

SOUTH HUB NEWSLETTER

September Edition

Keeping Safe

Everyone has the right to feel safe at home, school and within the local community.

This edition explores County lines, Knife crime, Staying safe online and where to go for help if you are worried or concerned.

County Lines

What is county lines?

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation. It is when criminals befriend children, either online or offline. They then manipulate them into drug dealing. The “lines” refer to mobile phones that are used to control a young person who is delivering drugs often to teens outside their home county.

It affects all communities

It doesn't matter where you're from or your social background, children from any community can be groomed into county lines.

Spotting the signs of exploitation

- Travelling alone, particularly in school hours.
- Looking lost
- Anxious, frightened, angry or displaying behaviours that make you worried.
- In possession of more than one phone.
- Carrying a lot of cash.
- Accompanied by individuals who are older than them.
- Seen begging in a public place.

If something doesn't feel right, don't wait to report it

Call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

You can also report to the police online. Only report when it is safe to do so. Never intervene yourself.

Call Crimestoppers on 080055511

Call the NSPCC on 0808800 5000

The NSPCC helpline is staffed by trained professionals who can provide expert advice if you are concerned about a child.

For further information, advice and support please visit the Children's Society

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/what-is-county-lines>



Knife Crime



What is Knife crime?

Knife crime is any crime that involves a knife or sharp instrument. Offences with a knife can include threatening people, a robbery or burglary, a murder or assault. Simply carrying a knife – even if a young person hasn't used it – is also considered a crime and can get them in trouble.

Young people are considered criminally responsible from the age of ten.

Start the conversation

Family, friends, teachers and role models are an important influence on a young person, and you can have a powerful effect. It might be a difficult conversation – but talking about knife carrying is the way to finding a solution and saving lives.

Further advice, guides and free training please visit The Ben Kinsella website:

Resources: <https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources-for-parents/>

Training: <https://benkinsella.org.uk/knife-crime-training-for-parents-and-carers/>



Useful Links

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

Advice and help for parents or anyone worried or concerned about a child 0808 800 5000

Crimestoppers

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Help, advice and a means to give information anonymously to the police- 0800 555 111.

Online Child Protection

www.ceop.police.uk

Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a child online?

FamilyLine

www.family-action.org.uk

A helpline service run by Family Action that provides a listening ear, answer particular parenting questions or help with guidance around more complex issues. All support takes place via telephone, text message or email and is free.

Keeping children safe online

We all have a part to play in keeping children safe online.

Together we can make sure its safe for every child.

For help and advice on how to start the conversation please visit this useful link form NSPCC:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/>



Community Support

New family hub's have opened up near you. For your nearest Hub please visit the following link: <https://spurgeons.org/how-we-help/family-life/early-years-and-family-support/birmingham-childrens-centres-and-family-hubs/>

Early Help focuses on building on a family's strengths and interests to offer positive, practical support and help manage difficult issues & challenges. For further information on early please visit:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_childrens_partnership/2218/from_birmingham_with_love/8

<https://www.compass-support.org.uk/our-services/support-for-families-falcon-lodge/>

<https://www.compass-support.org.uk/our-services/early-help-compass-support/>

