

# COUNTY LINES AND CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, COERCION AND ABUSE

Broadway House, Central London **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



## Key Speakers



Duncan Evans



Gemma Buckley & Nadia Ayub



MERSEYSIDE  
**POLICE**

Supt. Martin Earl



Junior Smart OBE



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

Jayne Horan



Emma Norman

## Overview

Tackling the criminal exploitation of children is a complex issue – many children and young people become victims as a result of coercion, control and grooming by gang elders from ‘County Lines Gangs’. Unfortunately, children who are at-risk of school exclusion, in pupil referral units (PRUs), or in care are acknowledged to be disproportionately vulnerable to being groomed and these risk-factors have only been heightened since the coronavirus pandemic and ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The most recent statistics from the *National Crime Agency* estimate that there are more than 2,000 individual deal lines in the UK, and according to *The Children's Society*, 46,000 children in England are thought to be involved in gangs, with 4,000 of those being criminally exploited in London alone.

Underscoring its commitment to tackling this growing challenge and bolster the law-enforcement response, the Government has invested up to £145m over the next three years, including £5m to support victims and families who are affected by county lines exploitation. Whilst this funding and other recent initiatives are all positive moves forward, unfortunately money alone will not solve the problem – increased co-ordination and data sharing between local authorities and the police is crucial to having the tools to identify, safeguard and support vulnerable young people, who are already involved in or are at-risk of exploitation by county lines gangs. Stronger multi-agency working is therefore critical to the success and effectiveness of local safeguarding frameworks to protect victims, and in turn, bring perpetrators to justice.

This Policy Foresight ‘in-person’ conference offers a timely opportunity for key partners from local authorities, children’s services, the police, social care, education, youth offending, criminal justice, health, housing, third sector and other key statutory agencies to understand the current national picture of county lines and examine how gangs have exploited the pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis to target more young people. The conference provides an ideal platform for participants to hear from experts and policymakers, learn from innovative best practice and share ideas to improve early intervention strategies, enhance partnership working and deliver lasting protections that keep vulnerable young people safe from exploitation and harm.



## Why Attend?

- Live conference featuring presentations & panel discussions with a wide range of policymakers, experts and key officials
- Receive key updates on the current scale of County Lines and how gangs have adapted during the Covid pandemic and cost-of-living crisis to target more vulnerable young people
- Gather knowledge to enhance early intervention strategies, local and national partnership working arrangements and county lines disruption programmes
- Examine how current legislation and legal frameworks including the *Modern Slavery Act* and *National Referral Mechanism (NRM)* can be effectively used to protect young people from exploitation
- Learn best practice from experts working to protect vulnerable teenagers from gangs and criminal exploitation
- Interactive *Question Time* sessions with opportunities to engage with all speakers
- Share ideas and network with fellow participants from local authorities, social care, police, education, youth offending, criminal justice, health, housing, third sector and other key statutory agencies



# COUNTY LINES AND CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, COERCION AND ABUSE

Broadway House, Central London **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



