

Safeguarding – CPD – June 3rd 2026

DAN, 16, HAS BEEN STABBED AND FORCED TO SELL DRUGS MILES AWAY FROM HOME.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT **#COUNTYLINES**

 **NCA**
National Crime Agency

[NATIONALCRIMEAGENCY.GOV.UK/COUNTYLINES](https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/countylines)

COUNTY

LINES



Mortimer

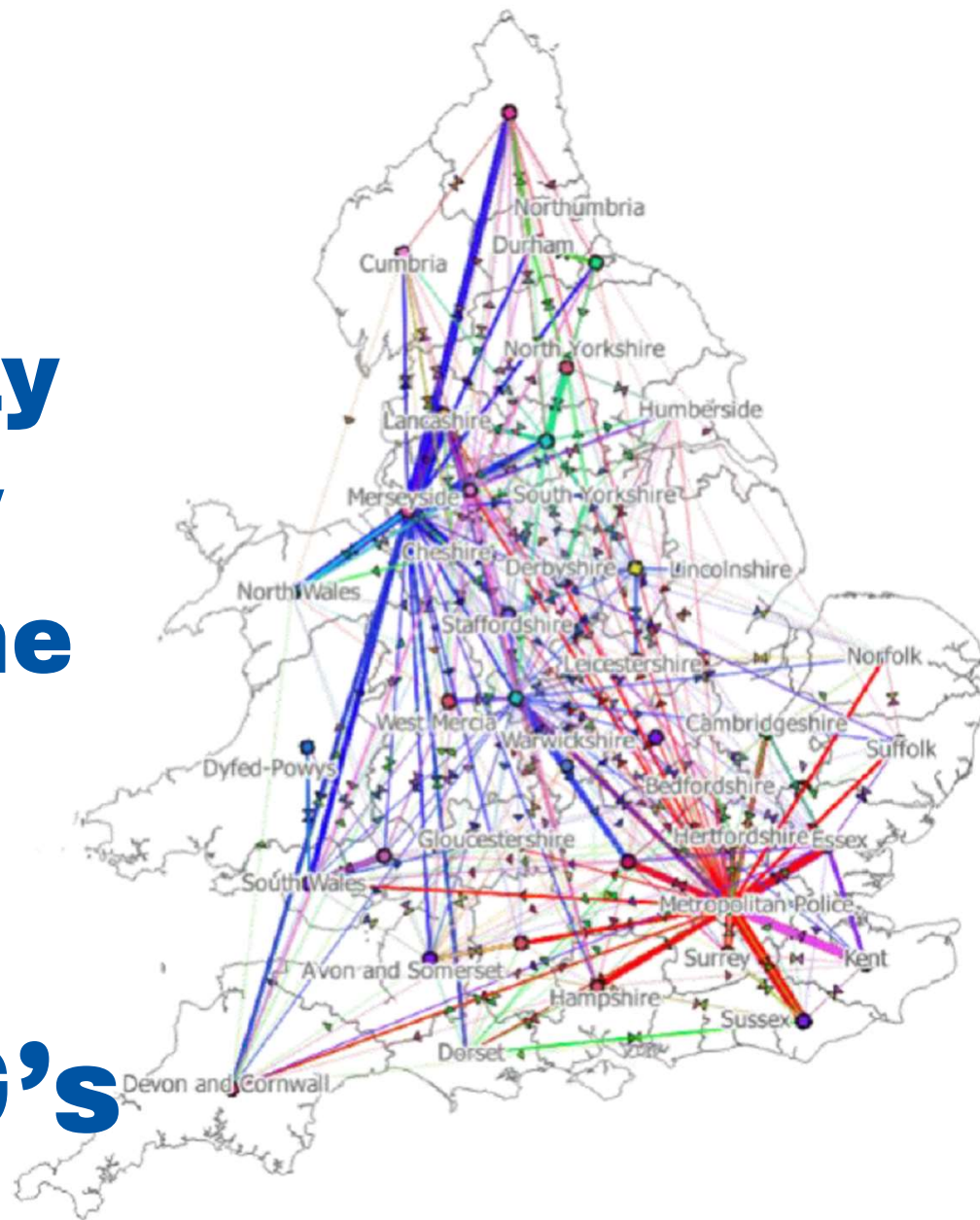
County Lines Definition:

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas.

They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs. This is often referred to as 'drug running'.

