

Safety Presentation - Parents

COUNTY LINES



**EXPLOITATION – KNOWING
THE FACT, IDENTIFY THE SIGNS**

West Midlands
POLICE



Child Criminal Exploitation



often occurs **without the child's immediate recognition**, with the child believing 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 being characterised in the main by the **child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability**

What is County Lines

Criminal exploitation is known as 'county lines' and is when gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell class A drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs.



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Children as young as 12 are being put in danger by criminals who are taking advantage of how vulnerable these young people are.

How does it all work?

Urban Locality



Vehicles



Rail



VULNERABILITY / EXPLOITATION

The Line



Smaller Locality



Class A drugs



Another CL enterprise



Existing local group



Increase in violence



Modern Slavery



Human Trafficking



Drug Users



Cuckoo addresses



Vulnerable females

What is the attraction?



Family

Parental Supervision
Work commitments
Domestic Violence
Drugs
Alcohol
Deprivation
Social Issues
Housing Issues

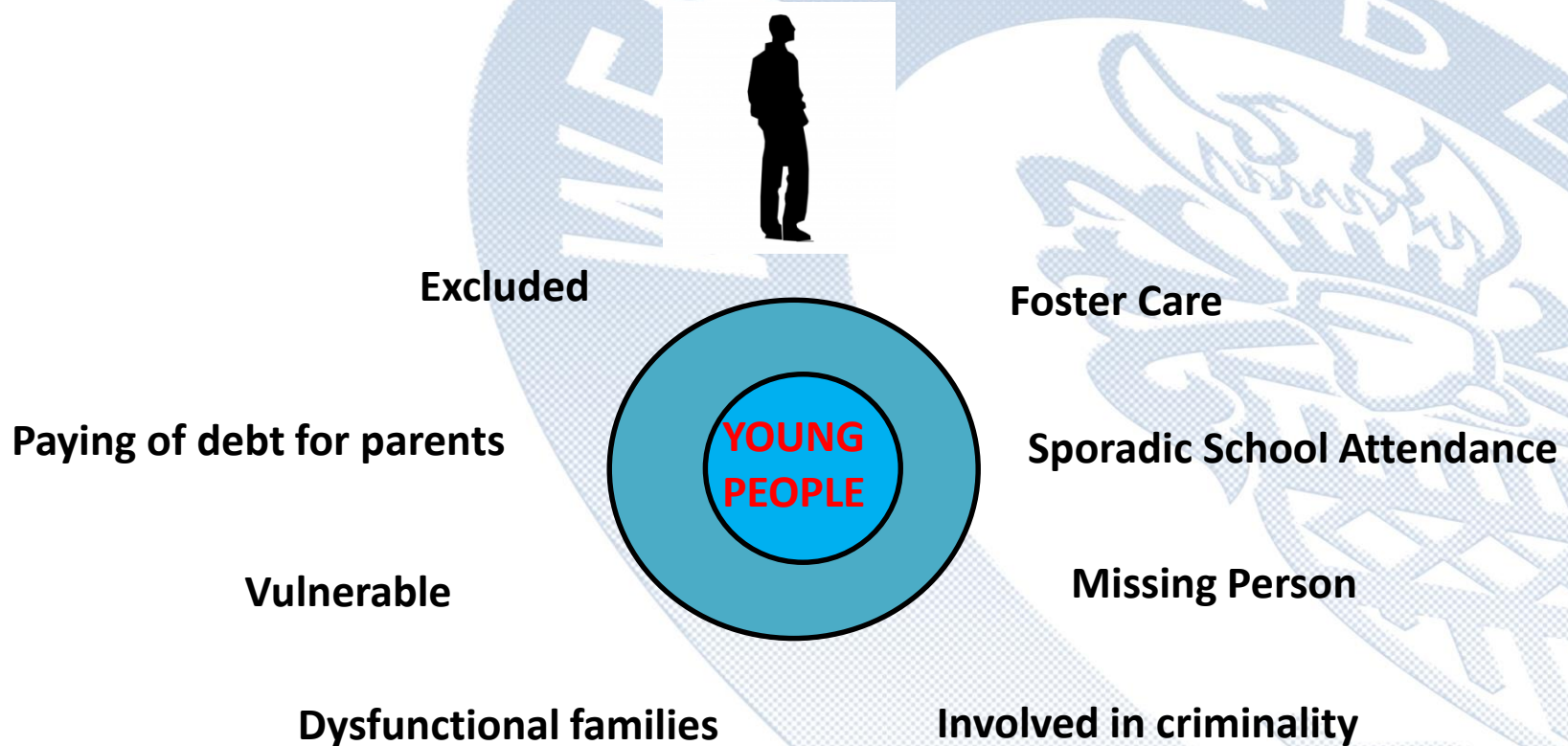
Young Person

Personal
Space
Enjoyment
Belonging
Attention
Wealth

Organised Gangs

Fun
Parties
Friendship
Money
Protection
Nice Cars

What type of young people do they target?



