

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2018
PARTNERSHIP WORK FOR COMBATTING AND PREVENTING YOUTH CRIMINALITY
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To receive information from key stakeholders on the specific issues in Nottingham concerning County Lines drug trafficking, including preventative measures, combative measures, and victim support.

2 Action required

- 2.1 To consider the information provided by key stakeholders at today's meeting, and following further information to be provided at the 5 December 2018 meeting, to make recommendations.

3 Background information

- 3.1 County lines drug trafficking is an emerging national issue. A typical county lines scenario is defined by the following components:
- (a) A group or gang establishes a network between an urban hub and county location, into which drugs (mainly class A drugs) are supplied;
 - (b) A mobile phone line is established to which orders are placed by introduced customers. The line will commonly be controlled by a third party;
 - (c) The group exploits vulnerable people, to achieve the storage and / or supply of drugs, movement of cash proceeds and to secure the use of properties (commonly referred to as cuckooing);
 - (d) The group (or individuals exploited by them) regularly travel between the urban hub and the county market, to replenish stock and deliver cash;
 - (e) County lines groups have been known to use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms;
- 3.2 The National Crime Agency commissioned a report into the issue in 2015. The report identified that the issue affected the majority of forces in the UK, and identified the need for a multi-agency approach at a national, regional and local level;

- 3.3 Traditional team demarcations within the Police have proved ineffective in tackling the issue, as the activity cuts across delineations, such as gangs, drugs, weapons, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and transport Police;
- 3.4 Vulnerable victims targeted by the gangs can include children (particularly looked after children), drug users, ex-offenders, and other vulnerable adults. Part 5 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 may apply in the protection of victims of county lines who may have committed crimes;
- 3.5 The Homelessness charity St Giles Trust conducted an evaluation of a Home Office funded pilot scheme conducted for six months in Kent to tackle county lines, and also produced a scoping report evaluating national approaches to the issue;
- 3.6 Tim Spink, Crime and Drugs Partnership, and Detective Inspector Kaz Smithson, Nottinghamshire Police will be in attendance at the meeting to provide information on how key stakeholders are working together to tackle youth criminality surrounding County lines drug trafficking;
- 3.7 Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Integrated Services, Shelley Nicholls, Head of Early Help Services, John Matravers, Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Partnerships, Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years, and Councillor Toby Neal, Portfolio Holder for Community Protection, will be attending the 5 December meeting to further explore key stakeholder work on the issue.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Information from Nottinghamshire Police;
- 4.2 Information from the Crime and Drugs Partnership.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 National Crime Agency Report - NCA Intelligence Assessment, County Lines, Gangs, and Safeguarding - <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/620-NCA-Intelligence-Assessment-County-Lines-Gangs-and-Safeguarding/file>;
- 6.2 National Crime Agency 2016 update to 2015 assessment - County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply 2016 National Briefing Report: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/753-county-lines-gang-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2016/file>

- 6.3 National Crime Agency 2017 update to 2015 assessment and 2016 report - County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply 2017 National Briefing Report:
<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/832-county-lines-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2017/file>
- 6.4 The Modern Slavery Act 2015:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>
- 6.5 St Giles Trust evaluation of Home Office funded pilot project:
<https://stgilestrust.org.uk/general-attachments/download?id=11>
- 6.6 St Giles Trust scoping report, evaluating national approaches to tackling county lines: <https://stgilestrust.org.uk/general-attachments/download?id=12>

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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