

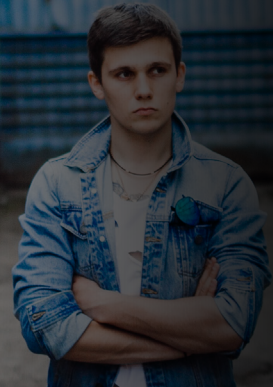
# County Lines

Gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs. It's called 'county lines' because the children involved have a spare mobile phone 'line' which is dedicated to taking orders for drugs.









**If your child was at risk, would you spot the signs?**

**Young people are often unaware that they're being exploited until it's too late.**

**Parents are unlikely to be aware of what is happening.**



## Possible signs a young person is being exploited:

-  Having more than one mobile phone – or being edgy or anxious after receiving calls and texts
-  A new friendship group, including older young people and adults – or dropping old friends, hobbies and interests
-  Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
-  Being in trouble with the police or being found with drugs
-  Missing school or college
-  Uncharacteristic changes in behaviour
-  Unexplained injuries
-  You may hear words like Going country, OT, Trapping, Cuckooing, 'G', 'Q', Shotter and Plugging



**Find out more and get support.**

 [cambridge.gov.uk/cambms-against-county-lines](https://cambridge.gov.uk/cambms-against-county-lines)



# What to do if you're worried about your child or a child you know

Remember, **you're not to blame.**

And **your child is a victim** of their exploiters.



## Talk to your child

Stay calm, ask them questions about what's going on, tell them that you want to help them and keep them safe.

Try to get them to see the reality of their situation. Be open, honest and non-judgemental; remember they may be scared.

## Gather evidence

If your child is picked up in a car or has rail or bus tickets, keep a record of these for the Police.

## Get help and support from professionals and organisations

Talk to other parents who have gone through the same thing. Talk to your child's school – or talk to another professional – see useful contacts below.

## When to tell the Police

If you have any concerns that your child is being exploited by criminals, you should report this to the Police. They can help them end the situation. **Remember, they are victims and should be treated as such.**

If your child stays away from home, you should report them as missing to the Police immediately. If you are worried about your child's safety, report these fears to the Police or your child's school.

## **Useful contacts**

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Missing People Safecall (call or text) **11600**

Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) **0113 240 3040**

Cambridgeshire Constabulary **101**

**If a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999**

## **Children's Social Care**

Peterborough **01733 864180**

Cambridgeshire **0345 045 5203**

Out of hours emergency team **01733 234724**