

COUNTY LINES AND CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, COERCION AND ABUSE

Broadway House, Central London

Thursday 7th March 2024



Key Speakers



Duncan Evans



Det. Supt. Andy Farrell



Richard Eastwood



Junior Smart OBE



Jimmy Belmar



Emma Norman

Overview

Tackling the criminal exploitation of children is a complex issue – many children, some as young as six, become victims as a result of coercion, control and grooming. Unfortunately, children who are at-risk of school exclusion, in pupil referral units (PRUs), or in care are acknowledged to be disproportionately vulnerable to being groomed and these risk-factors have only been heightened since the coronavirus pandemic and ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The most recent statistics from the *National Crime Agency* estimate that there are more than 2,000 individual deal lines in the UK, and according to *The Children's Society*, 46,000 children in England are thought to be involved in gangs, with 4,000 of those being criminally exploited in London alone. Furthermore, there has been an 807% increase in children being referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), making up 16% of all NRMs.

Underscoring its commitment to tackling this growing challenge and bolster the law-enforcement response, the Government has invested up to £145m over the next three years, including £5m to support victims and families who are affected by county lines exploitation. Whilst this funding and other recent initiatives are all positive moves forward, unfortunately money alone will not solve the problem – increased co-ordination and data sharing between local authorities and the police is crucial to having the tools to identify, protect and support vulnerable young people, who are already involved in or are at-risk of exploitation by county lines gangs. Stronger multi-agency working is therefore critical to the success and effectiveness of local safeguarding frameworks to safeguard victims, and in turn, bring perpetrators to justice.

This Policy Foresight 'in-person' conference offers a timely opportunity for key partners from local authorities, children's services, the police, social care, education, youth offending, criminal justice, health, housing, third sector and other key statutory agencies to understand the current national picture of county lines and examine how gangs have exploited recent crises to target more young people. The conference provides an ideal platform for participants to hear from experts and policymakers, learn from innovative best practice and share ideas to improve early intervention strategies, enhance partnership working and deliver lasting protections that keep vulnerable young people safe from exploitation and harm.



Why Attend?

- Live conference featuring presentations & panel discussions with a wide range of policymakers, experts and key officials
- Receive key updates on the current scale of County Lines and how gangs have adapted grooming practices
- Explore the socio-economic factors contributing to the growth of county lines
- Gather knowledge to enhance early intervention strategies, local and national partnership working arrangements and county lines disruption programmes
- Understand the vital role that effective multi-agency working plays in addressing criminal exploitation
- Examine how current legislation and legal frameworks including the Modern Slavery Act and National Referral Mechanism (NRM) can be effectively used to protect young people from exploitation
- Learn best practice from experts working to protect vulnerable teenagers from gangs and criminal exploitation
- Interactive Question Time sessions with opportunities to engage with all speakers
- Share ideas, discuss and network with fellow participants from local authorities, social care, police, education, youth offending, criminal justice, health, housing, third sector and other key statutory agencies



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Programme

09:15 AM	Delegate Registration and Refreshments
10:00 AM	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Scott, <i>Managing Director, TONIC</i>
10:10 AM	Keynote Session: Tackling County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation – The National Picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Understanding the current national picture and evolving trends in county lines exploitation ➤ Analysing recruitment trends – Examining the reduction in the average age of county line holders and the role that gaming and social media platforms play in the grooming of vulnerable young people ➤ Embedding a consistent national approach that balances enforcement with safeguarding ➤ Exploring the key role that collaboration plays in preventing and responding to criminal exploitation ➤ Prosecuting Exploitation – Effectively utilising current legislation and legal frameworks as key safeguarding tools including the <i>Modern Slavery Act</i> and <i>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspector Duncan Evans, <i>NPCC County Lines Lead for Child Exploitation, National County Lines Coordination Centre</i>
10:40 AM	Keynote Session: Question Time and Discussion
11:00 AM	Morning Refreshments
11:20 AM	Panel Session One: Safeguarding Children and Young People through Proactive Early Intervention Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 'Spot the Signs' – Improving the identification of victims of criminal exploitation ➤ Looking at the 'Whole Child' – Utilising a trauma-informed approach that takes into account existing vulnerabilities, including adverse childhood experiences (ACES), domestic violence and sexual abuse experience, mental health conditions, being in-care, at-risk of exclusion or in alternative provision ➤ Using preventative interventions to steer young people away from harm and disrupt exploitation ➤ Improving data & intelligence sharing between key agencies, beyond traditional geographical boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Eastwood, <i>SafeCall Service Manager, Missing People</i> Andy Turvey, <i>Manager, Horizons Safeguarding Hub, Sandwell Children's Trust</i>
12:00 PM	Panel Session One: Question Time and Discussion
12:20 PM	Networking Lunch

