

Detective Chief Inspector Lindsey Billany – NCLCC



The NCLCC provides support and outcomes across all 4Ps (**PREVENT, PROTECT, PREPARE AND PURSUE**), working closely with the Home Office, Police Forces, ROCUs, LEAs and partners. It has expanded its services to include training, peer reviews, the sharing of best practice, dissemination of intel and analysis, and reporting to Home Office.

NCLCC STRUCTURE

NPCC GOLD – DAC Graham McNulty



Silver - Head of NCLCC – D/Supt Neil Ballard



Bronze

Head of Analysis

Melanie Barr



Bronze

Head of Safeguarding

DCI Lindsey Billany



Bronze

Head of Pursue

DCI Gareth Guest

NCLCC Strategy

In order to **suppress the Class A drug supply feeding County Lines, and reduce vulnerability and exploitation**, the strategic intention of the NCLCC, **working with Forces, ROCU's and other strategic partners** is to develop a clear understanding of the national threat to:

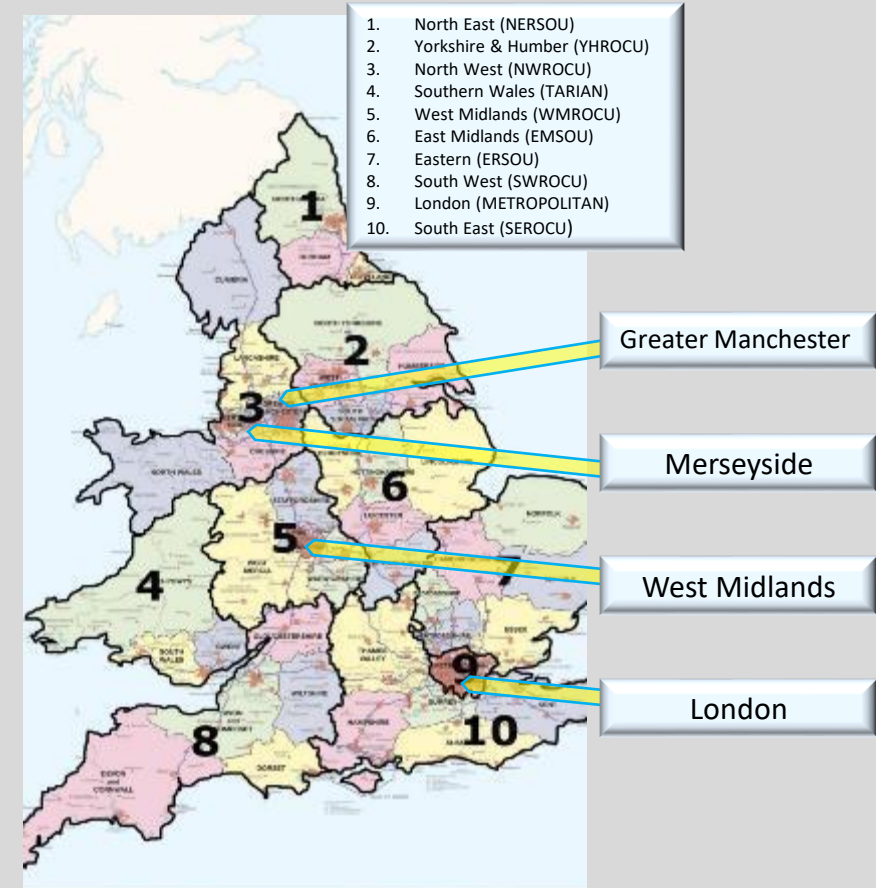
- **MINIMISE** the current threat that the county lines drug supply methodology has across the UK
- **REDUCE THE VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION** associated with the County Lines methodology, safeguarding vulnerable people.
- **IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF VULNERABLE PERSONS** exploited on County Lines.
- **REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONALLY EFFECTIVE LINES**, thereby disrupting the OCG operating model to distribute drugs.
- **IMPROVE OUR JOINT INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION** through the use of all available covert and overt assets, ensuring those assets are not compromised.
- **DETECT AND DISRUPT THE ACTIVITY** of those involved in the illegal supply of Class A drugs both in the UK and upstream.
- **PURSUE AND BRING TO JUSTICE** those individuals responsible for County Lines related criminality.
- **ENHANCE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** whilst increasing public reporting of County Lines related incidents and intelligence.
- **WORK IN PARTNERSHIP** with Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners to enhance the Strategic and Operational response to SOC emanating from County Lines.

NCLCC - Regional Organised Crime Units

ROCU and Main County Line Export Regions

The aim of the NCLCC is to work across all 4 strands of Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue, to coordinate a national, joined up, strategic and tactical response to county lines, working with Forces, ROCUs, The Home Office and external partners.

