

# County Lines

Please note, this is a sensitive topic that impacts many people. If you find that this has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team.

## **Safeguarding support options**

Ways to access support if you are worried for yourself or someone else:

- Call us on 07808 050273 or email [safeguarding@qa.com](mailto:safeguarding@qa.com)
- Complete a [Safeguarding Self-Referral Form](#) if the concern relates to you.
- Complete a [Safeguarding Referral Form](#) if you are worried about someone else.



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## County Lines:

### What is County Lines?

The 2018 Home Office Serious Crime Strategy states the NPCC definition of a County Line is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. [County Lines - National Crime Agency](#)



**Exploitation of young and vulnerable people** A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement. In some cases, the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing

### How do you know if County Lines drug dealing is happening in your area?

Some signs to look out for:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g. different accents compared to local accent)
- Change in resident's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g. clothes, jewellery, cars...)

## Activity Video:

Please watch the following video to learn more about County Lines and consider the questions below. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdYq2dhQ3qc>



### **Questions to consider:**

Can you remember the 6 key themes, which ones stood out the most to you?

Were you aware of this topic before you took part in this learning activity?

What have you learnt the most?

Who can you report County lines to?

