

# Keeping your child safe in the community

Understanding risks and how to protect your child

# What is this about

Across the country children are at risk from factors they are exposed to within the community.

Despite the best efforts of the police, parents, schools and a wider support network children are still falling victim to CCE.

## Child Criminal Exploitation

**County Lines**

## 5 replies on “Three arrests in Lichfield as part of crack-down on county lines drug gangs operating in Staffordshire”

Our volunteers moderated **1235** comments in the last 30 days. [Say thanks with a coffee.](#)

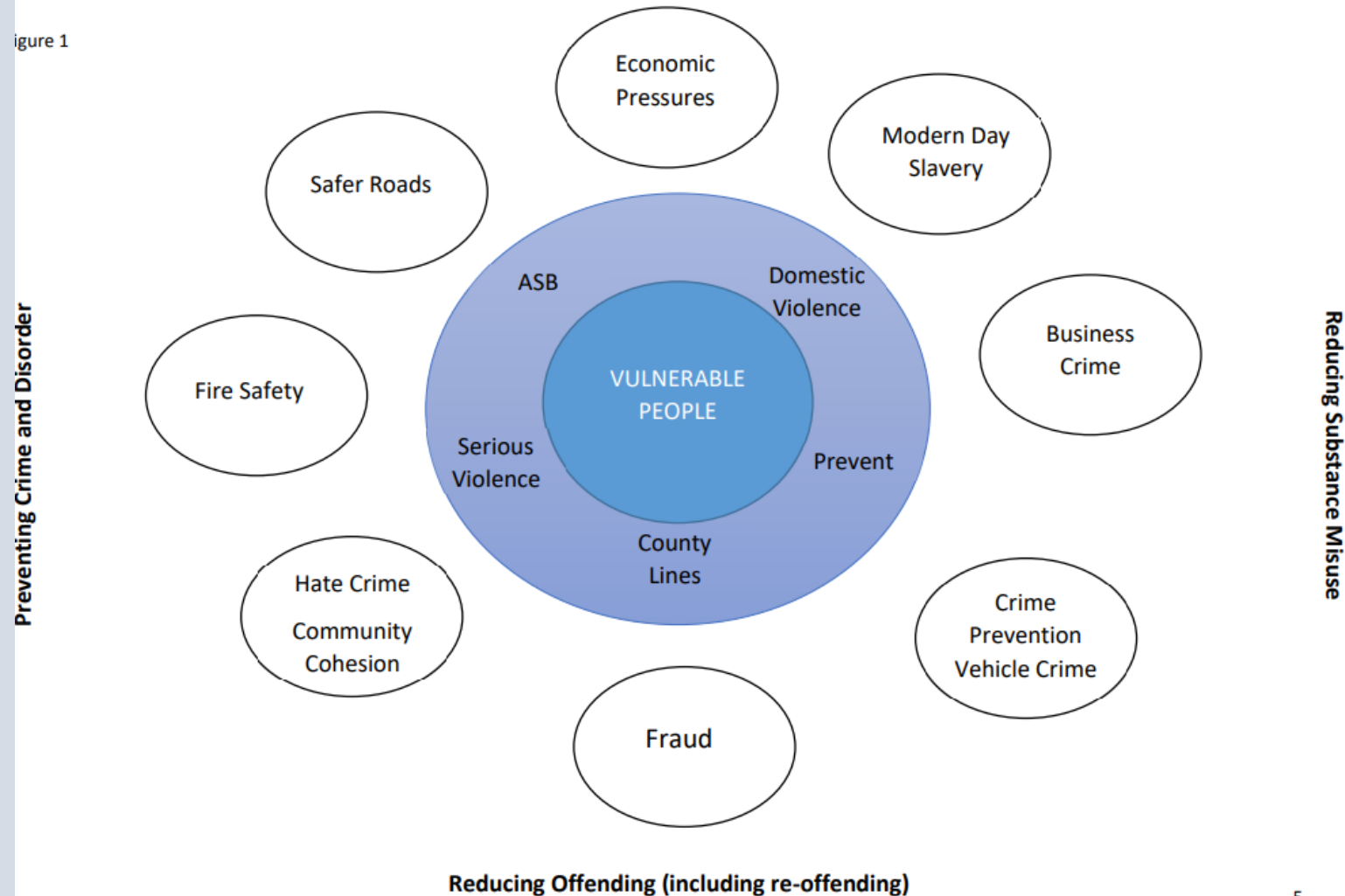
### **Michelle Shocked**

25th September, 2020 at 10:22 pm

You just don't expect this type of thing to happen around here.

