

County Lines

Somerset

DCI Ray Hulin / Lucy Macready



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Aims for Presentation

- What are County Lines?
- The method
- Identifying the signs
- Forms of vulnerability
- Opportunities for working in Partnership
- The way forward



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County Lines Definition

- County lines is the term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as ‘cuckooing’.



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What is County Lines?

- Outside drug gangs / networks
- Cuckooing process
- Sophistication
- Violence
- Quality of product



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Operational Issues

- Plugging
- Use of young people
 - Victims or offenders
- Gang culture
 - Respect
 - Retaliation
- Mobiles / Call centre



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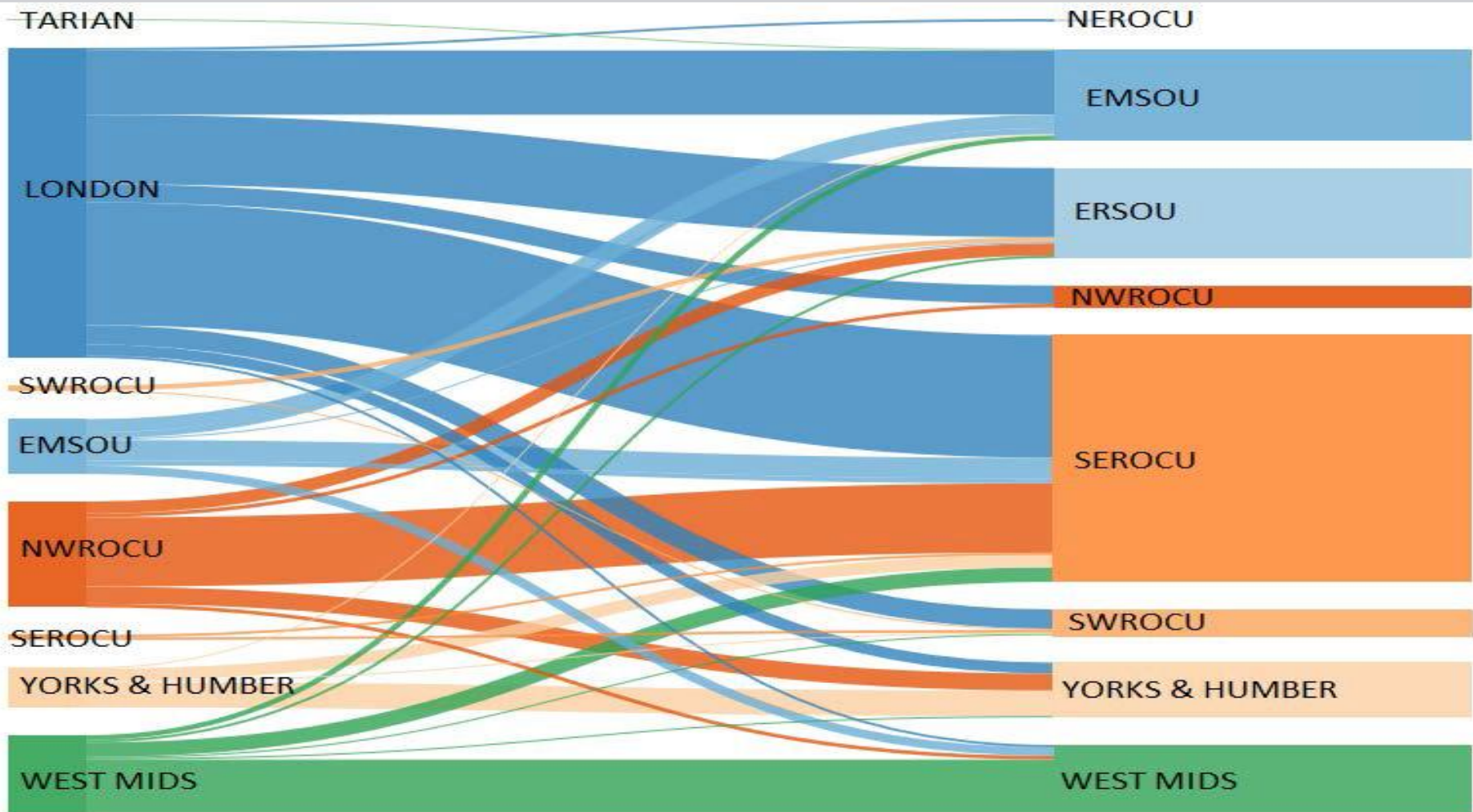