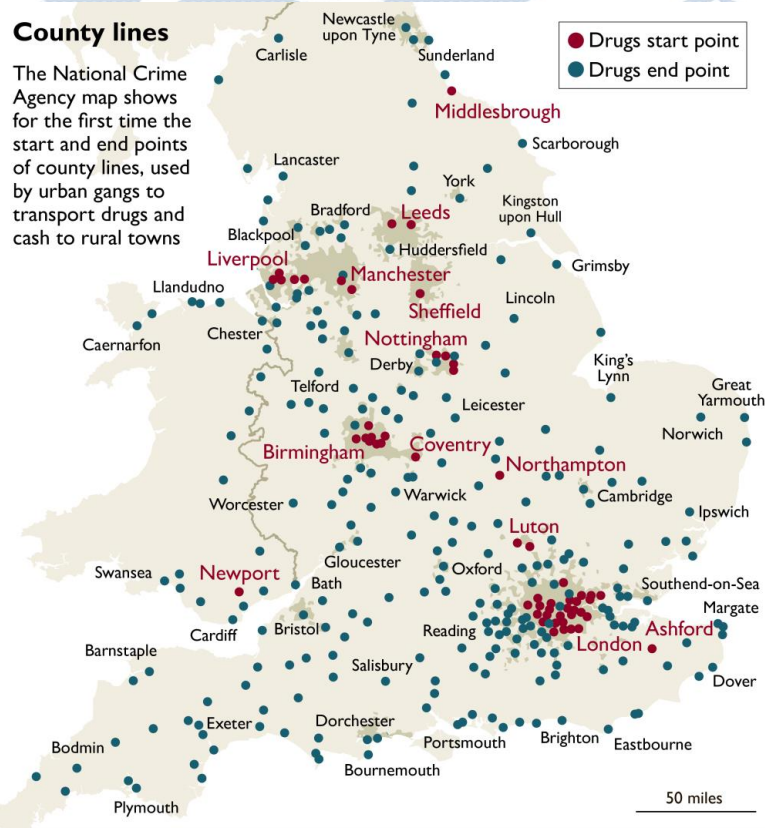
Where do the young people go?

Locations where
West Midlands
gangs are having
an impact on:

- Scotland
- East Midlands
- Eastern Region
- South East
- South West
- South Wales



Where do the young people go?





What do I look out for?

What are the signs of criminal exploitation and county lines?

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled
- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places.



COMMON TERMS USED BY INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN COUNTY LINES

CUCKOOING

This is when drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable individual and use it as their base for selling/manufacturing drugs. Commonly, drug users are targeted and are offered "free" drugs in exchange.

GOING COUNTRY

This is the most popular term that describes county lines activity. It can also mean the act of travelling to another city/town to deliver drugs or money.

TRAPPING

The act of selling drugs. Trapping can refer to the act of moving drugs from one town to another or the act of selling drugs in one.

TRAP HOUSE

A building used as a base from where drugs are sold (or sometimes manufactured). These houses usually are occupied by someone (usually adult drug users but sometimes young people are forced to stay in trap houses) location.

TRAP LINE

This refers to when someone owns a mobile phone specifically for the purpose of running and selling of drug.

How can it impact on my family?

Disruption to siblings

Missing from home

Extorting money from parent



Disruption to family members

Damage to property

Stealing from the family home

Unwanted people attending the home address

Hiding items involved in criminality in the family home



TRAPPED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLhGpS1f-F0>



What should I do?