Ran by OCG's

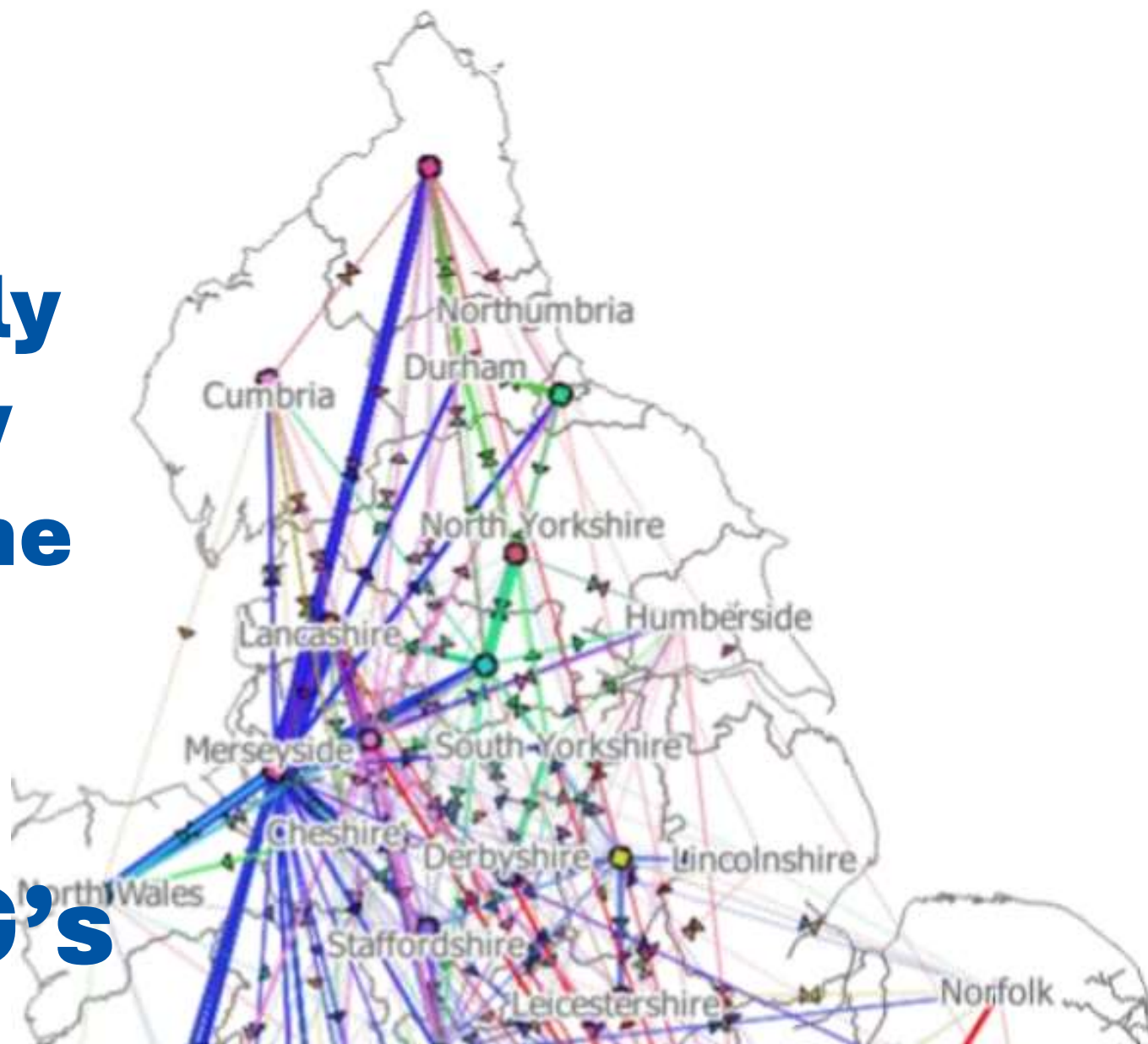
**‘County Lines’
drug supply
routes typically
used to supply
heroin, cocaine
and cannabis.**



Ran by OCG's

**‘County Lines’
drug supply
routes typically
used to supply
heroin, cocaine
and cannabis.**

Ran by OCG’s



**‘County Lines’
drug supply can
also happen
between local
towns and
cities.**



Ran by OCG's

Criminal Exploitation:

Criminal exploitation is a form of modern day slavery that sees victims forced to work under the control of highly organised criminals.

Gangs or individuals target children, young people and vulnerable adults and force them into activities such as stealing, dealing drugs and committing violent acts.

Vulnerable adults can be targeted for the purpose of cuckooing where dealers befriend them and take over their homes to store and sell drugs (trap houses).

What does a County Lines gang structure look like?



Manager/Faces

 REWARD OF UP TO \$5,000,000.00 USD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FINANCIAL DISRUPTION OF THE KINAHAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION OR THE ARREST AND/OR CONVICTION OF	 REWARD OF UP TO \$5,000,000.00 USD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FINANCIAL DISRUPTION OF THE KINAHAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION OR THE ARREST AND/OR CONVICTION OF	 REWARD OF UP TO \$5,000,000.00 USD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FINANCIAL DISRUPTION OF THE KINAHAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION OR THE ARREST AND/OR CONVICTION OF
		
Christopher Kinahan, Jr. SUBMIT TIPS VIA E-MAIL TO KinahanTCOTips@dea.gov	Daniel Joseph Kinahan SUBMIT TIPS VIA E-MAIL TO KinahanTCOTips@dea.gov	Christopher Vincent Kinahan SUBMIT TIPS VIA E-MAIL TO KinahanTCOTips@dea.gov

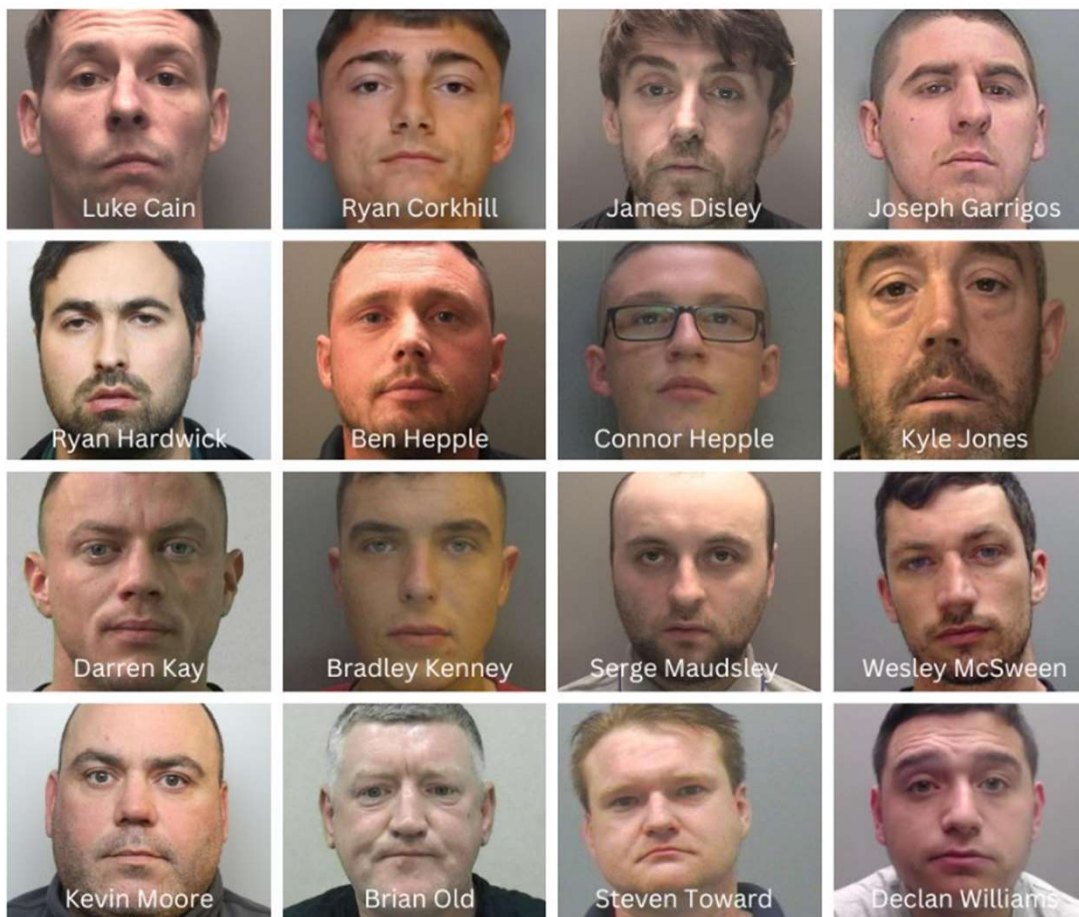
The Kinahan Cartel has an estimated net worth of approximately **£835 million to £1.3 billion**



What does a County Lines gang structure look like?



