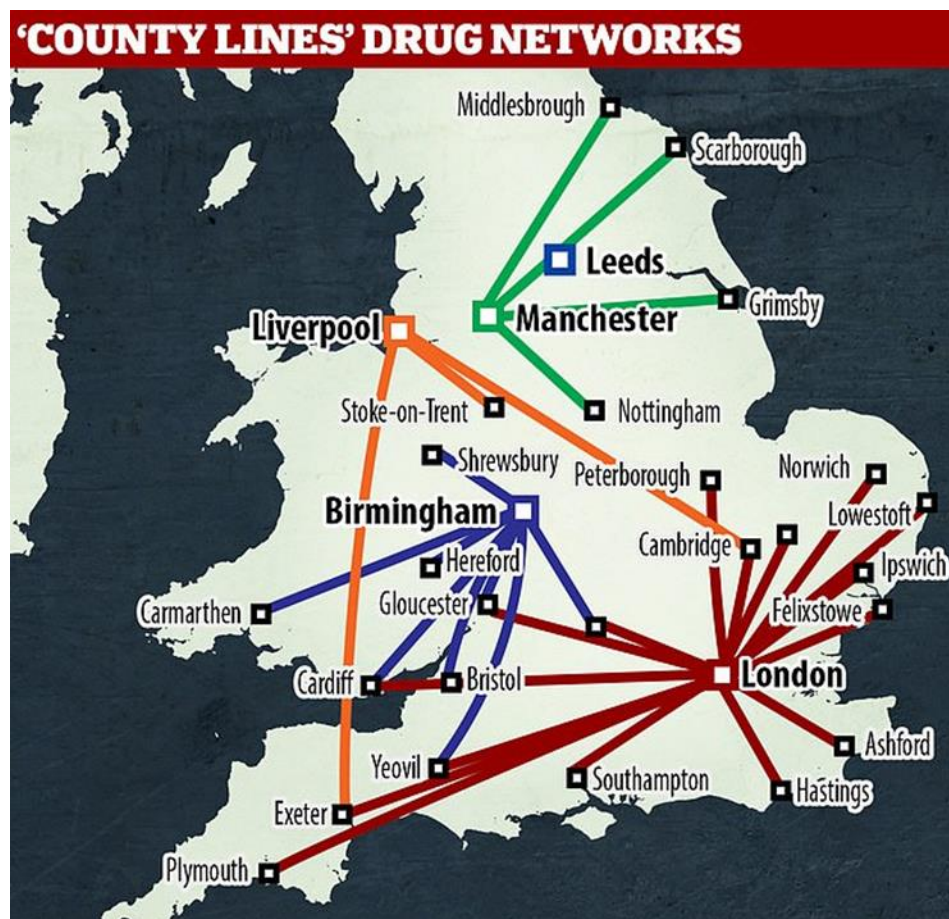




County Lines in Dorset



County Lines across England





National Crime Agency Assessment

- County lines offenders remain highly adaptable in their operating methods and practices, including in the recruitment and exploitation of vulnerable people. This adaptability, encouraged by the profit offenders can make, drives changes to the threat as offenders seek to minimise the risks they face.
- The county lines criminal business model continues to rely on the targeting of vulnerable individuals to facilitate drug supply at a local level. Any vulnerability is a potential target, resulting in a broad profile of victims of exploitation in county lines offending.
- There is a continued risk of serious injury and loss of life in relation to county lines offending.

Money

The amount of revenue obtained from a county line will vary significantly depending on the size of the market and the level of competition. National Crime Agency analysis indicates an individual line can make profits in excess of £800,000 per year





Cuckooing

Drug Dealers 'Cuckooing' Vulnerable People

Criminals are setting up shop in people's homes after being sent to towns around the country by crime bosses in London.

16:46, UK
Thursday 25 December 2014



'Cuckooing' is the term used to describe the practice where professional drug dealers take over the property of a vulnerable person and use it as a place from which to run their drugs business.

Victims report that often they are coerced into allowing the dealers to stay a night or two however once they are in the property they will refuse to leave. The victim is often intimidated and forced to work for the gang running drugs out onto the street.

Victims can be vulnerable due to a number of factors including mental health, drug and/or alcohol misuse, poverty, age or physical disability.



County Lines & Landlords

Eight key components required for a drug deal :

Commodity, Money/Credit, Dealer, User, Deal location, Transportation, Communication, Preparation Location.

A Preparation Location is a secure place where the drugs can be prepared for sale. This may involve such activities as removing them from where they have been concealed, dividing them up into smaller amounts, 'bagging and rebagging'.

Preparation locations :

- Homes of vulnerable persons
- Vehicles
- Hotels, B & Bs, Guesthouses, Static caravans



Risks Involved

The presence of weapons carried by gang members





Risks for Landlord and the Community

- Serious crime occurring in premises
- Criminal damage to property (including arson)
- Effect of drug dealing on neighbours
- Property being used for consumption of drugs
- Tenant no longer able to pay rent
- Statutory Powers being invoked by authorities such as Closure Orders (no persons allowed on premises for up to 3 months)



Tackling County Lines

Housing Associations (Social landlords)

Legislation allows Police and other law enforcement to share data with the housing provider.

