# County Lines - What is this and how are young people being exploited?

STARTER:

Cameron, 13, feels pretty grown up to be working for the K10 Krew. He's pretty quick on his bike and doesn't mind making deliveries. The money's good at the end of a job - not to mention the respect he gets for doing it. Cameron is worried now though, as he's been mugged on his delivery - and they've taken everything.

**Challenge:** What is Cameron doing? Who are the K10 Krew? **More challenging:** What is likely to happen to Cameron 1) in the short term from being mugged on delivery 2) in the long term joining a gang. **Mega challenge:** Explain who might have mugged Cameron and why. Analyse why gangs don't just deliver drugs themselves - what benefits do they gain from exploiting young people like Cameron?

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# KEY WORDS:

**County Lines** – Gangs sending young people from cities into smaller towns and villages in order to sell drugs to the people living in these areas. **Disenchantment**- to be disillusioned, in this case with society, and not feeling like there is no part in it for you and you could never play a successful role.

**Trap House** – a base used for drug operations, usually a person's home who has been bribed or threatened into the situation.

#### Learning Outcomes:

Identify how criminals exploit young people, how County Lines works and where you can get help if you think someone is involved. Describe in detail what is happening in a range of criminal case studies and how young people are groomed by gangs to get involved with County Lines. Explain exactly how County Lines and grooming works, how young people are trapped and then exploited and respond to case studies articulately using new key terminology.

#### STARTER REVIEW:



For further info: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idtsh/bbcthree\_britains\_teenage\_drug\_runners The K10 Krew themselves arranged for Cameron to be mugged. Why? Well, then they could say he was in debt to them, to the value of the drugs he was carrying. This debt happens to be £9500.

From now on, Cameron won't be paid, he will be working off a debt. This will make it even more difficult to escape the gang, so therefore the K10 Krew have trapped Cameron, who is now their lackey and will have to take on yet more risky and dangerous tasks.

The next plan is to send Cameron into the country, where he will stay to establish the gangs drugs network, away from his family, and on call 24/7.

# Task One: How do gangs groom young people?

It may seem like Cameron is a bit daft. When we are sitting here objectively, looking at the facts, it seems like it is obvious Cameron is being exploited. However, a person doesn't just go from never speaking to gang members to being a drugs runner for them. There are subtle steps taken in-between to prepare a person to accept the role the gang wants them to take. This is called grooming.

Challenge: With a partner, mind map five ways you think the K10 Krew could have groomed Cameron. More challenging: Describe how each of these might have appealed to Cameron.

**Mega challenge:** Analyse what may have stopped Cameron from realising he was being groomed.

How would the gang have won Cameron's trust?

The gang could have flattered Cameron by telling him he had a lot of potential and a life of wealth, cars and respect ahead of him in the K10 Krew.

#### Our class ideas: What did we come up with?

The gang may have gradually turned Cameron against his family and others who object to his involvement, by carefully framing them as if they don't care about him, whereas the gang are like his real brothers.

How would the gang have won Cameron's trust?

> The gang might have given Cameron expensive gifts, like phones or gaming systems. This would have made him feel special and happy.

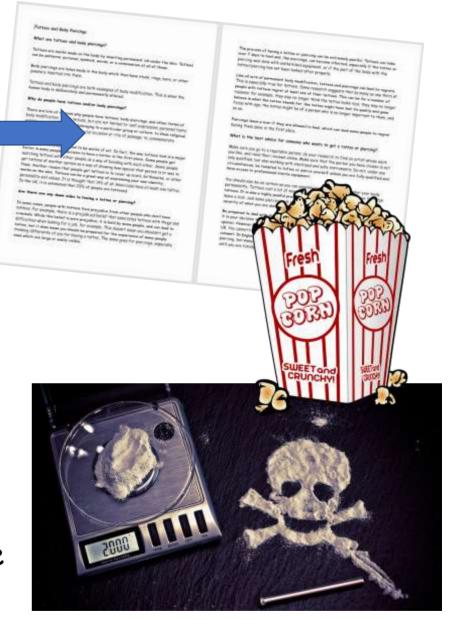
The gang could have flattered Cameron by telling him he had a lot of potential and a life of wealth, cars and respect ahead of him in the K10 Krew.

