

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20th June 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Presentation on County Lines

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an informative presentation to the board on County Lines.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

The presentation is received and Members comment and raise any questions.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 County Lines is a term used to describe organised distribution of illegal drugs across networks. It's often 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.

3.2 The presentation will provide an insight into County Lines and the work going on in Halton and the wider foot print to tackle county lines and its impacts.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage; the work links to the multi-agency community safety and combatting drugs obligations.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None to report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Children and young people are often targeted by serious organised crime networks involved in County Lines activity.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Awareness raising, education and being informed to mitigate and reduce harm from becoming involved and seeking support are imperative for Halton's young people.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

County Lines is a distribution of illegal substances which negatively impacts the outcomes for all those involved.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

County Lines significantly impacts on those communities impacted.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Crime negatively impacts neighbourhoods, communities and towns. The multi-agency working to combat and reduce drug related crime is imperative to supporting safer and desirable neighbourhoods.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None at this stage.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None to report.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.