Elders



Sixteen men sentenced after County Lines operation

Sixteen members of an organised criminal network who sought to flood the North East with cocaine and heroin have been jailed for a combined total of more than six decades.



What does a County Lines gang structure look like?



**Youngers
And
Teenies**

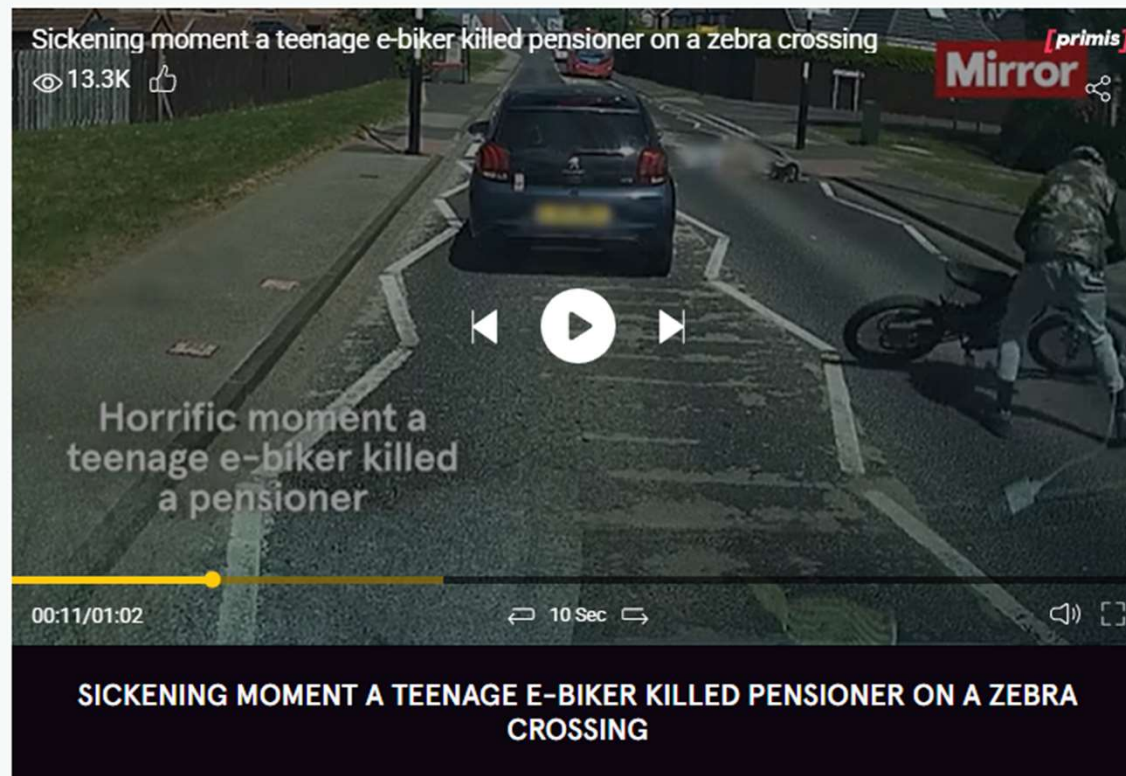


What does a County Lines gang structure look like?



Youngers And Teenies

11:59, 15 May 2026 | Updated 13:47, 16 May 2026



A drugged-up **e-biker** has been jailed after killing an "active" great-grandmother on a zebra crossing before leaving her "like she was nothing".



How the gangs work...

TARGET	WATCH	an area, young person(s)
	BEFRIEND	identify target, strike up friendship, appear to have things in common, peer pressure
	RECRUIT	into the 'gang', feel protected, glamourise

3 Stages of grooming

TEST



GIFTS

money, phones and other items

TRUST

sense of belonging, feeling special, powerful,
test loyalty

MANIPULATE

influence, control, trick

3 Stages of grooming

TRAP



CONTROL

debt bondage, threats, violence, fear

ISOLATE

remove from friends / family / school

TRAFFIC

moved around to sell drugs / weapons / sex,
sent to trap houses for days to sell drugs

ABUSE

physical, emotional and sexual

3 Stages of grooming

Know the signs to spot

County lines gangs use children and vulnerable people to courier drugs and money.



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**

Know the signs to spot

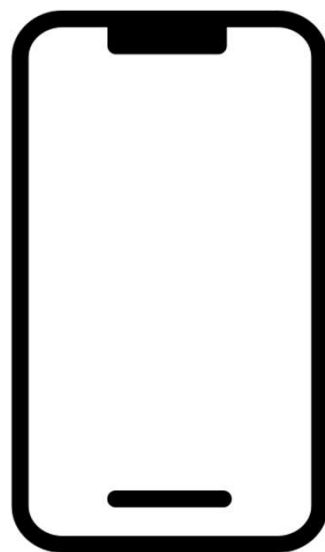
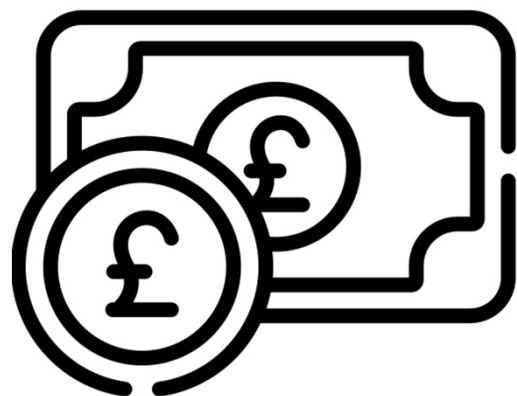
A young person who is involved in county lines activity might exhibit some of these signs:



