

Safer Schools Newsletter

March 2022



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

CYP GANGS & SCHOOLS TEAM



#STOPKNIFECRIME

Welcome to our newsletter from the Herts Police Gangs & Schools Team. We are a dedicated team that work with local Officers and partners to prevent youth related crime. We conduct a range of prevention and engagement work to raise awareness of knife crime, gang & criminal exploitation to keep you safe.

What are 'county lines' and Child Criminal Exploitation?

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks who bring drugs into an area and sell them using dedicated mobile phone lines. The perpetrators are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.

Children as young as 12 years old can be exploited or used by gangs to courier drugs in and out of their local area; 15-16 years is the most common age range. Both males and females are at risk of being exploited. Social media is often used to make initial contact with children and young people.

Criminal exploitation can be broader than just county lines and can include children forced to commit theft or take part in sexual activity. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if they appear to be taking part consensually.

Hertfordshire is a very safe place. Overall, crime in our area is down from last year.

Possession of drugs

You may be charged with possessing an illegal substance if you're caught with drugs, whether they're yours or not.

If you're under 18, the police are allowed to tell your parent, guardian or carer that you've been caught with drugs.

Cannabis

Police can issue a warning or an on-the-spot fine of £90 if you're found with cannabis.

Khat

Police can issue a warning or an on-the-spot fine of £60 on the first 2 times that you're found with khat. If you're found with khat more than twice, you could get a maximum penalty of up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both.

[Talk to FRANK](#) has help, information and advice about drugs.

For more information about the work that we do go to [@HertsCYP](#)



LIVES NOT KNIVES

event brought to you by

Hertfordshire Constabulary CYP Gangs & Schools Team

An opportunity to listen live to a variety of inspirational speakers with real life experience of serious violence and gang affiliation.

Are you ready to hear the TRUTH behind the headlines, think it's about excitement, money and status?

Think again... tune in to our inspirational speakers with experience of narcotics and serious violence and have the unique opportunity to hear their stories & ask them questions about their experiences.

Wednesday 23rd March 2022 | 6pm - 7.30pm

To watch the event live - @hertspolice

There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions at the end of the event.



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Young people can report crime 100% anonymously at www.fearless.org

If you need to contact the Police please call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also speak to us online and find more info at www.herts.police.uk.

HAPpy Camps are back!

this Easter, all over Hertfordshire!

From 4th to 14th April, school aged children eligible for benefits related free school meals, can enjoy **free food, free sports** and **free craft activities!**

Get your **HAPpy Booking Code** from your child's school now, to access all this and more!

Bookings open on **Monday 14th March**



All camps are free!



Book your child's place at:
sportinherts.org.uk/booking

Hertfordshire's
Holiday Activity Programme

HAPpy

