

# Broadstone Schools Safeguarding Newsletter



Summer Term 1 - COUNTY LINES AND MODERN-DAY SLAVERY



Disclaimer in relation to safeguarding:

As a school, we have a duty of care to keep children attending our schools safe. This includes education for parents and guardians in relation to issues children may face. Something we always reiterate to staff is **'we must assume it is happening'**. Child exploitation is very real, meaning we need to be aware and educated on the matter in order to protect our children. We understand some of the topics are hard hitting, and we appreciate you working with us.

## What is Modern Day Slavery and County Lines?

A County Line is a 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 they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. Modern day slavery is the harsh exploitation of other people for commercial or personal gain through forms of forced labor via coercion, the threat of violence, or debt bondage. The use of modern slavery policies in regional drug trafficking cases - more often known as county lines - has been heralded as a positive step, one which moves away from criminalising vulnerable young people to recognising them as victims in need of safeguarding.



**Operation Viper** is the dedicated team of officers who provide visibility, intelligence led activity, proactive enforcement, community engagement and a dedicated county lines task force to disrupt incoming drug networks across Dorset.

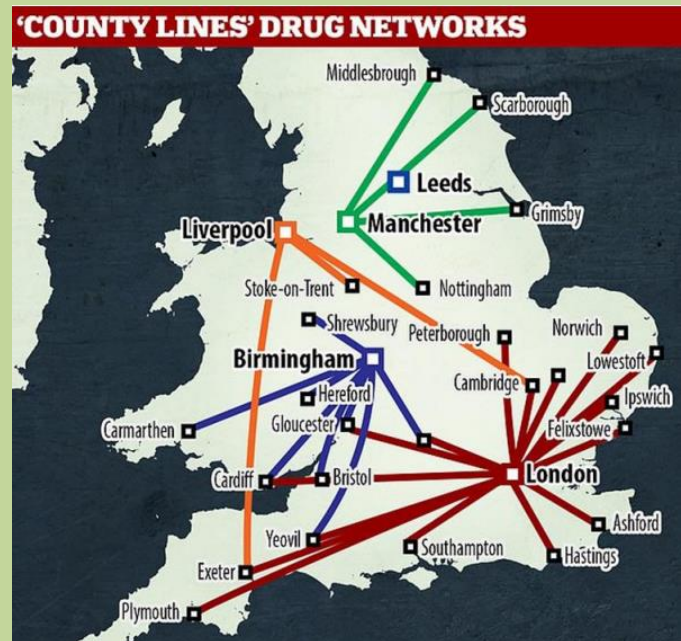
Crime stoppers is a charity that works with police forces throughout the UK to solve crime. It was set up in 1988 to break the wall of silence that sometimes surrounds crime, a silence that criminals exploit in order to avoid justice.

Every call is valuable to Crime stoppers. Often your information will be used to help solve existing investigations. Sometimes however, the information may be entirely new to the police and will enable them to tackle crimes that they may otherwise be unaware of.

Call Crime stoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** and tell them what you know, not who you are.



## Who is vulnerable to county lines exploitation?



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

white British children being targeted because gangs perceive they are more likely to evade police detection but a person of any ethnicity or nationality may be exploited

the use of social media to make initial contact with children and young people

class A drug users being targeted so that gangs can take over their homes (known as 'cuckooing').

# Hard-hitting video warns of County Lines drug danger

Film shot in Poole is based on true story of teen drawn into crime

A NEW film shot in Poole that is based on a true story and highlights the dangers of County Lines drugs gangs, is being supported by one of our collaborators, Dorset High Sheriff George Streatfield.

Sam – In Too Deep tells the story of how a bullied teenager from a single family is excluded from school and cast adrift – until he is befriended by gang members.

Desperate for approval and a sense of belonging he is drawn into a world of drug running and violence, unbeknown to this mother until it is too late.

Yes, this really is a Dorset story, and I would like to make everyone aware that this menace is right on our doorstep

The story is all too real in the sense that it happened to the Dorset teenager whose experience provides the plot but, said Mr. Streatfield, it is also one that is repeated regularly in the county.

***“Yes, this really is a Dorset story, and I would like to make everyone aware that this menace is right on our doorstep.”*** he says.

***“It might encourage young people to think about the society in which they are growing up and to stimulate discussion and awareness of bullying, grooming, sexual exploitation, exclusion from school and real friendships.”***

The film was produced by Key Light Films and supported by Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill, Future Roots and Bournemouth University.

Says Mr. Streatfield: ***“The film brings home the scale of the problem in Dorset and aims to educate and improve awareness across the community. Please share this clip with as many people as possible to grow the understanding.”***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4MXJTNMfQ>

# Additional Information

## Broadstone First School DSLs

Rebecca Wood (Head of school)

Megan Pike (SEND/Wellbeing Lead)

Donna Swan (Deputy Head)

Dawn Wilks (Executive Head)

Nadine Bowra (Inclusion Manager)

Fiona Lord (Head of Provision)

## SIGNPOSTING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### What to do if you are worried about Child Exploitation (for example, County Lines and Modern-Day Slavery):

Report anything you see as suspicious as intelligence to

Dorset Police: <https://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/> or 101

Or anonymously through Crime stoppers: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or 0800 555 111

### As a parent or member of the public – if you have concerns regarding a young person's welfare:

Call Police on 999 if in immediate danger

MASH BCP area: 01202 123334 (9am- 5pm Monday to Friday; 01202 738256 after 5pm and weekends)

ChAD Dorset area: 01305 228558 (8am-10pm Monday to Friday; 9am-10pm weekends, and on call after 10pm)

## Broadstone Middle School DSLs

Amber Barter (Head of School)

Nadine Bowra (Inclusion Manager)

Nicki Jones (Wellbeing Lead)

Dawn Wilks (Executive Head)

Fiona Lord (Head of Provision)

## CHILD EXPLOITATION



CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION AND COUNTY LINES >

CHILD EXPLOITATION – USEFUL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT >

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION >

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION >

## BROADSTONE SCHOOLS SAFEGUARDING PAGE

Our Safeguarding page on the school website is one of our forms of updating parents and guardians of safeguarding information. It also allows us to signpost families to any additional support they may require. This is a great place to keep yourself informed of anything safeguarding related information.

In relation to County Lines and Modern Slavery, we have more information such as Child Exploitation, and FGM.