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1:05 PM	<p>Panel Session Two: Transforming Multi-Agency Working to Protect Victims and Disrupt Criminal Exploitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fostering strong and agile partnerships to improve decision making between local authorities, the police, children's services, education, health, social care and the third sector to better protect victims and disrupt criminal exploitation ➤ Enhancing data-sharing between key agencies to improve the understanding the local picture of need ➤ Improving the use of the <i>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</i> ➤ Utilising the 'Public Health Approach' – Improving decision-making to ensure a coordinated response that meets the needs of vulnerable teenagers in every area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detective Superintendent Andy Farrell, <i>Local Programme Lead - Serious Organised Crime; Programme Lead - Clear, Hold and Build (CHB)</i>, National Police Chiefs' Council • Emma Norman, <i>Director of Young People & Families, Catch-22</i> • Maleeka Dachi, <i>Service Manager Safe Space, MACE & NRM Panel Chair, Lewisham Council</i>
2:10 PM	<p>Panel Session Two: Question Time and Discussion</p>
2:25 PM	<p>Afternoon Refreshments</p>
2:40 PM	<p>Panel Session Three: From Harm to Hope - Delivering Lasting Protection for Vulnerable Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Achieving better outcomes through effective interventions that allow victims to exit county lines activity and prevents them from re-exploitation ➤ Delivering effective multi-agency responses that provide long-term safeguarding for victims whilst disrupting county lines gangs ➤ Harnessing the use of the <i>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</i> and other existing legal powers, including <i>Gang Injunctions, Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders (STRO)</i> or <i>Prevention Orders (STPO)</i> ➤ Tackling Debt Bondage – Effectively supporting & protecting victims with drug debts from their exploiters ➤ Ending the Cliff Edge in safeguarding –Ensuring that victims are protected beyond the age of Eighteen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Smart OBE, <i>Founder and Gangs/CCE Lead, SOS Gangs Project, St Giles Trust</i> • Jimmy Belmar, <i>Senior Investigating Officer, Project Medusa, Merseyside Police</i> • Simon Thomas, <i>Transformation Programme Manager, Wiltshire Council</i>
3:35 PM	<p>Panel Session Three: Question Time and Discussion</p>
3:55 PM	<p>Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments</p>
4:00 PM	<p>Conference Close and Networking Reception</p>

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DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE FEES [price per place]						
BOOKING & PAYMENT OPTIONS:	1 PLACE		2-4 PLACES		5+ PLACES	
Online Registration with Card Payment – CLICK HERE	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat
Offline Registration with Card Payment – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat
Register by Phone with Card Payment – Tel: 01753 373096	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat
Raise Purchase Order / Pay by Invoice – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 345 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 315 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 275 + vat

Delegate Name:	Job Title:	Email Address:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
Total no. places:		

Invoicing Details:

Name of Key Contact:	Job Title:
Organisation Name:	Department:
Address:	Post Code:
Email Address:	Telephone No:
Accounts Dept. Contact:	Telephone No:
Purchase Order No:	Cost Centre Code (if applicable):

Card Payments:

Government Procurement Card (GPC) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA / VISA Debit
Cardholder:	Total Amount:	£ + VAT (at 20%)
Card No:	Expiry date:	Security Code (CVC):
Date:	Signature:	

Other Payment Methods:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please Invoice my organisation £ + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to accounts@policyforesight.com or fax to 020 3633 5766
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