

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

## **2020/21 County Lines**

### **Strategic Intelligence Requirement**

**National County Lines Coordination Centre**



# Overview

- The National County Lines Coordination Centre 2019 Strategic Assessment identified four key national strategic intelligence gaps, the closing of which are critical to enhancing the effectiveness of local, regional and national response to county line threat:
  1. Middle Market drug supply in to county lines
  2. Production locations for crack cocaine
  3. Illicit finances within county lines
  4. Recruitment of children in to county lines
- These strategic intelligence requirements form part of the NCA Director General's 2020 S5 tasking, requiring all forces to drive quantity and quality of reporting against these IR's
- This briefing pack sets out the specific requirements and sub-questions within each IR
- The NCLCC will be required to report each quarter to the NPCC lead and DG on national performance against these IR's

## Middle Market Drug Supply in to County Lines

- While the intelligence picture in relation to street level supply within the county lines model remains good, there is a significant gap in the quality and quantity of intelligence identifying potential supply routes of more wholesale (1/2kg +) supply from OCGs in to county lines networks.
- Intelligence is therefore required on the following:
  - Which individuals, USGs and OCGs are supplying heroin in to county lines?
  - Which individuals, USGs and OCGs are supplying powder cocaine in to county lines?
  - Which individuals, USGs and OCGs are supplying crack cocaine?
  - At what point of the county lines model is the link to the middle market (i.e. line holder or above)?
- In order for the NCLCC to centrally search and retrieve all intelligence linked to this IR please make sure logs are marked up on force/ROCU/national systems with the value **#CLMiddleMarket**

- Crack cocaine supply is not unique to county lines, and therefore the intelligence gap in relation to production is not county lines specific. However, with county lines driving crack cocaine supply across large areas of the UK, identifying and disrupting the means of production for crack cocaine will have an impact on the county lines business model
- Intelligence is required on the following:
  - Which individuals, networks and OCGs are converting powder cocaine in to crack cocaine?
  - Where is crack cocaine being produced? Are there any industrialised crack cocaine production facilities?
  - What equipment is being used to produce crack cocaine?
- In order for the NCLCC to centrally search and retrieve all intelligence linked to this IR please make sure logs are marked up on force/ROCU/national systems with the value **#CLCrackProduction**

## Illicit Finances in County Lines

- The volume of supply from county lines across the UK suggests that significant amounts of money are flowing from street supply back in to the point of distribution, and then likely onwards to more sophisticated OCGs. However, there remains an intelligence gap as to how and where illicit funds from county lines are moving, and where profits are being reinvested in to asset building
- Intelligence is required on the following:
  - Bank accounts, cryptocurrency accounts and other financial intelligence lines of enquiry of individuals linked to county lines, including rail tickets, bus tickets and rental agreements
  - Amounts and denominations of cash seizures from runners linked to county lines
  - Banking apps, and other apps with financial footprint (i.e. Uber, Deliveroo) within handsets seized from those involved in county lines
- In order for the NCLCC to centrally search and retrieve all intelligence linked to this IR please make sure logs are marked up on force/ROCU/national systems with the value **#CLIllicitFinance**

## Recruitment of Children by County Lines

- Recruitment of children in to county lines activity remains reported across forces and partners, both in exporting and importing locations. However, high volume locations and methods of recruitment remain challenging to identify from the volume of current reporting.
- Intelligence is required on the following:
  - Social media platforms and other online spaces where children have disclosed being recruited, or where intelligence states that county lines networks are actively recruiting. This is to include social media handles and other unique identifiers where known
  - Particular locations or institutions where county lines are suggested or known to be actively targeting children for recruitment
  - Particular methods of recruitment, i.e. incentivising through payment, or through force/coercion, and how those children are being targeted
- In order for the NCLCC to centrally search and retrieve all intelligence linked to this IR please make sure logs are marked up on force/ROCU/national systems with the value **#CLRecruitment**

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