

**DSCP Executive Group**

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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**Report of David Ashton, Durham Constabulary**

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**Purpose of the report**

To summarise key points from the National County Lines Coordination Centre Post-Visit Report. This followed a visit to Durham Constabulary and Partners on the 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Background**

This visit was arranged in partnership between Durham Constabulary, Durham and Darlington Safeguarding Partners and the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) via a request from ACC Orford.

County Durham partners had not been exposed to known county lines threats but are acutely aware of the emerging threat regionally and recent investigations, for example, which had taken place in Darlington and extensive County Lines activity which had been identified in York.

**Key Findings and Recommendations from NCLCC**

- The 4P Plan presented by the force is robust and consideration has been made for partner commitment and sharing of information to drive the County Lines plan from Vulnerability upwards. This is recognised as good practice.
- A Silver strategy should be developed as a tactical delivery plan underpinning the strategic 4P plan, accompanied by a police and partner structure chart with identified roles and responsibilities
- There is a requirement for engagement from key partners within Health and Education to ensure support of the above model, in particular with relation to mapping drug use demand and Child Exploitation threats. Understanding and mapping of potential vulnerable persons within schools and Pupil Referral Units, feeding into the model as highlighted above is vital to provide a holistic overview of exploitation.
- There is an opportunity to apply for funding once a ToR and strategic plan is written as part of the £2m, 3 year Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme, which is designed to improve

how different local areas respond collectively to child exploitation including 'county lines' drug dealing.

- Cross cutting training from multi agency backgrounds should be used to provide the drive to share information and intelligence under safeguarding and cover all forms of exploitation.
- A desire to adopting the County Lines Vulnerability Tracker (CLVT) methodology for creating and evaluating single cohorts of children and adults vulnerable to county lines exploitation and wider forms of exploitation. This will provide them with the opportunity to map their current CE cohort.
- It is apparent that Durham Constabulary have been impacted by county lines, and have robustly challenged the networks when they are identified. However, it is clear from intelligence that drug networks/OCG's are at an "exploratory stage" and are testing markets in places such as Darlington.
- From a safeguarding perspective Durham Police and partners have clear aspirations of working towards a Child Exploitation structure and are aligning the current MESA (Darlington) and MEG (Durham) structures in place. This is good practice and will "future proof" in relation to wider exploitation as per Home Office guidelines.
- There is a lack of consistency of approach across the two Local Authorities about how Return Interviews are conducted for missing children. Whilst it is accepted that the volume of interviews in County Durham is significantly higher, there would be benefit in examining the current approach.
- It is recommended that a workshop is convened with Police and key partners is to discuss current meetings process that covers all vulnerability meetings, especially when moving to the new model as outlined above.
- A comprehensive communications strategy in relation to County Lines would be beneficial to Policing, partners and the wider community.

### **Attendance and involvement in the NCLCC Review**

#### Durham and Darlington Partners

- Durham Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (Child and Adult)
- Durham Safeguarding Adults Board
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Children's Services Durham