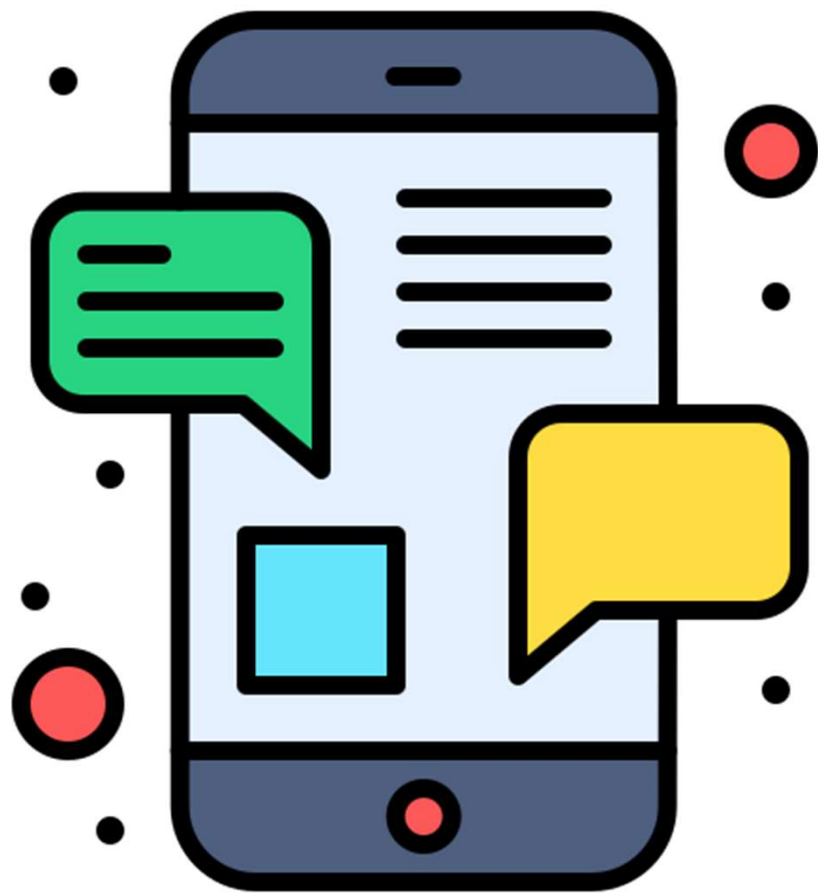
**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**



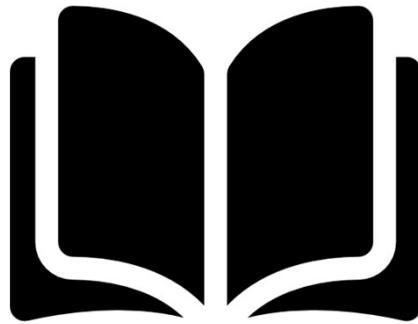
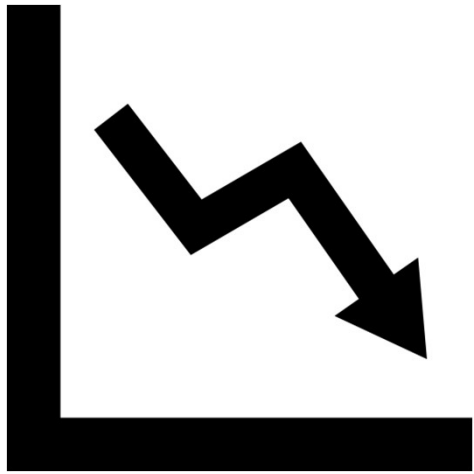
**Repeatedly
going missing
from school or
home and being
found in other
areas.**



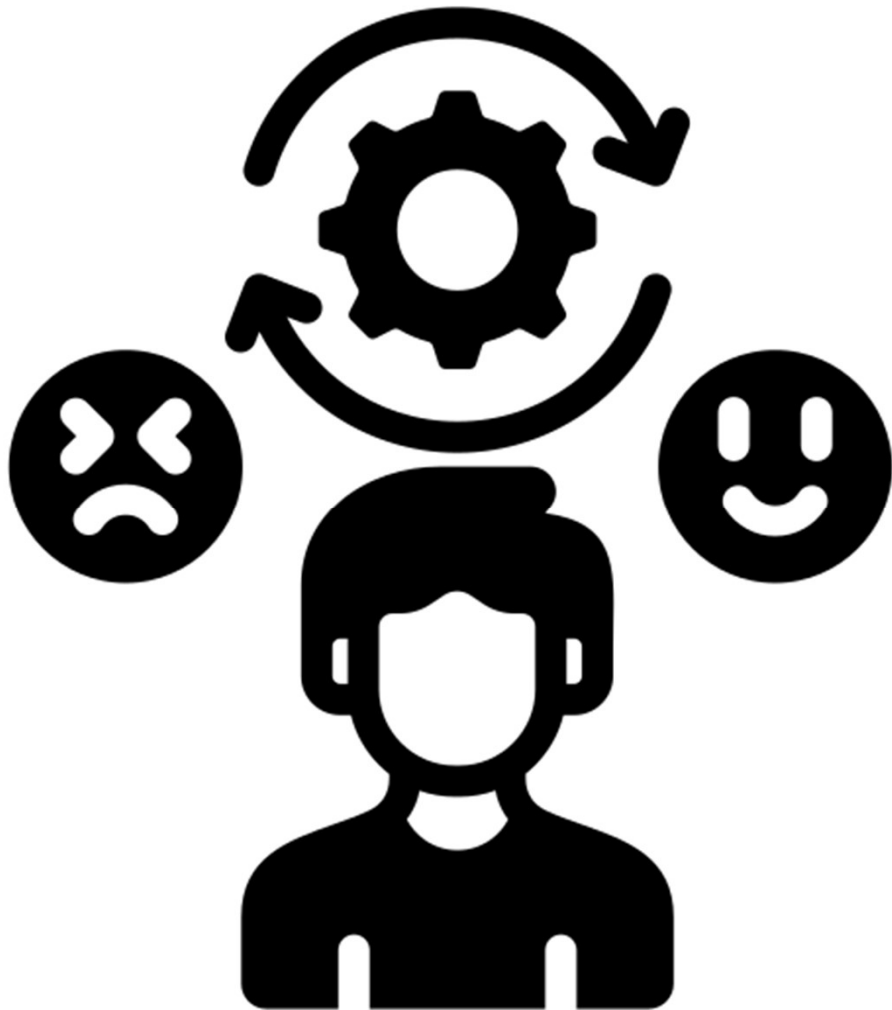
**Having money,
new clothes or
electronic
devices and they
can't explain
how they paid
for them.**



Getting high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to.



