



# Understanding County Lines

## What are County Lines?

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns. It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.



## Multiple forms of Exploitation

Learners/apprentices may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang and knife crime. County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks, they constantly change their techniques to groom young people and avoid capture by the police.

Offenders maximise their profits by using children and young people to do the physical act of dealing drugs. Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