# Community safety delivery plan outline 2023 – 2024

Figure 1



## 5 priorities

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Anti-social Behaviour
3. County Lines
4. Prevent
5. Serious Violence

It can and DOES happen here

# What makes a child vulnerable?

- Low income
- Social deprivation
- Single parent family
- In the care system
- Alcohol/substance abuse

# What about.....

- Friendship group
- Isolation
- Difficulties fitting in
- Pressure – peer, home, academic
- Lack of understanding
- Naivety

This could be your child, vulnerability is not always obvious

# What is County Lines?

- County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised crime networks involved in exporting drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK) using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.

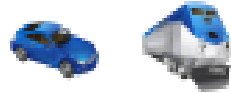
They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual) and weapons.



## Urban Locality



Group from urban locality



Vehicles

Rail



Exploit children and young people

**VULNERABILITY /  
EXPLOITATION**



"The Line"



## Smaller Locality



Class A drugs



Another CL enterprise



Existing local group



Increase in violence



Drug Users



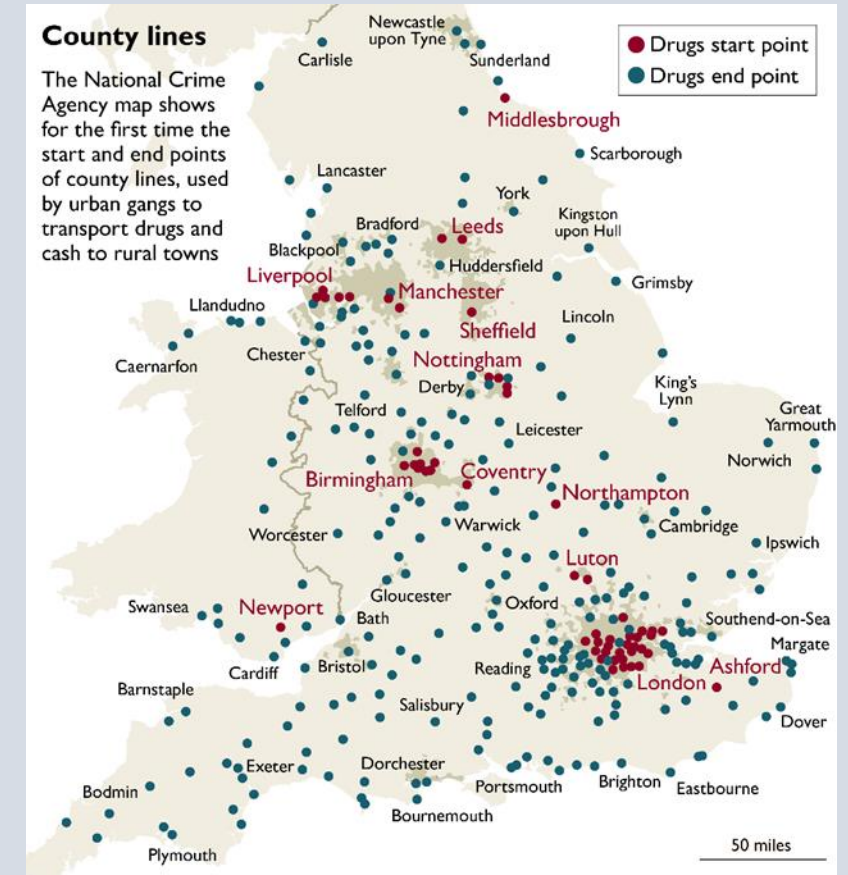
Cuckoo addresses



Vulnerable females

# What is the risk?

- The children's Commissioner estimates there are at least **46,000** children in England who are involved in gang activity.
- There are suspected children in Lichfield and the surrounding areas.
- **Chase town and Walsall** are areas where county line involvement is particularly high. Towns which have direct train lines to major cities are high risk.
- In 2022/23 arrests were made in Lichfield with connections to county lines. Some of those involved were children under the age of 16.



# Lichfield to Chasetown

The Friary School to Chasetown, Burnt...

