

Summary of County Lines webpage resources on LSCB [website](#)

Resource	Who is it aimed at	Learning points
<p><a href="#">Safeguarding Children and Young People at Risk of Gang Involvement – Policy, Guidance and Risk Assessment</a></p>	<p>Agencies in Suffolk working with children and young people who may be at risk of becoming, or already involved, in gang activity.</p>	<p><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions of what constitutes a gang (e.g. street gang, organised criminal group etc.)</li> <li>• Definitions of levels of gang involvement (e.g. gang affiliated, gang member etc.)</li> <li>• Explanation of how the picture in relation to gang activity in Suffolk is evolving and rapidly moving and who is most at risk, such as boys and young men aged 14-17 and children and young people who are looked after by the local authority.</li> <li>• Explanation of the risks associated with gang involvement, such as youth violence, sexual violence and poorer health and mental health.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Work of agencies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Safeguarding principles</b> should underpin multi-agency response</li> <li>• Agencies must <b>share information</b> competently and appropriately.</li> <li>• Detailed <b>risk factors</b> presented in the triangle model, e.g. persistent offending and lax parental supervision.</li> <li>• <b>Early Intervention Foundation</b> also look at risk factors for gang membership, such as marijuana use (aged 10-12) and displaced aggression.</li> <li>• Gang involvement <b>screening tool</b> for agencies.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does and what doesn't work in addressing gang involvement e.g. effective <b>interventions</b> such as health lifestyle and family programmes rather than scare tactics, prison visits and other militaristic type programmes.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Two things agencies can do if they suspect gang involvement:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-Agency Safeguarding referall (MASH), after using the Gang Activity Toolkit to reach a conclusion about child or young person.</li> <li>• Seek advice from Suffolk Youth Offending Service.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Gangs and County Lines: Identifying Risk – Suffolk Youth Offending Service PowerPoint presentation</a></p>	<p>Professionals dealing with children and young people</p>	<p>A PowerPoint presentation from Suffolk Youth Offending Service aiming to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhance knowledge of exploitation of children and young people;</li> <li>• increase awareness of risk factors;</li> <li>• enhance knowledge of services that can assist to reduce the risks of gang involvement;</li> <li>• provide additional resources to further learning;</li> <li>• enhance knowledge of the 'Suffolk Picture' of county lines activity, e.g. 'cuckooing', weapons, drug debts linked with violence; and</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information for who agencies can refer and signpost to, including the Youth Offending Service and the Make a Change team.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Velocity Leaflet County Lines – Briefing for partners</a>	Local partners and general public	<p>A two page briefing covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>what County Lines are, including how and where they operate in Suffolk;</li> <li>vulnerable people most at risk - 'cuckooing';</li> <li>signs that children might be involved with a gang;</li> <li>advises local community to look out for more people living at an address of a vulnerable person as could be drug dealers; and</li> <li>general public and partners can call 999 and Suffolk police, professionals and paid carers working with children are also advised to make a referral to MASH.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">HM Government - Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity</a>	Frontline practitioners in voluntary and statutory services across the children's workforce, including social care, police, health and education.	<p>A 56 page guidance document published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.</p> <p>An accompaniment to the Every Child Matter programme, the guidance covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>definitions and evidence of gangs across the country;</li> <li>definitions of gang-related activity and associated risks, such as violence and weapons, drugs, specific risks to female gang members and sexual exploitation;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying persons most vulnerable to gang involvement and risk factors for a person becoming involved in gangs;</li> <li>• ways service can refer and assess those they think are at risk (including an identification and referral flowchart);</li> <li>• support for practitioners and interventions;</li> <li>• the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), including protocols, multi-agency working and information-sharing and training; and</li> <li>• other agencies' roles and responsibilities, such as police, health youth offending teams, voluntary and community organisations and schools.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Home Office: What Works to Prevent Gang Violence</a>	Statutory services across the children's workforce, including social care, the police, health or education.	<p>Produced by the Early Intervention Foundation and commissioned by the Home Office, the 76 page document provides general information to further understanding of what works to prevent gang involvement and youth violence.</p> <p>The report is based on information, data and materials on effective and ineffective approaches aiming to prevent gang involvement and youth violence.</p> <p>It evidences 67 programmes, all implemented in the USA and half in the UK, 54 of which were assessed as effective.</p>

