



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



Serious Youth Violence

**WARNING – SOME OF THE CONTENT IN THIS EDITION MAY BE TRIGGERING.
PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM IF YOU WOULD LIKE SUPPORT**

There is no national definition of serious youth violence. This protocol applies whenever young people may be involved in one or more of the following, particularly where there is reason to believe they have been exploited:

- Possession of a knife or other weapon regardless of any intention to use it;
 - Threat of violence with a weapon;
 - Violence where weapons are used;
- Any violence where young people may have been groomed, adversely influenced or coerced by others;
- Violence committed by groups of young people or young people and adults;
 - Violence perpetrated against repeat and/or vulnerable victims;
 - Possession of drugs with intent to supply;
 - Robbery;
 - Homicide.

An Organised criminal group is a group of individuals normally led by adults for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). This involves serious and organised criminality by a core of violent gang members who exploit vulnerable young people and adult. This may also involve the movement and selling of drugs and money across the country, known as 'county lines' because it extends across county boundaries. It is a tactic used by groups or gangs to facilitate the selling of drugs in an area outside of the area in which they live, often coordinated by mobile phone and reducing their risk of detection. It almost exclusively involves violence, intimidation and the offer of money or drugs. Young people can become indebted to gang/groups and exploited in order to pay off debts.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE CARRY KNIVES?

They are an easily available form of protection and for some have become the norm.

You can read a full report of young people on knife crime [HERE](#)

Carrying a knife makes you more likely to be the victim of knife crime.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE KNIFE CRIME DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES](#)

Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person'. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

COUNTY LINES

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.

County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs (National Crime agency, 2019). Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

Dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines" are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable and old fashioned, because they are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police.

Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a local dealer or drug user, or a dealer or drug user in another county.

Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

- 'running a line',
- 'going OT/out there'
- 'going country'
- 'going cunch'.

HOW WILL COLLEGE SUPPORT ME?

Any criminal convictions or investigations will need to be disclosed to the college before enrolling, this enables us to conduct a risk assessment and ensure you and others are safe within the college environment.

We work closely with services such as police, social services and Youth Justice, and will share relevant information to ensure your safety and wellbeing is at the forefront of any action or decision made. We also liaise closely with parents as necessary.

You may be asked to sign a stop and search contract if there are concerns around weapon carrying or drug use/dealing.

Please be aware we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

There may be times we have to share information with local authorities, police or parents/carers, regardless of age. Drop into the wellbeing centre, email safeguarding@mbro.ac.uk, text SAFE to 60081 or speak to a tutor.