It's important to know that **you are not alone** and not to blame. There are many parents and carers in similar situations and there are things you can do to help protect your child:

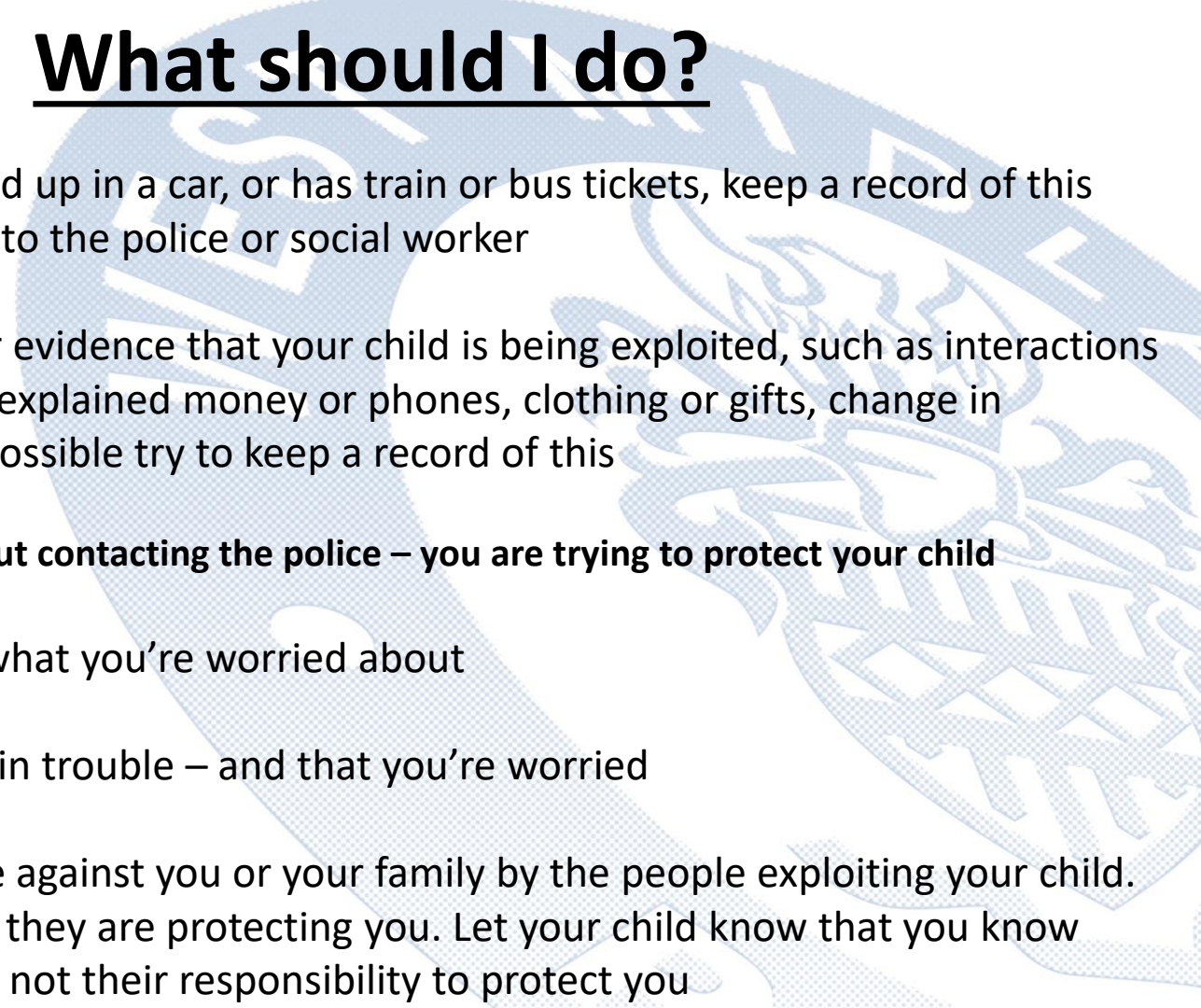
- Report your concerns to Children's Social Care. A social worker can help you take steps to protect your child. They will make an assessment based on concern your child is at risk of harm from outside of the family.
- If you would like more support, go to other professionals who can help: your GP, school, family support worker, youth support worker or the police.

You can report your concerns to the police and say 'I suspect my child is being trafficked for criminal exploitation'.

- If your child isn't where they are supposed to be, report them missing straight away on 101. **You do not have to wait 24 hours.**



What should I do?



- If your child is picked up in a car, or has train or bus tickets, keep a record of this information to give to the police or social worker
- There may be other evidence that your child is being exploited, such as interactions on social media, unexplained money or phones, clothing or gifts, change in behaviour; where possible try to keep a record of this

Don't be worried about contacting the police – you are trying to protect your child

- Speak to your child about what you're worried about
- Let them know they aren't in trouble – and that you're worried
- There may be threats made against you or your family by the people exploiting your child. Your child may believe that they are protecting you. Let your child know that you know about this risk and that it is not their responsibility to protect you



Who can help?

