

Children and Families Advisory Panel 8 February 2022

County Lines and Local Drugs Networks

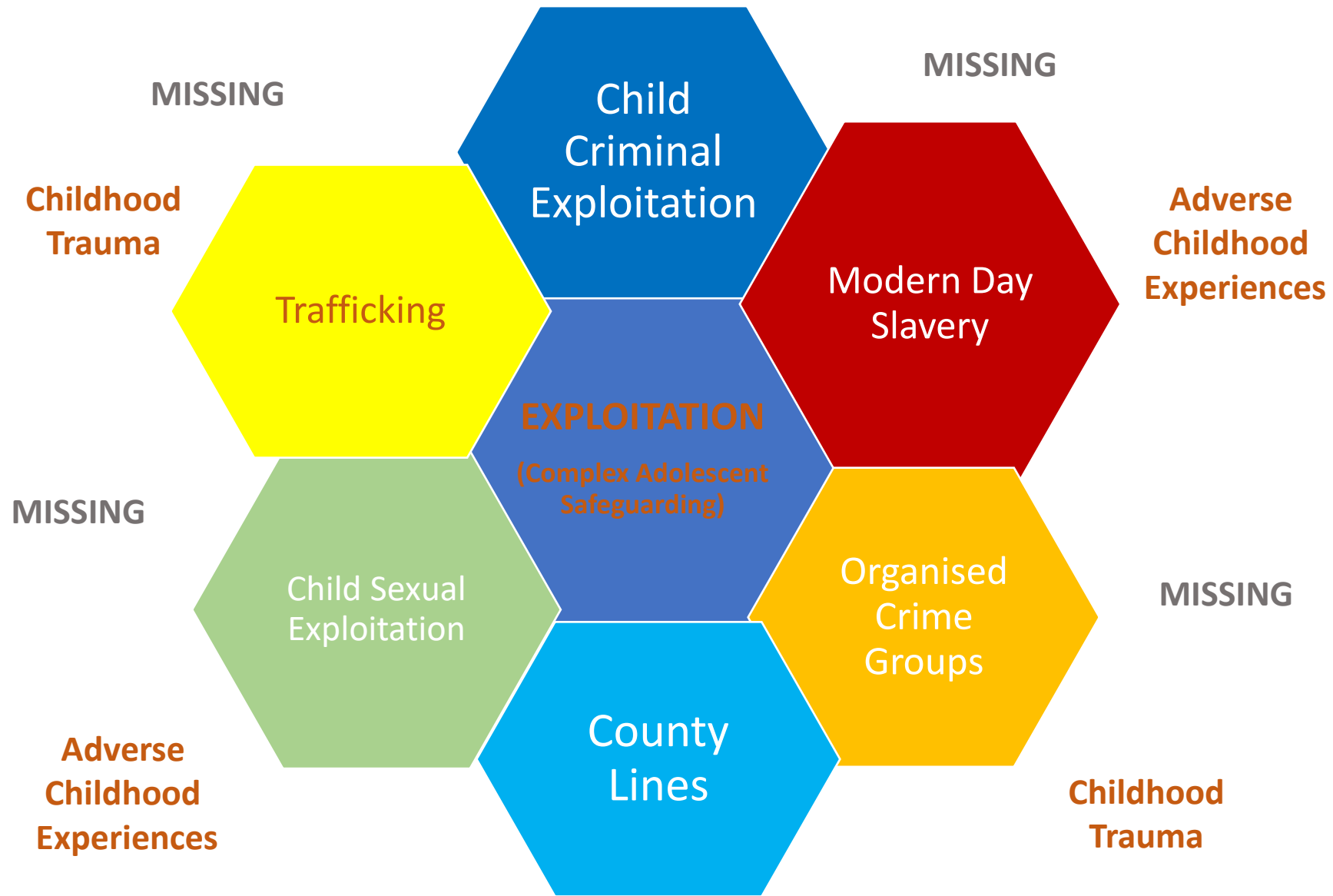
Sarah Marston – Area Director

Current Themes – Social Care

- CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation- Local ‘Peer’ Drug Networks
- County Lines - Drug related harm
- Youth Violence – Knife crime
- Cuckooing – Vulnerable Teenagers/Adults living independently
- Trafficking – Internal
- Trafficking – UASC/Separated/Refugees
- Missing Children
- Emerging & New Risks?

