

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
AT RISK OF COUNTY LINES OR GANG INVOLVEMENT**

FINAL VERSION JULY 2018

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Introduction

This document provides guidance for agencies in Suffolk working with children and young people at risk of becoming, or already involved, in county lines and/or gang activity. It aims to ensure a collaborative, consistent and effective approach. It identifies that a partnership response to safeguarding children affected by county lines and gang activity is essential.

This guidance should be followed where the primary risk to a child or young person is from county lines and/or gang involvement. It should be read in conjunction with the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) toolkit where this is also a risk.

County lines and/or gang involvement is a safeguarding issue because a child or young person may have suffered, or may be likely to suffer, significant harm. All agencies which have contact with children and families have a responsibility to intervene to reduce risk from county lines and/or gang activity and to act when there is a significant risk of harm from such activity. This guidance is intended for all organisations and teams working with Suffolk's children and families and communities. It should be read by managers and frontline practitioners.

This policy is included within the Suffolk Safeguarding Board Procedures

Section 1 - What you need to know

Definitions

Suffolk uses the following agreed definitions to identify County Lines Networks (CLN) and Urban Street Gangs (USGs).

County Lines Network

County Lines supply class A drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) from an urban hub into rural towns or county locations. This is facilitated by a group who may not necessarily be affiliated as a gang, but who have developed networks across geographical boundaries to access and exploit existing drugs markets in these areas. (County Lines, Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply, National Crime Agency, 2017). CLN operate as drug dealing businesses and are motivated by profit.

Urban Street Gangs

Are defined as a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

- (1) see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group,
- (2) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence,
- (3) identify with or lay claim over territory,
- (4) have some form of identifying structural feature and;
- (5) are in conflict with other, similar, gangs. (Dying to Belong, 2009)

Peer Groups

A peer group can be defined as:

“a relatively small, unorganised and transient group composed of peers who share the same space and a common history. Involvement in crime will be mostly non-serious in nature and not integral to the identity of the group”.

(Taken from: Safeguarding Young People at Risk from Gang Activity, HM Government. Adapted from Hallsworth S and Young T (2004) Getting Real about Gangs, Criminal Justice Matters (55) 123).

Peer groups are not within the scope of this guidance.

Criminal Exploitation (CE)

The exploitation of children and vulnerable adults by CLN is known as criminal exploitation (CE) or child criminal exploitation (CCE).

It involves exploitative situations, contexts, and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, friendship, status, gifts, money) when they complete a task on behalf of another individual or group;

this task is usually of a criminal nature. A child who is being criminally exploited will usually not recognise that this is the case and may believe that they are in control of the situation. Those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion, and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. Adapted from Knowsley Safeguarding Board

The Local Picture

Local concerns consist of two main elements interacting with each other; the emergence of at least two recognisable urban street gangs based in Ipswich and the arrival of drug dealers travelling from drug export hubs to establish local drug dealing networks (County Lines). In Suffolk these networks tend to be run from London. Over time these two elements have connected and interacted together resulting in some individuals including children and young people linked with Urban Street Gangs also being associated with County Lines. County Lines are a major conduit for illicit drug distribution across England and Wales and have also helped to spread the violent culture of some metropolitan gangs into new locations and this has been the case in Suffolk.

County lines activity is evident across the county. Children, mainly from London, are travelling to Suffolk to supply drugs or may be established in 'trap houses' (the place where drugs are made and / or stored) to deal from. In addition, the homes of vulnerable local adults may be taken over to deal drugs in a practice known as 'cuckooing'. There has also been an increase in the movement of local young people around Suffolk itself and into neighbouring counties to deal drugs.

The picture in Suffolk, as nationally, evolves rapidly. Practitioners should be alert to the fact that this is the case, as the gangs and CLN will adjust their tactics to avoid law enforcement or gain greater market share. More information can be found here - <https://www.uos.ac.uk/news/gang-and-drug-related-violence-research-published>

Who is at Risk Groups and Locations?

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) (2015) identified individual risk factors for youth violence and gang membership. More information can be found at Early Intervention Foundation (Stephanie Waddell) 2015 - *Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: Spotting Signals of Risk and Supporting Children and Young People an Overview* <http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/preventing-gang-and-youth-violence/>. The study found that there were few strong predictors for gang membership on its own and considerable overlap with predictors for youth violence. **More information about individual risk factors is given in Section 2**

Below is more information about groups and locations who are likely to be at increased risk.

Groups who are at increased risk

Boys and young men aged between 12-18 years are the most common group involved although younger children, girls and young women may also be recruited.

CLN networks deliberately target **children and young people who appear to be easier to exploit** because of existing vulnerabilities or who they believe will escape detection. Those with learning difficulties, mental health and/or substance misuse problems, or those who have experienced family conflict/breakdown or trauma may be at increased risk.

Children in Care, in the **Youth Justice System** and those not in **mainstream education or excluded from school** are at increased risk as are those who have **older siblings and/or parents or partners who are actively involved** or associated with either CLN or USGs or **live in communities affected by USG activity**.

Locations where groups of vulnerable young people are found such as children's homes, pupil referral units (PRUs), special education needs provisions and supported lodgings may also be targeted for recruitment.

A small number of Suffolk young people are in **custody**. Since there are now very few Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs) / Secure Training Centres (STCs), this means that they are usually placed far from home and are at risk of exposure to CLN and/or USG members from other gang affected areas. This can increase their risk of involvement on release and mean they are at risk in custody.

Children and young people from other areas who are already gang involved are sometimes placed in Suffolk by their home local authority. This can be because they are at risk in their home area, as part of a gang exit strategy or as a way of managing their risky behaviour. They may remain engaged or resume in the behaviour that led to them being placed out of their home area in the first place.

Some recent immigrant populations may also be at risk due to previous exposure to violence, high levels of deprivation and being socially isolated.

In some cases, children with **no obvious vulnerabilities** and no previous criminal or anti-social involvement will be targeted as they are considered less likely to attract the attention of authorities. They are sometimes known as 'clean'.

Understanding the risks

1. a child involved with a gang or with a County Line network can both:
2. present a risk to others (perpetrator) and be at risk from others themselves (victim)
3. the risk to themselves can be:
 - a. **through their own activities** within the gang or county line network
 - b. from **other people** or groups who are involved in this activity.
4. any or all of these risks can extend to members of their family and friends.

It may be difficult for professionals to recognise when a young person who is actively involved in gang or CLN activity is being exploited and manipulated themselves. This dual role of victim and perpetrator where young people may not fit neatly into just one 'box' is one of the reasons that work with this group is complex and requires a collaborative and multi-agency approach.

Professionals need to be aware of this and work together to assess safety and welfare needs at the same time as responding in a criminal justice capacity. This includes understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families: recognising that relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, networks, schools and online can also feature violence and abuse. This approach is known as **contextual safeguarding** and more information can be found in the Resources Section.

Grooming and coercion

Children and young people involved in CLN and USGs are exposed to grooming' tactics where promises including money, status, designer clothing and protection draw the child or young person in and threats of violence and retribution are used to keep them involved. Children and young people groomed in this way may not see themselves as exploited, particularly when they believe they will be rewarded with large sums of money or a higher status in the group. The process of grooming has been compared to that used by perpetrators of organised CSE.

Peer grooming often takes place often in schools, via social media, and in the local community. Music videos on YouTube glamorise the lifestyle and entice children from wider social and geographical areas. The methods used can lead a child to believe they have made an active choice to become involved. At the same time, the situation leaves them feeling frightened, unable to see a way out, and unable to refuse to do what they are told.

Threats, coercion, and violence may be used to force children to do what the gang or CLN wants. They may be punished for making mistakes or failing to meet drugs sales targets, losing phones, SIM cards and/ or cash. These punishments can be violent; stabbings, injuries (i.e. burns) and the use of acid for example.

Debt Bondage

The use of debt bondage is a regular feature in the exploitation of children and young people by gangs. The young person may be groomed by a member of the group who will give them money /

gifts. They will then be told that they need to do something in return for the money / gifts before being threatened and then forced to participate in drug dealing to repay the debt. In addition, whilst in possession of drugs, children and young people may become victims of staged offences, set up to enable those in charge to maintain a hold over the young person who is then told they must work for free to replace the cost of the stolen drugs / lost items. The debt may also be owed by a family member and this debt is then used to control the young person.

Crime and Violence

CLN and USG involvement are a risk factor for children and young people becoming involved in youth violence and knife crime. Young people involved in county lines or gangs may be expected to commit violent acts and refusal to do so can result in them becoming victims. Involvement tends to accelerate a shift to more serious and more lucrative crime. Violence (including sexual violence) may also become normalised to a point where the threshold for tolerance is raised higher as the child or young person becomes desensitised to its impact. Violence is then used by them as a prevention and self-defence mechanism to maintain their own safety.

Children and young people can become hyper-vigilant and may carry a weapon for protection. They will constantly need to risk assess situations because of a pervasive fear of retribution leading to a high level of stress ultimately impacting on their mental health and well-being.

They may also be at risk of serious violence and even death.

Sexual Violence

“If only someone had listened”, *CSE in gangs and groups* exposes the extent of sexual violence within the context of gangs. For more information see <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/if-only-someone-had-listened/>.

Young people may be at risk of sexual violence: sexual assault, rape, indecent images being taken and shared as part of initiation revenge or punishment.

