your source sheet, answer the questions in the yellow box in full paragraphs.



What can we learn from source 2 about who tends to be exploited the most by gangs?

What can we learn from source 3 and 4 about police success rates?

Is there anything about source 1 that surprises you? Why / why not?

Task Four: SOURCES



The figures show that since the County Lines Programme launched in 2019:

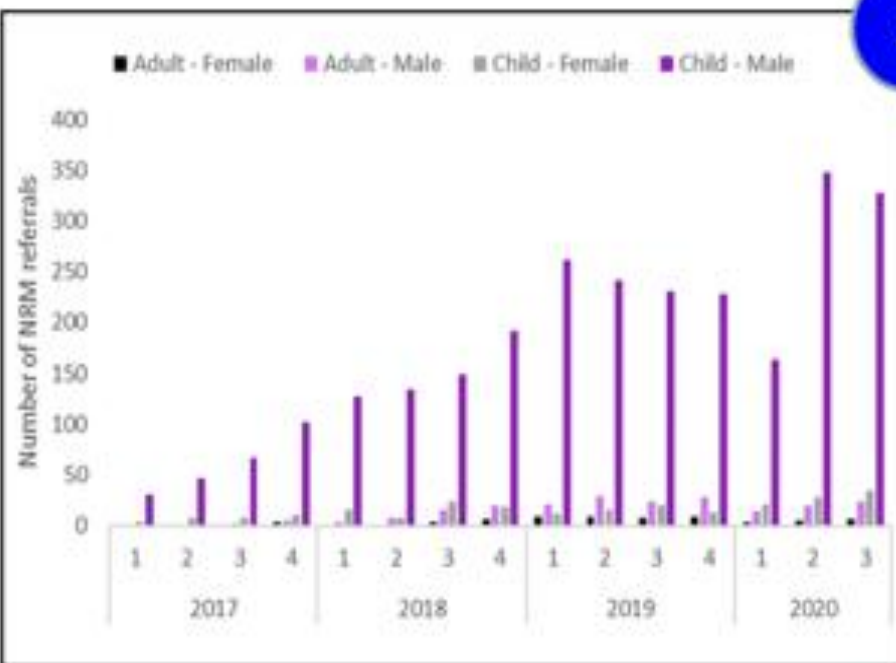
- 5,627 county lines have been closed
- 16,536 people have been arrested
- 8,817 individuals have been referred by police to safeguarding

1

3

	November 2019 to March 2020	April 2020 to March 2021	April 2021 to March 2022	April 2022 to March 2023	April 2023 to December 2023	
Line closures	Type 1	139	643	703	1,364	1,166
	Type 2			531	53	66
Arrests	657	2,597	2,225	2,661	2,308	
Individuals referred for safeguarding	163	687	2,280	3,235	2,452	
Line holders charged through Type 1 line closures	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,079	874	

2



4

Type 1 line closures

Type 1 line closures refer to the closure of a county line through the arrest and charge of a line holder. NCLCC determines when a type 1 line was closed by using evidence that the controlling gang is no longer capable of distributing drugs using that telephone number, with check backs to ensure the telephone number remains out of use.

Type 2 line closures

Type 2 line closures refer to the closure of a county line through the deactivation of a phone line/number/SIM associated with the line.

County Lines, Gangs, Weapons, Drugs and Risks



If you, or someone you know, are affected by any of the issues raised today, you can contact the following organisations for further help and guidance:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/who-we-work-with/trusts-and-foundations/county-lines>

<https://www.fearless.org/en/campaigns/county-lines>

The Crimestoppers hotline is anonymous – **0800 555 111**
Call **999** if you think there is an immediate danger.



Reporting a Concern at Thornden School

- It is important to us that all of you feel safe, happy and belong at Thornden.
- We also know that sometimes it is not as easy as simply telling a member of staff
- It could be:
 - A friend you are worried about
 - Someone being unkind to you
 - Something you have heard and think we should know



How can you report anything you are worried about?

- Speak to a member of staff or parent / carer
- Visit the Well Being Den or Head of Year area
- On Satchel each week you will be sent a link to a form to share any worries you have
- On our school website homepage there is a 'Report a Concern' link.
- In the Student Bulletin there is a 'Report a Concern' link
- On all school desktops there is a 'Report a Concern' logo to click and report anything

Need Support? You're Not Alone



If anything in today's lesson has affected you, or you want to talk to someone, there is help available.

Mental Health & Low Mood

YoungMinds – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com>

Mind – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

Talk to Someone

Your Tutor or Head of Year – We're here to help.

Wellbeing Team and School Nurse

Report a Concern on Satchel

Safeguarding Team with the Purple lanyards

Healthy Lifestyle

NHS Every Mind Matters – <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>

Change4Life – <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Apps That Can Help

Calm – For mindfulness and sleep.

Headspace – Meditation and stress relief.

Clear Fear – Manage anxiety (designed for young people).

MeeTwo – Anonymously talk to other teens, moderated by experts.

Eating Concerns

Beat Eating Disorders –

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk>

NHS Live Well – Eating Disorders –

[https://www.nhs.uk/mental-](https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/)

[health/conditions/eating-disorders/](https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/)