

Where else can you get support??

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) – runs a wide range of services for both children and adults, including national helplines and local projects. In collaboration with the Home Office, they have extended the use of their helpline to provide information and advice to parents and others concerned about young people who may be involved, or affected by gang activity. Their helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Freephone: 0800 800 5000. Email: help@nspcc.org.uk Web: www.nspcc.org.uk/gangs

Useful contacts

Neighbourhood Police – to find details of your local team and find out more about the work they are doing in your area, type your postcode at www.police.uk

Crimestoppers – a free, confidential service where you can report information about a crime anonymously. Freephone: 0800 555 111. Web: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Local Authority/Council – Connect to your Local Authority and find out about local specialised work with gangs, parent groups and activities for young people in your area. They can also refer you to parenting support programmes. Web: www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council

Family Lives – gives advice on all aspects of the parenting role and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls are free. Tel: 0808 800 2222. Web: www.familylives.org.uk

Child Protection at The Rowans - Important contacts

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Miss Johnson: Executive Head Teacher
Caron.johnson@therowansap.co.uk

Mrs May: Head Teacher
fiona.may@therowansap.co.uk

Miss Webb: SENCO
gwen.webb@therowansap.co.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Miss Jones: Welfare and Attendance Lead
rebecca.jones@therowansap.co.uk

Jo Skinner: Inclusions, Interventions & Mental Health Lead
joanne.skinner@therowansap.co.uk

Mrs Bowley: Lead Teacher Primary SEN
Tracey.bowley@therowansap.co.uk

Mr May: 2nd In Charge Primary SEN
lan.may@therowansap.co.uk

Trustee for Safeguarding

Karen Price
Karen.price@therowansap.co.uk

The school's safeguarding and child protection policy is available on our website:
[https://www.therowans.org/policies and info/policies](https://www.therowans.org/policies%20and%20info/policies)

The Rowans AP Academy

Understanding Gangs and County Lines




Please take a leaflet and seek support from us

Silverbank, Churchill Avenue
Chatham, Kent ME5 0LB
01634 33 8803
Email – office@therowansap.co.uk

www.therowans.org

 @TherowansAP

 The Rowans AP Academy

What and Gangs and County Lines?

County Lines is **where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another**, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.

How do county lines target children?

County lines gangs offer money and status to attract young people. Children may also be attracted to joining a gang by the prospect of belonging to a 'family' that will protect them if their own family feels unstable or unsafe.

What are the risks of county lines?

Criminalisation. ...

Drugs. ...

Physical violence. ...

Sexual abuse and exploitation. ...

Trafficking and missing children. ...

Cuckooing. ...

Financial exploitation and abuse.

Warning signs of drug activity

-Excessive foot traffic to and from a house or property.

-Loitering in or around a house.

-Frequent and unusual traffic patterns such as: Stop – Enter – Leave.

-Traffic frequently stops and a resident comes out and talks briefly with occupants of car

Gangs often leave signs of their presence and your child might adopt some of these signs; either as a member or as an associate of a gang. Any sudden changes in your child's lifestyle should be discussed. Signs may include:

- Specific dress style
- Poor behaviour
- Talking differently – new slang or language with an aggressive tone
- Poor school results or skipping school
- Carrying weapons
- Unexplained injuries or sums of money/possessions
- Staying out unusually late
- Graffiti style tags on possessions
- Interest in music which glorifies weapons/gang culture
- Gangs will often have profiles on social or networking websites like Facebook or Twitter

You Are Not Alone....

All staff at The Rowans receive regular training in safeguarding and child protection and all have a duty of care towards the pupils.

Miss Rebecca Jones (Welfare and Attendance Lead) is a trained Gangs and County Lines champion. She can offer help and advice and can signpost to relevant specialist support services.

How we can help

If you believe your child is at risk of exploitation or being exploited, we can help. We will:

Listen to you in a non-judgmental way, prioritising your safety and the safety of your children.

Give you practical advice to help increase your safety and that of your children.

Offer a referral to a specialist support agency in Medway, including CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection), the NSPCC or Medway Social Services.

Offer continuous support.

SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE PROJECT

Salus are working with Kent County Council, Medway Council and Kent Police to deliver a Serious Youth Violence Project in North Kent (Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks and Swale) and Medway.

In Kent and Medway, violence against the person increased by 20% in 2019 and recent years have shown increased incidents of young people carrying knives. We have seen a steady increase in gangs – from mostly London-based street gangs venturing into Kent to sell drugs, to the development of local 'home grown' gangs – and the grooming of vulnerable individuals by gang members.

Although less than 1% of Kent's young people come into contact with the Criminal Justice System, they can have a disproportionately negative influence on wider society.

Who is the project for?

Children and young people between the ages of 10-17 years who are at risk of being, or are already involved in, serious youth violence, gangs and County Lines.

What do we deliver?

Prevent: targeted support and diversionary activities for children and young people 'at risk'

Protect: intensive and long term support to children and young people who are already thought to be involved in violent activities, and their families

Awareness: raising awareness amongst children, young people, families, schools, communities and professionals

All young people will be supported by a Youth Mentor.