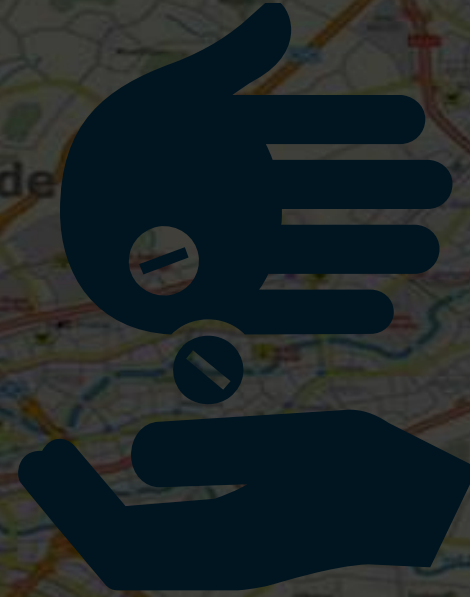


County lines National Summary



Violence and Vulnerability Unit

BACKGROUND

- Initial work instigated by Paul Cullen and Mick McNally 2013- 2018
- The Locality Reviews
- The strategic Reviews

Caveats of the work;

- Gangs, Race and culture
- Gangs- gender
- Context of partnership working

To date;-

- 75 Locality Reviews, 3 strategic framework reviews

New methodology has identified 'county lines' as an extensive network of organised crime



Gangs

Urban gangs coming from London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester Liverpool and other urban centres to supply Class A drug markets to rural and seaside towns.

THE DRUG MARKET is fuelling this new type of criminal activity

The size of local drug markets is unknown as we can only see the problematic usage and not the recreational drug use.

But we know that.....

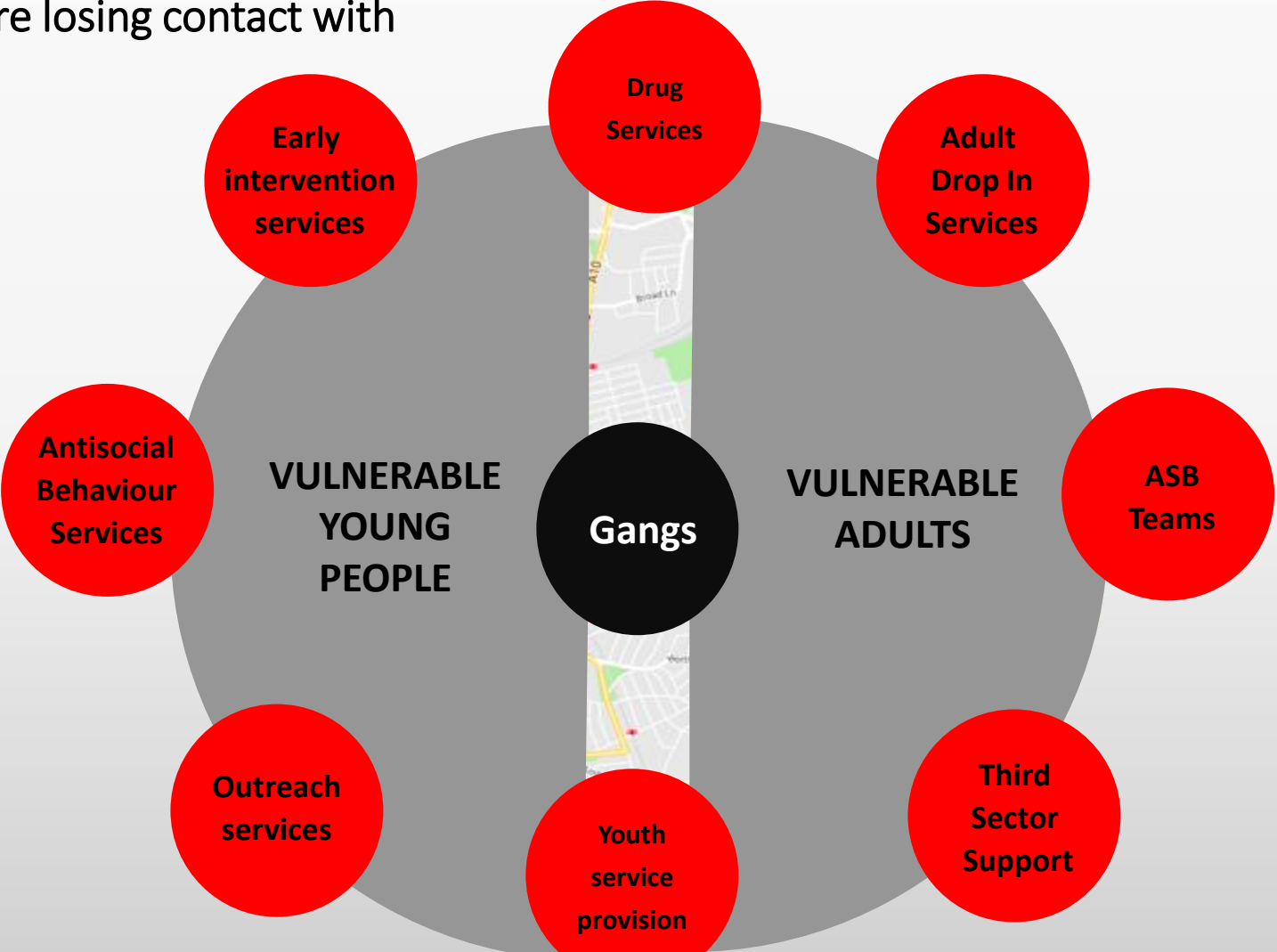
- The fact that there are an estimated 2000 lines in operation around the country at any one time would suggest these markets are sizeable and extremely lucrative.
- There is an increase in heroin/crack cocaine/cocaine use especially amongst young people.
- There are price wars between rival gangs;- price cutting gimmicks/bogof/raffles
- Xanax is appearing more often
- Fentanyl is appearing