In gangs, sexual violence may be used as an initiation activity. It is often peer on peer and boys or young men may be pressured into acts of sexual aggression by others in the gang (e.g. boy in a gang forced to rape a girl as a punishment to her). Young people may also be coerced into performing sexual acts to repay drug debts owed to dealers following loss through arrest, robbery, or personal use. Exposure to sexual violence can cause multi-layered long-lasting effects including; depression, low self-esteem, feelings of helplessness, panic and anxiety disorders, self-harm, and increased suicide risk

When a professional suspects that a child or young person is at risk of CSE within a gang context they should refer to the LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Toolkit and follow their own agencies safeguarding procedures.

Missing Episodes

There is a connection between some children and young people going missing and involvement in county lines drug dealing. Locally, there appears to have been an increase in the frequency and

length of missing episodes associated with this activity with some young people being found out of county.

Health and Mental Health

Children and young people involved in USGs and CLN activity may use 'plugging' (concealing drugs internally). Historically, this method has been used to transport drugs between export hubs (like London) and the rural market. However, it is now more commonly used for also storing drugs. '*This poses significant health risks, as those concealing the drugs will often do so for extended periods of time*'. (National Crime Agency 2017). Children and young people may insert and carry drugs in their rectum or vagina and may store „wrapped“ drugs in their cheeks which then can be swallowed if approached by police.

Children and young people involved in CLN or USGs face a high burden of mental illness. They are at increased risk of conduct disorder, anti-social personality disorder, anxiety, psychosis, and substance misuse compared to other young people in the criminal justice system.

Long-term exposure to violence is a risk factor for depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Unmet basic needs

Children and young people internally trafficked as part of county lines drug dealing operations may live in dangerous or unhygienic environments whilst dealing. They may also suffer tiredness and sleep deprivation due to their illegal activities and are likely to have poor attendance and attainment in education.

Cuckooing

The home or premises of a vulnerable adult (often a drug user) is taken over and used to deal drugs from. The vulnerable adult may be prevented from leaving and have little or no control over what happens within their home. Violence and intimidation may be used to obtain and retain access and control the property. Vulnerable females have also been targeted by men who form a 'relationship' with them in order to use their property to deal drugs.

Children and young people based in cuckooed premises may also be at risk from the person in whose premises they are placed and their associates.

Barriers to Disclosing and Getting Help

Approach

Not responding to CCE as a safeguarding concern can put up barriers. Children and young people may have shared their story many times with professionals and be unwilling to do so again. Workers and agencies need to be positive, consistent and persistent in their approach.

Reprisals

Children and young people are unlikely to report gang related crime committed against them including sexual violence. They may fear retaliation against them or their families and have a lack of confidence in the authorities' ability to protect them.

Control by others

They may also be guided by adult or higher status young people in the CLN or USG about what they should say and how they should say it to professionals or agencies. They may also present to agencies with unrelated adults whose role is to ensure they do not disclose what is happening to them. There is some evidence that young people involved in CLN have been coached on what to say if they are picked up by the police for example making 'no comment' interviews.

Consequences for them

They may be fearful about what will happen to them if they do disclose for example getting into trouble with the police or breaching a court order.

Mistrust of services

Children and young people with a history of trauma including previous abuse may be mistrustful of adults and services.

Shame

They may be ashamed or embarrassed by what they have done.

Perceptions

They may not see themselves as exploited. On the contrary they may feel a sense of loyalty to those who are exploiting them. They may believe that the CLN or USG is looking after and supporting them. They may also see themselves as an autonomous drug dealer.

Money and status

The child or young person may have money or rewards that they have not had before. They may feel they have status and power.

Structural inequalities

Such as race, gender, ethnicity, class, culture, and education can also be barriers to getting help.

Other Information

Aliases and Street Names

Young people involved with USG or CLN often have an alias or 'street name'. They will refer to their real name as their 'government name' and peers will generally only refer to them by their alias not knowing what the individual's real name is.

Girls and Young Women

Young women and girls may be involved with gangs and be both victims and perpetrators of violence. "The MOPAC Knife Crime Strategy highlights that 10 per cent of knife crime offenders are girls or young women.... The involvement of girls as offenders as well as victims must be recognised, and a differentiated approach should be taken to responding to knife crime amongst this cohort". (ALDCS The response of London Children's Services to serious youth violence and knife crime, May 18). They may become associated with USGs/CLNs through known members including family

members and partners who are already involved. Their identity and role may be fluid and females may be used, protected, and mistrusted by other gang members. They may also be used to attract rival males into danger, for hiding and carrying weapons, cash, and drugs, and for sexual exploitation and the exploitation of others (recruitment).

Social Media

'The links between young people's use of social media and face-to-face violence are most pronounced for young people involved in gangs...For many young people, their self-esteem is increasingly based not on what they think about themselves but on what others think about them'. (Social Media as a Catalyst for Youth Violence, The Dawes Unit, 2017).

The status activities and rivalry of gangs are often played out over various social media forums. Social networking sites offer gangs a way of enhancing their reputation, status, and branding while diminishing the standing of rival groups through negative commenting, posting provocative videos and direct threats of harm. This activity can also facilitate recruitment of other young people seeking to feel part of something and enticed by the excitement and glamour of what is being presented to them online.

HMI Probation 2017 report on the inspection of the Work of YOTs to Protect the Public found that social media was directly related to the offence in one in four cases it looked at and had been a catalyst for some of the most serious and violent offences particularly in relation to gang involvement.

Local young people associated with gangs and county lines activity have produced and publicised music videos on YouTube. While these videos were initially filmed in the local community and openly referred to drug dealing they have evolved over time to include reference to other rival individuals, mention weapons and violence, and have been filmed in 'trap houses' with the visible 'cooking up' of substances taking place in the background.

The development of hidden forms of media such as 'WhatsApp' and 'Snapchat' allow posting of videos which quickly disappear.

SECTION 2 - What you need to do

Introduction

The issue of both CLN and USG in Suffolk is a complicated cross-cutting issue – not just in terms of geography. It cuts across the work of criminal justice and safeguarding agencies; both adult and children's services and statutory and third sector organisations as well as communities and community groups. Groups and individuals may be directly affected by it as victims or perpetrators or indeed both. Those who are most at risk of becoming directly involved include some of the most vulnerable in our society. A systemic approach to addressing the issue which involves a high degree of collaboration and communication is required to make an impact.

Principles

The following **principles** should underpin a multi-agency response to the exploitation of children and young people by Urban Street Gangs (USGs) and County Lines Networks:

- The safety and welfare of the child or young person is paramount.
- Exploitation of children and young people by USGs and CLNs is primarily a safeguarding issue and the response of agencies should reflect this.
- Children and young people who become affiliated or involved with gang or CLN activity are at risk of physical violence, sexual violence, emotional harm, and reduced life chances.
- Children and young people do not make informed choices to enter or remain in a gang or linked with a CLN but do so because of coercion, enticement, manipulation, lack of maturity and/or violence
- Children and young people who are harmed and who harm others should have their safeguarding needs assessed.

All organisations should ensure that they:

- Are aware of the risk factors that mean an individual child or young person, a group or location or adult are more at risk of involvement in USG and CLN.
- Recognise the warning signs that a child or young person or adult is involved or becoming involved with CLN or USG.
- Be aware of the barriers to disclosing and getting help and work with children and young people in a way which will overcome them.
- Share information and intelligence when appropriate in a timely manner.
- Train and support staff to intervene effectively with children, young people and adults involved with CLN or USG in line with their specific remit.
- Act on serious concerns they have identified and know how to and where to refer a child or young people assessed as at significant risk.
- Work collaboratively with other agencies and professionals.

Identifying Children and Young People who May be at Risk

Youth Violence and Gang Membership Risk Factors

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) (2015) identified risk factors for youth violence and gang membership and a table illustrating the findings is given below. More information can be found Early Intervention Foundation (Stephanie Waddell) 2015 - Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: Spotting Signals of Risk and Supporting Children and Young People an Overview <http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/preventing-gang-and-youth-violence/>. Since there is considerable overlap between the individual risk factors for youth violence and gang membership in assessing risk both indicators and warning signs should be used together.

Factor	Strong Risk Factors for Youth Violence (age group)	Strong Risk Factors for Gang Involvement (age group)
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Troublesome (7-9; 10-12) ○ High daring (10-12) ○ Positive attitude towards delinquency (10-12) ○ Previously committed offences (7-9) ○ Involved in anti-social behaviour (10-12) ○ Substance use (7-9) ○ Aggression (7-9) ○ Running away and truancy (7-9; 10-12; 13-15; 16-25) ○ Gang membership (13-15; 16-25) ○ Low self-esteem (13-15) ○ High psychopathic features (13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marijuana use (10-12) ○ Displaced aggression traits (13-15) ○ Anger traits (13-15) ○ Aggression traits (13-15)
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disrupted family (7-9; 10-12; 13-15) ○ Poor supervision (10-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Low commitment to school (13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Low academic achievement in primary school (10-12) ○ Learning disability² (10-12)
Peer Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delinquent peers (7-9; 10-12; 13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marijuana availability (10-12) ○ Neighbourhood youth in trouble (10-12)

Warning Signs

As well as **risk factors** which make an individual or group more vulnerable to involvement in CLN and USG there are also **warning signs** that can be used to alert professionals to the fact that a child or young person may be involved or becoming involved. The check list below highlights some signs to look out for and can support decision making and indicate where a further assessment is required. **It does not replace the need for professional judgement or full assessment in any individual case.** The reasons behind any warning signs that are identified should be explored with the child or young person.

