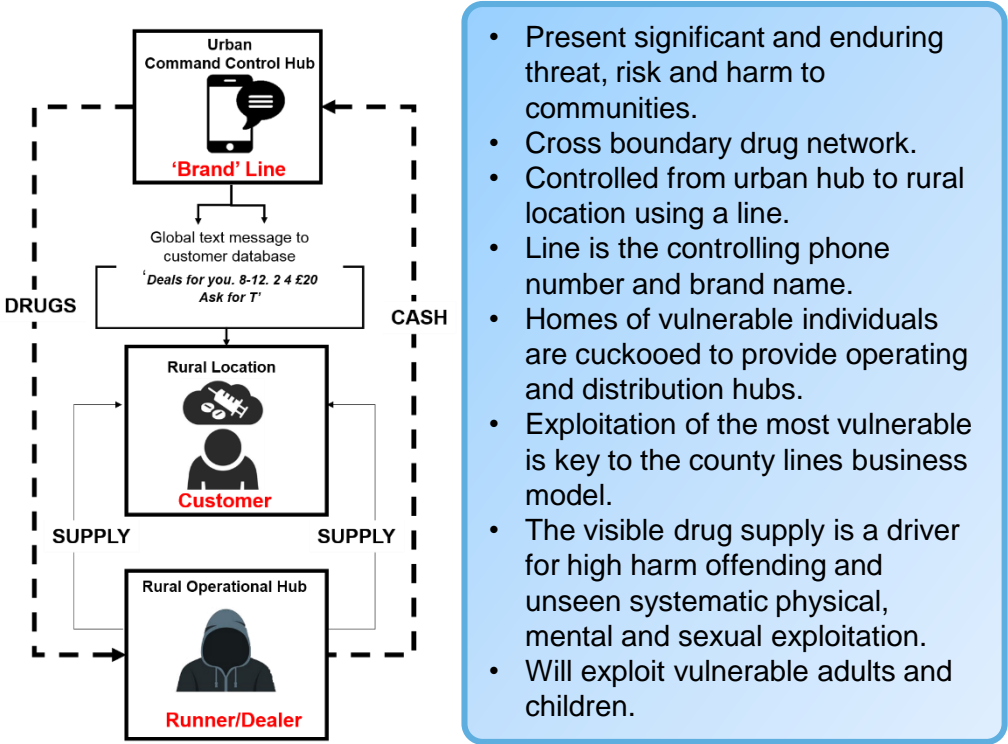
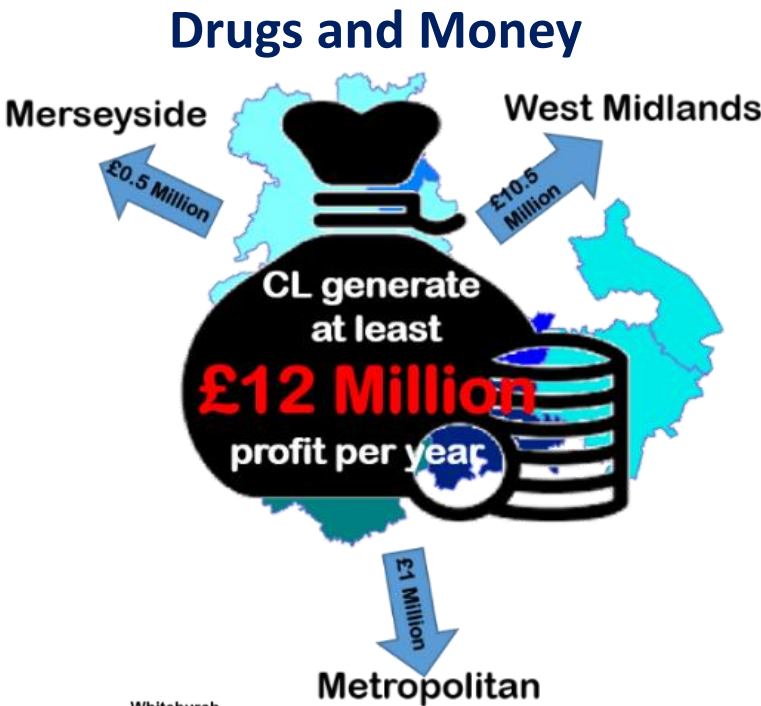


Violence and Vulnerability: County Lines

The National Crime Agency describes County Lines as a national issue involving the use of mobile phone ‘lines’ by groups to extend their drug dealing business into new locations outside of their home areas. This issue affects the majority of forces.



- 80+ lines across alliance area.
- Hire cars, taxis and rail network used.