**Decline in school
or work
performance.**



**Significant
changes in
emotional or
physical well-
being.**

Social Media Use



- **Used to groom and recruit children**
- **Direct messaging or group posts**
- **Used by dealers to advertise drugs**
- **Disappearing messages**
- **Code words and emojis used**
- **Designed to evade detection**

One in four children have
seen drugs advertised on
social media.

sky

NEWS

Research carried out by SKY NEWS



Of the one in four children
who have seen drugs
for sale on social media:

56%

saw drugs
advertised
on Snapchat

47%

saw drugs
advertised
on Facebook

55%

saw drugs
advertised
on Instagram



Of the one in four children who have seen drugs for sale on social media:

63%

have seen
cannabis advertised

26%

have seen
cocaine advertised

24%

have seen
MDMA/ecstasy
advertised

20%

have seen
Xanax for sale

17%

have seen
nitrous oxide

16%

have seen
codeine/lean

Common Emojis



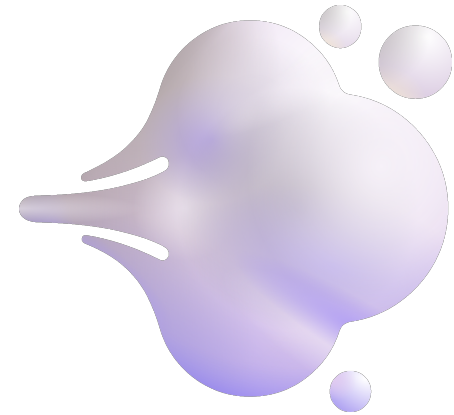
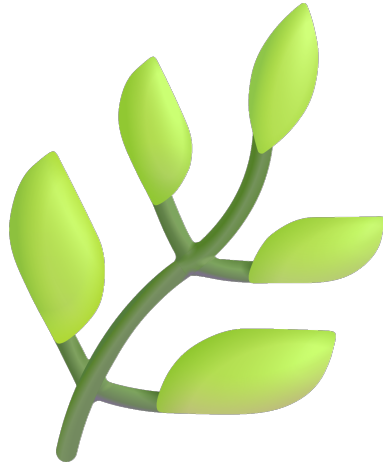
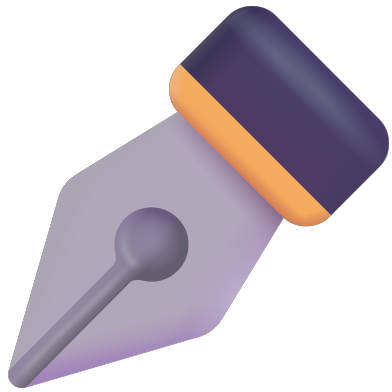
Common Emojis



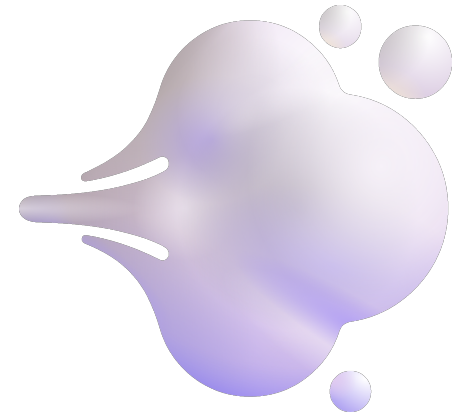
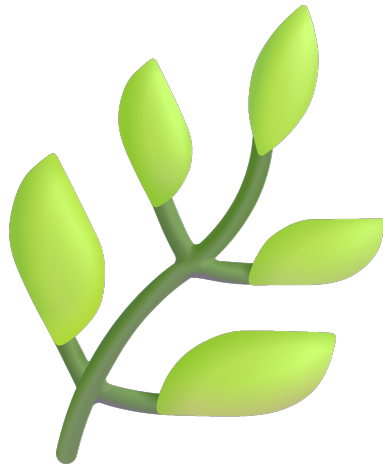
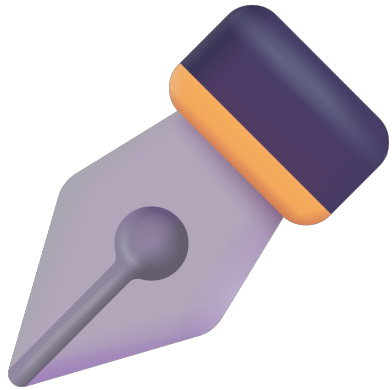
Cannabis

Class: B drug

Common Emojis



Common Emojis



Vape Pen | Cannabis/THC | Vapor

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive component in cannabis, is classified as a **Class B drug** under the [Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#).

Common Emojis



Common Emojis



Stardawg or Stardog | Cannabis Strain

Common Emojis



Common Emojis



Vape Cart | THC Vape |
CBD



THC Extract

Class:
B drug

Short Term Effects Of Vaping THC

ATTENTION

- Blood shot eyes
- Dazed/dreamy demeanour
- Short term memory loss
- Faint/feeling sick
- The giggles
- The munchies
- Dry mouth
- Paranoia
- Anxiety

Vape Cart | THC Vape | CBD



**THC Extract
Higher potency**

Common Emojis

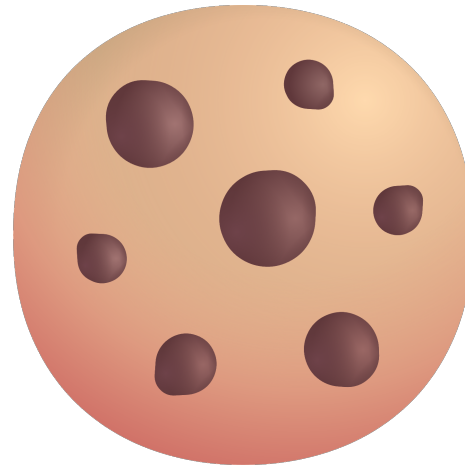
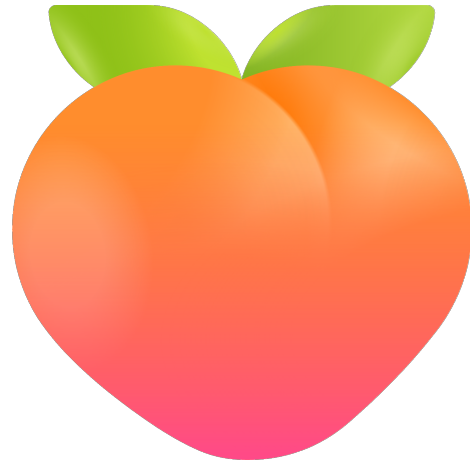