## Programme



10:00 AM	<b>Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>
10:10 AM	<b>Morning Keynote Session: Tackling County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation – The National Picture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Understanding the current national picture and evolving trends in county lines</li> <li>➤ Analysing how gangs have exploited the Covid-19 pandemic and current cost-of-living crisis to adapt the recruitment of vulnerable young people</li> <li>➤ Embedding a consistent national approach to tackling county lines gangs that balances enforcement with safeguarding</li> <li>➤ Effectively utilising current legislation and legal frameworks as key safeguarding tools including the <i>Modern Slavery Act</i> and <i>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</i></li> </ul>
10:30 AM	<b>Keynote Address: Questions and Discussion</b>
10:45 AM	<b>Morning Refreshments</b>
11:00 AM	<b>Panel Session One: Embedding Proactive Early Intervention Strategies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improving the identification of victims of criminal exploitation</li> <li>➤ Looking at the 'Whole Child' – Implementing complex safeguarding strategies using a trauma-informed response</li> <li>➤ Protecting young people from extra-familial harm through a <i>Contextual Safeguarding Approach</i></li> <li>➤ Addressing the increasingly complex role that gaming and social media sites play in recruiting vulnerable young people into county lines gangs</li> </ul>
11:55 AM	<b>Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion</b>
12:15 PM	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
1:00 PM	<b>Panel Session Two: Transforming Multi-Agency Working to Protect Victims and Disrupt Criminal Exploitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Creating local exploitation partnerships between senior specialists in local authorities, the police, children's services, education, health, social care and the third sectors</li> <li>➤ Enhancing data-sharing between key agencies to improve the understanding the local picture of need</li> <li>➤ Improving the use of the <i>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</i> – Exploring the lessons learned from the <i>Devolving Child Decision-Making Pilot Programme</i></li> <li>➤ Utilising the 'Public Health Approach' – Improving decision-making to ensure a coordinated response that meets the needs of vulnerable teenagers in every area</li> </ul>
1:50 PM	<b>Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion</b>
2:10 PM	<b>Afternoon Refreshments</b>
2:25 PM	<b>Panel Session Three: Delivering Lasting Protection for Vulnerable Young People</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Achieving better outcomes through effective interventions that allow victims to exit county lines activity and prevents them from re-exploitation</li> <li>➤ Tackling Debt Bondage – Effectively supporting and protecting victims with drug debts from their exploiters</li> <li>➤ Harnessing the <i>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</i> and other existing legal powers, including <i>Gang Injunctions, Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders (STRO)</i> or <i>Prevention Orders (STPO)</i> to protect victims and disrupt county lines gangs</li> <li>➤ Ending the Cliff Edge – Using transitional safeguarding to ensure that victims are protected beyond the age of Eighteen</li> </ul>
3:10 PM	<b>Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion</b>
3:30 PM	<b>Final Questions and Chair's Summary &amp; Closing Comments</b>
3:40 PM	<b>Conference Close and Networking Reception</b>



# COUNTY LINES AND CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, COERCION AND ABUSE

Broadway House, Central London *Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023*



## DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE FEES [price per place]						
BOOKING & PAYMENT OPTIONS:	1 PLACE		2-4 PLACES		5+ PLACES	
Online Registration with Card Payment – <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat
Offline Registration with Card Payment – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat
Register by Phone with Card Payment – Tel: 01753 373096	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat
Raise Purchase Order / Pay by Invoice – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 345 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 315 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 275 + vat

Delegate Name:	Job Title:	Email Address:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
Total no. places:		

Invoicing Details:			
Name of Key Contact:		Job Title:	
Organisation Name:		Department:	
Address:		Post Code:	
Email Address:		Telephone No:	
Accounts Dept. Contact:		Telephone No:	
Purchase Order No:		Cost Centre Code (if applicable):	

Card Payments:			
Government Procurement Card (GPC) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA / VISA Debit	
Cardholder:		Total Amount:	£ ..... + VAT (at 20%)
Card No:		Expiry date:	Security Code (CVC):
Date:		Signature:	

Other Payment Methods:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please Invoice my organisation £ ..... + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No. ....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ ..... + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to <a href="mailto:accounts@policyforesight.com">accounts@policyforesight.com</a> or fax to 020 3633 5766
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque in the sum of £ ..... + VAT (at 20%) made payable to <b>Policy Foresight Ltd</b> Please send cheque quoting event code 230928 to Policy Foresight Ltd, Castle Hill House, 12 Castle Hill, Windsor, SL4 1PD A VAT invoice will be issued on receipt of payment. VAT No: 295 4260 81

### DECLARATION:

I am authorised to register the delegate(s) as detailed above. I also agree to notify you of any cancellation in writing. Only cancellations confirmed in writing at least 28 days before the event date will be refunded, minus an administration fee of £50 plus VAT. Substitutions can be made at any time. Non-payment of an invoice does not count as cancellation and you will still be liable for the full cost. Non-appearances on the day are also liable for the full cost.

Full terms and conditions: [policyforesight.com/about-us-terms-conditions](http://policyforesight.com/about-us-terms-conditions)

Name:	Signature:	Date:
-------	------------	-------

**Please Email Completed Form to [events@policyforesight.com](mailto:events@policyforesight.com) or Fax to 020 3633 5766**