Signs of Gang or County Lines Involvement Check List	
Strong signs	Comments
Arrested/Charged/Convicted of Possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (particularly heroin and crack cocaine) or with large amounts of drugs.	
Arrested away from own home area	
Arrested/found at an address which appears to be 'cuckooed' (CLN)	
Arrested/found with or accompanied by older non-related males and females believed to be involved in drug dealing.	
Unexplained physical injuries for which reluctant/unwilling to seek/receive medical treatment. Or disclosure of assault which is then withdrawn.	
Arrested / found with a weapon especially a knife	
Close Association with pro-criminal peers who are involved in CLN or USG activity and/or	

associating with known dealers / adults involved in CLN / USG	
Multiple mobiles/changing phones frequently and/or significant increase phone calls/texts/messages from unknown numbers which they are unwilling to explain. (CLN)	
Goes missing from home or school sometimes for prolonged periods. (CLN)	
Has experience abduction or forced imprisonment. (CLN)	
Appears in YouTube videos with known gang members. (USG)	
Frequent train or other travel / in possession of lots of train tickets or similar with no obvious explanation or means of paying for travel. (CLN)	
Agencies unable to engage young person.	
Moderate signs	Comments – Context
Increase in aggressive behaviour / use of intimidation or threats	
Unexplained money or possessions/increased interest in money	
Parental/carer concerns	
Increased use of drugs and or alcohol	
Expressions around invincibility and not caring.	
Changed friendship groups and no contact with old friends	

Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods	
Loss of interest in school, decline in attendance or achievement	
Suspected possession of knife or other weapon	
Identification with USG or CLN. Including appearing to look up to or respect those involved or being friends or claiming friendship with those involved.	
Dropped out of positive activities	
Refuses/scared to enter certain geographical areas	

	Risk levels	Rationale
	<p>Low risk: None of the strong warning signs and less than 4 of the moderate warning signs are present. There are probably also few risk factors present.</p> <p>A child or young person who appears to be at some but probably relatively low risk of becoming involved in CLN or USG at the present time.</p>	
	<p>Medium risk: 1 – 2 of the strong warning signs are present and 5 or less of the moderate warning signs are present. There may also be a number of risk factors present.</p> <p>A child or young person who is likely to be linked to others known to be involved in CLN or gang activity and may already be involved themselves. If not already involved they may be at risk of being drawn in.</p>	
	<p>High risk: More than 3 of the strong warning signs are present. A high number of risk factors are also probably present.</p>	

	<p>A child or young person who is likely to be already involved with CLN or USG activity. If not already involved they are at high risk of being drawn in.</p>	
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What to do if you identify a child or young person at risk.

General Approach

The general approach that is taken to working with children and young people involved or at risk of county lines or gang involvement is at least as important as the specific programmes which are used to intervene. Research of young people's views on what was helpful to support them to move away from offending suggested what they found helpful was:

- Having a trusting relationship with at least one worker who believes they could change
- A sense of belonging.
- Supportive personal relationships
- Changing their peer and friendship groups
- Having something to lose (i.e. job, family relationships, if they are a parent themselves)
- Interventions which provide problem solving solutions to use in day-to-day situations
- Well planned restorative interventions.

Since children and young people also tell us how difficult it is to make this move, workers will need to be persistent and optimistic about their capacity to change.

In all cases workers should find out as much as possible about which other agencies are involved with the young person and with any adults who may be exploiting them and assess, plan and work together.

In terms of specific interventions relatively little evidence-based research is available about what works to prevent gang involvement and to help those already involved to leave. There is more (though still limited) evidence for what works to prevent youth violence and it is reasonable to assume that this may also be effective in the context of gangs. More information about this is given **in Section 3**

Low risk:

- May requires intervention by a professional, parent or carer who has a good relationship with them to raise awareness of risks.
- Depending on the age and maturity of the child the Fearless website has a range of awareness raising resources <https://www.fearless.org/en> and video clips. It also has a facility for young people to report concerns anonymously.
- Consider work with parents/carers to raise their awareness of signs and risks of CCE and help them to protect the child or young person.
- Childline have simple information and advice under the *Crime and Law* Gangs section. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/gangs/>
- The NSPCC website also has some useful tools and advice
- School based work to prevent exclusions, and positive and structured activities which promote a sense of self efficacy and include contact with a positive peer group should be considered.

- Use the tool at least every 8-12 weeks to assess changes to risk levels for the young person until they are safe, or the risk is sufficiently reduced. If risk levels are escalating, follow procedures below for medium or high-risk cases

Medium Risk

- This child or young person requires more intensive assessment and 1-1 support. The interventions outlined above for Low Risk should be completed, along with more intensive work which is based on one of the approaches identified in the **what works** section below. Mindset and Mindset for Gangs and restorative approaches may be suitable for use with this young person and can be delivered by SYOS as part of either a statutory order or The Diversion Programme.
- Check whether they are known to the Suffolk Youth Offending Service either on a statutory order or on the Diversion Programme.
- If so, do a joint assessment and plan and agree who will deliver each aspect of the plan. If not consider a referral to the Diversion Programme.
- Should levels of risk increase, or if new concerns become known, you are encouraged to consult the MASH Professionals Consultation Line (0345 606 1499) for support and advice re next steps towards referral via Customer First.
- Consult the MAT team for advice and guidance on the best ways to work with this young person.
- If the child or young person is already open to Social Care, assessments will be updated and, if required, a strategy threshold discussion and S47 enquiry undertaken.
- Record concerns
- Record street names, associates, and areas they talk about
- Share intelligence, information, and concerns
- Regularly meet all involved agencies to assess and manage risks and safeguarding

High Risk

A child or young person who is probably already involved in CLN or gang activity. They may have been the victim of gang related violence and are highly likely to be offending and in the Criminal Justice System.

- Check whether they are known to the Suffolk Youth Offending Service either on a statutory order or on the Diversion Programme.
- Refer to the MASH via Customer First for a strategy threshold discussion and/or allocation for a Social Work Assessment and coordinated intensive support of the child/ young person and their family. Make sure MASH are aware to seek SYOS information about the case.
- If the child or young person is already open to Social Care, assessments are to be updated and if required, a strategy threshold discussion and S47 enquiry undertaken.
- Where it is believed that a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm due to gangs and youth violence a **strategy meeting/discussion*** should be held within 3 working

days to determine whether there is a need to commence a child protection enquiry under section 47 Children Act 1989. If the child is known to SYOS make sure that SYOS and the County Lines and Gangs Manager or a delegated person are invited to the strategy meeting/discussion.

- The strategy meeting should decide whether a referral should be made to the MAT for specialist gang interventions (Ipswich) or Multi-agency gangs panel (West and North of County).
- record concerns
- record street names, associates, and areas they talk about
- share intelligence, information, and concerns
- regularly meet all involved agencies to assess and manage risks and safeguarding
- Consider the use of disruption tactics as part of multi-agency planning.
- Use this tool at least every four to six weeks to assess changes to risk levels for the young person until they are safe, or the risk is sufficiently reduced.
- Work with others to manage the risk effectively and safeguard the young person.

Multi-agency panels will be set up in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury as this will still assist with sharing of concerns between adults / children services / third sector. The panels will also help monitor the 'at risk group' and co-ordinate management of higher risk cases.

County Lines Network or Urban Street Gangs Involvement

As well as deciding on the level of risk practitioners should also consider whether the young person is likely to be involved in a CLN or an USG or both as some risks are more specific to one rather than the other (for example a young person involved in county lines is more likely to go missing). The list of **warning signs** includes some that are more likely to be associated with CLN or USG and these are shown followed by the initials of the more likely association.

Information Sharing and Intelligence

Professionals in all agencies need to be confident and competent in sharing information appropriately to safeguard children and vulnerable adults at risk of harm through gang activity and/or serious youth violence. An information sharing protocol is currently being developed and a link will be added when it is completed. All agencies are empowered to share information without permission for the purpose of crime prevention under section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, although obtaining consent is good practice.

See also: Sharing personal and sensitive personal information on children and young people at risk of offending – a practical guide (Youth Justice Board & ACPO, 2005) at www.yjb.gov.uk.

When sharing information about potential perpetrator/s give as much information as possible and try to assess the level and imminence of the threat as far as you can based on the information you have available. Things to consider are:

- **Circumstances** - influence of peers / associates, disinhibitions (alcohol, drugs etc), unexpected reactions by victims, is behaviour likely to occur in the current circumstances or if circumstances change, consider how the young person may react to provocation or if they perceive their reputation to be have been slighted
- **Context** – Are there any events / circumstances that may act as a trigger? Is the young person getting into situations where something could happen? How regularly?
- **Capacity** – Do those involved have the resources and knowledge to carry out a behaviour or are they seeking to acquire them?
- **Opportunities** – Are opportunities actively being sought? Do they have access to potential victims? Would they commit behaviour as soon as an opportunity arises? Are there constraints that may be removed in the near future or are there likely to be more added? How will this affect the opportunities available for an incident to occur?
- **Imminence** – How soon could the incident occur? What could make it happen sooner or later? What is stopping anything happening currently?

Intelligence

Intelligence is information which can be combined to build a picture of current trends and patterns. It can include details like who was involved in an event, what happened, when where and how it happened. It may not be obviously related to safeguarding an individual child or young person but can help to build a picture of risks which will safeguard others. Anyone who works with children or young people who may be or are gang involved should understand the different types of information that may be of use as part of an intelligence picture. For more information about types of intelligence see;

<https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20Cap%20Intel%20Toolkit.pdf>

Things to consider in deciding whether what you have heard is significant and should be passed on include what you already know about the young person and their situation; why you think the child or young person has passed the information on and whether the child or young person has mentioned the same details once or repeatedly.

Where possible and safe to do so, let the child or young person know you are sharing the information and ask for their consent to do so. Even where you do not have consent to share confidential information, you may lawfully share it if this can be justified in the public interest. If in doubt, Crimestoppers can send intelligence on to a local police force intelligence management team.