Common Emojis

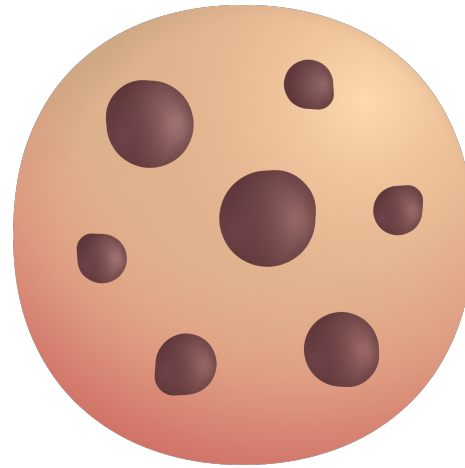
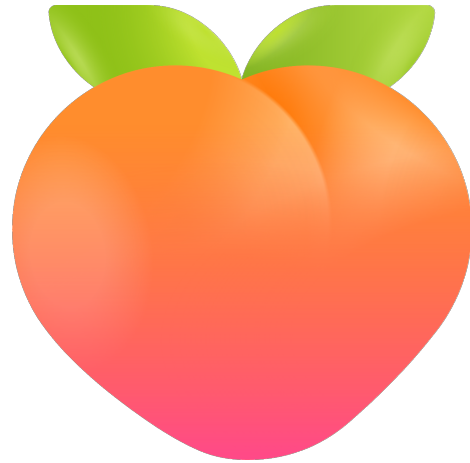
**High
Potency**



