

COUNTY

LINES

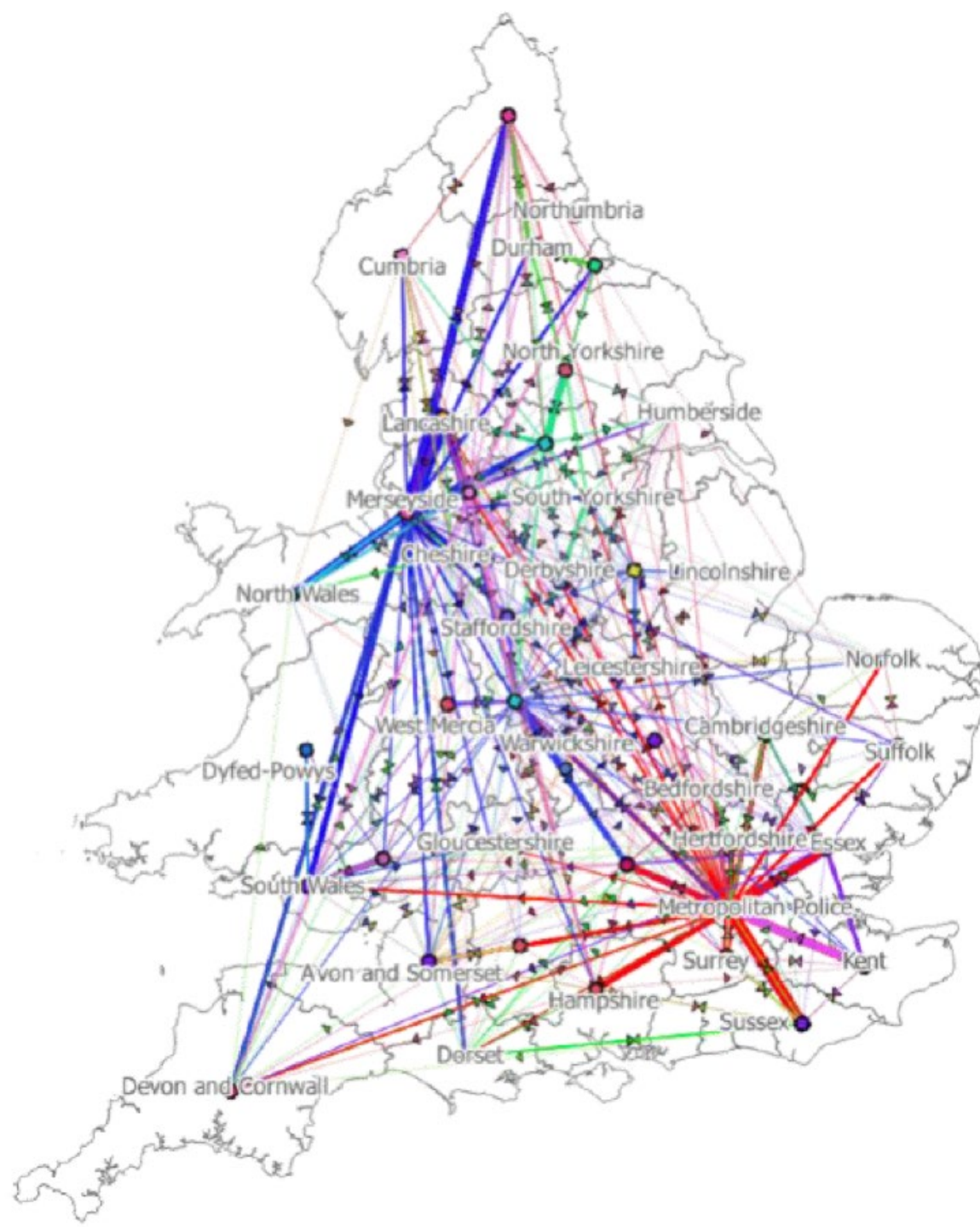
County Lines Definition:

County Lines is the police term given to the business model adopted by urban gangs that supply drugs to suburban areas , market towns and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “*deal lines*”.