If your organisation has an established route for submitting information and intelligence to the police use this. Otherwise intelligence can be submitted via the Suffolk Police website or 101. If you or anyone else does not wish to give their name and contact details information and intelligence can also be submitted via Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers can be contacted by phone on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Trafficking

It is important to remember that young people being exploited as part of County Lines are likely to be being **trafficked** as they are having their travel *arranged or facilitated for the purpose them being exploited*. It is irrelevant whether or not they have consented to the travel arrangements and trafficking includes travelling within a country.

Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a child, young person to be a victim of trafficking:

- This should be reported to the police for them to investigate whether Modern Slavery and trafficking offences have been committed.
- A referral should be made to The MASH as trafficking and exploitation means a child could be at risk of or experienced significant harm.
- A referral should be made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by the Police or Children's Services. (Usually Police)
- Other agencies should support this referral with information to ensure it provides a full picture.
- A strategy meeting will then usually be convened.

Use of the NRM mechanism does not mean children and young people 'get away' with any crimes that they may have committed but that the impact of trafficking and exploitation will be taken into consideration when making criminal justice decisions. It may be appropriate not to pursue prosecution, but this will be assessed on an individual basis.

For further guidance on the NRM please see: <https://www.ecpat.org.uk/the-national-referral-mechanism>

Disruption, Enforcement Criminal and Civil Powers

It is important to consider disruption of the exploitation and that agencies work together to identify the perpetrators, locations and networks associated with the exploitation and develop plans to disrupt these as part of routine practice.

All statutory agencies should have a working knowledge of the disruption, enforcement, and civil powers available. The agency usually responsible for applying for a particular power should ensure that staff have a good knowledge of how and when to use it. The measures that can be considered as part of a plan to disrupt perpetrators are listed under the relevant **legislation** with additional **tactical options** which may be suitable in specific circumstances listed after that.

Legislation

Children Act 1989

Care Order - Section 31

A local authority or authorised person may apply for a Care Order. This allows for a child to be placed into the care of a designated local authority and enables the local authority to share parental responsibility for the child. The application must be made prior to the child reaching the age of 17. Applications for a Care Order may only be made by a court if it is satisfied that the child concerned is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm or the child is beyond parental control.

Secure Accommodation Order - Section 25

If a local authority considers a child to be at such significant risk of harm that there is no alternative it can accommodate a child in secure accommodation for a period of no more than 72 hours without an Order of the Court.

A Secure Accommodation Order will only be granted where:

- the child has a history of absconding and is likely to abscond from accommodation which isn't secure; and
- if he/ she runs away, he/ she is likely to suffer significant harm; or
- if he/ she isn't in secure accommodation, he/ she is likely to injure himself or someone else.

The first Order lasts three months. If the child continues to meet the criteria, then an application for a further Order can be made. Accommodating a child in secure accommodation is a restriction of liberty and will usually only be made when less restrictive options have been exhausted and/or there is no alternative.

Emergency Protection Order - Section 44

An Emergency Protection Order enables the immediate removal of a child from the care of their parent or carer to a place of safety, for up to a period of no more than eight days. The court will only grant an Order where it can be evidenced that the child is at imminent risk of harm.

The local authority or authorised person can make an application where they are satisfied that the child is likely to suffer significant harm if;

- he/ she is not removed to accommodation provided by or on behalf of the applicant; or
- he/ she does not remain in the place in which he is then being accommodated.

Police Powers of Protection Section 46

If a police constable has reasonable cause to believe that a child would otherwise be likely to suffer significant harm, they may:

- Remove the child to suitable accommodation and keep him there
- Take such steps as are reasonable to ensure that the child's removal from any hospital, or other such place, in which he is then being accommodated is prevented.

A child in this context is under 18 years of age.

This power should be considered whenever potential victims are found in the company of potential perpetrators. Where the victim does not present as willing to accompany the police voluntarily, this power can be used to remove the victim to suitable accommodation.

Suitable accommodation can include the child's home address or care placement where it is deemed safe and appropriate. A police station is not suitable accommodation. A child under police protection should not be brought to a police station except in exceptional circumstances.

Recovery Order - Section 50

Where a child has been unlawfully taken or kept away from a person with lawful control of the child, a court can make a Recovery Order directing the person to produce the child to a specified person, usually police. The Order also requires anyone with information about the whereabouts of the child to disclose the information to police. In addition, if the Court is satisfied there are reasonable grounds to believe the child is present at specified premises then the Order will authorise the police to enter those premises to search for the child.

The application can be made by the Local Authority if the child is subject to a Care Order or Emergency Protection Order or by the police if the child is subject to Police Powers of Protection.

Deliberate obstruction of an officer carrying out actions defined by the order is an offence and could lead to a fine being imposed.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)

Section 17

S17 (1) PACE provides the police with the power of entry and to search premises where they have reasonable grounds to believe a person they seek is within the dwelling. If a child is present and the police believe the child to be at risk of harm, then the police may exercise their powers of protection to remove the child to a place of safety.

Serious Crime Act 2015

Injunctions to Prevent Gang-Related Violence and Drug-Dealing Activity Section 51

A gang injunction can be applied for by a local authority or the police. It is a civil tool to prevent a person from engaging in, encouraging, or assisting gang-related violence, and gang-related drug dealing, and to protect them and their community from gang-related violence and gang-related drug dealing. Gang injunctions are applied for at the County Court, High Courts or for 14-17year olds Youth Court.

The burden of proof is civil, which means that the court must be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that it is required. A gang injunction can last for a maximum of two years and breach

can be dealt with via a fine or imprisonment. Gang injunctions have the benefit of allowing the gang to be targeted as an entity.

The gang injunction order can impose prohibitions (things not to do, for example associating with other gang members) or positive requirements (things to do, for example attending an apprenticeship programme). In summary, gang injunctions allow a police force or local authority to target the activities of every gang member at the same time, maximising disruption, and deterrence.

More information is available at : Home Office (June 2015) Injunctions to Prevent Gang-Related Violence and Gang-Related Drug Dealing A Practitioners' Guide
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445836/Injunctions to Prevent Gang-Related Violence Web2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445836/Injunctions_to_Prevent_Gang-Related_Violence_Web2.pdf)

Anti- Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Injunctions Part 1

Local Authorities, Police or Housing Providers can apply to the court for an injunction to stop or prevent individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour. This can include conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress; or conduct capable of causing nuisance, including housing-related nuisance. They may be useful to prevent persons of concern from attending locations such as schools or children's homes. An injunction can include prohibitions including exclusions from areas or a home as well as positive requirements. Applicants must consult the local youth offending team if the application is against someone under the age of 18.

Where a housing tenant has breached a civil injunction the landlord, including housing authorities, can make an application to court for possession of their property, regardless of the tenure held. Breach of an injunction does not automatically result in arrest as not all will have powers of arrest attached. An application can be made for a warrant of arrest where an injunction is breached. This could result in imprisonment not exceeding 2 years and/or a fine.

Criminal Behaviour Order - Section 22

This Order can be suggested by a Local Authority or the Police and is requested through the CPS Prosecution upon conviction of an Offender when they receive a sentence or a conditional discharge. The views of the local youth offending team must be sought and presented in the file for court if the application is against someone under the age of 18.

A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) prohibits the offender from doing anything described in the order and can also include positive requirements (mentoring, anger management, drug rehabilitation). Breach of this order is punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine (adults).

Community Protection Notice (CPN) Section 43

Can be issued by; a Local Authority, Police, or an agreed designated person such as a social housing landlord. The aim of a CPN is to prevent persistently anti-social conduct by individuals or businesses which is having a detrimental effect, of a continuing nature, on the community's quality of life.

Where there is unreasonable behaviour affecting a community's quality of life, a warning can be given. If there is no improvement, then a notice can be given which can make clear the requirement:

- To stop doing specific things
- To do specific things
- To take reasonable steps to achieve specific results.

Failure to comply with a CPN is a criminal offence and could result in a fine or prosecution.

Dispersal Powers - Section 35

A senior police officer can authorise the use of dispersal powers in a specified area for up to 48 hours, in order to reduce the likelihood of members of the public being harassed, alarmed, or distressed, or to reduce the likelihood of crime and disorder in the locality.

The officers can require a person committing, or likely to commit, antisocial behaviour, crime, or disorder to leave an area for up to 48 hours.

Under S37 of this act, officers may also require persons to surrender any property which is believed to have been used or is likely to be used as part of behaviour which causes harassment, alarm, or distress or to commit a criminal offence.

Failure to comply with the dispersal direction could lead to a fine and/or up to three months imprisonment.

Absolute Ground for Possession - Section 94

This can be obtained by private sector landlords and social landlords, including local authorities and housing associations. If the tenant, household member or visitor is convicted of a serious offence or one of the specified orders in the Act, the landlord can expedite their eviction through the court process to speed up the eviction process for the benefit of the victim and have mandatory grounds for possession of the property.

If you believe a potential perpetrator is in breach of tenancy agreements or housing conditions, you should liaise with housing officers, tenancy enforcement and landlords with recommendations to take action against the perpetrator.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - Section 59

Local authorities can issue PSPOs after consultation with partner agencies. They can be enforced in areas such as parks and town/ city centre locations.

A PSPO prevents unreasonable continuing behaviour such as congregation by groups causing ASB and/ or consuming alcohol from occurring in a particular area and/or requires things to be done by individuals carrying out a specific activity in that area. Where these activities are believed to be linked to CCESE activity, a PSPO should be considered.