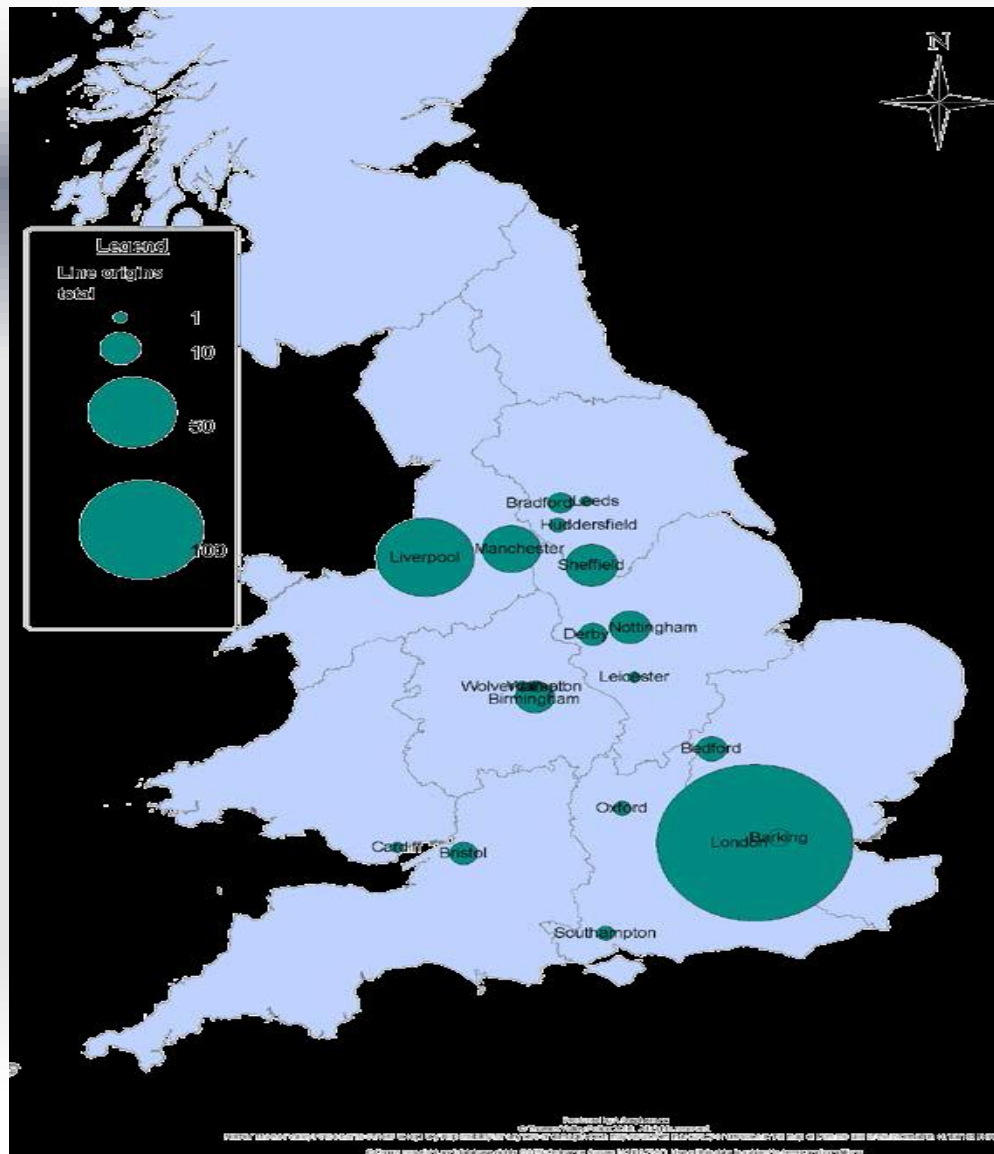
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National Overview of Activity





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Regional County Lines Work

- Op Tarak
- Governance and accountability
 - Clear lines between National, Op Tarak, force partnership working groups
 - Reflect THR in assessments (OCG etc)
 - Picture of the threat
 - Regional profile
 - Partnership Intel sharing



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Regional County Lines Work

- Tools and Tactics
 - Tactical toolbox
 - Academic research
 - Regional coordinated activity
- Communication and awareness
 - Comms strategy
 - CL workshops