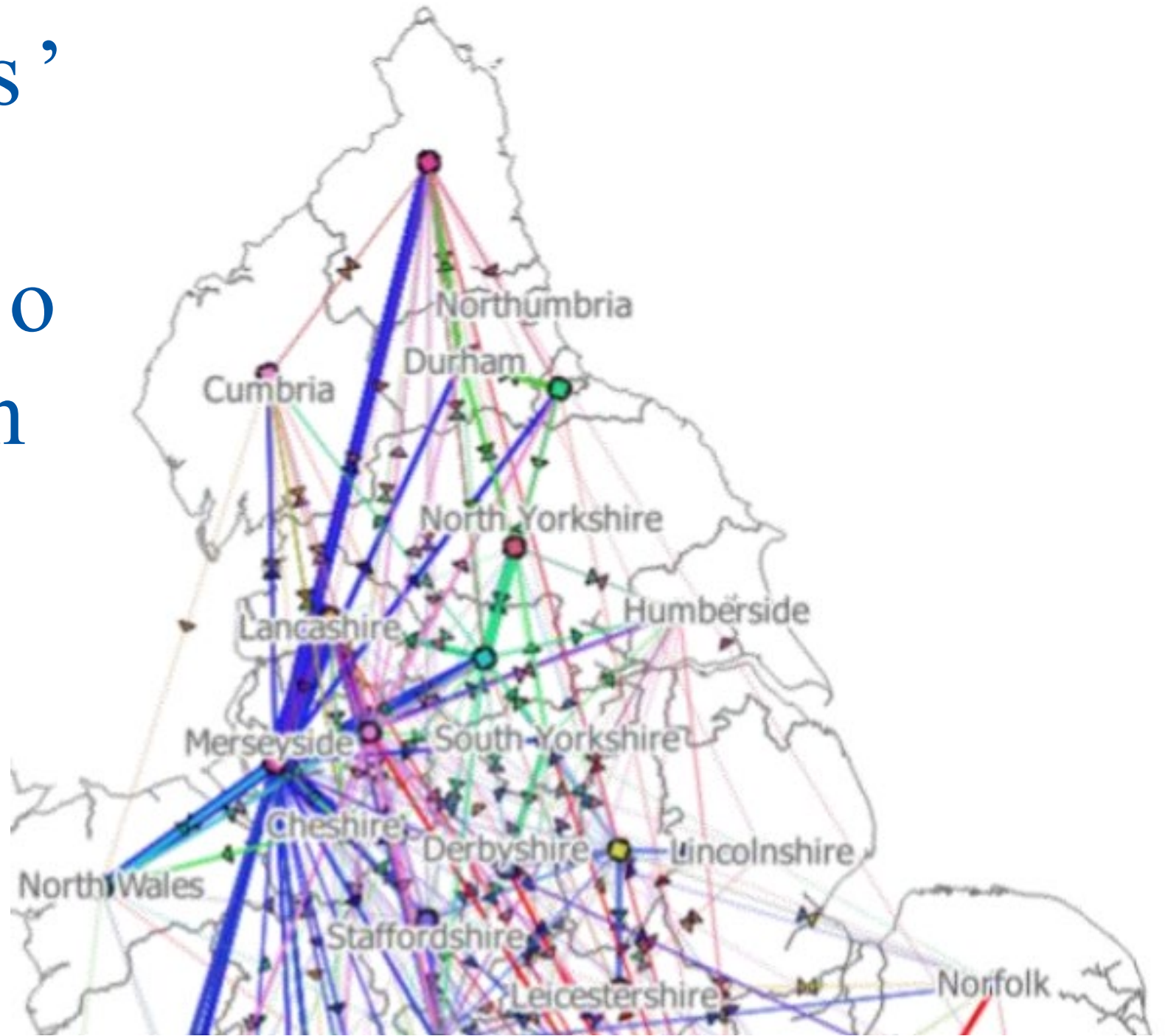
Typically this involves the supply of crack cocaine and heroin.

Gang networks groom and exploit young people to sell drugs, often made to travel across counties using dedicated phone lines to supply drugs.

‘County Lines’
drug supply
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supply heroin
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What does a County Lines gang structure look like?

Manager/Faces - top or higher end of the chain, limited contact with street level operations, not often seen or known by street level members

Operates like a business but outside the law – over 7000 operating within the UK
Those at the top have access to a lot of money and power over those below them

Elders - in charge of running street operations and trap houses, deal in larger amounts of class A and B drugs, purchase of firearms and other weapons, have authority over street dealers and youngers

They rely on exploitation to be successful

Youngers - generally under 18 and have some level of authority and provide a link between the Elder and the Soldiers.

Soldiers (Runners) secondary school aged students acting as drug mules travelling around the country distributing drugs and recruiting /grooming new members

Younger Boys or Girls - Wannabes or Teenies - the future Soldier/Runner will be upper primary school aged or lower secondary.

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).

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

BBC
LOOK NORTH

MONDAY
15TH JANUARY
2024



Know the signs to spot.