Police and Housing officers work in partnership, each using their Statutory powers to prevent criminals using properties as a base from which to deal drugs.

This is not always a quick process but is effective



Tackling County Lines

Private Landlords

Dorset Police will endeavour to make contact with landlords and make them aware of serious criminality in their properties.

With the permission of the tenant we may be able to share further information in order to safeguard them.

Where Landlords suspect that their property is being used by County Lines then Dorset Police will provide practical assistance and advice.



Indications of County Lines

- Reports from neighbours of frequent comings and goings often into the early hours of the morning
- Tenant being uncontactable
- Change in appearance or behaviour of tenant
- Persons attending or found present at address are out of keeping (for example teenagers found in a flat of a middle aged male)
- New cars often prestige models dropping persons off.
- Presence of related paraphernalia such as clingfilm/small scraps of plastic bags, digital scales, large quantities of cash, multiple phones which are constantly ringing, Vaseline, wet wipes, condoms
- Guests with very small amounts of luggage and no knowledge of the local area

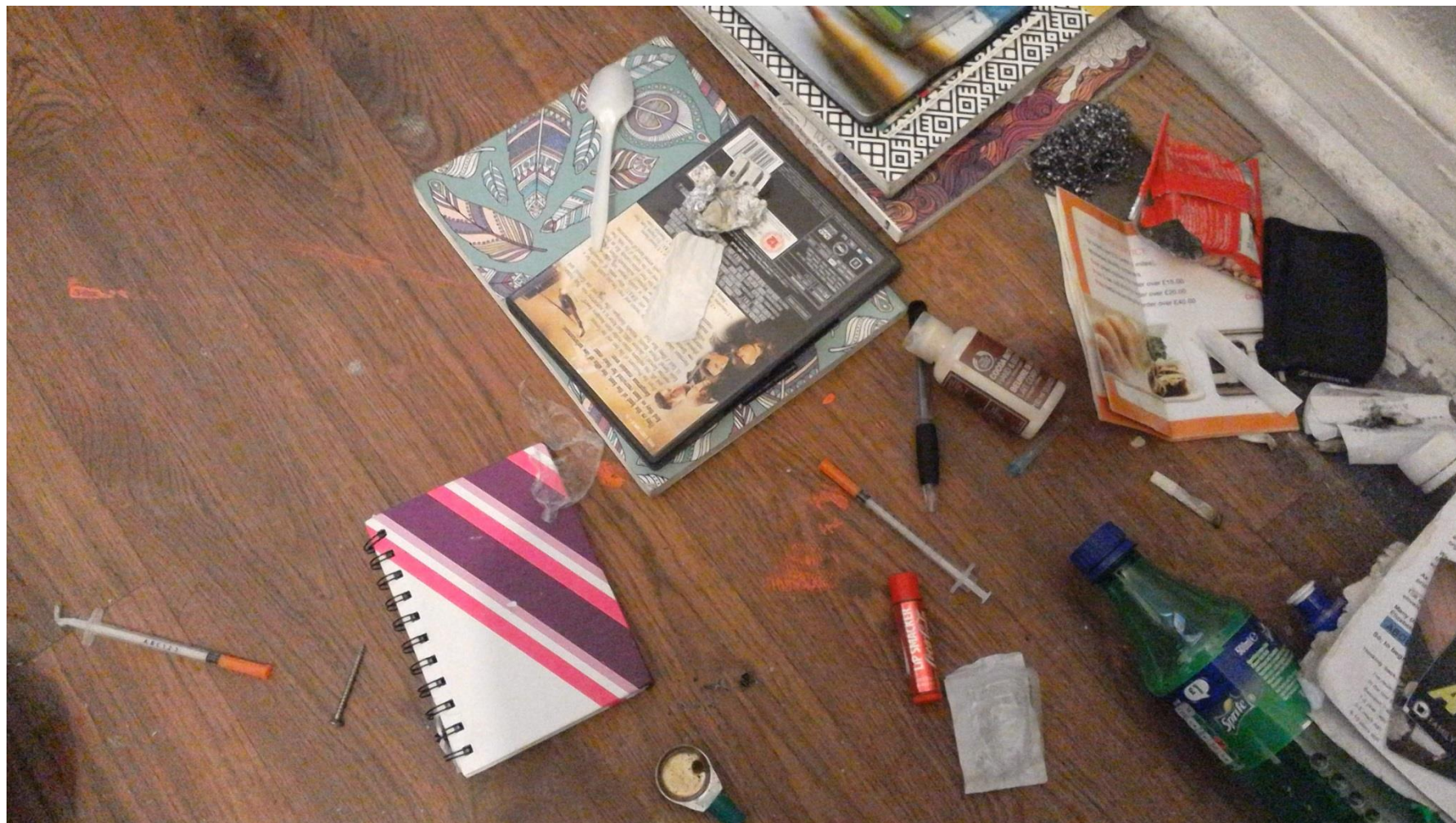


Class A Drugs





Drug Paraphernalia





Does this approach work ?

We have located and arrested numerous gang members in cuckooed properties across Dorset.

These arrests have prevented the distribution of Class A drugs within the community and the exploitation of vulnerable persons including children who were located working for the drug gangs.

Within Weymouth alone we have worked with other agencies to safeguard tenants and assist landlords in well over 100 properties



Any Questions