

County Lines

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National County Lines Coordination Centre



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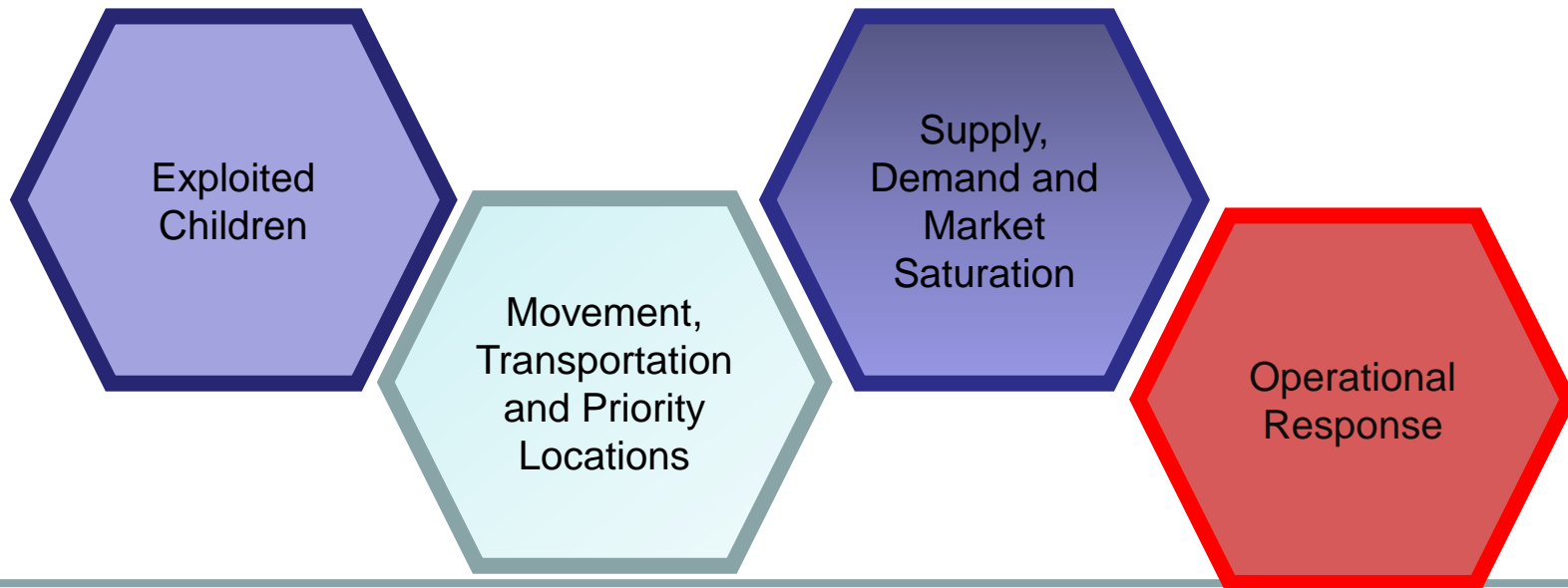
- Home Office Serious Violence Strategy. Funded joint NCA/NPCC Operational Hub. Approximately 40 police officers and law enforcement staff.
- Based in Birmingham with embedded resource in the Regional Organised Crime Unit's across England and Wales and the NCA HQ in London.
- Support forces in delivering law enforcement response to county lines, ensuring vulnerable children and adults are identified, protected and supported through multi-agency responses.
- Enhanced capability will ensure join up between forces to address the threat, as it crosses police force boundaries and links into upstream drug wholesalers including international organised criminal groups.



NCLCC structure

NCLCC Areas of Focus

The NCLCC is an integrated 4P structure which will focus resources on four key thematic strands with the overarching objectives of identifying the highest threat lines and networks for disruption, mapping high harm locations, high impact travel routes and identifying vulnerable cohorts. Each of these strands will inform, and be informed by, each of the 4Ps:



These strands are recognised as being the areas where focussed attention on improving understanding of the county lines business model, quantifying and qualifying levels of harm, developing consistency of approach and strategy can in turn improve operational response and reduce the long term capability and threat from county lines

County Lines - Context

The County Line Model

- Basic economics of “supply” and “demand”.
- Large demand in county force locations e.g. coastal towns, with large numbers of drug users.
- Urban criminal groups have the necessary supply networks to fill that demand.
- Organisers distance themselves from the point of arrest by exploiting young/vulnerable persons with the lure of money, status, sense of belonging (Modern Slavery Act)
- Violence is seen through enforcement, opportunist drug users, debt bondage
- Violence can indicate early involvement in CL or a saturated market
- Other safeguarding priorities are frequently identified e.g. CSE, Missing, Post traumatic stress disorder

County Lines – London the Exporter



County Lines – what we know and what we don't

- 2000+ Lines nationally
- £0.5bn - £1bn industry
- Some forces report approx. 25% of serious violence is attributable to CL related criminality – but we don't know true picture
- How many children and vulnerable adults are exploited?
- What is the demand for drugs locally?

County Lines are not just a drug problem

County Lines are not just a “drug problem”

- Violence
- CSE
- Economic crime ... estimated at £500 million +
- Slavery and Trafficking
- Firearms
- Criminal exploitation
- Organised Crime Groups, Gangs, Drug networks

Modern Slavery Act and County Lines

Use of Modern Slavery Act in a County Lines context

- Dismantle the current “business model” and target the organisers
- Stigma attached forcing organisers to self-govern in deciding who they use and prevent further exploitation of young and vulnerable persons.
- Post Sentence control through use of Slavery Trafficking Prevention Orders.

Challenges : Geographical
Investigations and Prosecutions
National Referral Mechanism