



County Lines –
how can I talk
about it?





Most young people don't do drugs and most of those who do try drugs don't keep on using them.





Research shows that a child is more likely to develop a problem with alcohol than with drugs.





You probably can't stop your child from coming into some contact with drugs.

Staying as informed as possible will help you to help them make the right choices when they do.



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Concerned about a child?

Honest and useful advice for parents and guardians

You probably can't stop your child from coming into some contact with drugs, but by staying as informed as possible, you can help them make the right choices when they do.

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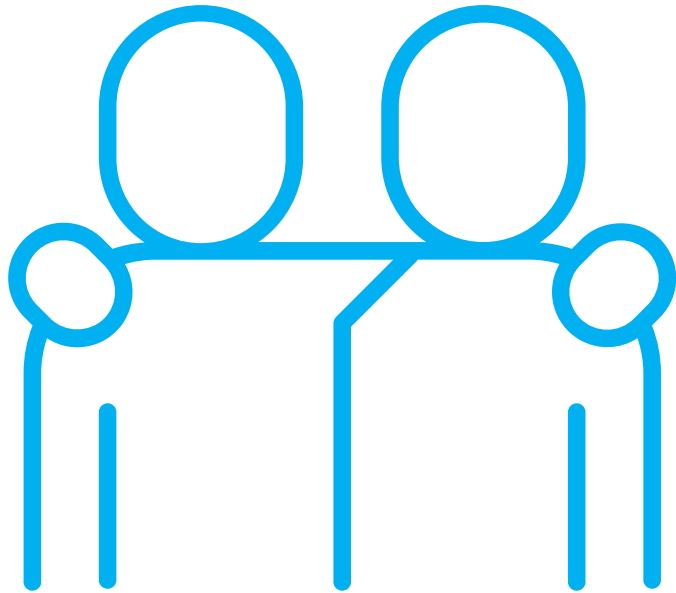
Try taking an
indirect approach





You could say a friend at work was talking about it and give a few details.

For example you could describe what County Lines is, or talk about the ways gangs groom children and make it hard for them to walk away.



You could ask whether your child knows about it.

Do they think any of their friends or school mates might be involved and need help?



Alternatively, you could choose a quiet time and ask directly



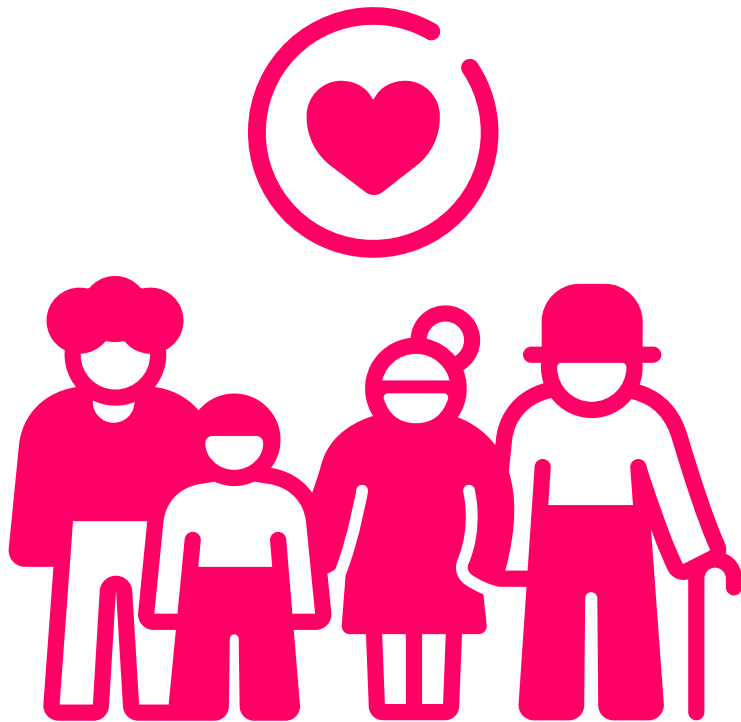


Ask them if you can talk.