HOW THESE GANGS OPERATE

- The way that county lines operate is to groom/entice/recruit vulnerable populations of young people and adults to 'work' for them by offers of money, status, clothes and drugs.
- They identify these vulnerable population through a number of identifying factors
- ...and by using social media, which is also used to monitor them too



This gang activity is taking place against a back drop of shrinking services. Gangs are moving into the vacuum left by service reduction and exploiting vulnerable populations who are losing contact with protective services



Vulnerable populations are being recruited/enticed into violent criminal exploitation

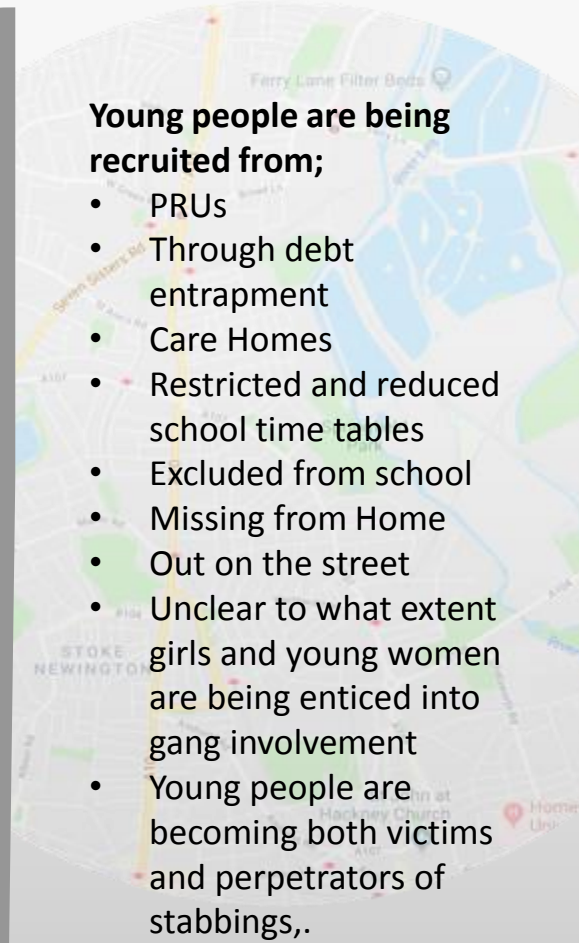
Gangs

**VULNERABLE
YOUNG
PEOPLE**

Young people are being recruited from;

- PRUs
- Through debt entrapment
- Care Homes
- Restricted and reduced school time tables
- Excluded from school
- Missing from Home
- Out on the street
- Unclear to what extent girls and young women are being enticed into gang involvement
- Young people are becoming both victims and perpetrators of stabbings,.

**VULNERABLE
ADULTS**



Gangs are recruiting/exploiting vulnerable adults by.....

Gangs

Identifying and locating the most vulnerable adults;

- Homeless
- Insecure tenants
- People with mental health issues
- People with learning disabilities
- Drug and Alcohol use
- Offenders (specific types of offending)
- 'Cuckooing'
- 1st year students

**VULNERABLE
ADULTS**

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Gangs

- Evidence that 18 + young people are now being targeted by gangs, as service provision falls away.
- Evidence that 1st year college students are being targeted
- Young people's bank accounts are being used for money laundering by gangs and drug dealers
- Credit card fraud associated with money laundering
- Loans to pay off debts?

