



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Scrutiny

Committee date: 13/10/2022

Report title: County Lines

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Executive director of community services

Wards: All wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To consider County Line gangs activity within the city and ask questions of the police authority to gain insight of its impact upon the city and its residents

Recommendation:

To consider County Line gangs activity within the city and what actions the council and its partners can take to reduce its impact and make any relevant recommendations to cabinet.

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets the 'People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city' corporate priority.

This report addresses 'A Fair City' priority in the Corporate Plan

This report would help to meet the Community Safety Strategy and action plan to be considered later this corporate year.

This report helps to meet the 'supporting the most vulnerable' objective of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

Report details

1. Members consider that there has been a notable increase and impact in County Line gang activity since 2015 with associated damage to communities affected. Recent high profile serious assaults and murders have raised alarm and concern in certain parts of the city. Disruption of County Line gangs through multi-agency approaches have involved the city council closely.
2. The committee are to consider the impact of County Lines including the drug addiction and sexual exploitation connected to it and how it has changed since 2015/6. Superintendent Sonia Humphreys and Chris Hancock the council's housing partnership officer would be in attendance to answer member questions.
3. Members are to consider the multi-agency approach to County Lines and any further practical actions the council might take, working with partners.

Consultation

4. Members of the scrutiny committee were consulted and agreed the item for the work programme at its meeting on 9 June 2022.
5. Members of the scrutiny committee were asked to submit questions in advance for the meeting for the Police Superintendent and the council's housing partnership officer, to respond to at the meeting.

Implications

Financial and resources

Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.

6. Any impact on resources resulting from this report would be accommodated within existing budgets of the relevant approvals sought.

Legal

7. County Lines impacts on criminality and human rights issues.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	None
Health, social and economic impact	None
Crime and disorder	Possible recommendations to be considered for the Community Safety Partnership.

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Children and adults safeguarding	Possible recommendations to be considered for the council's Safeguarding Policy statement.
Environmental impact	None

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
There are reputational risks to the council if it does not do all it can to counter County Lines gangs.	The meeting will consider any recommendations for action.	The risk will be mitigated by considering if the council is currently responding appropriately to County Lines activities with its partners.

Other options considered

8. The meeting is to consider all options.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

9. Scrutiny committee voted to consider the item at this meeting.

Background papers: None


Appendices: None

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