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		<p>The report includes a literature review and a rapid evidence assessment of programmes.</p> <p>Effective programmes shared the following key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative and positive youth development goals</li> <li>• Schools and parents</li> <li>• Group-based and interactive</li> <li>• Trained facilitators</li> <li>• Well-specified goals</li> <li>• Regular and/or frequent contact</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Home Office: Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: A Review of Risk and Protective Factors</a></p>	<p>Professionals involved in preventing gang activity and youth violence.</p>	<p>A 108 page report based on the findings of academic research concerned with young people living in community settings, with a focus on risks/protective factors in relation to youth violence and gang involvement. The majority of findings are from longitudinal studies based in the USA.</p>
<p><a href="#">Home Office: Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: An Overview</a></p>	<p>Professionals involved in preventing gang activity and youth violence.</p>	<p>A summary of the key findings in the above report.</p>
<p><a href="#">The Children's Society - Criminal Exploitation: Stages of Recruitment (CARE)</a></p>	<p>Vulnerable children who think they might be being exploited by someone, the general public and professionals who deal with children and young people.</p>	<p>A short informative document highlighting the different stages of exploitation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Targeting stage</li> <li>2) Experience stage</li> <li>3) Hooked stage</li> <li>4) Trapped stage</li> </ol>

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		Includes contact details for organisations that can assist, such as ChildLine, NSPCC, The Mix and The Children's Society.
<a href="#">The Children's Society, Victim Support and National Police Chiefs' Council - Appropriate Language Toolkit</a>	Professionals when discussing the exploitation of children and young people.	A short document for professionals to use at strategy meetings, multi-agency meetings, or other settings where professionals might be discussing children and young people who are at risk of exploitation.
<a href="#">The Children's Society - Criminal Exploitation and County Lines Toolkit for Professionals</a>	Professionals working with children and young people	A toolkit for professionals explaining factors that increase vulnerability of being exploited, indicators to suggest a child or young person is involved in County Line activity. Also includes barriers for young people engaging with interventions, recommendations for professionals, including appropriate use of language to use when describing forms of exploitation, and the services nationally commissioned to support children and young people affected by criminal exploitation.
<a href="#">CSE Police and Prevention Toolkits</a>	Professionals working with children and young people.	A web page with a range of toolkits and guidance documents for professionals to inform good practice and support regional strategies and action plans in relation to child sexual abuse and exploitation and other forms of abuse.
<a href="#">It Can Be Stopped - A proven blueprint to stop violence and tackle gang and related offending in London and beyond</a>	Professionals working with children and young people.	A report by the Centre of Social Justice (CSJ) about gang activity in London.

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<a href="#">Youth Justice Legal Centre - Child Criminal Exploitation: county lines, child trafficking &amp; modern slavery defences for children</a>	Lawyers and professionals to assist in recognising children who may be victims of child criminal exploitation (CCE)	The short document provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information on how gangs recruit, groom and exploit children;</li> <li>• guidance on signs that should warn lawyers that their client might be a victim of CCE;</li> <li>• overview of the statutory defence under section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for offences committed as a direct result of exploitation and the relevant Crown Prosecution Service guidance;</li> <li>• advice on defence lawyers' safeguarding duties to clients whom they suspect might be the victim of CCE;</li> <li>• advice on the practical steps that should be taken if a defence lawyer suspects that their client is a victim of CCE.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">County Lines Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: Video from the Youth Justice Convention in December 2017</a>	Professionals working with children and young people, including statutory services and voluntary and community organisations.	An 80 minute video of professionals discussing County Lines at the 2017 Youth Justice Convention.