Hampshire Response to Exploitation

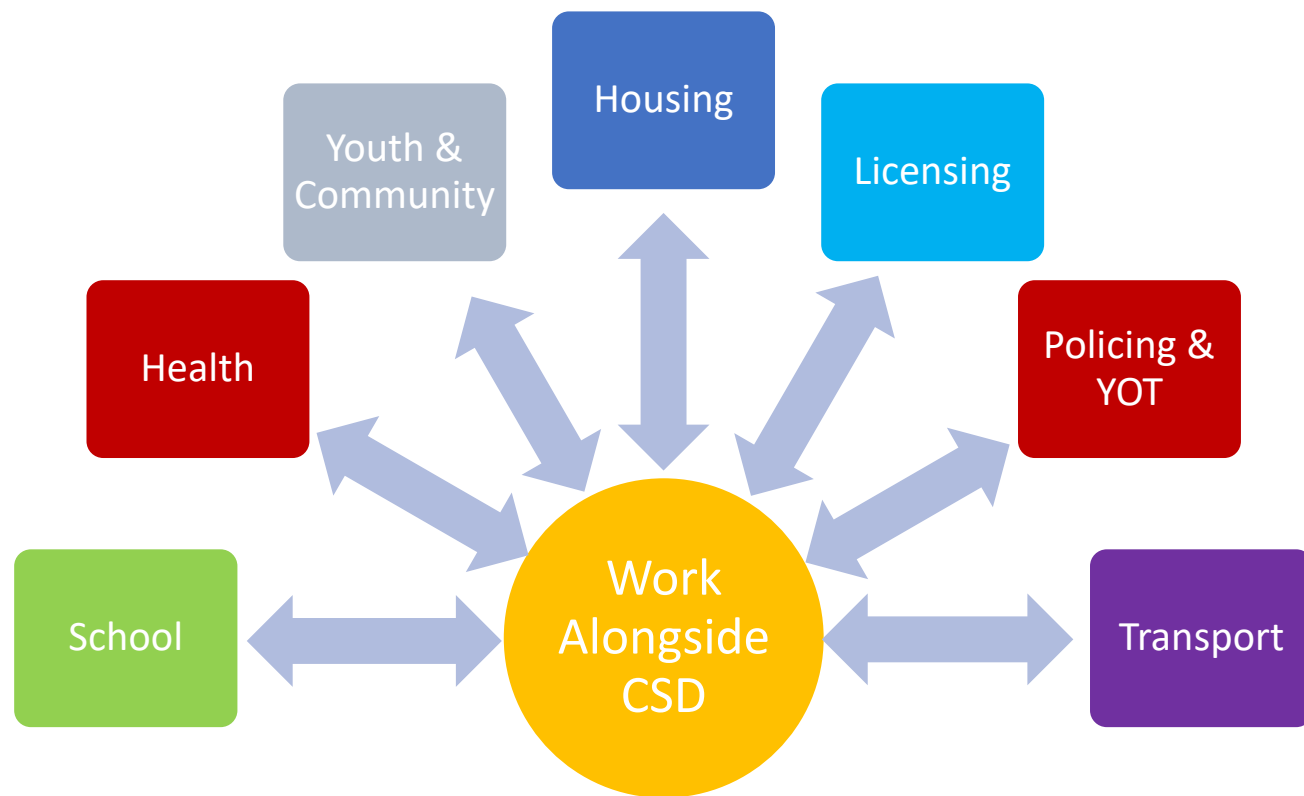
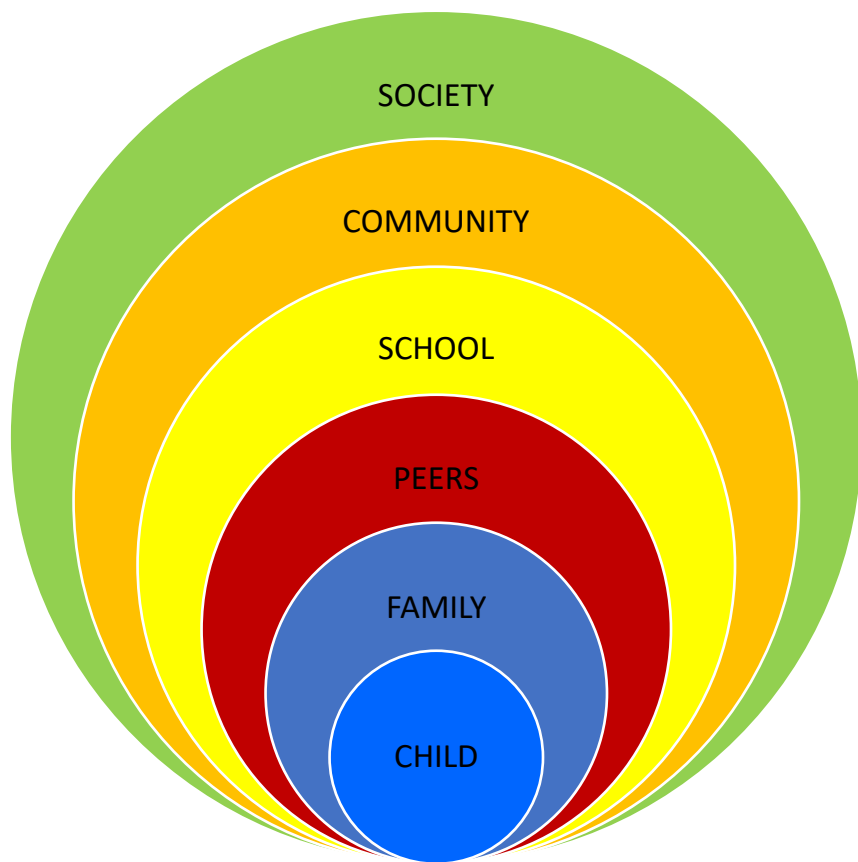
- Higher emphasis on children at risk from being Missing, Exploited or Trafficked – MET
- Strategic response headed through 4 Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards (HIPS Group)
- Willow Team / MET Police Team - Multi agency response and specialist teams
- District Operational MET Meetings - identify children at risk of MET attended by key district/community/LA agencies



