

Let's talk County Lines

County Lines is a form of modern slavery affecting thousands of children every year. Criminal gangs groom and exploit children and vulnerable adults to transport drugs, money or weapons. People may appear to be making their own choices, but are often controlled through fear, threats, debt and manipulation.

Some of the signs include...



Place

- Missing from home, education, or services
- Travelling to unfamiliar towns or areas
- Staying at unfamiliar addresses or hotels
- Regular journeys at unusual times of day or night



People

- New or intense relationships causing concern
- Isolation from friends, family, or support
- Secrecy about contacts, including online
- Fear of upsetting or disobeying certain people



Behaviours

- Increased secrecy or reluctance to talk
- Signs of anxiety, fear or intimidation
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Aggressive, withdrawn, sexualised or anti-social behaviour



Belongings

- Multiple mobile phones or SIM cards
- Unexplained cash, gifts or new clothing
- Bank cards, hotel cards or unusual travel tickets
- Little explanation of where money comes from