

16/07/2026

County Lines

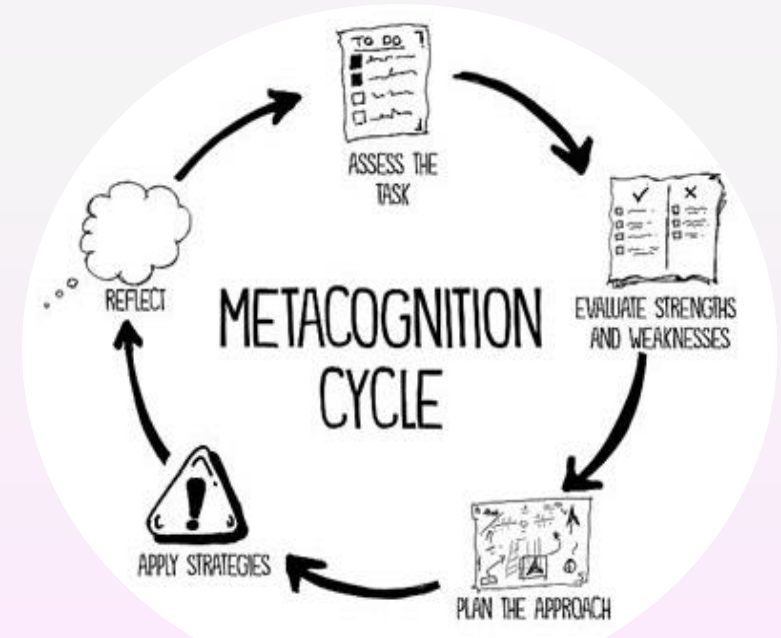
Instructions for Every Lesson:

1. Get your equipment out and write the title and date
2. Underline both with a ruler
3. Silently start working on the task below without having to be asked
4. If you have completed all of the above to a good standard, you deserve a house point for metacognition



What do you already know about gangs?

1. Which historical gangs have you heard of?
2. What does 'County Lines' mean?
3. How many young people in the UK would you estimate are exploited by gangs?





The Kray twins

RONNIE and Reggie Kray were both notorious for their ruthless East End crime empire during the 1950s and 1960s.

The Peaky Blinders

The Peaky Blinders were a street gang based in Birmingham, England, which operated from the 1880s until the 1910s



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County Lines and Risky Behaviour

Key Vocabulary: Metacognition, self-regulated learning, growth mindset
Drug activity, gang structure, street violence, coercion, cuckooing,



Recognise the signs that someone may be involved in County Lines



Know from whom to get help and advice about gangs and county lines, including online help.

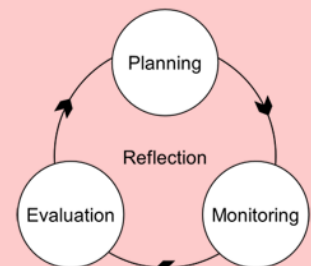


Understand what County Lines means.

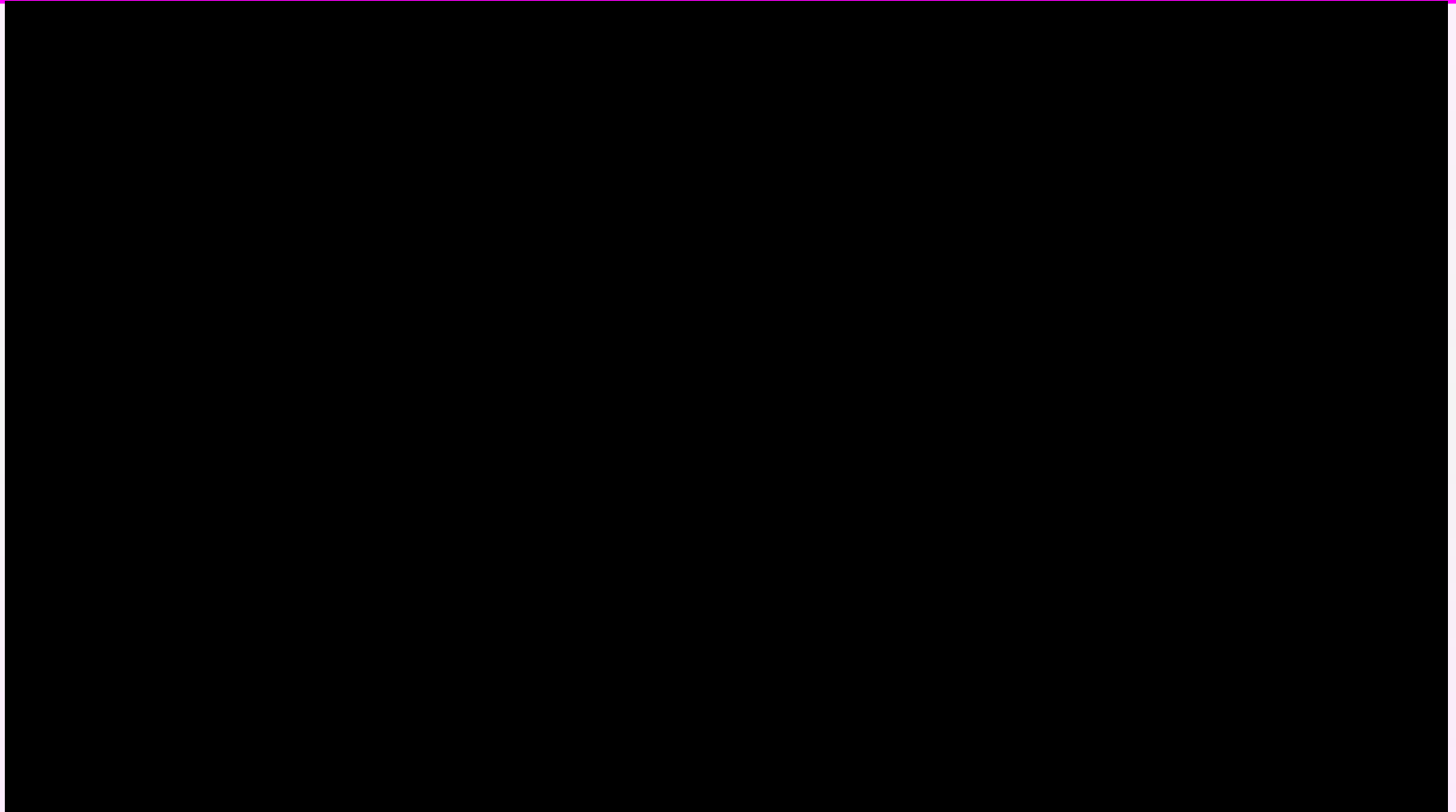
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Metacognition phases



