



County Lines, Gang & Knife Crime Safeguarding Training



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Course Overview:

This course is a must for any professional working with vulnerable individuals. The course will assist practitioners introduce proactive interventions to support 'at risk' individuals in tackling this social issue.

A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement. In some cases the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing.

People exploited in this way will quite often be exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse, and in some instances will be trafficked to areas a long way from home as part of the network's drug dealing business.

Safeguarding and prevention is key to detecting victims and at-risk children, young people and vulnerable adults. Through understanding the problem, being aware of statutory responsibilities and being confident about the issues to help to reduce the impact of county lines criminal exploitation.

Trainer:

Vince Donovan served as a police officer with South Wales Police for thirty years. Having served in a variety of departments including community safety, crime prevention and hate crime roles, he served the last six years of his police career working with vulnerable individuals, groomed and attracted to various forms of violent extremism. Vince has delivered training to over 350 organisations, many of which provide support for vulnerable individuals with an array of challenging behaviours complicated sometimes, by substance misuse and mental health issues.

Learning Objectives

- Understanding 'County lines' and 'cuckooing' vulnerable individuals
- Appreciate the reasons why young people carry knives and the legal implications
- Appreciate the link between weapons and drugs
- Identify the vulnerability *push factors* that attract young people to street gangs
- Have an awareness of street gang affiliation, structure, membership and risks connected with leaving a gang
- Have an awareness of the role of young women in street gangs, criminality and sexploitation
- Appreciate the relevance of 'drill' music, social media and video games in violent behaviour
- Recognise the impact on physical and mental health upon vulnerable individuals
- Recognising and reporting safeguarding concerns