

COUNTYLINES

THE GROOMING PROCESS

The Grooming Process can be used by people like Dex in the play to break down someone's defences and existing relationships with friends and family, in order to establish control over them.

A very well-rehearsed and methodical combination of befriending, gifts, rewards, threats and punishments can be used to trick, trap and manipulate young people into activities (criminal and/or sexual) that they may think they have consented to, but which are actually highly abusive and exploitative.

The people who do this can be male or female. They may be older or they may be the same or similar age to the young person. They may be strangers or they may be people that the young person already knows. They may seem like they are working alone or they may be part of an organised group or gang.

WHO CAN YOU ASK FOR HELP OR ADVICE?

If you (or someone you know) is in immediate danger call 999 & speak to the police. You can also call 101 for non-emergencies.

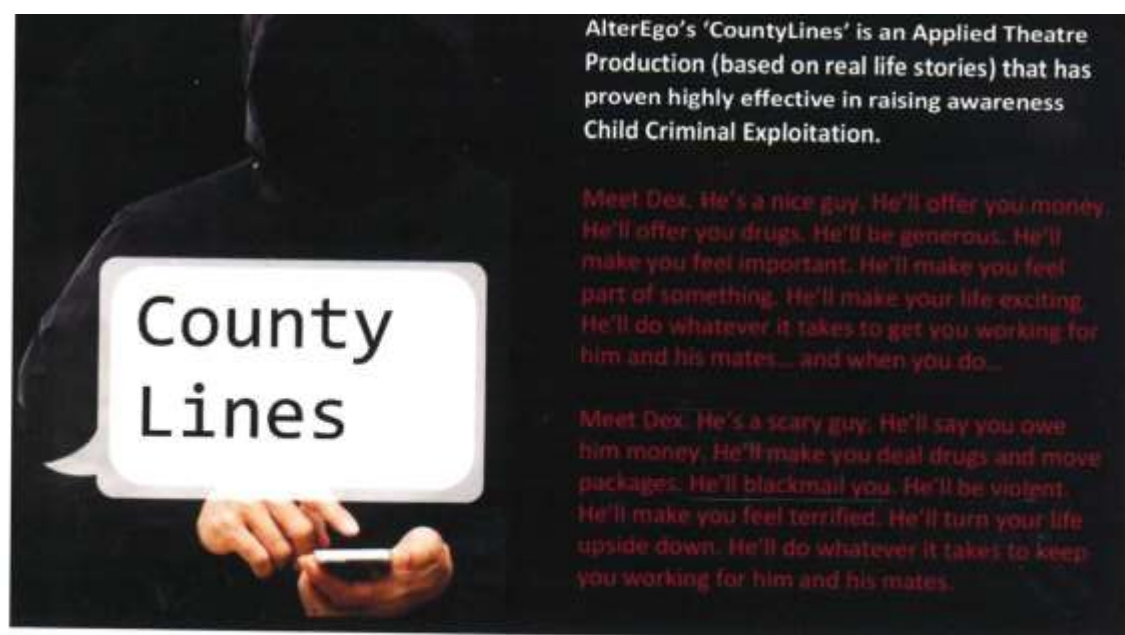
If you need help or advice (or if you are concerned about a friend) you can contact:-

- ChildLine 0800 11 11
- Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
- Say Something Helpline 116 000

They may try to engage the young person online, via text, on social media, in chat rooms, on video sharing platforms or, as we saw Dex do in the play, in the real world.

They may give gifts, phones, money, drugs, alcohol or maybe just make the young person feel respected or part of something.

They may use the young person in their own area, in another area, or they may move them between a number of areas around the country.



AlterEgo's 'CountyLines' is an Applied Theatre Production (based on real life stories) that has proven highly effective in raising awareness Child Criminal Exploitation.

Meet Dex. He's a nice guy. He'll offer you money. He'll offer you drugs. He'll be generous. He'll make you feel important. He'll make you feel part of something. He'll make your life exciting. He'll do whatever it takes to get you working for him and his mates... and when you do...

Meet Dex. He's a scary guy. He'll say you owe him money. He'll make you deal drugs and move packages. He'll blackmail you. He'll be violent. He'll make you feel terrified. He'll turn your life upside down. He'll do whatever it takes to keep you working for him and his mates.

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE) – WHAT IS IT?

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs when a young person (under the age of 18 – male or female) is tricked, trapped or manipulated into participating in criminal activity in return for money, gifts, drugs, alcohol or maybe just a little bit of attention. Sometimes it is as a result of a direct threat against the young person, their friends or family. The people that do this are so manipulative that often the young people that are being targeted will not recognize what is happening to them and may think that they are making positive choices to get involved.

COUNTY LINES – WHAT IS IT?

County Lines is a form of Child Criminal Exploitation (which itself is a form of Modern Slavery). The term is used to describe the activities of gangs and organised criminal groups from cities and large towns that are involved in exporting illegal drugs into more rural areas. Using dedicated mobile phone lines (as well as other dedicated methods of contact) the groups target young people and vulnerable adults (in the cities where the groups are based and in rural areas that they are targeting) and to get them to move and store drugs, money and weapons.

TACTICS USED INCLUDE:-

- Physical Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Befriending/Forming a Relationship
- The promise of high earnings
- Deception
- Coercion
- Cuckooing (taking control of houses or flats and using them as a base for their operations)
- Debt Bondage (tricking the young person or vulnerable adult into thinking that they owe money and have to work to pay it off)



RAISING AWARENESS OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

ALTEREGO CREATIVE SOLUTIONS LTD. ILLUSTRATING THE NARRATIVE AROUND COMPLEX SOCIAL ISSUES
COUNTY LINES • KNIFE CRIME • CSE • eSAFETY • HATE CRIME • DOMESTIC ABUSE • COERCIVE CONTROL • RADICALISATION