

Safeguarding Family Blog County Lines



‘The children are at the centre of everything we do’

A safe culture within our school

At Glastonbury Thorn School, we strive to keep our children and families safe and happy. In this blog, we cover some of the issues surrounding **County Lines**.

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas. They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs, often referred to as ‘drug running’.

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is involved in county lines:

- repeatedly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas
 - having money, new clothes or electronic devices and they can't explain how they paid for them
 - getting high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to
 - decline in school or work performance
- significant changes in emotional or physical well-being

If you're concerned about drug-related crime in your area or think someone may be a victim of drug exploitation, please speak to a DSL at school or call the police on [101](https://www.101.gov.uk/).

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



Children are being exploited by gangs involved in drug crime. **Know the signs to spot.**

County lines gangs use children and vulnerable people to courier drugs and money. A young person who is involved in county lines activity might exhibit some of these signs:



Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area



Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones



excessive receipt of texts or phone calls



Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association



Leaving home or care without explanation



Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries



Parental concerns



Significant decline in school performance



Significant changes in emotional well-being

If you have concerns, follow your safeguarding procedures and share your concerns with local authority social care services.



Home Office



Working in partnership with
CrimeStoppers.