

Safer Schools Newsletter July 2021



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.

Knife crime - know your facts

- It is illegal to carry any knife if there is intent to use it, even defensively, as a weapon; even if the knife belongs to someone else, such as a friend, girlfriend or boyfriend.
- Police can and will search someone if they believe they are carrying a knife.
- Carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and ending up with a criminal record or even a prison sentence. This can seriously affect the rest of someone's life. Having a criminal record can prevent that person getting a job, going to university or college or even travelling abroad to some countries.



For more information about the work that we do go to [@HertsCYP](https://twitter.com/HertsCYP)

Cannabis Edibles

Laced with a mood altering ingredient from cannabis, cannabis edibles are an illegal and really strong "sweet" aimed at young people/teenagers. They come in the form of sweets, chocolate and drinks. Although cannabis edibles contain an element of cannabis they do not have the smell or appearance of cannabis. Instead they look and smell like a shop bought item but are much stronger than other cannabis products, they are generally purchased through social media.



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.

This Summer
things are looking much happier



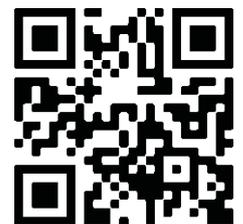
Monday 26 July to Friday 27 August

HAPpy Holidays are here!

This summer, thousands of free weekday spaces are available at activity camps happening across the county for children aged 5 to 16, who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals! Choose from an exciting programme of fun sports, healthy meals and enriching activities!

Scan the code to book your activity

Your school will have sent you your **HAPpy Booking Code**, which you need to access bookings. Please speak to them if you have not received it.



in partnership with:

