



# GOVERNOR BRIEFINGS

## Autumn Term 2018

# Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) County Lines

For Education Professionals.



The UK Governments 'Serious Violence Strategy 2018' defines County Lines and CCE as

*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 forms of a "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.*

*Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity*

- in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or*
- for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or*
- through violence or the threat of violence.*

*The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

# County lines in Norfolk

At the moment we do not have a full picture of what County Lines means for Norfolk's children. We do know that of the 80 young people we are aware of in Norwich that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

We have a police analyst working with us to determine data re risks, hotspots, locations, ages, etc

We are aware that at any time in Norfolk there is approximately between 30 and 40 county lines coming in from the major cities, mainly London – it is likely to be a lot higher

We also know that the lines make between £3000 and £5000 a day

It is likely that up to 1000 people, including children, may be connected to 1 line

We know that :

- Young people from out of county are 'being sent/moved/trafficked to Norfolk to carry, distribute and 'deal' drugs.
- Young people from Norfolk are sent/trafficked to London (or towns/cities elsewhere) to collect drugs, sell drugs, move money and/or are being sent to 'trap-houses' to 'work'.
- Young people from Norfolk are being used to be 'enforcers' – use violence to intimidate, threaten or punish others.
- Young people from Norfolk are recruiting and exploiting others to sell drugs

# What does this mean for education providers?

We know that gangs are recruiting, grooming and coercing children and young people from around education settings.

‘They’ are also targeting and setting up trap houses in places where young people spend time, ie. parks, near schools, colleges, short stay schools and alternative provisions.

Grooming is sometimes on social media and they will target those children who seem to struggle at school or who have reduced hours and offer them alternatives which might meet an emotional need.

Young people can be collected and retuned to school during the main core hours and due to the negative behaviours of some young people this might be misinterpreted as truancy.

Children who are excluded, have online learning at home and attendance issues are also at high risk of being targeted.

## Examples of young people NYOT and the CCE team work with -

14 year old boy - stopped and searched on the street by 'men' for 'plugging' (carrying drugs inside him)

15 year old boy - pulled out of his house, forced to his knees on the pavement, a gun put to his head

Numerous stabbings unreported, 13 year old helped friend sew up the stab wound

Boys and girls age 12 – 17 – taken overdose and self harmed as they feel no way out

Multiple boys age 14 plus - using sex as control and punishment with girls and boys

14 year old girls paid to assault other girls

Boys and girls taken around the county to hotels – given 'Xanax and valleys' so they cannot / do not have to remember what happens!

Girls being threatened to smuggle drugs and phones into prisons inside their body

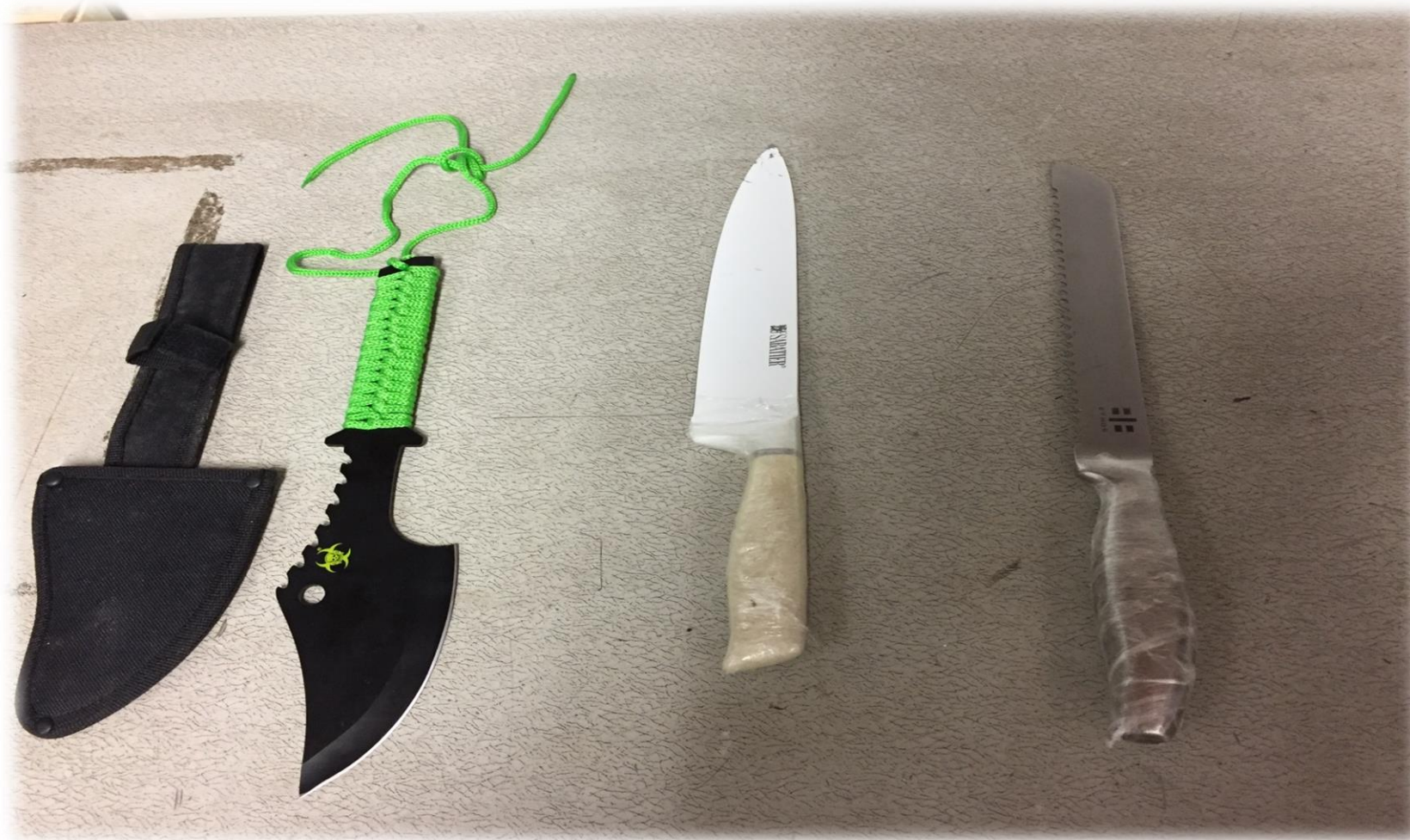
# What are the signs and indicators of CCE?

- Frequent missing episodes and being found out of area.
- Missing may not always be at night – unexplained absences during the day
- Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or dishevelled appearance/ looks unwell
- Unexplained amounts of money, mobile phones, credit, clothing, 'sexy' underwear, sex toys, jewellery, new haircuts or other items and gifts.
- Being arrested out of area — especially for drug related offences.
- Found with large quantities of drugs or money.
- Found with 'homemade' blades, knives or weapons.
- Change in behaviour, i.e. secretive, withdrawn, isolated, or not mixing with usual friends
- Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school, college, training or employment



- Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including the use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence
- Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to them
- Increased interest in making money
- Reports of being taken to parties, people's houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults or taken to make music videos,
- Increasing use of drugs or alcohol
- Fear of reprisal or violence from young people or adults
- Anxiety of or unusual use of social media
- Pregnancy and STI's

Weapons, but not just knives...



# What you can do

- Build trust with the young person/ make no judgements/ offer listening / support
- **Be curious, you might be the only person who has noticed a change**
- Take note – ie of taxis dropping them off or collecting when they don't have a need for this / who are the friends / music or music videos do they like
- If they are missing from school, lessons, consider if this is linked to exploitation
- Build on young persons strengths and resilience and needs
- Share information / concerns – (it builds a picture **but beware** who has access to the information and ensure its sensitivity is noted)
- Ensure your safeguarding procedures are followed – contact CADS – request consultation CCE Team
- Have a strategy and be linked to a single multi-agency plan for those young people of concern
- Link in with parents /carers as appropriate
- Think about language used
- Be vigilant of those young people with multiple risk factors and make no assumptions

# CCE Team

We are multi-agency with staff from YOT, Children's Services and the Police and are linked with various agencies including the voluntary sector.

The CCE team will support four key aims:

- Raising awareness and training re CCE.
- Offer consultation and advice for front line staff and their managers.
- Diversion and Intervention.
- Enforcement

Email address to book consultations / queries

**[cce-yot@norfolk.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:cce-yot@norfolk.gcsx.gov.uk)**

## Further information and links

NCC

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines)

Norfolk Police - Operation Gravity

[www.norfolk.police.uk/news/campaigns/operation-gravity](http://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/campaigns/operation-gravity)

UK Home Office

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines)

National Crime Agency

Barnardo's

Saferlondon

NSPCC

The Children's Society

Crimestoppers