

Safeguarding at Redhill

Focus—County Lines

What are County Lines?

'County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users. Heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine are the most common drugs being supplied and ordered. In most instances, the users or customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

What should I be vigilant for?

- An increase in visitors (including 'new faces') and cars to a house or flat
- New faces appearing at the house or flat
- Change in mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g. clothes, jewellery, cars etc.)
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries

What can I do if I have a concern?

- If you believe a child is at immediate risk dial 999
- Call 101 if you believe that a crime has been committed
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
- Make a referral to Social Services on 0300 555 0050

Where can I find more information?

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.youngminds.org.uk

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

<https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/changes/dspbb/>



SAFEGUARDING



**Dudley Safeguarding
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