

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

County lines gangs use children to courier drugs and money across the country. Children are targeted for recruitment by these gangs in public spaces, such as shopping centres and high streets.

Have you seen:

A child, sometimes as young as 12, alone in a shopping centre or high street either during school hours or unusual hours (early in the morning, late at night)

Are they obviously being approached or intimidated by a controlling, peer or group?

They could be receiving excessive texts or phone calls

They might seem unfamiliar with the local area, or not have a local accent

Are they deliberately avoiding authority figures such as police officers or security guards?

Some may be with older individuals who are purchasing tickets for them or giving them money for tickets

If you spot a vulnerable young person you should immediately take steps to safeguard the young person in line with your company's safeguarding policies.




Children travelling in taxis or private hire vehicles may be being exploited by gangs involved in drug crime.  
**Know the signs to spot.**

County lines gangs use children to courier drugs and money across the country. Many of these children travel by taxis or private hire vehicles.

Have you seen:



A child, sometimes as young as 12, travelling alone



Are they travelling during school hours or unusual hours (early in the morning, late at night)?



They might seem unfamiliar with the local area, or not have a local accent



Are they travelling a long distance?



Are they paying for these journeys in cash?

If you see something that doesn't feel right, or looks suspicious, concerning a child or young person you should report it to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.