

# Criminal Exploitation of Young People in North East Lincolnshire



# Background Locally

- Initial incidents of Concern May /June 2015.
- Following months further incidents of young people presenting with wounds/ lacerations.
- Increased media reporting around drug related incidents.
- Aug 2015 multi agency group formed.
- Ending Gang Youth Violence Peer Review/Action Plan developed.
- Children identified and managed as vulnerable victims.
- There are currently 140 children identified as being involved in CCE locally.



# Developments to Date

- Risk to individuals is heard at Operational and Strategic levels within the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) arena.
- Training delivery
- Policy, procedures and strategy.
- National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals.
- There is a partnership action plan in relation to CCE.
- Home Office Ending Youth Gang Violence and locality review.



# Continued

- Dedicated response from agencies.
- Workforce development.
- NWG.
- locality offer in relation to the four vulnerability themes .
- The police have identified the risk and threat level as very high and have allocated superintendent owners to this issue.
- Dedicated police CCE/OCG team.



# Current Risks

- Escalation in inter youth violence as a result of CCE.
- Changes in OCG characteristics and methods.
- Nature and scale of CCE locally.
- Earlier identification.



# Mapping and Monitoring



# County Lines - Definition

## County Lines:

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) or weapons.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) and police have identified that there is growing evidence of city-based drug networks extending their drug dealing activity into more rural areas. The gangs recruit vulnerable people, often children, to act as couriers and to sell drugs.

'County Lines' operates by gangs from urban areas, in particular London but also other cities, introducing a telephone number in a new area to sell drugs directly at street level. Potential buyers telephone the number and local 'runners' are dispatched to make deliveries via a telephone. The 'runners' are almost invariably children, often boys aged 14 – 17 years, who are groomed with the promise of money, gifts or drugs and forced to carry out day to day dealing with the threat or use of violence.



# Perpetrator tactics

- Cuckooing and Debt bondage
- Special Offers, better quality drugs
- The grooming Model – Gifts, money, clothes, kudos & reputation, being part of a family, feeling of invincibility, accommodation.

**However this quickly turns in to:**

- Violence, Threats, Intimidation, coercion, Drug debts, Human Trafficking (Clean Skins) & serious injuries



# Perpetrators – what can you do?

- Gather intelligence and inform the Police
- Identify their vehicles – make, model, colour and Registration number
- Phone Numbers – Attribution is vital
- Nicknames – true identities need to be obtained
- Locations where they are dealing drugs, frequenting socialising
- Where are they residing
- Who do they live with? Relationships, children,



# Challenges

- Early Intervention – Partner agencies, Education, Parents, Communities – Stop it before it happens
- Mapping – Identifying Victims (CLVT County Line Victim Tracker), Suspects, Hot spot Locations, Themes, Graft Numbers, Networked OCG'S
- Multi-Agency Collaboration – analytical work across all the different partners to get a better intelligence picture across the Local Authority area.
- Educational packages for schools – No identified national package for education for the different school years
- Training packages – Police, Children's Social Care, Housing, Taxi licensing, BTP, Hire Car companies, Hotel's, B&B, Caravan Parks, Foster cares, Children's Homes, Schools etc.



# Discussion

What are the key challenges for your organisation?

What can we do as a local partnership?



# Questions?