Long Term Impacts of Child Exploitation

- Distorted/unhealthy sexual boundaries
- PTSD
- Mental health problems including:
 - ~Anxiety ~ Depression ~ Self Harm ~ Suicide
- Difficulty in sustaining positive relationships
- Teen Pregnancy/ STI
- Drug and alcohol dependency - Poor physical health
- Failure to secure work
- Unstable adult relationships – separations & divorce – DV
- Next generation of issues - Poor parenting – Care System – children in care
- Criminal behaviours - YOT, YOI, Prison, MSV – Most Serious Violence, Criminal Record

Towards Contextual Practice – Creating safe spaces?



[Contextual-Safeguarding-Briefing.pdf \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](https://csnetwork.org.uk/Contextual-Safeguarding-Briefing.pdf)

WHAT IS COUNTY LINES?

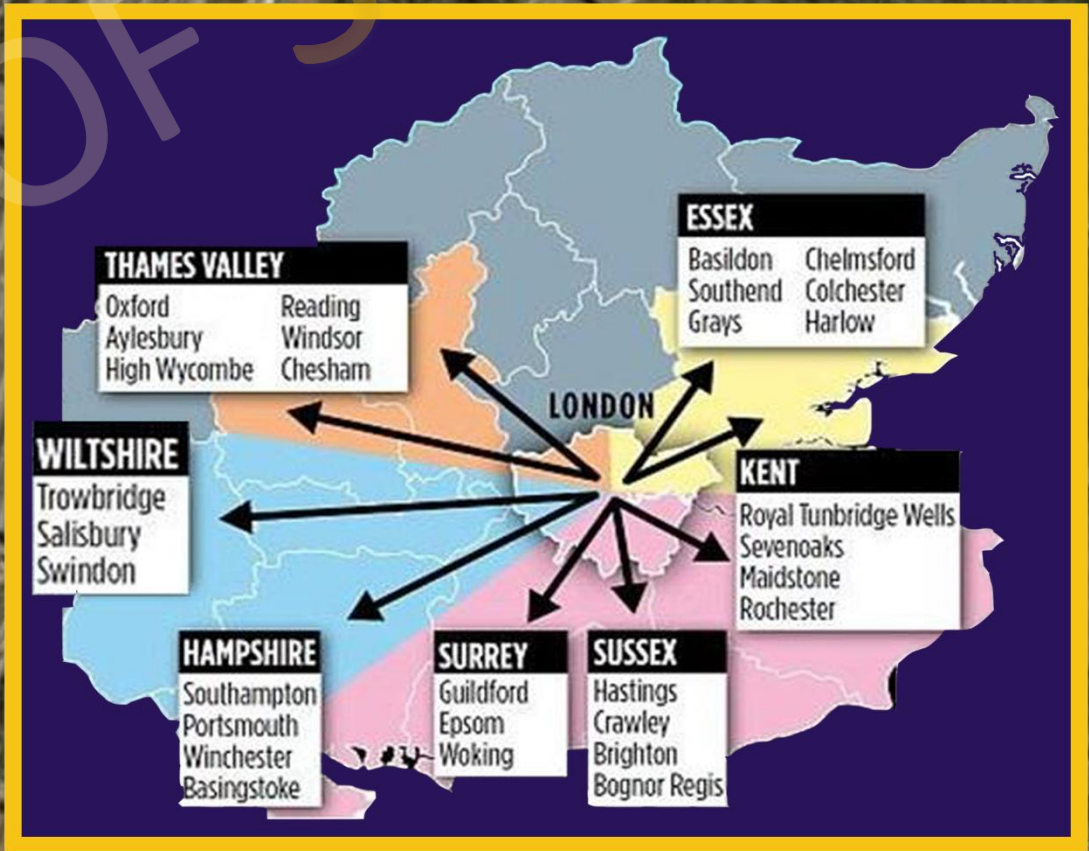
“County lines” - In the criminal world ‘County Lines’ is referred to as; Country, Cunch, O.T, Out There, Out of Town, Upsuh and various other colloquialisms. Drug Operations/phone lines are set up in regional areas by Entities most commonly originating from major cities. Young people are being exploited as couriers, runners and taking up other functional roles.

Glamorised & Normalised

Social Media has a significant impact on glamourising drug running through You Tube and music videos.

Not all County Lines use children.

Some children are groomed to store and supply drugs.



County Lines Intelligence Picture: County Mapping



Of the total 4,013 individuals identified as having a link or suspected link to county lines, we have county name recorded for 71% of them. These links are shown mapped below by county police force area. 15% of individuals with a county link also showed links to at least one other county, and further research on R&R individuals may identify more.



Which are the most popular county areas?