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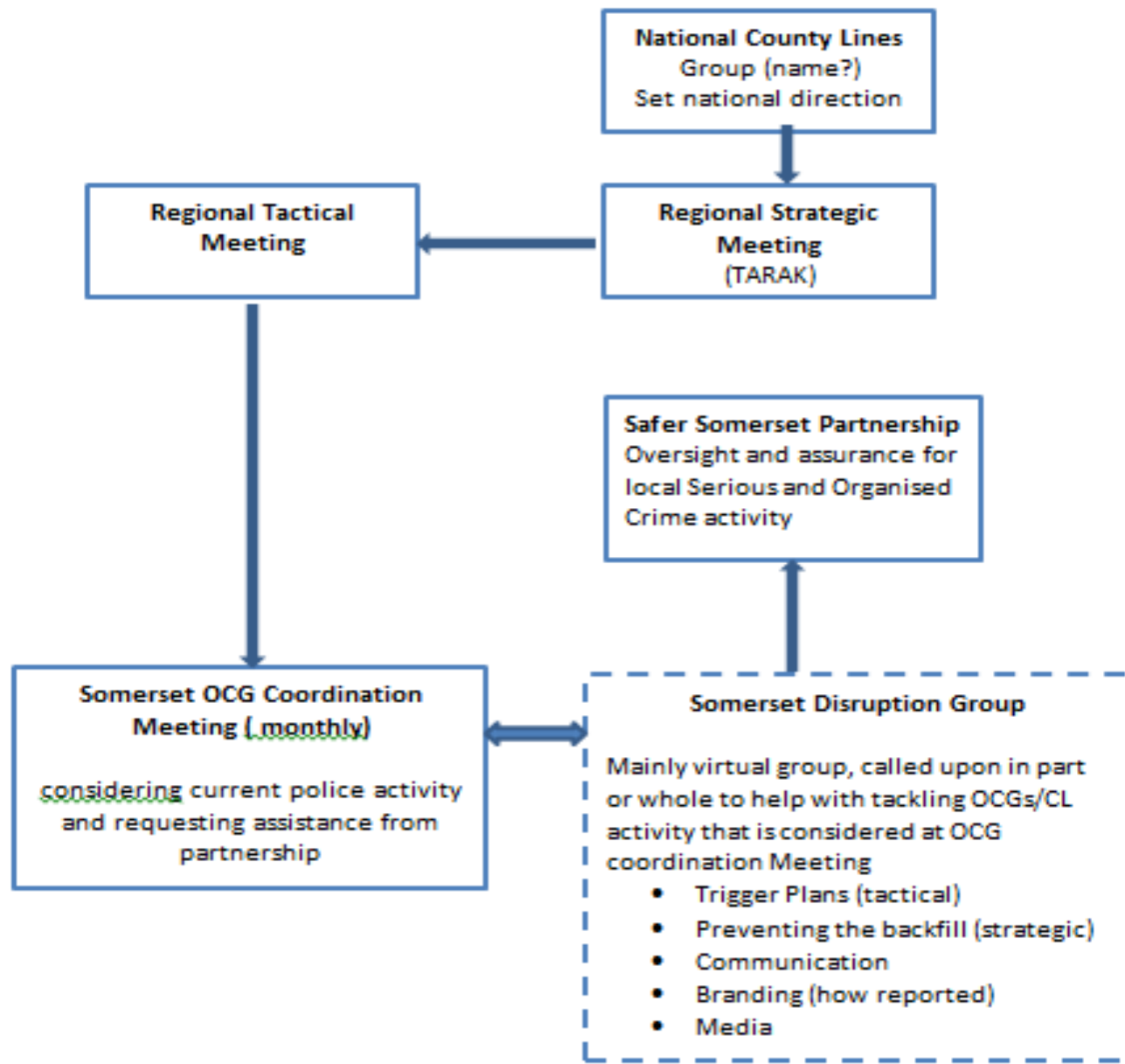
Force level / Somerset

- Three significant Operation in last two years
- Two Operations in Somerset
- Currently 50 mapped active County Lines
- Threat / Harm / Risk
- Capacity – 4?
- Level of violence



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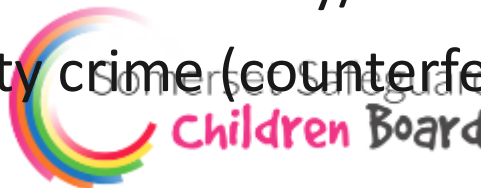
Operation Alliance

OperationAlliance@avonandsomerset.police.uk

- Modern Slavery/Trafficking
- CSE
- Illegal Firearms
- Money Laundering
- Cyber crime
- Fraud
- Drugs
- Identity Crime
- Organised theft (armed robbery/vehicle crime)
- Intellectual property crime (counterfeiting)



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Example: Housing Provider/Authority Role

- Fosse Park, Yeovil
- Cuckooing, ASB, stabbings
- Police warrants, other tactics
- Children not playing in the park
- Joint work Police / Stonewater
- 3 month Closure Order



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Research

- Cuckooing is a varied model
- This reinforces need for collaborative responses
- Behaviour change?
- Public health issue/response



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Partnership Approach

- Awareness
- Eyes and Ears
- Reporting
- Agency activity
- Utilisation of ASB tools and powers (CBOs)



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The way forward...

- Working together
- Communication
- Prevention



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