Common Emojis



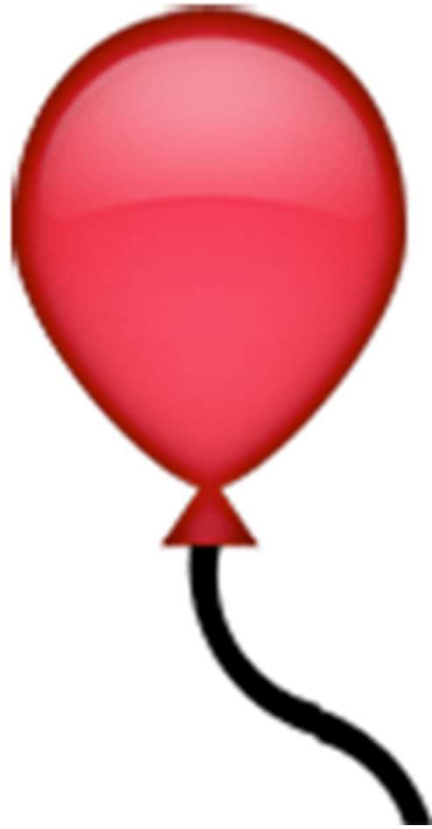
Common Emojis



**Type of
flavour**

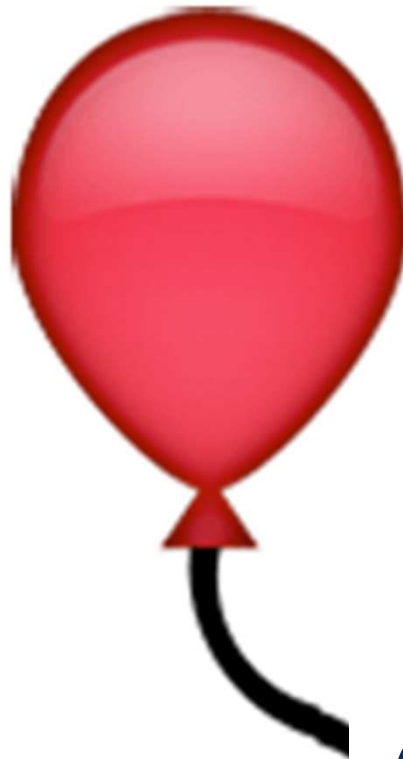
Premium Fresh Batch

Common Emojis



Common Emojis

**Nitrous
Oxide
=
Laughing
Gas**



Class: C drug

Common Emojis



Common Emojis

Cocaine



Class:
A drug

Common Emojis



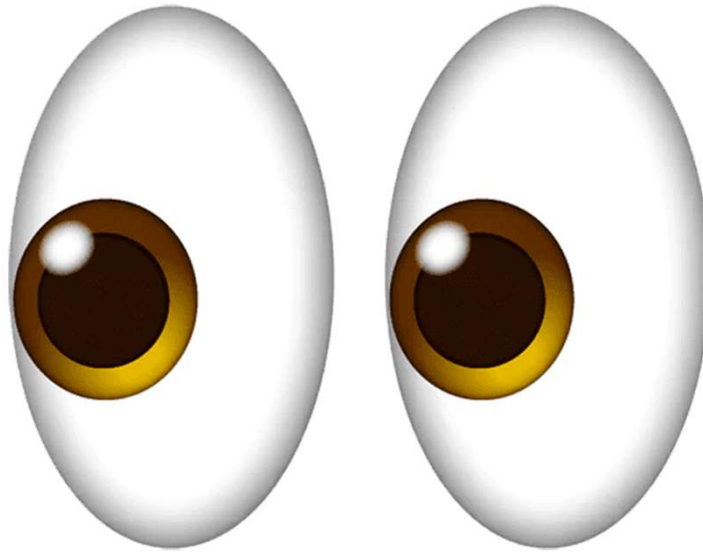
Common Emojis

**Generally,
represents
cocaine**

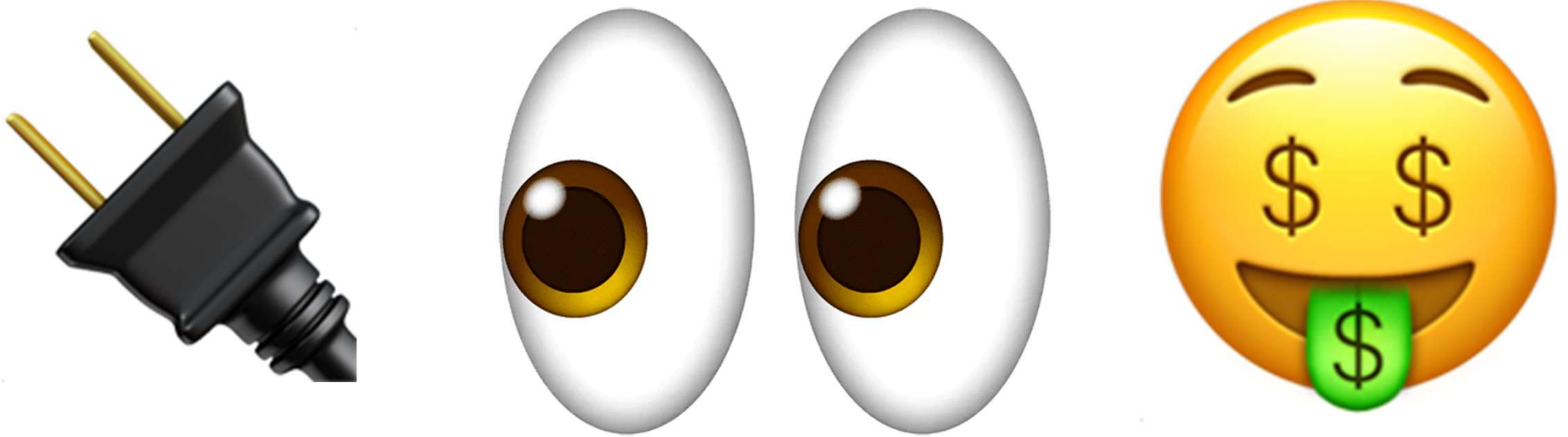
1/8 ounce



Common Emojis



Common Emojis



Dealing Drugs

Common Emojis

FAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

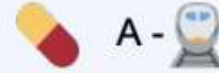
PERCOCET & OXYCODONE



XANAX



ADDERALL



OTHER DRUGS

METH



HEROIN



COCAINE



MDMA & MOLLIES



MUSHROOMS



COUGH SYRUP



MARIJUANA



DEALER SIGNALS

DEALER ADVERTISING



HIGH POTENCY



UNIVERSAL FOR DRUGS



LARGE BATCH



The social media drug adverts being seen by young people

Children are seeing this
type of **drug adverts**
on social me



Social Media Posts

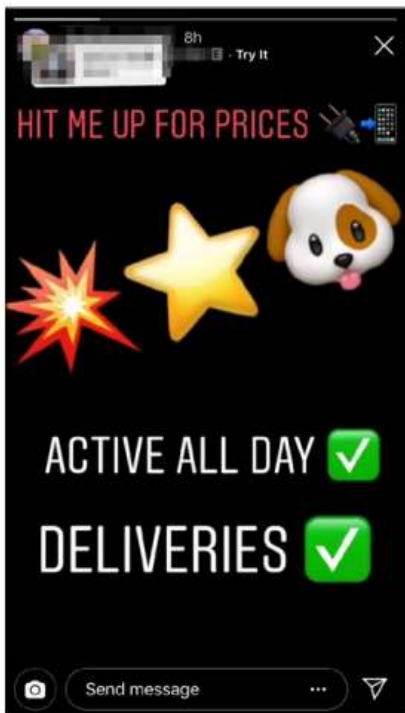


Image 70: Screenshot of a suspected dealer's Instagram story which advertises that they are active all day and are doing deliveries. The 'bang' emoji suggests that their product is 'banging', which means good quality. The use of the star and dog emojis indicates that the dealer is advertising 'Stardawg', which is a strain of cannabis.

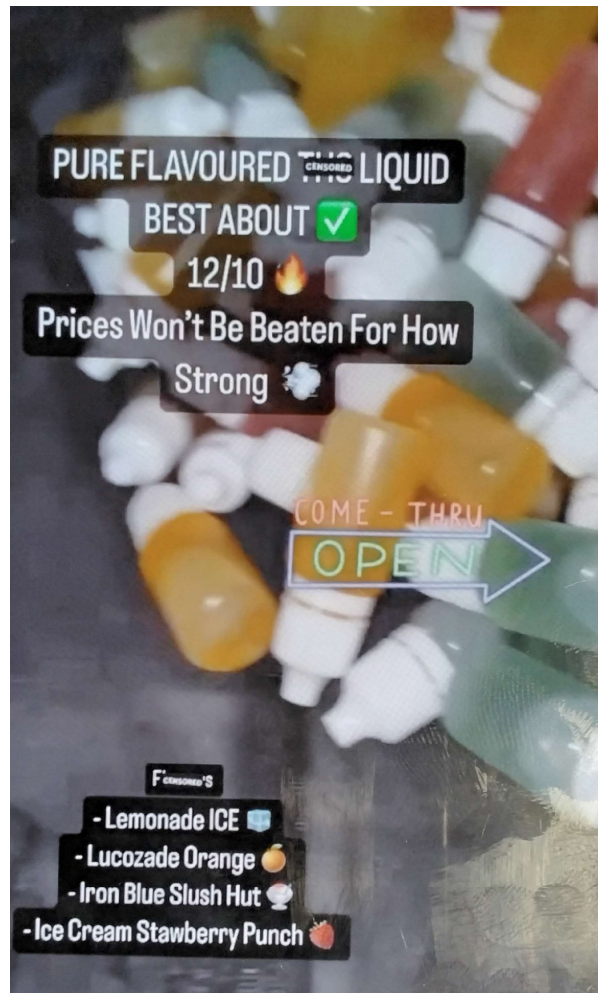
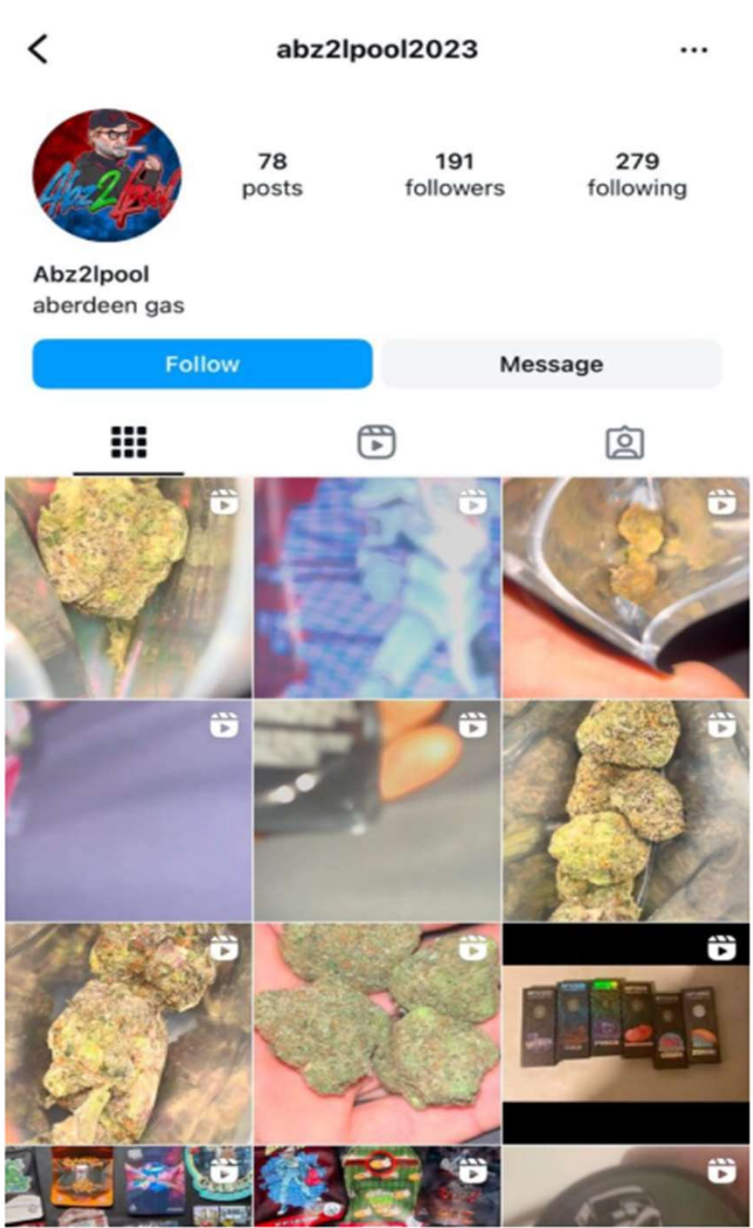