VULNERABLE ADULTS (18-25)

Resulting in systematic exploitation



Creating a population of desperate young people

- Those indebted becoming more ruthless and desperate in attempts to pay off debts/or send a message to rivals and earning status within the gang.
- The lack of prevention and protection services means that young people feel abandoned as they perceive that no one can or is trying to protect them.
- Young people are losing touch with services or won't talk to services that used to be trusted (i.e. YOT) for fear of reprisals.
- Carrying knives and dealing drugs is being normalised for young people and adults in some areas.
- Knives for protection... (seriously frightened young people).
- Guns seen as a way of seriously hurting someone, knives as a warning.



So how are they getting away with this
without being detected?

Protective services- young people

Gangs

VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

- Children getting involved with county lines gangs are not accepted by services due to diminished resources and thresholds.
- The Care System is designed to pick up on parental neglect or abuse within the family home, not designed to deal with vulnerable young people who are being **criminally exploited**.
- Cases of debt enslavement and entrapment are not being accepted as s.17 or s.47
- Need to re-examine what constitutes need and neglect as often it is the YOT and/or criminal justice system that is the first to intervene with these young people.
- Need to reassess our view of these young people's behaviour (especially boys) as often it is being viewed as 'lifestyle' choice.

Working with families

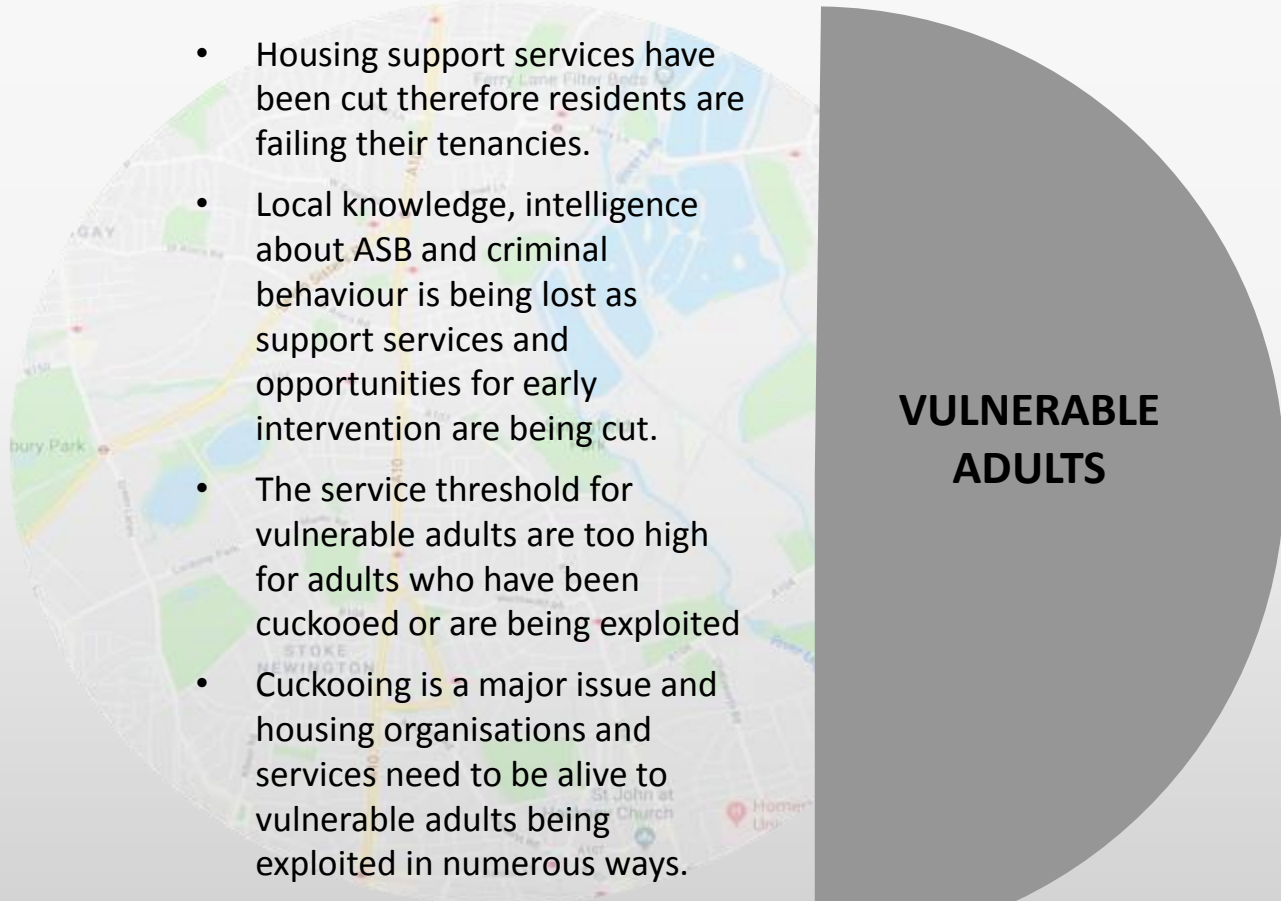
Gangs

VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

- It is clear some parents/families collude with county lines for a way of earning extra money to pay household bills.
- For some families are so marginalised they don't understand the system of schools and exclusions and the CJ system confuses them.
- Families where drug use is rife clearly collude with drug dealing subjecting their children to exploitation and danger.
- Parenting programmes which address positive parenting and resistance and protection are few and far between.
- Some innovative work is going on which needs to be publicised and expanded.

Protective services- Adults

Gangs





SO WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO MANAGE THESE ISSUES?

- Each of the local Strategic Boards i.e. CSP, LSCB,SAB, HWBB have responsibility for managing part of this overall picture

CSP ACTIVITY

- Police operations
- - Community policing
- CSP civil tools and powers (closure orders etc)
- NPS/CRC/Secure Estate- is there more we could be doing to identify and manage gang members in the CJS?
- Wider regional considerations

LSCB ACTIVITY

- Safeguarding
- CSE measures
- Education and training on CSE/Gangs and criminal exploitation for young people and staff in youth and community agencies
- Referrals to the NRM

SAB ACTIVITY

- Training on Gangs/modern slavery and criminal exploitation for; all housing workers
- Adult social care
- Voluntary agency staff
- Adult Safeguarding responsibilities

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ACTIVITY