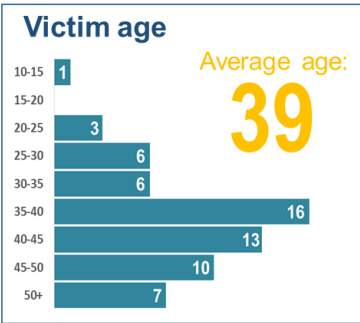
Violence and weapons



- Knives can be used and carried. Blunt and bladed weapons, firearms and corrosive substances also used.
- Diverse range of reasons for violence from taxing other dealers, competition between rival networks and shows of strength to ensure dominance.

Victims and exploitation

- Victims of County Lines activity frequently will not represent the ‘idealised’ victim.
- They often have complex needs, chaotic lives and poor decision making skills.



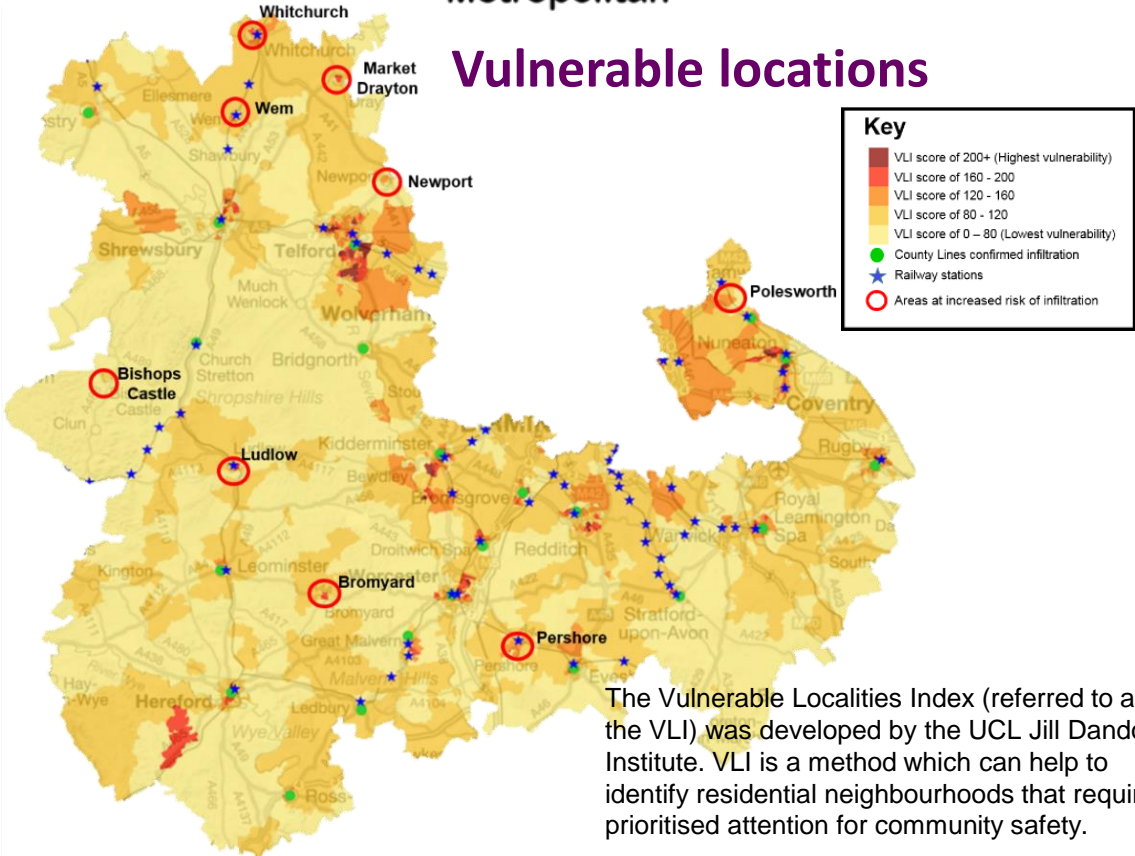
- Exploitation risk factors
- Mental health problems

Drug use

Debt bondage

Prone to missing episodes

Known to care systems



- County Lines (CL) operating model relies on identifying and exploiting vulnerability.
- Where vulnerability intersects with good transportation links via road and rail network then there is risk of CL.
- Most major towns in the alliance have been infiltrated by CL.
- However some locations, not yet infiltrated, are at heightened risk of infiltration due to their location/population. Measures can be taken here to make the environment less hospitable to CL activity.
- These locations have been indicated on the map.

The Vulnerable Localities Index (referred to as the VLI) was developed by the UCL Jill Dando Institute. VLI is a method which can help to identify residential neighbourhoods that require prioritised attention for community safety.