



Sometimes being “kind”
doesn’t feel good!



- Usually being kind feels good, you help someone and it makes you feel better about yourself.
- Now and then being kind and doing the right thing can be difficult and it goes against everything that feels right.



This man was in the news last week ...





- He was convicted of trafficking people
- Not people entering the country illegally but children in the UK. Children from Birmingham to Lincoln.
- Children who should have been at school and safe.

63 Spanish Steps- 281



West Midlands Police



This is the grim reality of
County Lines drug dealing



- Did their friends have no idea what was happening?
- Were there not any warning signs?
- Did no one think they needed to help these boys and tell someone?



County Lines – How does it work?

- Drug dealer operates from a big city. Understands there is a market for his drugs in a more rural or coastal area.



- A member of the city gang (low member) is moved to the target area. Here they create a base often by exploiting a vulnerable person and taking over where they live. Known as cuckooing.





- A phone line is established and orders taken (known as county lines because it operates from a single phone line)



- When the orders are in, the drugs need to be delivered and money collected. Children are exploited for this purpose.



Where do the children come from?

- They may be taken from the city to target area or they may be from the target area.



How do they find them?

- They identify vulnerable children and “groom” them. This is often known as “chicken shop grooming”.

When the child has accepted something from them

- Drugs
- Food
- Phone
- Money

- They have built up a “debt” which they have to pay off. They pay off the debt by running the drugs.



What makes the children vulnerable?

- Run away / missing from home
- Missing from school / out of school
- Breakdown in relationships with adults
- Already involved in crime/drugs



What does running the drugs mean?

- It means they deliver the class A drugs and collect the money whether they want to or not. They deliver small amounts so if they are caught they will not arouse suspicion.

How does it end?

- Badly for the children who are often subject to:
 - Violence
 - Sexual exploitation
 - False imprisonment.



- They don't run because they are frightened. The latest police report suggests the scale of the exploitation of children remains unknown but 85% of police forces mention the use of knives in relation to county lines, 74% talk about the use of firearms.

What about the money?

Lines can be sold for up to £50,000 or rented for £10,000 per month.

We are talking

- A lot of money
- Class A drugs
- Use of firearms & other weapons.



What has it got to do with us?

- A conservative estimate suggests there are 720 lines operating across the country. If it happens in Birmingham and Lincoln, it happens in Stratford Upon Avon.
- Do not put yourself in a vulnerable position. There is no such thing as a “free lunch”.
- Stay in school.
- Know who is good for you.
- Look after your friends.

You need to tell someone when a friend is at risk.



- Maybe if the friends of those 2 boys in the video had alerted someone to what was going on it could have saved them an awful lot of pain and damage.
 - Talk to someone in school.
 - Talk to someone at home.
 - Call the NSPCC
 - Call childline
 - Contact “crime stoppers”