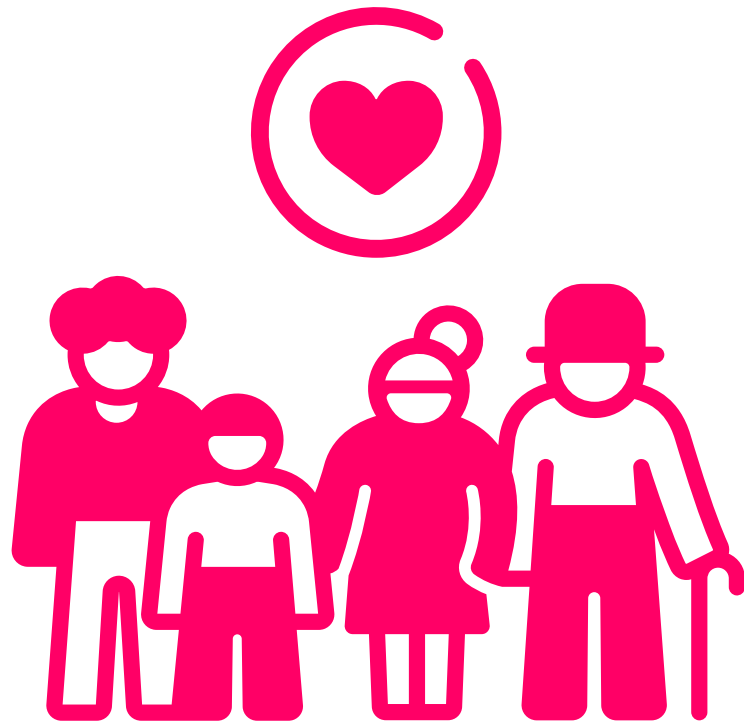
Tell them that you care about them and you are worried that they are showing signs of being caught up in some activity that might not be safe.



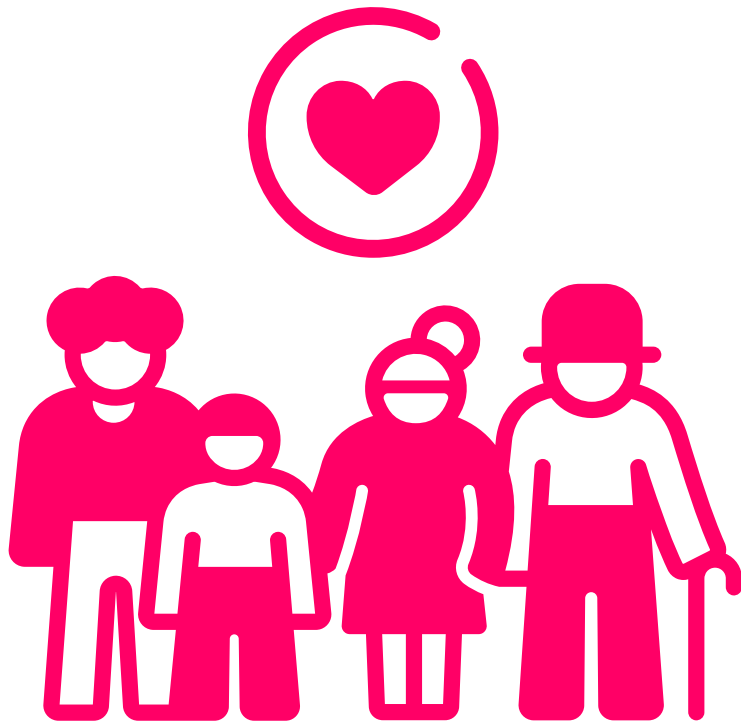
Let them know that you can help them, that you understand they might be frightened.



Let them know you are there to help them make different choices if they want to and you will help them, and the rest of your family, to stay safe, no matter what is going on.



Remember, your child may be being coerced into doing things they feel embarrassed or uncomfortable about.



The control mechanisms used by gangs are sophisticated.

Your child may not think they are being exploited.



They might believe they are being respected and looked out for by gang members.

They might feel pleased to have their own money and associated belongings.



They might reject the idea that people in the gang are not their friends.



If your child reacts with anger or other strong emotions, reiterate that you are there to help them and they can talk to you if they ever need to.



They might be very worried about your safety if they tell the truth or ask for help.

It might take them a while to decide to tell you what is happening.



Try to stay calm and open and let your child know that you are always there.



You can get help from a number of places online.

www.paceuk.info



We support parents and carers whose children are being exploited by offenders outside of the family.



Information & support





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Look closer to spot and report signs of exploitation

Across the country, young people are being manipulated, sexually abused, forced to launder money and deal drugs. Exploitation isn't obvious. But it happens everywhere. And you can stop it.

Get to know the signs of child exploitation and how to report it through our award-winning #LookCloser campaign with the British Transport Police and National County Lines Coordination Centre. Together we can

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk



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Help spot county lines exploitation

Posted at 14:33 on 3rd October 2022 in [Prevention](#)



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