- If you are concerned about your child's immediate safety call the police on 999
- If you have concerns about your child which are not immediate, please contact your Local Children's Services Safeguarding team or the NSPCC's helpline on 0808 800 5000
- If your child wants to talk to someone they can call ChildLine: 0800 1111 or Get Connected: 0808 808 4994 (text 80849).



www.childline.org.uk

Tel: 08001111

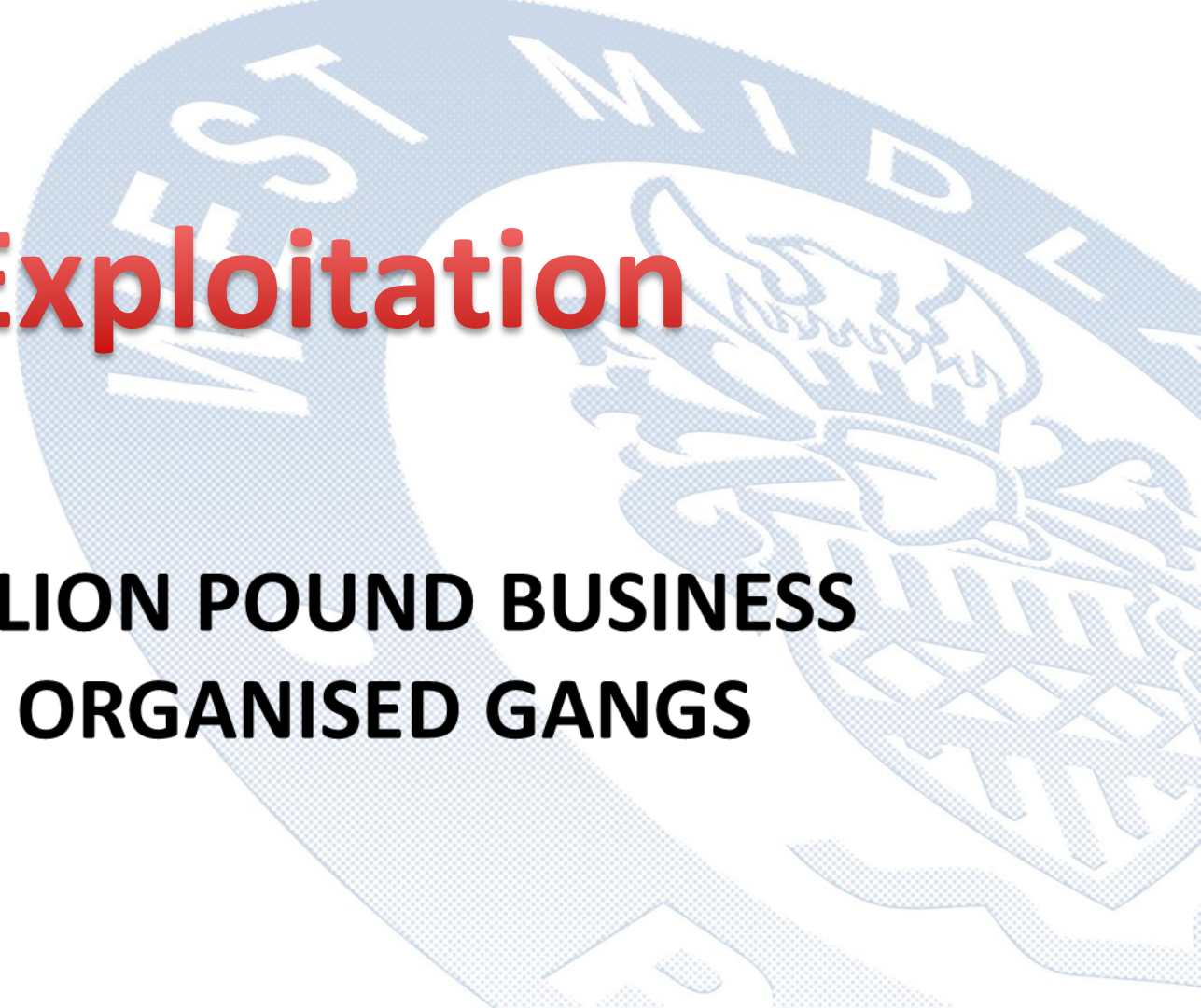


Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Tel: 08088005000





Exploitation

**A 2 BILLION POUND BUSINESS
FOR ORGANISED GANGS**



Helping young people



Keeping them safe





Preventing crime, protecting the public
and helping those in need
west-midlands.police.uk