Image 72: Screenshot of a suspected dealer's Instagram story which shows a picture of cannabis, the strain, price and quantity. 'Purple dawg' is a strain of cannabis. 'Zed' means ounce, thus, the suspected dealer is stating that they have one more ounce left of 'Purple dawg' to sell at £170.



 Shields Gazette

South Shields 1,000-plant cannabis farm hidden in plain sight at town centre former bar

Police have confirmed officers uncovered a suspected drugs farm on a major South Shields street.

1 month ago



Drugs factory discovered under former bar



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

| More than 1,000 cannabis plants were seized

16 April 2026



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE



**Drugs
Factory**

**1.7
mile away**

School



Shields Gazette

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com> › news › south-shields-c... ⋮

'Respected' South Shields man jailed for role as link in ' ...

18 May 2026 — A South Shields off-shore worker has been put behind bars for his role as a 'middle man' in high purity drug deals.

**1.8
mile away**



Shields Gazette

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com> › news › no-idea-jail-fo... ⋮

'No idea' - Jail for brothers who ran drugs ring from South ...

8 May 2026 — Police raided the address of siblings _____, 26, and _____ 24, in South Shields, on November 21 in 2022 and found a stash of cash ... [Read more](#)

The pair had mobile phones with a total of 29,000 messages found relating to dealing cocaine, involving more than 100 customers.

**1.5
mile away**

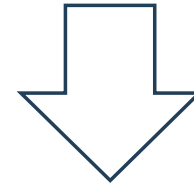
Police also found 79 bags of cocaine hidden in a safe in a wardrobe and £1,630 in cash.

... BBC

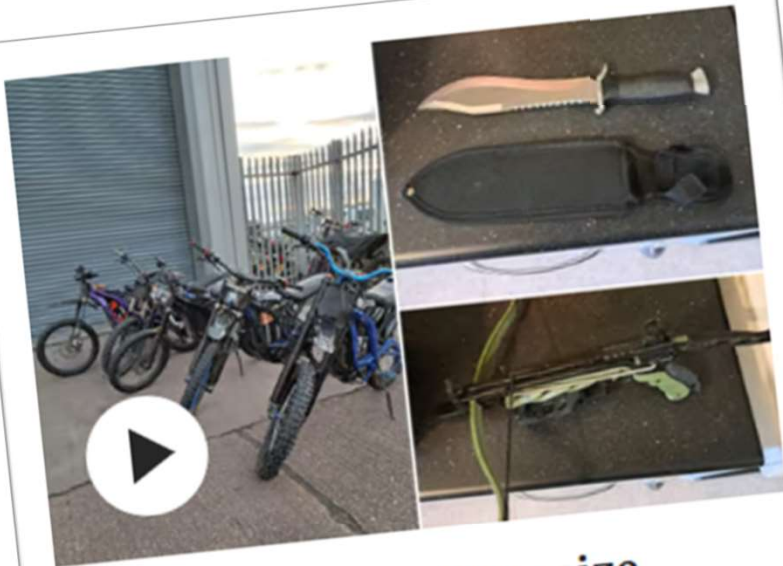
Boy, 14, arrested for bottle assault on South Shields beach

The teenager has since been released under investigation, according to Northumbria Police.

1 week ago



While responding to those incidents, volunteers helped two "heavily intoxicated" teenagers and were taken to hospital by the North East Ambulance Service.



Four arrests as police seize motorbikes, weapons and Class A drugs

Exploitation

DAN, 16, HAS BEEN STABBED AND FORCED TO SELL DRUGS MILES AWAY FROM HOME.

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COUNTY

LINES



Mortimer

If you have any concerns:

Immediate risk of harm?

Safeguarding Team



**Speak to a member of
the safeguarding team as
soon as you can.**

If you have any concerns:

Immediate risk of harm?

Safeguarding Team



Speak to a member of the safeguarding team as soon as you can.

Record Concern



Use CPOMS to record details of your concern.

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External Professionals



South Tyneside Council