- Training for all health staff on all aspects of gangs and related exploitation activity
- Is there more Public health could be doing to address the issue of recreational class A drugs.
- A & E/ GP involvement
- Wider regional considerations

VULNERABLE
YOUNG
PEOPLE

Child Sexual
Exploitation

VULNERABLE ADULTS
Criminal
Exploitation

VULNERABLE
ADULTS

Modern
Slavery

SO HOW BEST CAN WE CREATE AN ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?



Create an Action Plan / Strategic Framework and agree;-

- **Governance**
- **Understanding the problem ; - analysis, data and intelligence**
- **Enforcement – how to deter gangs from exploiting people**
- **Protection/Safeguarding** – children and adults activity, screening/identification/intervention
- **Prevention** – comprehensive strategy to train staff in schools/social care/ health agencies voluntary agencies
- **Community Engagement**- begin a stronger and on going dialogue with the community to engage them in the issue and create an alliance to help with the flow of information and in the inhibition of gang and drug dealing activity

DATA AND ANALYSIS

- We need to identify the different data sets that are held within each agency/partnerships' sphere of activity and consider more we could be doing to identify victims and perpetrators earlier
- Set up an on-going data analysis team to give a longer term view of how these data sets could talk to each other and translate into information and intelligence that can inform interventions
- Draft Dashboard of indicators for 'county lines' management



THIS IS ANYTOWN



xxx How many lines are coming into the town? **21** Where are they coming from? Is this increasing or decreasing?

London 1 line 1 group ↑ Birmingham 10 lines 3 groups ↑ Manchester 4 lines 1 group ↑ Merseyside 6 lines 2 groups ↑

Arrests

How many drug arrests in the past month? (Young people and Adults)

↑ **12** Arrests made this month ↓ **4** Appropriate Adult interviews

Youth

How many juveniles have been identified?	How many PWITS? (possession with intent to supply)	How many from inside the town?	How many from other places?	How many safeguarding assessments (S17 and S47) have identified Drug/CSE/gang activity?	How many referrals to the NRM?	Missing from Education (missing from school on a regular or consistent basis)	Missing from Home (more than 3 times)
↑ XX	↑ 4	↓ X	↓ X	↓ X	↓ 5	↓ X	↓ X

Adult

How many cuckooed houses have been identified?	How many have been charged with trafficking/modern slavery offences?	How many closure orders have been applied for?
--	--	--

Health

How many knife /Gun wounding appearing at frontline health services (A & E)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLICITY

- Although 'county lines' is rising up the professional agenda, there has been no concentrated effort to engage with the wider public about the activities of these gangs.
- Campaigning is needed to engage with local populations about what is going on in their areas to start a regular and informed dialogue.
- Messaging/campaigning is required with both the young people who are victims of 'county lines' as well as direct messaging to the gang members/ perpetrators to inhibit their activities.