In addition to considering other disruption options (such as a PSPO), if you identify a particular park as featuring regularly in CCE or gang related incidents, Local Authority, Police, and appropriate partners should liaise to agree a joint action plan and consider:

- High visibility patrols with stop checks of potential victims / perpetrators and submitting intelligence.
- Use of covert surveillance.
- Briefing park staff / park rangers
- A review of any available, CCTV and tasking of CCTV operators (consider using warning notices regarding police patrols/CCTV etc.)
- Installing lighting if specific locations are identified.

Child Abduction Act 1984

Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) - Section 2a

The police can issue Child Abduction Warning Notices to disrupt contact between an adult and a child or young person where the child is aged 16 years or under, or 18 years or under if they are subject to a full care order.

It is an offence for a person not connected to the child to take the child away 'without legal authority'. In such cases, the police may remove the child to a place of safety and issue a formal warning to the perpetrator. CAWNs are issued to suspects/ associates who are believed to place the child at risk of offences being committed against them.

Although these cases do not require a complaint from the child, it does require the child's parent or guardian to give permission for the notice to be served.

CAWNs are a useful tool in terms of immediately breaking contact between the child and the individual grooming or exploiting them. They are also useful in ensuring that the suspected perpetrator cannot claim they did not know the age of the child.

The Breach of a CAWN is not a criminal offence; however, they can provide evidence to support a prosecution under Sec 2 Child Abduction Act 1984 and/or to support applications for Sexual Risk Orders, Civil Injunctions, or evictions.

Abduction of Child by Other Persons - Section 2

Where a Child Abduction Warning Notice is breached, consideration may be given to using the Abduction of a Child by Other Persons, which is a criminal offence where a person takes detains a child under 16 years:

- where the offender is not connected with the child to remove him from the lawful control of any person having lawful control of the child
- to keep him out of the lawful control of any person entitled to lawful control of the child.

It is a defence for the defendant to show that he believed the child to be over the age of 16 years.

Modern Slavery Act 2015

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 reiterates existing powers in relation to trafficking and exploitation. Under the Act, agencies have a Duty to Notify in relation to anyone who is believed to be a victim of Human Trafficking (including internal trafficking within the UK).

NRM referrals can be made by first responders who are: Police forces, UK Border Force, Home Office, Local Authority, Health, Salvation Army, Barnardo's, NSPCC, Refugee Council, and other voluntary sector organisations.

Criminally exploited children are likely to be eligible for NRM Conclusive Grounds decisions and a referral should be considered as part of the safety plan, where there is movement and exploitation. There does not need to be conclusive evidence, the threshold is that trafficking is 'suspected but cannot be proved'.

Young people, who may travel by public transport to premises where they are being exploited, can still be described as trafficked where the arrangements for this travel are made by someone who has power over them through grooming/ coercion or threats. Trafficking offences can be prosecuted without a statement from a victim.

For further guidance on the NRM please see: <https://www.ecpat.org.uk/the-national-referral-mechanism>

Human Trafficking - Part 1 Section 2

A person commits an offence if they arrange or facilitate the travel of another person with a view to that person being exploited. It is irrelevant whether the victim consents to the travel, whether they are an adult or a child. A person may arrange or facilitate travel by recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving the victim, or by transferring or exchanging control over them.

To proceed with criminal charges for the offence of Human Trafficking, evidence must show that:

- the person intends to exploit the victim during or after the travel, or
- the person knows or ought to know that another person is likely to exploit the victim during or after the travel

The offence of Human Trafficking carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders - Section 23 and 28

A Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order can be obtained by police, National Crime Agency (NCA) or immigration officers by making an application to court.

The STRO may be made if there is a risk that the defendant will commit a slavery or human trafficking offence, and that the Order is necessary to protect against the risk of harm from the defendant committing the offence. It may impose any restriction the Court deems necessary for the purposes of protecting the public from harm.

An Interim Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order will prohibit the defendant from doing anything described in the order and can be used where an application for a Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order is yet to be determined. STROs can be made for a minimum of 2 years, with no maximum duration. Breach is a criminal offence and could result in up to 5 years imprisonment.

Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders (STPO) Section 14

Police can obtain slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders, National Crime Agency (NCA) or immigration officers. The purpose is to prevent and prohibit convicted defendants from activities which enabled them to commit offences of human trafficking and slavery.

The court can impose any prohibition they deem necessary for the purpose of protecting an individual's physical or psychological harm.

STPOs on application enable the courts to place restrictions on individuals convicted or cautioned for modern slavery type offences whether the offence took place before or after Part 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which commenced on 31 July 2015. Convictions include spent convictions.

STPOs can be served for a minimum of five years and breach is an offence punishable with up to five years imprisonment.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements - Section 325

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides for the establishment of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements ("MAPPA") in each criminal justice areas in England and Wales. These are designed to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. They require the local criminal justice agencies and other bodies dealing with offenders to work together in partnership to co-ordinate the management of dangerous offenders. The police, prison and probation services are the 'responsible authorities for MAPPA.

Dangerous offenders including those involved in child exploitation can be considered for management through MAPPA if the appropriate criteria are met

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Forfeiture of Detained Cash - Section 298

Police Financial Investigation Units can apply to Magistrates for Forfeiture of Detained Cash after police have seized over £1000 of cash under Proceeds of Crime Act where they have reason to believe that the cash has been generated through criminal activity or is likely to be used to fund criminal activity.

Licensing Act 2003

Reviews of Licensed Premises

Partners can request a license review for a licensed premise where there are concerns that they are acting otherwise than in accordance with licensing conditions and the Licensing Act 2003.

Licensed premises have a duty to protect children on their premises from harm. Following the review, Licensing Departments may offer advice and education to the premises about adhering to their license conditions; to bring compliance, or they may prosecute them for breach of their license.

Where licensed premises are a location of concern relating to CCE, Licensing Teams should always be informed and consulted regarding possible action which could be taken.

Fire Services Act 2004

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service have powers of entry under the above and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Section 44 of the above act permits authorised employees of the fire and rescue authority (FRA) to do anything he reasonably believes is necessary if he reasonably believes a fire has broken out or is about to break out for the purpose of extinguishing or preventing the fire or protecting life or property and /or to limit damage to the property.

The employee of the FRA may enter premises by force if necessary without consent of the owner/ occupier of the premises in relation to the above actions.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Section 27 details the powers of inspectors and can be summarised as:

An inspector has the power at any reasonable time to enter premises where s/he has reason to believe it is necessary for the purpose of inspecting part or all of the premises. Reasonable time is generally 24 hrs notice. Premises are as defined by the order and generally cover all with the exception of domestic premises (private dwellings).

License Conditions and Enforcement of Court Ordered Community Sentences (NPS, CRC and YOS)

Adult prisoners released from prison are on license. The license has standard. These include to keep in touch with their probation officer, receive visits from them, permanently reside at an approved address, only undertake approved work not travel outside the UK without approval; be of good behaviour and not commit any offence. As well as these standard rules, extra conditions, like not contacting certain people or being excluded from certain areas can be added under some circumstances. If license conditions are not kept to penalties including recall to prison until the end of the original sentence can be imposed.

Young People released from prison are usually released on a DTO (Detention and Training order) license again additional license conditions can be added.

License conditions are agreed between either the Probation Services CRC or NPS (adults) or the Youth Offending Service and the prison service. In cases of adults or young people involved in CLN or USG license conditions should be discussed on a multi-agency basis to ensure a joined-up approach.

Adults and young people who do not comply with community-based sentences can also under certain circumstances be taken back to court and additional penalties or a different sentence imposed. Enforcement of community-based sentences is the responsibility of the CRC or NPS for adults and the Youth Offending Service for young people. A wide range of additional requirements can also be added to community sentences.

Tactical Options

VEHICLES AND TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) (Police)

Vehicles are a common feature of child criminal exploitation investigations, for example:

- To collect and transport victims
- Used by perpetrators for targeting and grooming potential victims

Police can use ANPR entries and PNC flags to ensure that vehicles believed to be being used for these purposes are stopped and checked regarding the presence of potential victims or evidence of CCE related activity and should submit Vehicle Registration Marks (VRM) to their intelligence teams to ensure that this takes place. It is essential that clear directions are given to officers who may stop the target vehicle in terms of action to be taken. The aims are safeguarding any vulnerable child in the vehicle, conducting full intelligence checks, and considering police protection.

Police should also obtain full details of all other occupants, taking positive action to arrest where appropriate or submitting details for intelligence purposes. It may be necessary for the vehicle to be

preserved for forensic examination.

Vehicle Telemetry (Police)

Where there are concerns that a vehicle is involved in trafficking then there are several other tactical options that could be considered for example use of vehicle trackers:

- NAVCIS (National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service) – have a dedicated member of staff who can contact any company asking whether a vehicle has been fitted with a tracker.
- OnStar – all new Vauxhall Motor vehicles, manufactured from August '15 have trackers fitted as mandatory (other than very small basic models).
- Most tracker companies will speak with law enforcement via a signed data protection form
- Many young drivers (under 25's) will have a vehicle telematics box fitted as a condition of their insurance
- 687,000 vehicles have now been fitted with Vodafone SIM's built in (primarily BMW).
- www.dcgfutures-academy.com – any member of law enforcement can register through DCG Futures. Within there is an OEM guide on what telematics are fitted to what vehicle, what data do they retain etc.
- Category 5 vehicles (vehicles £45,000 plus) should have a tracker installed
- Most tracking companies will also accept requests for investigations involving murder, manslaughter, rape, kidnap, and vulnerable / high risk mispers – on most occasions this service should be free.
- A HPI check (through a financial investigator) will indicate whether a vehicle is fitted with tracker.