The funding from the Home Office supports the continuation of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre (NCLCC), which includes coordinating national law enforcement activity across England and Wales, increasing intelligence on the county lines threat, and informing national policy development and best practice.



London remains the main “exporter” of County Lines, but there is increased reporting about numbers of lines from Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.



Peer Reviews

Visiting police forces to offer a range of assessments, support and best practice



Training

Continuing Professional Development, training videos, Hydra, advice and guidance, CPD Days every 2 months



Safeguarding



Information

Partnership data sharing, requests for information.



Coordinate

Liaise with the Home Office and others on emerging changes and issues to the county lines threat.



Orders

Provide an awareness of orders that are appropriate for disruption of offenders and/or safeguarding of vulnerable people exploited through County Line criminality.

Support and assist forces in successfully applying for civil and criminal orders linked to County Lines.

May 2022 - NCLCC launched the new 'GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING RISK ORDERS (STROs) AND SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ORDERS (STPOs) IN COUNTY LINES OPERATIONS' . Over 380 people signed in virtually from a variety of Policing backgrounds, CPS, legal services departments, HMPPS and Ministry of Justice, and other partners and the feedback was excellent.

COUNTY LINES INTENSIFICATION WEEKS – OCTOBER AND MARCH EACH YEAR ...

PURSUE To identify the top County Lines impacting on the force area and carry out **end to end activity to disrupt and dismantle.**

Tactics: ANPR operations • Prison tactics • Identifying CL controllers and taking phones out of circulation • Enforcement operations with partners • proactive targeting of subjects known to carry weapons • social media intelligence development • targeted activity to secure evidence and charges of trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act ... **MEDIA STRATEGY**

PREVENT To Prevent and deter others from engaging in crime linked to County lines.

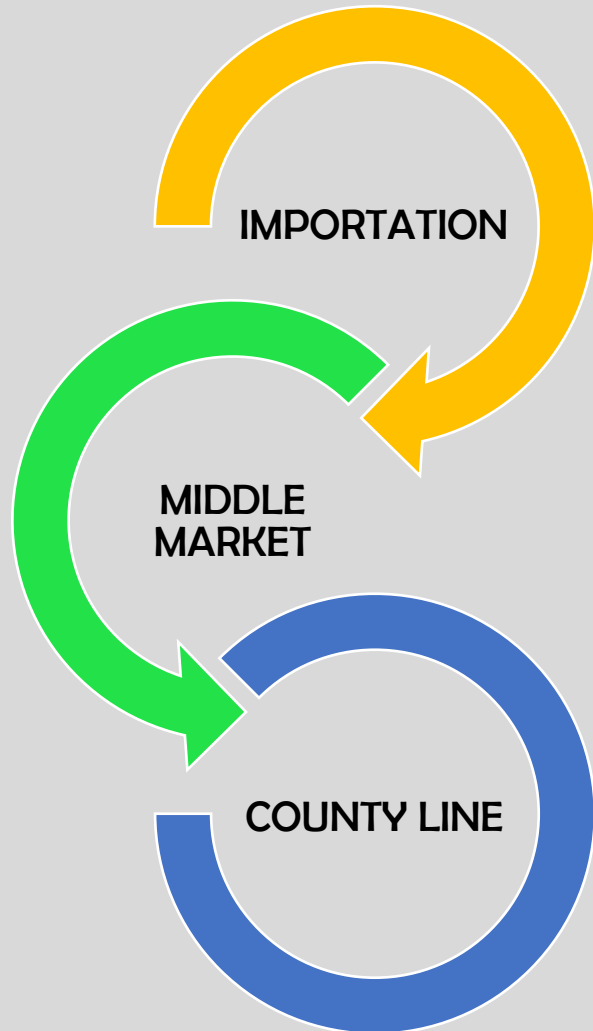
Tactics: Coordinated activity supported by partners utilising social media platforms and other opportunities to deliver key messages • Working with partners and third sector organisations to increase intelligence collection • Use of targeted legislation through NCLCC orders team (DDTRO, STRO, STPO) • Target harden Universities / Identify and target harden local hoteliers/ 'Airbnb' etc. whilst raising awareness

PROTECT Increase protection for children, vulnerable adults and communities from those involved in County Lines

Tactics: Engagement, Informing communities on how they can stay safe, and how the police can support them • Proactive safeguarding in conjunction with partners of repeat cuckooing locations and vulnerable victims • Joint visits to young people of concern including regular missing children • Through communication channels encourage those involved to seek support and advice