Options ▾

A The Friary School, Eastern Ave, Lichfield WS13 7J

B Chasetown, Burntwood, Staffordshire

+ Add destination

⌚ Leave now ▾

Go

Print selected route

7.8 miles  
Light traffic · Leave at 16:09  
Via A5190, A5195  
14 min

More Details ▾

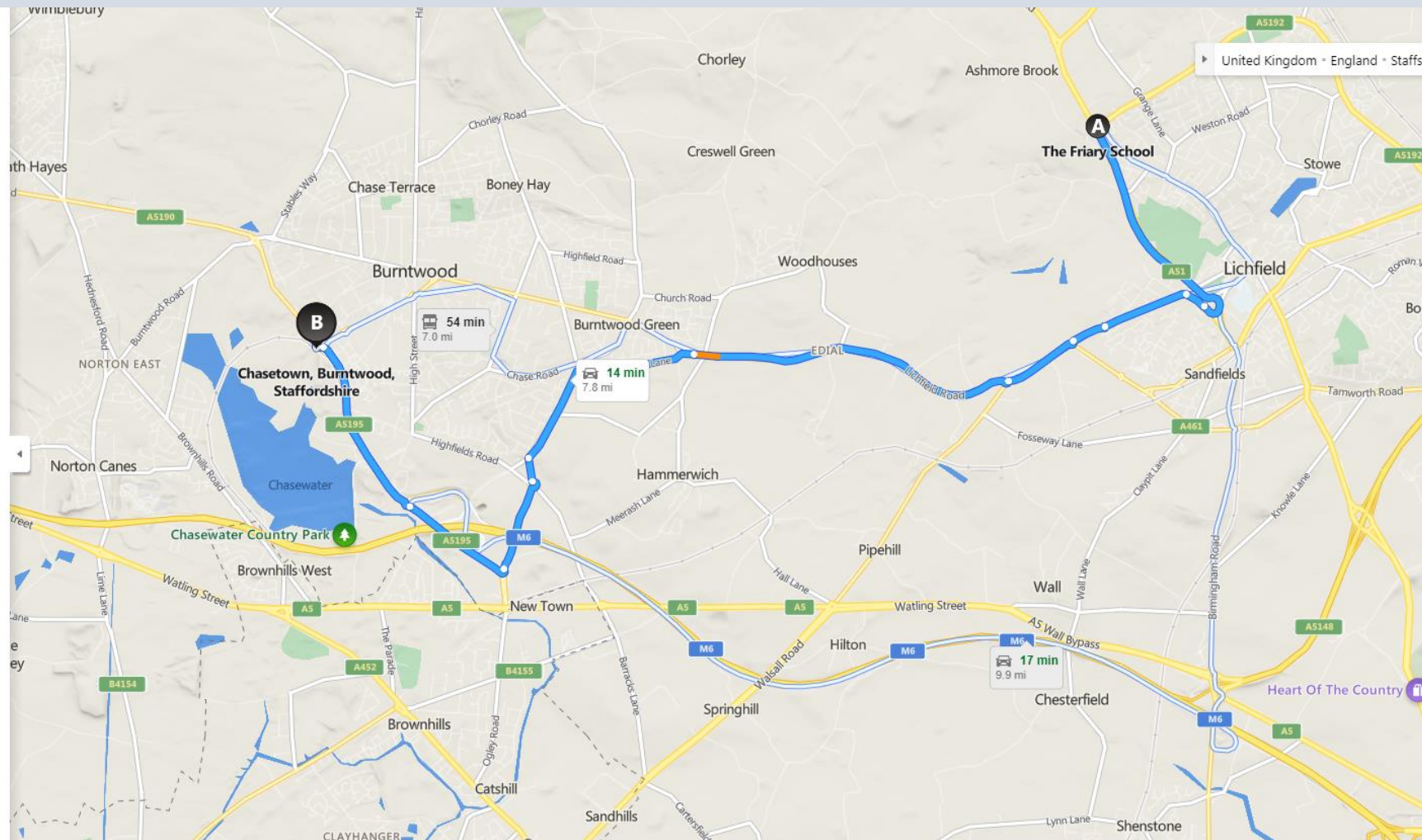
9.9 miles  
Light traffic · Leave at 16:09  
Via A5127, M6 Toll · Toll on route  
17 min

More Details ▾

17:35 - 18:29  
8  
54 min

More Details ▾

18:05 - 18:59  
8  
54 min



# What makes Lichfield vulnerable?

- Good train connections
- Insular
- Place where suspicion is low
- Family connections
- Get around easy – don't need to be able to drive
- Electric scooters

# Staffordshire and County Lines

- County Lines Intensification Week – 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Staffordshire Police during this week;
- 28 arrests, 21 adult males, 1 boy and 6 adult females
- 1 person safeguarded
- Areas; Stoke on Trent, Cannock, Tamworth and Burton

## Police seized;

- 313.4 grams crack cocaine worth £31,380
- 17.9 grams heroin worth £1440
- 30 grams of cocaine worth £1850
- 20ml methadone
- 903 cannabis plants
- 4 grams of monkey dust and 28 grams of cannabis

# What are the signs of county lines involvement?

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Being secretive about who they are talking to or where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled
- Having hotel cards, keys or train tickets to unknown places

# How can I protect my child?

- Trackers on phone, do you know where your child is?
- Regularly checking content on phone
- Knowing their friendship circle both in and out of school, including parents
- Talking to your child about the risks and dangers



# How does the school protect my child?

- Regular contact with Staffordshire safeguarding including attendance at Multi Agency Child Criminal exploitation panel
- Information sharing with Police and links with PCSO Elaine Ford
- FRISPs- Friary intervention programmes. A programme designed to support, education and where necessary sanction any child who may be at risk of CCE
- Sharing information with you as parents
- Educate about the risks in assemblies, tutor time
- Educate children about how to keep themselves safe