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

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



Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area



Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones



excessive receipt of texts or phone calls



Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association



Leaving home or care without explanation



Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries



Parental concerns



Significant decline in school performance



Significant changes in emotional well-being

Social Media Use



- **Used by dealers to advertise drugs**
- **Disappearing messages**
- **Code words and emojis used**
- **Designed to evade detection**

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



Social Media Posts

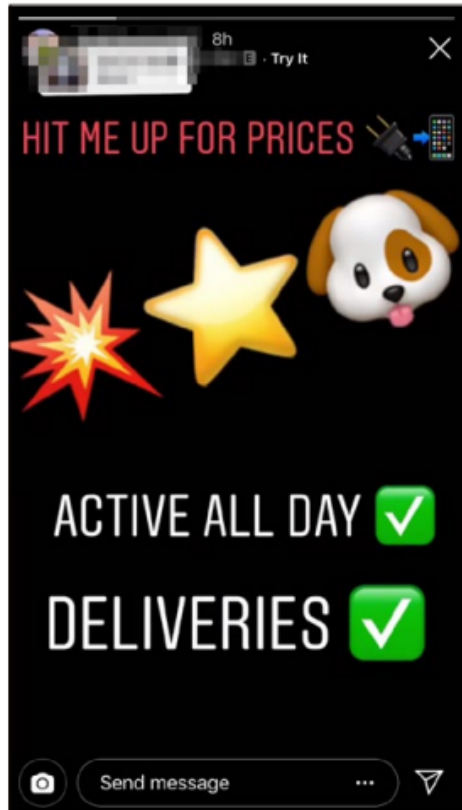


Image 70: Screenshot of a suspected dealer's Instagram story which advertises that they are active all day and are doing deliveries. The 'bang' emoji suggests that their product is 'banging', which means good quality. The use of the star and dog emojis indicates that the dealer is advertising 'Stardawg',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

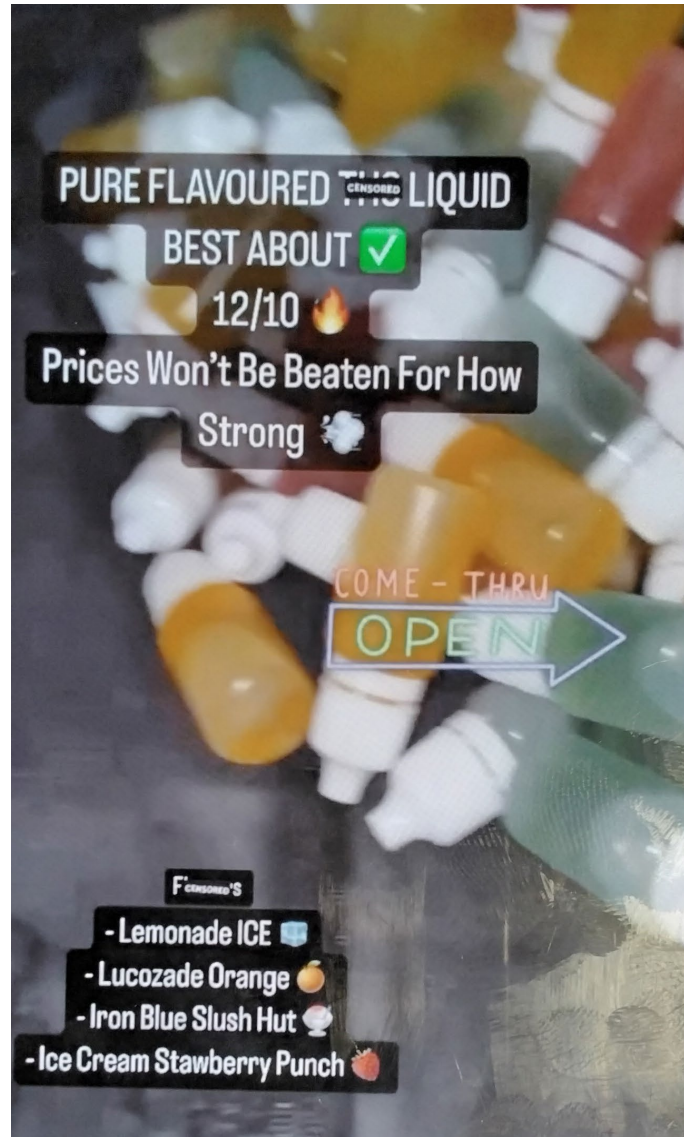


Image 72: Screenshot of a suspected dealer's Instagram story which shows a picture of cannabis, the strain, price and quantity. 'Purple dawg' is a strain of cannabis. 'Zed' means ounce, thus, the suspected dealer is stating that they have one more ounce left of 'Purple dawg' to sell at £170.

If you have any concerns:

Immediate risk of harm?

Safeguarding Team



Mr Liddle

**Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)**



Mrs Constable

**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DLS)**



Mr Mallam

Safeguarding Officer

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

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Record Concern



**Use CPOMS to
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External Professionals



South Tyneside Council



COUNTY

LINES

SLANG QUIZ

Burner Phone

Burner Phone
‘Disposable Phone’

Clean Skins

Clean Skins

No Criminal Record

Trap House

Trap House
Base for dealing

Cuckooing

Cuckooing

Take over a property

Debt-bondage

Debt-bondage
Owing Money

Bic

Bic

Gun or a Child

Plugging

Plugging

**Hiding drugs inside
the body**

Roadman

Roadman
Drug courier

Shank

Shank

Knife, Blade, Stab

Bando

Bando

Abandoned Property