

The background of the slide features a large, light grey watermark of the Nottinghamshire Police crest. The crest is a shield-shaped emblem with a crown on top, surrounded by a sunburst. The words "NOTTINGHAMSHIRE" and "POLICE" are visible within the crest's design.

County Lines Summary

Nottinghamshire Police

DCI NICK WALDRAM- COUNTY LINES FORCE LEAD

The following are the prepared questions the Committee have requested prior to the meeting:

- Is County Lines drug trafficking a particular identified issue in Nottingham City / County?

There is limited information/ intelligence and examples of County Lines in Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire are frequently referred to as an 'exporter' of County Lines. This means that young people from Nottinghamshire (mostly young, vulnerable males) affiliated to City Organised Crime Groups (OCG's), are recruited and sent to other areas of the country.

There are a number of examples of the last 12 months where young people have been arrested from addresses in Oxford, Grimsby, The Met force area to name a few. They are located and arrested in addresses with other people and have been found with large quantities of class A controlled drugs, substantial amounts of cash, and often with weapons on their person/ secreted in their clothing.

Other forces in the region are experiencing several problems with County Lines. Leicestershire have their own Police team that address CL in different areas of the force and Derbyshire and Lincolnshire have had several issues and ongoing operations. There are examples of Nottinghamshire nominals working County Lines in Lincolnshire, mostly notably from the Bulwell and St Anns area.

Recent media release regarding male who ran a County Lines operation from his prison cell by sending teenagers to sell heroin and cocaine in Newark and Skegness. 14 people from Nottingham were recently convicted. (This article is available online).

There are examples of County Lines running into some areas North of the County, for example- Newark, Hucknall, Worksop and Sutton in Ashfield. This is a fine line though between what is a drugs line and what is a County Line.

With competing demands, this is not a priority for Nottinghamshire Police at this stage. Any opportunities to disrupt, dismantle any County Lines will be robustly managed but it is definitely not to the extent of other regional forces.

- If so, what is the nature, extent and scale of the issue?

As discussed above, the main threat Nottinghamshire faces from County Lines is the recruitment of vulnerable young people. There are examples that some of the young people arrested to date out of the force area are affiliated to OCG's, mostly from the City gangs. A concern is that there are clear intelligence gaps in the method of recruitment, how/ why they are recruited, how gangs in Nottinghamshire are linked to other force areas, modes of transport, payments etc. There are also questions whether they are victims of modern day slavery or offenders and drug suppliers. Despite on-going efforts, significant intelligence gaps remain, and these are the responsibility of all agencies, not just the Police.

There are clear examples where young people involved in County Lines outside the Nottinghamshire force area are involved in knife related incidents and serious violence, including stabbings and gang related disorder in Nottinghamshire. Recently, some young people who have been identified in County Lines out of force, have been subsequently charged with serious offences, albeit unrelated to County Lines.

- Are there any issues surrounding County Lines which are specific to Nottingham?

There is nothing specific to Nottingham, but as stated is the link between County Lines and violence. This is not serious violence involved within the County Lines offending, but the level of serious violence that young people linked to County Lines have subsequently been involved in.

As noted above, Newark, Worksop are often places where groups from other forces areas do target and attempt to set up drug lines.

Nottinghamshire Police recently assisted Police Scotland to arrest three nominals in Radford who were subsequently charged with being concerned in the supply of class A controlled drugs and money laundering in Scotland.

- What is Nottinghamshire Police's understanding of the issue and its complexities?

DCI Nick Waldram appointed as force lead for County Lines. On-going efforts through development of intelligence and partnership working to understand the true nature of CL within Nottinghamshire. There is a good understanding within Nottinghamshire Police what County Lines actually is and the complexities involved, but our focus is around safeguarding first, supporting young and vulnerable people and reviewing any opportunities to disrupt.

It is clear to say the true extent is unknown and there are intelligence gaps and the nature of CL operations are not overtly obvious.

There is on-going developing partnership arrangements and information sharing with a number of key agencies across the City and County.

Three months ago, the City established the Child Criminal Exploitation Panel (CCEP) to support vulnerable young people. This is a strategic meeting to discuss young people involved in criminality who have already been subject to support services. This is currently under review for the County. Work is being undertaken to expand this to include 18-25 year olds.

Internal training on-going to officers/ staff to recognise the signs of CL.

Enforcement opportunities reviewed. Working with other force areas to understand links between their force areas and Nottinghamshire.

4 P's plan.

- What is the Police perspective on the issue – what are your priorities and is collaborative work being undertaken with neighbouring forces, BTP, or other partners?

Currently all CL intelligence is monitored and assessed by the Force Intelligence Bureau. Any opportunities to disrupt, remove the drugs line using a DDTRO- Drug Dealing Telecommunication Restriction Order will be reviewed.

County Lines does not feature as part of Nottinghamshire Police's Control Strategy. There are however, cross overs between violence and weapon enabled crime, child sexual exploitation and Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, which all feature on the Control Strategy.

DCI Waldram attends the Regional Meeting which ensures collaboration and information sharing between partners, regional force areas and the BTP.

The appointment of a regional County Lines Co-Ordinator will also ensure best practice and intelligence is shared across the region.

- What can be done towards engaging "un-engageable" youth, who may already be involved with or vulnerable to drug use, or may already carry weapons?

Please see above on the CCEP.

There is a lot of work being completed with partner agencies to support young people and the knife crime strategy covers the 4 P's.

- What support is provided to victims engaged in County Lines trafficking?

Nottinghamshire Police ensure attendance the Strategy meetings with partner agencies once the young person has been arrested to provide holistic on-going support. All young people to date who have been found out of force in possession of controlled drugs have been subsequently charged. They have been unwilling to provide further detail how they were exploited, recruited or whether they are actually victims.