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles

If a taxi or private hire vehicle or business is causing concern in relation to CCE incidents, consider:

- Liaising with Local Authority Licensing Service regarding compliance with legislation and conditions of license.
- Briefing police teams including CPMG and traffic police teams.
- Referral to Local Authority Licensing Service for consideration of suspension or revocation of license. These decisions can be made on the civil burden of proof – balance of probabilities.
- Submitting vehicle details for ANPR systems and flagging on PNC to ensure that vehicles believed to be being used for these purposes are stopped and checked regarding the presence of potential victims.
- Obtaining copies of operator records or vehicle journey logs and passenger information from private hire operator, Taxi circuit or taxi driver
- Prosecution if evidence is available of offences including child abduction, or trafficking.

Trains

In the case of becoming aware that drugs or young people are being transported via trains for the purposes of county lines networks contact the British Transport Police. For East text 61016 or Phone 0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk

Locations

Town Centres

In addition to considering other disruption options, if you identify locations of concern in city/town centres, e.g. fast food takeaways, bus stations or other particular locations, you should consider:

- Briefing police community support officers (PCSOs) and neighbourhood policing units (NPU) and requesting high visibility patrols.
- CCE awareness briefings to relevant staff from other agencies (local authority, security guards, town centre staff, bus station staff etc.)
- Reviewing available CCTV and tasking of CCTV operators (consider using warning notices regarding police patrols/CCTV etc.)
- Use of covert surveillance.
- Installing lighting if specific locations are identified.
- Outreach work in the area by youth service providers.

Children's Homes/ Parents/ Carers

Children's homes and parents and carers are important in disrupting CCE. To support them to do so, please consider the following:

- Liaise with providers/ parents/ carers to ensure that unauthorised absence incidents not reported to the police are being recorded by the local authority and patterns notified to the police.
- Provide providers/ parents/ carers with an allocated police officer who they can contact to discuss concerns or potential evidence regarding a child at risk of or experiencing CCE.
- Ensuring providers/ parents/ carers have sight of police/children's services action plans agreeing joint actions should the potential victim go missing. This ensures clear understanding of their responsibilities.
- Where possible providers/ parents/ carers should be briefed regarding identities, photos and vehicle details of potential perpetrators and supported to gather and submit intelligence regarding incidents, e.g. details of vehicles seen etc.
- Providers/ parents/ carers should be supported to enable them to collect potential sources of evidence, e.g. mobile 'phone lists (often kept by victims who fear their sim cards may be confiscated).
- High visibility patrols at relevant times by providers and where necessary by Police
- Consider moving the victim to new accommodation to prevent contact and break up groups of victims who may go missing together. Any placement move must be carried out in accordance

with statutory guidance and in consultation with the child's IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer).

Schools and Educational Premises including Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

In addition to considering other disruption options, if you have concerns regarding a school in relation to its pupils specifically being targeted, consider:

- CCE awareness briefings to all members of staff and pupils.
- Allocating a police officer to be a point of contact for school staff
- Regular meetings between police, local authority, and school designated safeguarding lead to discuss concerns and action plan for safeguarding pupils.
- Ensuring staff are aware how to report and submit intelligence via FIB form and tasking police intelligence with mapping this.
- School staff to record all unauthorised absence incidents, especially for those young people CCE concerns.
- Encouraging school not to exclude children and young people who are at risk of, or experiencing CCE, or reduce their timetable, as this means they have more 'free' time which places them at increased risk.
- High visibility patrols at relevant times by school staff and police.
- Covert observations and potentially mobile surveillance.

Other Options

Mobile phones (police)

Police can check mobile phone numbers to try to identify potential perpetrators or potential victims. In some circumstances, subscriber checks, and reverse billing enquiries can also be used to obtain intelligence.

- Patterns of phone calls may disclose evidential material of value, e.g. if a victim's missing episodes coincide with calls from particular numbers.
- Where possible, phones belonging to victims and potential perpetrators should be forensically examined as they may contain evidential material in the form of text messages, call logs, social media conversations.
- If the victim's mobile phone number is known but the victim is unwilling to hand the phone to police, an application can still be made by police to obtain details of all incoming and outgoing telephone calls. This information request is limited to a specified time frame is an option to consider on return from a missing episode.
- If police are able to gain possession of the relevant mobile phone either directly from the victim or via the parent/carer, it is possible to extract all relevant data from the phone, including text message content, photos etc. This procedure will be carried out by a phone examiner. In cases of high risk, it is possible for this data to be downloaded within a short time, therefore any unexpected possession of a victim's phone, no matter how short, may be an opportunity for data to be extracted. In order for e-forensics to be able to complete an

examination under normal circumstances, it would be preferable for them to have the phone for at least 12 - 24 hours.

- Billing and historic cell site enquiries can also be completed on the victim's mobile phone under the authority of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). The phone would not need to leave the child's possession for this to occur.
- Covert download of phone content (text/digital media/email) would require the phone to be taken into police possession for several hours. This would be beneficial following a missing episode. RIPA authority would be required to examine the content of the phone.

Facebook and Other Social Media

- The police can access open Facebook/Twitter pages without the owner being aware that the page is being viewed. Police should consider gaining the appropriate authority and RIPA legislation to gain further access.
- Facial recognition software could support with the identification of offenders from social media activity.

CCTV

- Police have several powers which they can use to seize CCTV to assist with investigations or disruptive activity. Housing authorities also have CCTV around their properties which they can share for safeguarding purposes, for example to ascertain who has entered a specified property of concern, or to identify whether a missing child has been to a particular property.

Asylum and Immigration

If you suspect that a perpetrator may be a recent arrival in the UK, or may be in the country illegally, you should make enquiries with UK Visa & Immigration Service to establish their immigration status. Contact Centre **0843 504 7198**

Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN)

GAIN is part of the Eastern Region Serious Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU) and supports investigations into criminal activity by identifying opportunities to disrupt and reduce the threat. GAIN officers can access a wide range of systems and databases to look at, for example the financial activities of perpetrators as well as legal documentation. Where police are unable to find evidence for charges, they should consider contacting GAIN for any evidence such as hotel visits, regular payments in or out of bank accounts etc. GAIN may also be useful when a perpetrator needs to be disrupted by any means, such as out of date vehicle documentation, tax evasion, benefits fraud etc.

SECTION 3 Resources and Information

What Works

There is **little evidence** about what works with children and young people involved or on the periphery of USG or CLN because so far relatively little research has been published in this area. There is more information about what works with young people and adults involved in offending and a little on what works to prevent youth violence. Children and young people involved in USG and CLN offer particular challenges however it is not unreasonable to suppose that these interventions and approaches are a good starting place for working with this specific group given the high degree of overlap in risk factors.

The following section starts by looking at **approaches to working with individuals and families** and **emerging practice**. It then goes on to look at a more **global approaches usually called the public health approach**. The public health approach section also includes a brief review of the available evidence on what is known to work for **high risk and gangs involved young people**. The section finishes with **What Doesn't Work**.

Effective Approaches to Reducing Offending

DESISTANCE

Desistance means 'ceasing and refraining from offending or other antisocial behaviour among those for whom offending had become a pattern of behaviour' (McNeil *et al.*, 2012 and Weaver and McNeil, 2008). The findings of research studies that have asked adult offenders about what helped them to stop committing crime or "desist" suggest that:

- Desistance is a **process** not a one off "light bulb moment". It is characterised by ambivalence and individuals will experience losses as well as gains as they desist from crime. This suggests the need for **motivational work** such as motivational interviewing to support change.
- Desistance may be provoked by **life events**. This might include getting a job or training entering a relationship or becoming a parent.
- Desistance may be promoted by someone 'believing' in the individual. This underlines the importance of workers sustaining an **optimistic and persistent** approach. Offering positive reinforcement for desired behaviours, together with seeing difficulties that arise as opportunities to model, teach and rehearse problem solving skills are useful.
- Desistance probably involves a change in how individuals see themselves. This suggests the need for **interventions which support positive identities**.
- Desistance is a process in which the ability to make choices and control one's own life is first discovered and then used. Discovering the ability to make choices and take control involves

taking a **collaborative approach** and **solution-focussed interventions that capitalise on strengths, resilience, and protective factors**.

- Desistance requires wider opportunities to make progress in the world. This suggests an **advocacy** role for practitioners seeking to support change.
- Desistance is often about 'redemption' or restoration and may be encouraged by providing opportunities to make a positive contribution to local communities or individuals. This suggests that **restorative justice and reparation** are important.
- In terms of **gender**, one study found that whilst young men often explained desistance in broadly utilitarian terms (crime no longer 'worked' for them), young women more often alluded to the moral dimension of crime and felt a sense of guilt or shame. Suggesting the need for a different approach for girls and young women.

EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS

There is promising evidence that the following areas and types of intervention are more likely to be effective.

Parenting – research has identified growing peer socialisation amongst young people who offend and the fact that British children in general spend less time with their parent than in other European countries. Supporting effective parental supervision and delivering interventions which help parents to fulfil their roles more effectively are therefore vitally important. Suffolk has a range of evidence-based programmes including **Triple P**.

Restorative Justice – Restorative approaches have also provided promising outcomes when applied specifically to children and young people. Restorative Justice. The Restorative Justice Council's Best Practice Guidance for Restorative Practice (2011) defines Restorative Justice (RJ) as processes which 'bring those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward'. Studies have shown that high quality direct RJ can reduce repeat offending by 14-27%. RJ can take the form of direct contact between the offender(s) and victim(s) or indirect communication involving third parties who assist communication.

Activities that are based on **skills acquisition**, take place in a group setting, have a clear hierarchy, involve positive interaction with authority figures and constructive activities seem to have a protective effect (for example sports and drama) provided they are integrated into a broader programme of work.