1. What are 'County Lines'?
2. How are young people exploited?
3. What should happen if a child is arrested selling drugs?

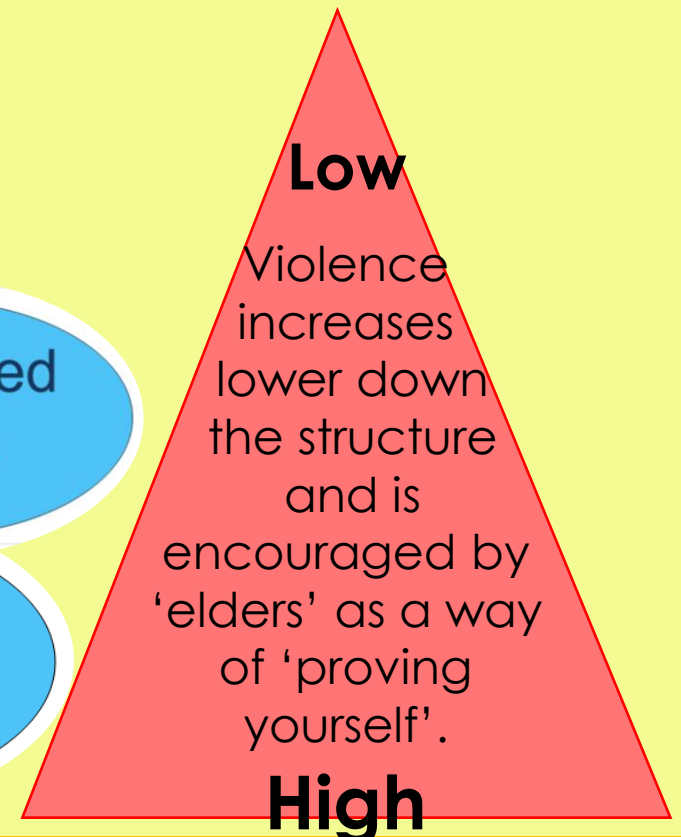
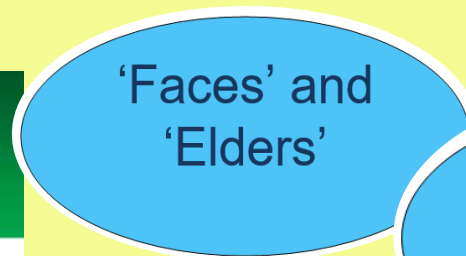
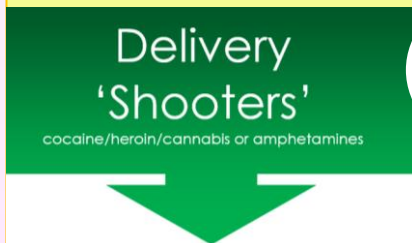


Instructions: Write full-sentence notes in response to the questions above.

Copy this table into your book:

Drug Activity	Gang type / structure	Street violence

Now, look at the following ideas and see if you can work out **which** (green, red, or blue icons) **go into each column**. – What **order** do you think the green and blue ideas go in?



Drug Activities

Import and Production



Manufacturing the drugs or importing them from abroad. This is typically done by organised gangs.

Distribution



Those at the centre of the organised gang will divide up the drugs and send them out to those at the top of each local supply chain, who then direct them down to street level.

Delivery 'Shooters'

cocaine/heroin/cannabis or amphetamines



The passing of drugs from those lower down in the supply chain to the end user.

Gang Type / Structure

Organised Crime

Those at the top often have access to money and have a lot of power over those below them.