PREPARE Reduce the impact of criminality linked to County Lines

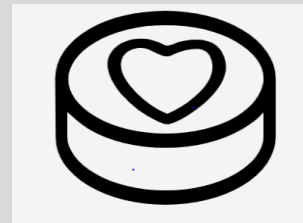
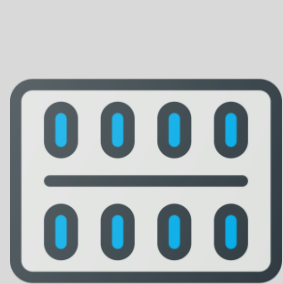
Tactics: Create an intelligence and information sharing capability with partners • Raising awareness of County Lines both internally and externally • Identify with partners those vulnerabilities which enables identification of diversionary options • Identify emerging County Lines for quick disruption to take place where applicable and necessary • Ongoing development of reporting processes and mechanisms



UK DRUGS MARKET – CLASS A

- COCAINE AND HEROIN IMPORTED INTO UK DIRECTLY AND VIA STANDARD TRANSIT HUBS
- SIZE OF MIDDLE MARKET IS LARGELY UNKNOWN. INCLUDES LAYERS OF SUPPLY CHAINS
- SERVICES MULTIPLE TYPES OF MARKET
- COUNTY LINES REPRESENTS FRONT END SUPPLY TO MOST CHALLENGED CHRONIC USERS

CHANGING COMMODITY



COMPONENTS OF A COUNTY LINE



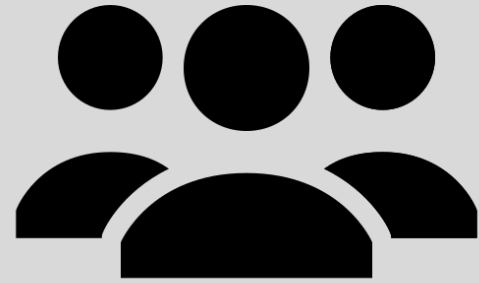
NOMINALS INVOLVED - Violence and Vulnerability



NETWORKS



RUNNERS



DRUGS MARKET

Summary of current County Lines activity nationally

- Nationally demand still remains high – there was little to no impact made by COVID to the levels of drug addiction.
- Use of social media to recruit children into dealing drugs has increased, social media communication platforms are becoming recognised as a significant grooming factor within the model used in exploitation.
- Children and vulnerable adults remain a key component of this business model
- Use of Modern Slavery legislation continues to be a priority and we are starting to see a rise in the use of this legislation as well as Pursue activity (VCL&AN) and Civil Orders

How Does NCLCC fit in? What do we do!

- Dedicated leads for all 4P's covering Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare. Sharing best practice
- Dedicated Analysis teams across the country working with all the forces and partners. Harnessing the national data to enable appropriate 4P work in all forces
- National Orders team who support all forces in England/Wales in obtaining Slavery/Trafficking orders on perpetrators of County Lines criminality and exploitation.



NCLCC Pursue - Enforcement



- The NCLCC works with all the importing forces to tackle county lines activity and criminality both as standalone forces for internal county lines as well as collaboratively with one of the 4 exporting forces or other importers.
- NCLCC Regional Coordinators work nationally to drive activity in the hot spot areas within their respective forces and support the ongoing enforcement (and 3P work) to tackle County Lines from all angles.
- NCLCC support this enforcement activity financially as approved by our Head of Unit for proposed operational work (Surge funding), and monitoring performance and impact – delivering on the 10 year plan.
- Recent highlight from Surge funded activity: Essex Police were provided with £150k to run Op Vietnam, which was a dedicated operation identifying several county lines impacting their region. They then enforced on them in the Southend and Basildon areas resulting in 164 arrests, £370K cash, 40 knives and significant quantities of class A seized. 25 vulnerable people safeguarded via NRM, 20 gang injunctions secured at court

NCLCC PREVENT – Exploitation

- Supporting Forces/Partners/Organisations to proactively get into the Preventative space!!
- Protecting those that are vulnerable prior to them being immersed into County Lines and reduce the likelihood of exploitation and serious violence
- Identifying Risk/spotting the early signs of exploitation/good practice in preventative measures/Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT)
- Improving understanding of effective good practice in prevention and harm reduction related to exploited children and adults, particularly those at risk of County Lines.
- Support forces/partner agencies in raising awareness of exploitation via training/presentations/workshops etc. and advise where required on areas of focus for exploitation. Provide tactical advice to frontline practitioners and supervisors to get in the preventative space.

We are not going to solve drug dealing, but we can change the way children and vulnerable adults are exploited.

NCLCC PROTECT – Investigations/Supply & Demand

- Supporting forces with their response and investigations into County Lines via training and awareness raising, sharing best practice as well as tactical advice on investigations
- Working with internal and external partners to work towards developing a national response to County Lines
- NCLCC Protect particularly focusses on supporting and enhancing investigations using the Modern Day Slavery (MDS) Legislation and taking an 'evidence led prosecution' approach – supporting victims and holding perpetrators to account.
- MDS and exploitation of children and Vulnerable adults is a key component in CL, NCLCC work closely with Crown Prosecution Service colleagues to share good practice, overcome frontline practitioner obstacles and challenges within MDS and Sec 45 defence to develop appropriate training/guidance to assist investigators and CPS in understanding the complexities of criminal exploitation.