## Task Two:

We will now find out more about how we can find out what County Lines is, how young people are convinced to join gangs and what the consequences are for those who get involved.

# POPCORN READING!

We will take it in turns to read. When you have finished reading a paragraph, say the name of the next person in the class you would like to read. As you read, add more ideas to your mind map about how Cameron could have been groomed.



You will then complete the next task at your challenge level.

#### Task Three:-

Watch and complete your choice of challenges on your sheet.

#### <u>ONLY WATCH UNTIL 6.20 – (bad language after that point) these are genuine gangsters</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22-HIZNOqWM</u>

(TEACHER NOTE - this clip contains one mild slang/swear term up until 6.20. It has been left in due to the importance of the message).

#### Challenging

What does OT mean? Name two of the drugs being sold through County Lines

What do some of the original suppliers wear that you wouldn't expect? How much are the drugs worth on the table?

What is a 'pack'?

What do we mean by the youngsters getting in 'debt' to the gangsters? More Challenging

Where do the drugs come from? Describe in as much detail as you can.

Why are the interviewees wearing masks?

What is the age range for OTs and how old are they usually?

How to the OTs carry the drugs? Does this sound appealing to you? Why not?

How do the gangsters higher up the chain bully the younger ones?

#### Mega Challenging

How do the mid-way dealers make more money from the blocks of cocaine - what do they do to it and why?

Why do most youths 'disappear'? What is meant by this?

How might 'disappearing' affect family members and genuine friends left behind?

Why don't the older gangsters do this incredibly unpleasant task of 'plugging' themselves do you think?

Explain two other reasons why 'youngsters' are used. Refer to the legal reason given.



# Task Four: Inbox Full.

You are a Youth Crime Advice Counsellor. You run a support page for teenagers who live in areas dominated by gangs. You have a lot of messages to get through today from people who want help.

My friend Ky keeps two mobile phones on him and whenever one rings he dashes out the door, like, he won't speak on it in front of us. Then a lot of the time he's gone up the road on his bike without a word...what's going on? Kelvin, 14

My sister has been missing for a week. I know she's in a gang. We're out of our minds with worry. The police have tracked the GPS on her phone to some rural village - they found her but she say's she doesn't want to come home. What is going on? Kaz, 14

My little bro can suddenly afford the new iPhone – on paperboy wages? Does he think we're stupid? Who do I contact about this? Ben, 15

My uncle has learning difficulties and the council have provided him his own house. Recently when I've visited, there's been loads of teens coming and going from his home - he doesn't even know their names and the place stinks of weed. Should I be worried? Tyler, 19

I heard my brother having this conversation about cuckooing and getting in some 'brown' for Friday. What's he talking about? Ava, 15

Challenge: Create clear and helpful replies using your info sheets and clip answers. More challenging: Explain to each person what could be going on and why, where they can get help and what short and long-term possible consequences they need to be aware of. Mega Challenging: As above, writing articulately and using new terminology in the correct context.

# Literacy Focus Extended Plenary:

"We should legalise drugs like heroin and cocaine. That way, we wouldn't have problems like County Lines and all the other issues caused by the illegal drugs trade."

## To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Complete your literacy focus sheet at your challenge level and be prepared to feedback your ideas in ten minutes.

#### Learning Outcomes:

Identify how criminals exploit young people, how County Lines works and where you can get help if you think someone is involved. Describe in detail what is happening in a range of criminal case studies and how young people are groomed by gangs to get involved with County Lines. Explain exactly how County Lines and grooming works, how young people are trapped and then exploited and respond to case studies articulately using new key terminology.

# Task Four (Optional):-

# Why do gangs exist anyway and why do teens join them?

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsZWfZWToro

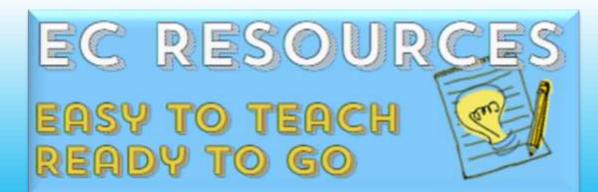
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8n3uo-pZquU (the history and nature of gangs)

Reason	Why does this attract people?	What could be done to change this?



#### Class discussion -

Which do you think is the most significant reason for gangs, disenchantment or identity? Be prepared to justify your reasoning to the class.





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