

Council	Agenda Item 72 (6)
1 February 2018	Brighton & Hove City Council

**NOTICE OF MOTION
LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AND CONSERVATIVE GROUP
COUNTY LINES**

This council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Education, requesting that the government develops a national strategy to address the issue of County Lines, which would:

- provide clear and effective national support for work being put together at a local level
- facilitate working across local authority boundaries, for example the need to track perpetrators and children across boundaries,
- address the need for ongoing support for young people and families that are affected
- provide guidance on timeliness of interviewing young people who have been found after having been notified as missing
- recognise that effective action may result in more children entering care
- identify appropriate skills and resources for local authorities and local police forces and other relevant agencies to support a national strategy and deal with the impact of County Lines.

Proposed by: Cllr Daniel

Seconded by: Cllr Miller

Supporting information

County Lines is the police term for gangs who send children from London out to other areas to sell drugs. They also recruit local young people through debt bonding (i.e. giving young people drugs posing as a friend, and then making the young person work for them to pay them back).

Like sexual exploitation gangs they often make threats to harm the child or their family, and because the child has been caught up in criminal behaviour they feel they have nowhere to turn to make it stop.

County Lines also involves cuckoo-ing properties (often of drug users) to use as a base for dealing - causing neighbourhoods to be affected by criminal behaviour and live in fear.

This crime is happening in our city. Tackling it is a top priority for our community safety partnership, and a report is coming to committee this month on the early work locally to combat this criminal exploitation.

But we need government to recognise that this issue cuts across local authority boundaries, that it is a huge threat to community safety and safety of our young people, and that a national strategy and resourcing is needed for effective action.

