

Supporting Your Child 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 can still find themselves in difficult or harmful situations

Risks to young people include:

- County Lines
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Online Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour

Much of the above starts with exposure to risky behaviours involving drugs, crime, relationships and online behaviour.

What we like to think...

"My child is too mature/sensible/naive/intelligent to become involved in something that is risky or dangerous"

"My child would never do that!"

"That sort of thing doesn't happen here"



It CAN and DOES happen here...

Lichfield District Council's Community Safety Delivery Plan
Outline 2023-2024

4 priorities

1. Domestic abuse
2. Anti-social behaviour
3. County Lines
4. Violence against women and girls

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



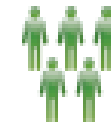
VULNERABILITY / EXPLOITATION



Smaller Locality



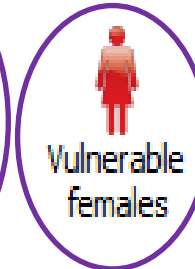
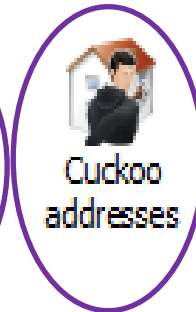
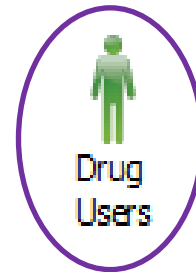
Class A drugs



Existing local group

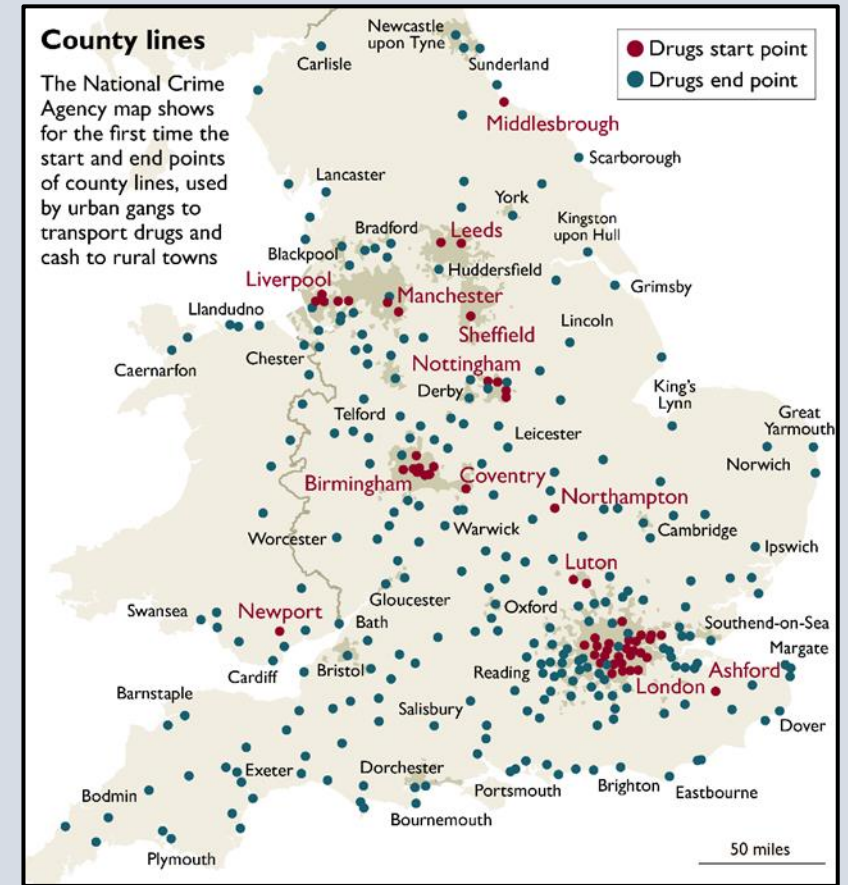


Increase in violence



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.
- Children under the age of 16 are involved with County Lines within the Lichfield area.



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

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.
- Make sure you are knowledgeable and approachable so your child can be open with you.
- Take an interest in what they're up to and who they are socialising with.