Generally the county areas closest to London have the highest recorded links to individuals identified by R&R, in particular those on the coast. The top county however is Norfolk, despite its location over 100 miles from London.

Hampshire is ranked a close second, being closer in proximity and home to several coastal towns.

Top 10 County Forces		Individuals linked
1	Norfolk	416
2	Hampshire	369
3	Essex	336
4	Sussex	332
5	Thames Valley	251
6	Suffolk	238
7	Kent	232
8	Avon & Somerset	153
9	Dorset	134
10	Hertfordshire	106

All of the top 4 county forces sit on the UK's south or east coast

R&R individuals are linked to 41 county force areas

*See Appendix 2 for further breakdown

PEER DRUG NETWORKS: GANG INJUNCTIONS

Police and local authorities can apply for injunctions to prevent gang related violence and drug dealing activity

A Gang Injunction can prohibit the perpetrator from, for example:

- Being in a particular place or area (an 'exclusion zone')
- Meeting with particular persons in a particular place
- Being in control of a particular species of animal (for example a dangerous dog) in a particular place
- Wearing specified clothing in a particular place
- Using the internet to encourage violence or drug dealing activity

The conditions are extremely strict and these remain until you turn 18.



Peer Drug Networks can be family or friends recruiting children to run drugs

Peer Networks may start with an increase in Anti Social Youth Behaviours such as :

Bike thefts - Shop Lifting - ASB – Threats to Harm others- Money Laundering

Recent Success

- CERAf – HIPS Wide Tool
- Community Partnership Information (CPI) – Training and a HIPS wide form
- Operational MET Meetings
- Specialist Provision – Willow – Missing Exploited Police Team
- Multi Agency Working – St Giles, Health, Police, Education, YOT, NGOs, OPCC- VRU
- Gang Injunction
- Missing Children – Operation Salvus
- County Lines – Operation Monument
- Philomena Protocol
- Operation Compass
- Operation Innerste – UASC & Trafficking



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