

## 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: 0808 800 5000. Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) Web: [www.nspcc.org.uk/gangs](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

## Child Protection at The Rowans - Important contacts

**Designated Safeguarding Leads**  
**Mrs Fiona May: Principal**  
[fiona.may@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:fiona.may@therowansap.co.uk)

**Mrs Katie Martin: Vice Principal**  
[Katie.Martin@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:Katie.Martin@therowansap.co.uk)

**Miss Gwen Webb: SENCO**  
[gwen.webb@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:gwen.webb@therowansap.co.uk)

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads**  
**Miss Rebecca Jones: Welfare and Attendance Lead**  
[rebecca.jones@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.jones@therowansap.co.uk)

**Mrs Jo Skinner: Inclusions, Interventions & Mental Health Lead**  
[joanne.skinner@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:joanne.skinner@therowansap.co.uk)

**Mrs Tracey Bowley: Lead Teacher Primary SEN**  
[tracey.bowley@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:tracey.bowley@therowansap.co.uk)

**Mr Ian May: 2<sup>nd</sup> In Charge Primary SEN**  
[ian.may@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:ian.may@therowansap.co.uk)

**Miss Paige Gough: Primary family support and administration officer**  
[paige.gough@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:paige.gough@therowansap.co.uk)

**Trustee for Safeguarding**  
**Mrs Karen Price**  
[Karen.price@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:Karen.price@therowansap.co.uk)

**The school's safeguarding and child protection policy is available on our website:**  
<https://www.therowans-that.org.uk/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](mailto:office@therowansap.co.uk)

[www.therowans-that.org.uk](http://www.therowans-that.org.uk)

 The Rowans AP Academy

**THE HOWARD**  
Academy Trust

## What are 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 becoming involved in gangs or county lines, 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.

## CATCH 22

Catch22 has vast experience of delivering effective Child Exploitation, Missing and Gang services throughout the UK. The model implemented in Kent Gangs and County Lines mirrors our provisions in other areas of the country and adopts the existing processes and structures of the CSE and Missing Service. Kent Gangs and County Lines have supported the setting up of our new National County Line Rescue and Recovery service by sharing their knowledge and resources in order to help establish the service efficiently as well as work closing with them with Young People who move between areas.

### Interventions

Their staff are constantly seeking new and updated resources within the field of exploitation and have access to a huge library of these through the different services across Catch22. These resources are categorised under the subject matters we tackle such as Grooming, Online safety, CSE etc. They also use in addition to the CRE Toolkit, an internal assessment tool called 'Outcome Star'. This helps to guide and capture the work they undertake and all support is bespoke to each individual young person. They always use a solution-focused approach in their support, which is particularly effective when working with CSE/CCE.

Delivering both preventative and protective interventions, they support children and young people up to the age of 25, who are at risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE) and county lines in Kent and Medway. Focusing on each young person's individual needs, and working alongside their close relatives and immediate support network, they put together a bespoke programme of support to reduce risk and help young people to cope and, as far as possible recover from the impact of exploitation.

Delivered by their team of specialist caseworkers, their interventions take a holistic, trauma-informed approach that is appropriate to the age, risk and experiences of the young person. Depending on their individual needs and circumstances, young people receive support on subjects including (but not limited to) healthy relationships, choices and consequences, understanding relationships, knife crime and the law, sexual health advice, substance misuse and more.