Activities which involve working towards a **long-term goal** in which skills are acquired appear to be protective, for example cadet type training.

Intervention to improve educational skills and achievements, employment skills and experience and general life skills have potential.

Helping young people build new positive relationships and increasing contact between young people and positive members of their **community** also appear beneficial.

Mentoring programmes appear, to be a promising approach but are **unlikely to be enough by themselves**. They also need to be of sufficient duration.

Interventions which are based on cognitive behavioural methods have also been identified as effective. For example:

- **Social Skills Training** - uses a range of techniques to improve social interaction. For example, modelling or role playing that includes feedback and practice to improve performance.
- **Problem Solving Training** - This form of intervention enhances problem solving skills
- **Self- Instructional Training** - aims to foster a 'cognitive restructuring', through developing an alternative 'inner speech' as a mechanism for achieving changes in behaviour.
- **Moral Reasoning** - training exposes individuals to a range of moral dilemmas through discussion and decision-making exercises.

For more information see the Suffolk Youth Justice Effective Intervention Strategy

Evidence Based Programmes for Working with 'High Risk' and Complex Cases

The Department of Education (2011) identified the following programmes as effective for children or young people on the edge of care or custody (high risk). Overall the programmes identified have some similar characteristics which are worth noting. They are **intensive, strengths based** and rely on an **assertive outreach approach** and all involve working with the **child or young person and the family/carers**. Evidence from a range of contexts indicates that for young people with complex problems involvement with young people and parents should be frequent and sustained over a considerable period to have a lasting impact.

- **Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care:** MTFC works with children and adolescents with a range of complex problem behaviours, including conduct problems and offending behaviours.
- **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST):** MST is a preventive programme aimed at 11-17 year olds with severe behavioural problems. The MST programme works intensively with families in the community for 3-5 months.

Effective Interventions for Youth Violence

The key features of programmes that have been found to work for youth violence are:

Seeking to create positive change in the lives of young people and/or their families, as well as prevent negative outcomes. For example, giving young people the skills to help them make healthy life choices, resist peer pressure, and manage conflict, or strengthening the ability of families to tackle problems together.

Schools-based or family-focused interventions involving skills practice, parent training, or therapy. These programmes often take wider risk factors into consideration such as peer groups and family problems. The programmes were interactive in nature, enabling young people to practise the skills they were being taught and families to practise effective communication and problem-solving strategies with guidance and feedback from an instructor/therapist.

Family Therapy and Trauma Informed Therapy In the highest risk children and families, both family and trauma informed therapy were found to be effective.

Skilled facilitators: Nearly all the effective programmes identified required or recommended trained facilitators with experience of working with children and families.

Implementation fidelity: Sticking to the original programme specification and ensuring good implementation quality is often crucial, in terms of both ensuring and/or maximising effectiveness and avoiding harm.

Adapted from the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) Overview Report on Preventing Gang and Youth Violence 2015.

Emerging Practice

Contextual Safeguarding is an emerging approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm outside of their families. It recognises young people form a range of relationships outside the family including with peers, schools, their neighbourhood, and online which can feature violence and abuse. Contextual safeguarding expands the objectives of safeguarding to recognise that young people are vulnerable in a number of contexts and that parents and carers may have little influence over some of these contexts. The approach stresses the need for practitioners to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over them and recognise that assessment of, and intervention within, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices with adolescents.

Adapted from Contextual Safeguarding Briefing University of Bedfordshire November 2017

Public Health Approach

The following is adapted from the Lambeth Serious Violence Needs Assessment (2015) which included an evidence review conducted by the Public Health Team for Lambeth. **Criminal justice interventions and strategies to mitigate societal risk factors such as poverty and unemployment were not included** in the review which was done from a public health perspective and sought to mitigate violence over the life course given the strong association between being a victim of trauma, violence and/or abuse and going on to use violence against others.

Best practice interventions

Early Childhood

There is considerable evidence that interventions which encourage **safe, nurturing, and stable** relationships between parents and children, and improve child mental health and behaviour, are effective for the prevention of violence. Effective interventions are:

Home visiting programmes that provide intensive and long term early years support for vulnerable parents. For example, *Family Nurse Partnerships* (FNPs) Outcomes include improved parenting skills, improved maternal mental health, fewer childhood behaviour problems, and reduced child neglect/abuse. New evidence suggests that targeting FNP Programmes towards families with a history of domestic abuse would protect a greater number of children and be more cost-effective.

Recognition and management of children with conduct disorders – there are well-established links between early conduct problems and subsequent criminal behaviour. One review found that the largest impact on crime reduction could be achieved by the implementation of evidence-based programmes to reduce the prevalence and severity of conduct problems in childhood. *NICE guidance on recognition and management of children and young people with conduct disorders* should be followed.

Universal risk assessments for parenting - the Department for Education and the Wave Trust recommend an assessment of maternal mental health during pregnancy, universal assessment of parent-infant bonding at 3 to 4 months, and *clearly identified care pathways involving pre-natal home visits for those women* identified as being at risk.

Evidence based parenting programmes – including programmes targeted at parents of children with behavioural problems. *The implementation of parenting programmes is key to their effectiveness.* A recent report from the Centre for Mental Health found that improvements in outcomes from well-implemented programmes can be two to three times bigger than outcomes from poorly implemented ones. Programmes which are poorly implemented can make children's behaviour worse.

The Center for the Prevention and Study of Violence at the US Centers for Disease Control has found that the most effective early childhood programmes have many different elements and are *designed to tackle the family's and children's relationship to school, the neighbourhood, and the community* – not only how the family functions as a unit

Developing social and life skills in children and young people

There is evidence that programmes that aim to nurture social and life skills in children are effective for prevention of violence and at-risk behaviours particularly when targeted at troubled children and children with deprived backgrounds. Effective interventions are:

Pre-school programmes – that help develop children's social, emotional, and cognitive skills. Pre-school programmes targeted at children with early signs of behavioural problems are particularly important.

Primary school programmes - school based programmes which emphasise the importance of social skills can lead to reduced aggression, hyperactivity, and disruptive behaviour. One example is

the ***PATHS programme in primary schools***. The evidence is not strong for educational or skills-based programmes targeted at older children and young adults, such as programmes on dating and relationship violence.

Bullying prevention programmes - school-based programmes that aim to reinforce social norms and enforce school rules are also effective.

Working with high risk young people

There is some evidence for interventions aimed at **high risk youths and gangs**.

Assessment of health and wellbeing of young offenders - should be built into local protocols so that young people who are emotionally or socially vulnerable and/or have mental health issues can be identified and helped.

Mental well being - there is much interest in grass-roots programmes that aim to address mental health problems in high risk young people. One such example is Mac-UK's Integrate© model which brings mental health services to the street. The Mac-UK model is currently being evaluated.

Hospital based programmes - for young people attending A&E who are injured through violence have shown positive results. These programmes involve brief psychological interventions, referrals to specialist services, mentoring, and youth services. For example; **Red Thread**.

School-based initiatives - evidence is emerging from the US in favour of school-based diversion initiatives that target young people with mental health problems. Aiming to build capacity and skills among teachers and school staff to recognise and manage behavioural health crises in schools instead of contacting the police, outcomes include fewer suspensions and expulsions and lower rates of re-offending.

Gang-focused strategies – there is little formal research on effective ways to prevent gang involvement, and only limited evidence of effectiveness. The favoured approach, developed in the US and now being adopted in the UK, is that of the *Comprehensive Gang Model* featuring targeted and group-based social interventions offering support and help, enhanced enforcement against the group as well as individuals, provision of social opportunities for at risk youth and community mobilisation involving agencies and citizens. This model was a key point of reference in the development of *Operation Ceasefire*, developed in the City of Boston in the 1990s. A modified version has been adopted in the UK in Glasgow and Manchester.

Environmental Design

Research has considered how crime can be “designed out” of the built environment, building on principles such as defensible space, CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), situational crime prevention and broken windows theory. Several studies in the US have found a strong association between violent crime and vacant properties and abandoned land. Other research has shown how green space can help to improve cognitive function, self-discipline, reduce aggression and reduced crime.

Changing social and cultural norms that support violence There is a lack of good evidence for interventions that challenge social and cultural values and aim to make violence less acceptable. This includes the use of mass media for delivering violence prevention messages.

Brain injury and violent behaviour

Research shows a strong link between **traumatic brain injury (TBI) and violent behaviour**. There is a very high prevalence of TBI in offenders in custody. Good practice interventions include

Violence risk assessments for people who have experienced a traumatic brain injury, particularly for those in higher risk groups such as offenders and people who are engaged in alcohol or substance misuse.

A single comprehensive health screening tool for young offenders which includes assessment of neuro-disability.

Tools and training for agencies and services involved with young people so that there is early identification and referral for neuro -disability.

Access to specialist services and local diversion and liaison services for young offenders with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Multi-agency forums as an effective way of considering a set of complex interconnected issues.

Adapted from The Lambeth Serious Violence Needs Assessment (2015)

What Doesn't Work

A number of studies have identified that unstructured psychotherapy, non-directive client centred counselling, and measures intended to punish or deter young people away from crime like 'Scared Straight' prison visits militaristic type programmes and boot camps do not appear to deliver long term benefit in reducing offending, and in fact can increase offending rates (Newman *et al.*, 2012).

Interventions mainly aimed at individuals or groups should be supported through the use of other measures such as enforcement, disruption, or community- based measures. See section 2.