Online Safety & Advice for Parents

The screenshot shows the top portion of the NSPCC website. At the top right, there are links for 'Online shop', 'NSPCC Learning', 'Online safety advice', and 'Accessibility tool'. The NSPCC logo is on the left, and the slogan 'EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR' is in the center. A green 'Donate' button is on the right. Below this is a dark navigation bar with menu items: 'What is child abuse?', 'Support for parents', 'Keeping children safe', 'Support us', 'About us', 'Events', 'Helpline', and 'Search'. The main banner features an illustration of a man holding a baby, with a hand reaching in to support the baby. A green box on the left contains the text 'Support for parents' and 'Whatever family life brings, we're here to help'.

Online shop NSPCC Learning Online safety advice Accessibility tool

NSPCC EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR [Donate](#)

What is child abuse? Support for parents Keeping children safe Support us About us Events [Helpline](#) [Search](#)

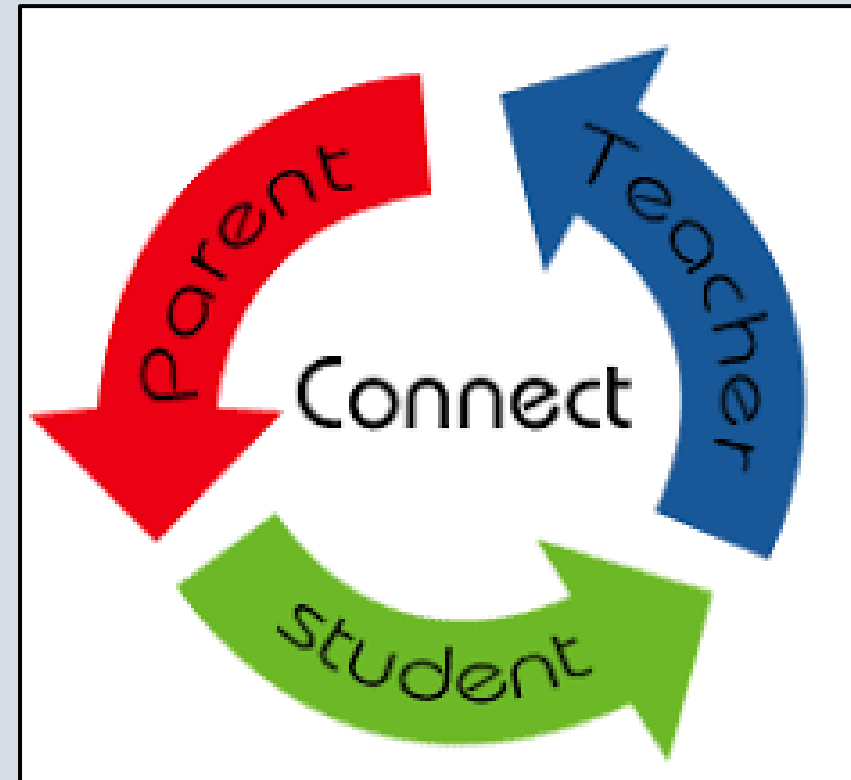
Support for parents
Whatever family life brings, we're here to help

Support from School

If you have concerns about your child, you can always get in touch with us.

- Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Student Support Team
- Heads of House
- Tutors

Your child's planner and the school website also has useful contact information.



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

Safeguarding Concerns

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Domestic Violence (violence at home)
- Neglect (not being cared for properly)
- Internet safety
- Taking drugs or drinking alcohol
- Being in a sexual relationship
- Inappropriate touching
- Feeling uncomfortable in a relationship
- Selling drugs
- Being involved in crime
- Hanging around with adults or older children
- Running away from home
- Feeling sad or depressed
- Mental health concerns
- Extreme views on gender, race, religion or sexuality

Any situation where students or someone else they know is unsafe or uncomfortable about a situation they are in.

Abuse isn't always carried out by adults.

Sometimes abuse can be carried out by children and young people.

If in doubt, talk to someone.

OUR SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING LEADS



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