

## A2: Steering Vulnerable young people away from crime

### SUPPORTING THOSE INVOLVED IN COUNTY LINES

The County Lines team within the Serious and Organised Crime Unit maintain oversight of those children linked to or involved in County Lines criminality through daily intelligence searches.

Any child found to be linked to or involved in County Lines is visited by members of the team for the purposes of safeguarding, education and developing understanding and intelligence. The children are seen in the presence of their parents where this is appropriate. Referrals are made to the MASH, via a PPN, as well as to Barnardo's Children's Charity, the British Transport Police and the Single Competent Authority (SCA) through the national referral mechanism (NRM). All referrals into force from the SCA are reviewed and actioned by the County Lines team.

All children found to be involved in or have links to County Lines are referred to and heard at the Child Criminal Exploitation Panel (City), or the Serious Youth Violence Panel (County), to capture and monitor all agency support where appropriate. A Sergeant from the County Lines team attends both of these meetings monthly and has a close working relationship with the criminal child exploitation co-ordinators (CCE) within Nottinghamshire Police.

A County Lines Vulnerability Tracker is maintained by the County Lines Sergeant and shared with all relevant partners following a monthly meeting chaired by the Inspector. The tracker holds details of those involved in or linked to County Lines who are under 18, and new cases are discussed and ratified for inclusion on the tracker in conjunction with members of the missing from home team.

All children identified as involved in County Lines are recorded on the Police National Database (PND) either to the identified line or a generic line specifically created for children. This ensures all force areas in the UK have access to the information regarding the children.

All children identified as actively involved in County Lines are treated as victims if found in a criminal situation unless there is good evidence to show that they should be treated as suspects.

#### Demand

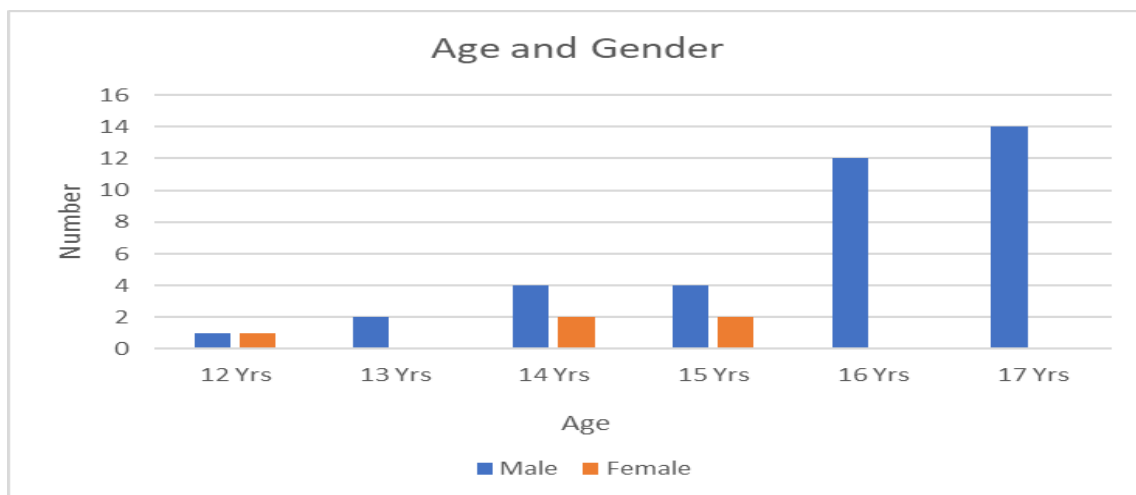
One source of current demand is directly from intelligence submissions relating to CL. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 (*not complete financial year*), there have been 730 intelligence reports with a 'County Lines' flag. This compares to 818 reports from the complete year of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### Victim & Offender Profile

Currently, there are 42 children on the County Lines Vulnerability Tracker (CLVT). There have been 76 different children recorded on the CLVT over the course of the calendar year 2022 so far. At the start of the year there were 43 children on the tracker and over the year there have been 33 new children added and 34 removed (mainly because they had reached the age of 18 years old).

Of the 42 children currently on the CLVT, 15 are 'Open to the County Lines' team and 27 are classed as 'Vulnerable to County Lines'.

Of the 42 children currently on the CLVT, 37 are males (88%) and 5 are females (12%). The table below shows the current ages of those on the CLVT; the youngest age is 12 years old.



The 'Neighbourhood Safeguarding and Disruption (NSD) model has been implemented in some parts of the County. This is a partnership 'early intervention' meeting focusing on young people identified at risk of CCE, Knife Crime or Serious Violence. The meeting is attended by Neighbourhood Policing officers, the Youth Justice Service, Social Care and local authority Community Safety Officers. This has been developed to include any updates from school's officers and detached youth workers in a locality which enhances the intelligence picture around CCE. Work is now ongoing to widen the NSD approach as this focuses on early intervention. A number of young people identified at risk of CCE are also linked to weapons possession and other offences such as Robbery/Serious Violence.

The implementation of the NSD has been in the areas particularly affected by Serious Violence such as Gedling where further investigation has identified CCE links as a root cause.

Work is now ongoing to build on this model (which feeds into existing CCE Panels) and the model will be implemented consistently across all 12 Neighbourhood Policing areas to strengthen the links between Neighbourhood Policing, the County Lines team and local safeguarding partners. In the City we aim to implement the model in January 2023.

In the City this will also enhance the ongoing work around Urban Street Gangs and Organised Crime Groups where young members are often exploited. For March 2023 this will also link to the Focus Deterrence Project being delivered by the VRU which will see around £1.5m spent on diversion and intervention for young people involved in gangs and violence within the City. An implemented NSD model will enable local Neighbourhood Policing teams, the County Lines teams and safeguarding partners to identify young people of most concern, where they will be considered for targeted activity to divert them away from CCE. This will also enable a renewed focus on identified perpetrators where enforcement activity will likely be taken.