- VCL&AN ruling resulted in parallel investigations within MDS cases – NCLCC run training on Sec 45/NRM/MDS in regards to County Lines investigations and maximising the retrieval of evidence at the outset of an investigation. Enabling victims to be safeguarded and perpetrators to be held accountable for their actions
- Working towards a national response with Home Office and forces to identify good practice within Cuckooing to enhance the safeguarding of those vulnerable and create a high risk environment for perpetrators.
- Operation Pester has been recently offered centrally by NCLCC to forces to assist in their pursue activity to support users to engage with local services, offering more support and safeguarding opportunities for vulnerable people within the community. This is an excellent tool which can support the reduction in demand for drugs and the confidence in supply chains



NCLCC PREPARE – Movement & Transport

- Within the Prepare portfolio we map the highest harm rail and road networks concerning County Lines criminality and the subsequent transport links to support disruption activity with forces and BTP.
- We are committed to working with key partners including private hire companies to enable them to identify and safely report criminal use of their vehicles. The Taxi network has increasingly been used within County Lines methodology to evade knowledge of the continued exploitation and movement of commodity. NCLCC have target operations they share with forces to focus on this area and reduce this method of transportation.



- Working with regulated licence breaches and offenders in concert with licencing authorities and to provide public reassurance and effective preventative measures to enhance public satisfaction, safety and confidence.
- The NCLCC have developed a strong link with the rental industry, creating a national information sharing protocol that has been supported by NPCC and is being adopted nationally (based on the Operation Tellus model).



NCLCC – Civil Orders



- We have a national team who work with all the forces to identify MDS investigations via PND/CLICM/Local reporting methods in order to support investigators in obtaining Slavery and Trafficking Orders on perpetrators. Prevention and Risk orders can be sought against perpetrators depending on whether or not a MDS conviction has been achieved.
- Slavery and Trafficking orders place bespoke prohibitions and requirements upon individuals linked to exploitation – an effective way of maximising safeguarding to children and those vulnerable to County Lines criminality by perpetrators. Breaches of these order can result in up to 5 years imprisonment, further increasing risk management within our communities.
- The NCLCC Orders team support the all the forces with collating the necessary evidence to support the application, writing it, working with legal services and going to court to obtain it. They deliver training to law enforcement and partner agencies on STPO/STRO's to increase the use nationally and prevent further exploitation being committed.

CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE THREAT at the national, regional and local level

Clear national **UNDERSTANDING OF EXPLOITATION** in county Lines context

Identification and exploitation of **UPSTREAM AND MIDDLE MARKET DISRUPTION** opportunities

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH FORCES, PARTNERS AND HOME OFFICE, building National relationships

Continual and systematic **DE-CONFLICTION OF COVERTLY COLLECTED INTELLIGENCE**

EFFECTIVE 4P plan, R2 Grid, Strategic **ACTION PLAN**

DEVELOPMENT OF 3P STRATEGIES e.g. Forensic, Safeguarding, Covert, Investigative etc.

Enhanced implementation of DRUG DEALING TELECOMMUNICATION RESTRICTION ORDERS (**DDTROs**), SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ORDERS AND SLAVERY (**STPOs**) and SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING RISK ORDERS (**STROs**)

COORDINATED RESPONSE at the national, regional and local level to ● Safeguard vulnerable adults and children ● Reduce violence ● Disrupt and or prosecute OCG's and individuals ● Reduced drug supply in vulnerable communities

National performance **CAPTURES COUNTY LINES ACTIVITY IN A CONSISTENT WAY** to inform the scale of threat, resource and funding decisions

Next Steps - Increased Home Office 22/23 funding will enable the continuation of NCLCC's core activities and will additionally.....

- **Fill gaps in NCLCC analytical and intelligence capability** to meet 'Business as Usual' (BAU) requirements (due to reduction in NCA resourcing)
- **Provide NCLCC Business Support**
- **Provide NCLCC Media and Communications Support**
- Greater use of Modern Slavery Act
- Continue core activities using intelligence and analysis of county lines with evaluation of activity to inform national law enforcement response.
- Address under-reporting around female exploitation and/or involvement in county activity
- Set the strategic direction around operational law enforcement best practice
- Provide advice and guidance on county lines to operational law enforcement partners.
- Liaise with the Home Office and others on emerging changes and issues to the county lines threat.
- Enhance use of a range of Criminal and Civil orders as preventative measures for exploitation and CL related criminality

Thank You

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