Section 3 Resources

Childline <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/gangs/>

Children's Society Criminal Exploitation and County Lines: A toolkit for working with children and young people, December 2017

https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/toolkit_criminal_exploitation_and_county_lines.pdf

The Children's Society, Victim Support and National Police Chiefs Council: Capturing and Reporting Intelligence on CSE and CE. Guidance for Families, Professionals and Communities.

<https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20Cap%20Intel%20Toolkit.pdf>

The Children's Society County Lines County Lines and Gangs Resources

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources>

Contextual Safeguarding website www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk

Fearless website www.fearless.org

Home Office – Criminal Exploitation of Children and Young People Guidance for professionals July 2017 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

Law Stuff - gives free legal information to children and young people which is targeted at children and young people at <https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/get-legal-advice/advice-for-young-people/>

IMPACT Resources; Mindset Programme – Tackling Offending and Gangs and Weapons (Via Suffolk Youth Offending Service or Diversion Programme)

I'm a Gun – YouTube documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAcVrIAWuU4>

Knife free - <https://www.knifefree.co.uk/know-the-risks/>

Missing People / Safecall - for young people caught up in gangs or CLN www.missingpeople.org.uk

Serious and Organised Crime Interactive Toolkit www.infed.org - Full toolkit including session plans and DVD's for use with young people.

St Giles Trust run the Jubilee Mentoring Project in Ipswich www.stgilestrust.org.uk
info@stgilestrust.org.uk

Suffolk Youth Justice Service resource <https://www.suffolkyos.co.uk/>

'Trapped' – County Lines short video on YouTube about grooming
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLhGpS1f-F0>

Useful telephone numbers/contact details

National

Barnardo's Trafficking Support Line (0800 043 4303) can offer advice on safeguarding for trafficking victims and can support the completion of NRM Referrals.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) can offer advice on safeguarding, disruption and prosecution relating to trafficking. Telephone 08447782406 e-mail modern.slavery@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk

Asylum and Immigration Contact Centre 0843 504 7198

Childline 0800 11111

Missing People Runaway Helpline 116 000

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Local

MASH Professionals Consultation Line 0345 6061499 mash@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Make A Change Team Email: makeachangeteam@suffolk.gov.uk + Customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk – 0800 800 4005

Suffolk Youth Offending Service

- North (Riverside Centre, Lowestoft) – 01502 674880
- West (West Suffolk House, Bury St. Edmunds) – 01284 758230
- South (The InfoBar, Ipswich) – 01473 260110. Add secure email

Further Reading and References

ALDCS. The response of London Children's Services to serious youth violence and knife crime – May 2018 <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/34039>

Advice to parent and carers on gangs helping young people make the right choices 2014
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345337/AdviceParentsCarersGangs14.pdf

Catch 22 Dawes Unit July 2015 Running the Risks, the link between gang involvement and young people going missing <http://www.catch-22.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Catch22-Dawes-Unit-Running-The-Risks-full-report.pdf>

Catch 22 Dawes Unit Oct 2013 Violence prevention, health promotion: A public health approach to tackling youth violence
https://www.cypnow.co.uk/digital_assets/Violence_prevention_health_promotion_-_FINAL%5B2%5D_copy.pdf

Catch 22 Dawes Unit social media as a catalyst and trigger for youth violence. <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/social-media-as-a-catalyst-and-trigger-for-youth-violence/>

Centre for Social Justice 2009 Dying to Belong - An in-depth review of street gangs in Britain
<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/publications/dying-to-belong>

Children's Commissioner 2017 Children's Voices A review of evidence on the subjective wellbeing of children involved in gangs

The Childrens Society <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/appg-missing-gangs-andexploitation-roundtable-report.pdf>

Criminal Law & Justice Weekly <https://www.criminallawandjustice.co.uk/features/Running-County-Lines>

Early Intervention Foundation 2015 - Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: Spotting Signals of Risk and Supporting Children and Young People an Overview
<http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/preventing-gang-and-youth-violence/>

Early Intervention Foundation 2015 **Preventing Gang and Youth Violence: A review of risk and protective factors.** <http://www.eif.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/R4-Risk-and-protective-factors-final.pdf>

Early Intervention Foundation 2015 - **What Works to Prevent Gang Involvement, Youth Violence and Crime.** A Rapid Review of Interventions Delivered in UK and Abroad <http://www.eif.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Final-R2-WW-Prevent-Gang-Youth-Violence-final.pdf>

Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-gang-violence-and-exploitation>

F Factor, J Pitts and T Bateman, 2015 Beyond Youth Custody - *Gang Involved Young People Custody and Beyond* <http://www.beyondyouthcustody.net/wp-content/uploads/Gang-involved-young-people-custody-and-beyond-a-research-report.pdf>

HM Government Guidance 2010 – Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288804/Safeguarding_children_Gang_activity.pdf

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation Inspection report ‘Desistance and Young People’, 2016.

https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/05/Desistance_and_young_people.pdf

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation Inspection report. The Work of YOTs to Protect the Public

2017 <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/12/HMI-Probation-Annual-Report-2017lowres.pdf>

Home Office 2015 - Addressing Youth Violence and Gangs practical advice for schools and colleges

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf

HM Government 2011 – Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Final Report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-gang-and-youth-violence-cross-government-report>

Joint Thematic Review 2010. – Management of gang issues amongst children and young people in prison custody and community

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/the-management-of-gang-issues-among-children-and-young-people-in-prison-custody-and-the-community-a-joint-thematic-review/>

Lambeth Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2015 <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/violence-in-lambeth-research-and-needs-assessment-2015>

NACRO annual report <https://www.nacro.org.uk/publication-type/annual-report-201617/>

National Crime Agency A County Lines Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply (2017)

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/832-county-lines-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2017/file>

National Crime Agency Report August 2015 County Lines, Gangs and Safeguarding

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/620-nca-intelligence-assessment-county-lines-gangs-and-safeguarding/file>

Office of Children’s Commissioner 2013 – “If only someone had listened”, *CSE in gangs and groups* <http://socialwelfare.bl.uk/subject-areas/services-client-groups/children-young-people/childrenscommissioner/ifonly13.aspx>

Public Health England 2015 -The mental health needs of gang affiliated young people
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-needs-of-gang-affiliated-young-people>

ROTA 2011 “This is it. This is my life...”.Impact of Serious Youth Violence and Criminal Gangs on Women and Girls <http://www.rota.org.uk/content/rota-march-2011-female-voice-violence-project-final-report-it-my-life>

Youth Justice Legal Centre <http://www.yjlc.uk/exploitation-children-county-lines-gangs-children-safeguarded-notprosecuted>

University of Suffolk 2017 – Preventing the Violent and Sexual Victimization of Vulnerable Gang-involved and Gang-affected Children and Young People in Ipswich
<https://www.uos.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Final%20Amended%20Report%20FINAL%20VERSION%20PDF.pdf>

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-t/supporting_documents/Working%20Together%20to%20Safeguard%20Children.pdf

Appendix A – Terminology and Definitions

Membership

Gang Associated – Interacting socially with gang members, through shared location, hobbies or pastimes, friendships, or family links.

Gang Involved - Not a constituent member of a gang or necessarily subscribing to its norms and values but intermittently co-opted willingly or not to participate in some of its illegal activities.

Wannabes – Aspirants who whilst subscribing to gang norms, values, dress code, signs, and signals, have not been accepted into the gang and are not involved in its illegal activities.

Runners and Shotters - usually aged between 12 and 15 and are those young people involved in the movement of drugs between older members, sell drugs on the streets, arrange street deals, and stay in 'trap' houses where drugs are sold or made

Youngers – generally aged under 18. They have some level of authority over runners and shotters, are street dealers of class A or B drugs, can set up trap houses, and will report directly to the elders

Elders – generally aged over 18. They are in charge of running street operations and trap houses, deal in larger amounts of class A and B drugs, facilitate the purchase of firearms and other weapons, have authority over street dealers and youngers who respect the elder's position of power within the gang.

Faces, Olders – There will be limited contact with street level operations by these individuals, they will not often be seen or known by the street level members of the gang

Girls and Women

- **Wifey** – girlfriends.
- **Baby mama** – young women who have children with gang-involved males
- **Links** – Young women in casual sexual relationships.

Rep reputation and status.

Talent known threat

Other

Cuckooing – the practice of taking over the home of a vulnerable person to deal drugs most commonly a local drug user. This is achieved either by paying them in drugs, by building up a drug debt or by using threats and/or violence in order to coerce them. In other cases, group members have entered into relationships with vulnerable females in order to use their properties.

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse. Taken from the Children's Society CE Toolkit 2017

Plugging' (concealing drugs internally).

'Going country', 'going cunch', 'OT' are all terms used for running drugs to other areas (see County Lines)

Trap - any place where drugs are being exchanged.

Trap House - a house where drugs are sold.

Vulnerable Children – There is no one definition of a vulnerable child. The Children's Commissioner 2017 identified 32 groups of children who were more likely to be vulnerable. The groups were:

- **Legal social care status** = Child in Care, Care Leaver, Child in Need. subject to Child Protection, Adopted children. Children subject to Special Guardianship Order or in Secure Detention.
- **Health** - Children with Special educational need or Mental or Physical Health issues.
- **Income** – a child who is homeless, in insecure housing, in poverty or parents with low income. **Family** in 'troubled' family, a young carer, parent misuse substances, teenage parent, non-intact family. Limited parental capacity.
- **Immigration status** Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker, undocumented, etc.
- **Education** – not in education, training or employment (NEET) or nearly NEET excluded or a at risk of exclusion.
- **Youth Justice System**, young offenders, involved in gangs.
- **Other** missing or absent, gender minority or LGBT, victim of modern slavery or trafficking and childhood experience of trauma or abuse.