'Faces' and 'Elders'

These are middle-ranking gang members. They are the buffer between those at the top and those on the street.

Street Gangs

'Youngers' and 'Soldiers'
'Wannabees' girlfriends, Reluctant Affiliates

These are the people at the bottom of the gang structure, on the street.

Street Violence

Low

Violence increases lower down the structure and is encouraged by 'elders' as a way of 'proving yourself'.

High



Street Gangs are the people at the bottom of the gang structure, on the street, although there may be a hierarchy here too.

Soldiers and Youngers are recruited and controlled to sell drugs.

Some may be forced/coerced (reluctant affiliates) or become involved because their boyfriend/girlfriend is.



Wannabes may have aspirations to climb up higher in the gang. They may want what they see as the glamour or sense of belonging that comes with being in a gang.

Others may believe that this is the only way they can earn money or gain the drugs they need





What are three push / pull factors that are exploited by drug gangs?



CUCKOOING AND HOTELS

Look at these images and see if you can work out what cuckooing is and what the link may be to hotels?



Sometimes drugs may be sold from the homes of vulnerable people (*adults with learning difficulties, vulnerable elderly people, or drug / alcohol dependent people*) or stored at their houses. This is called 'cuckooing'.

Police have got much better at recognising when cuckooing is taking place. As a result, some gangs now use hotel rooms/suites booked for short stays. A runner may be forced to stay in a hotel with a quantity of drugs and buyers will attend over a few days until the drugs are all sold. Only then will the young person be allowed to leave the hotel.



1. 'Cuckooing' is when.....
2. The homes / people that can be targeted are....

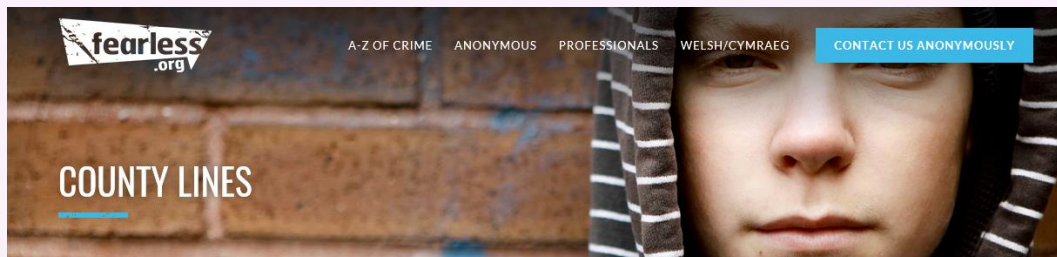
Instructions: Write full-sentence notes in response to the questions above.

Bullet point all the way that Derbyshire Police are tackling County Lines locally

GETTING HELP & FINDING OUT MORE- **who can you turn to for help and support?**

- Police – the police have a duty to protect young people and while they have to investigate and deal with crime, safeguarding is always the top priority. They can refer young people caught up in gangs to other sources of help and support.
- You can also look at Fearless <https://www.fearless.org/en> (Crimestoppers Youth version). Fearless provides non-judgemental advice and is anonymous. It is aimed at ages 11 to under 24 years. Specific information on County Lines at: <https://www.fearless.org/en/campaigns/county-lines> this contains an explanation of how county lines work, definitions and how to get help.





Home / Campaigns

County Lines is a very serious issue where criminal gangs set up a drug dealing operation in a place outside their usual operating area. Gangs will move their drug dealing from big cities (e.g. London, Manchester, Liverpool etc.) to smaller towns in order to make more money. This can have a really big effect on the community who live there and bring with it serious criminal behaviour.

If you have any information about this type of behaviour you can let us know [100% anonymously](#)

CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH COUNTY LINES

DRUGS

County lines commonly involves the illegal distribution and dealing of seriously dangerous drugs from one city/town to another. The most common drugs involved are heroin also known as brown and cocaine (crack and powder) also

SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Here are some signs to look out for that can suggest that someone you know might be involved in county lines activity.

- Are they always going missing from school or their home?
- Are they travelling alone to places far away from home?

RECOGNISE THESE TERMS?

Here are some words/terms that are commonly used when describing county lines activity. If you hear someone using these words then they might be involved in or might know of county lines activity.



Help!

Where can you get help?

HOME

Try talking to your parents. If you feel that you cannot talk to them consider talking to another family member or a good friend.

MEDICAL

Ms Harman is trained to help with a wide range of young people's problems. You can talk to Ms Harman in confidence. Drop in to see her in Medical.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

If you feel you need to talk to a counsellor, please see your Head of Year.

SCHOOL

Friends, Form Tutors, Subject Teachers, Pastoral Support Assistants, Year Tutors or any member of staff who you feel comfortable talking to.

DOCTOR

Make an appointment with your GP.



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Progress Review

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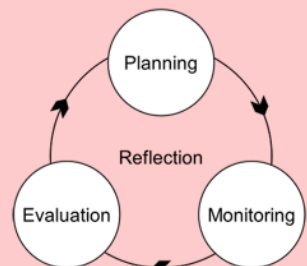


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Metacognition phases





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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63759703>

