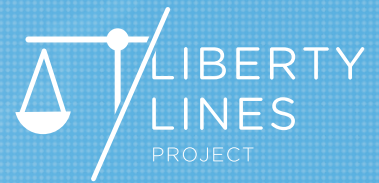


In partnership with
**Sovereign Comics &
Youth Unity**



A Comic Book on

County Lines

► Page.12

What we do

We aim to eliminate criminal exploitation in the UK's illegal drug market.

► Page.4

What is County Lines?

County lines refers to 'organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money'.

— Home Office, 2018

We
EDUCATE
through the **Art**
of
Storytelling



► Page.7

The Comic Book

County Lines is the first comic book designed to educate and empower children who are at risk of grooming and exploitation in the UK's drug trade.

► Page.12

Our Team

Liberty Lines Project, Sovereign Comics, and county lines expert Paul McKenzie have teamed up to design a comic book that speaks to children by entering their world.



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Our Project

COUNTY LINES IS the first comic book designed to open a conversation with children who are at risk of grooming and exploitation in the UK's drug-trade.

OUR GROUNDBREAKING comic book will empower children to recognise the signs of exploitation and raise concerns if they or their friends are at risk.

THE COMIC IS in its creation stage and we need your help to bring it to life!

BY BACKING US, you will help create a safer environment for children to grow up in, free from exploitation.

YOU WILL HAVE the chance to get your hands on a copy of the comic, our virtual interactive edition and more! (See page 16 for more information on rewards).

What is County Lines?

“

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– Home Office, 2018

”

“**CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION** is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person...They [organised criminal groups] will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.”

– Home Office, 2018



A Closer Look

2,000+

Individual deal line numbers operate across the UK, linked to approximately 1,000 branded county lines’.

– National Crime Agency, 2019

4,000

Teenagers from London alone are exploited each year by county lines networks operating across 41 counties in the UK.

– Rescue and Response County Lines Project, 2019

1,139+

People were referred as potential victims of county lines exploitation to the UK’s National Referral Mechanism throughout 2019. **88% were children.**

– Transform Drug Policy Foundation, 2019

These figures represent just the tip of the iceberg. County Lines exploitation is underreported and in reality these figures are likely to be significantly higher.

We need your help to **protect them.**

Children as young as 7 are being exploited by organised crime groups who take advantage of their innocence and inexperience.

The children affected are plunged into a world of fear, confusion, and loss of autonomy.

All children should be free from grooming, exploitation, and modern slavery.



Why Our Comic Book?

LIBERTY LINES PROJECT has teamed up with rapper Phoenix da Ice Fire, Sovereign Comics, and Youth Unity's county lines expert Paul McKenzie, to design a comic book that speaks to children by entering their world.

WE NEED TO empower children to recognise the signs of exploitation and raise concerns if they or their friends are at risk.

IT IS NOT that these stories have not been told – grime and drill music, TV shows like *Top Boy*, films like *Blue Story* and *Ill Manors* all explore the realities of county lines.

THE PROBLEM IS that these stories are not aimed at empowering younger children and are rated unsuitable for them to watch due to their content.

OUR COMIC WILL facilitate an open conversation with young people about County Lines

WITH YOUR HELP we can provide copies of the comic book to schools and youth centres and use it as a tool to deliver educational training to children in years 7 and 8.



BRO, IT GETS WORSE.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
INTO JACK'S CHICK N CHIP
SHACK.

FEELS LIKE... MY BRAIN'S REWIRING...
SENSES... ON FIRE.

1. Stories Change Lives

OUR NARRATIVE WILL follow relatable characters as they move from exploited young person, to survivor, to superhero! In this way, children will see that they are not alone and that they too can become the superheroes of their own stories.



NOW I HAVE JUST ONE QUESTION.
DOES THIS SUIT... COME WITH A RESET SWITCH?

BRO, IT GETS WORSE.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
INTO JACK'S CHICK N CHIP
SHACK.

2. Technology and Exploration

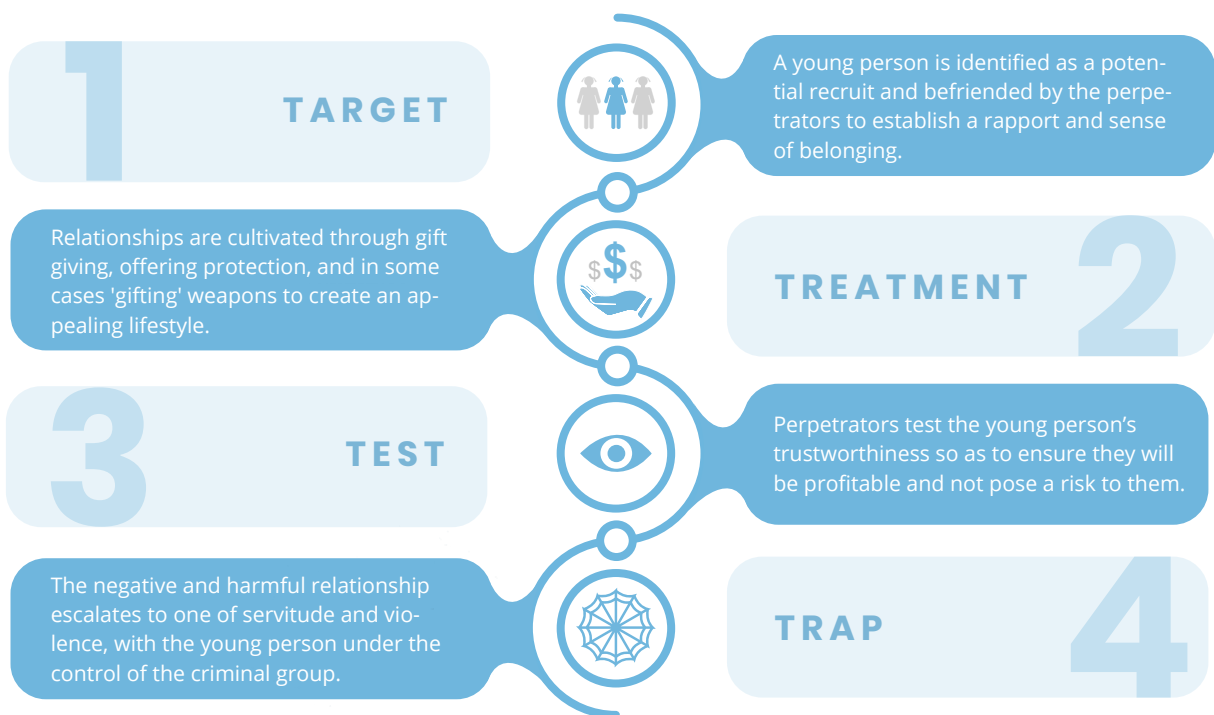
THE INTERACTIVE EDITION gives children the opportunity to explore different narratives, with their choices determining the outcome of the story. This will encourage young people to explore different decision-making models and their consequences within a safe space.



NOW I HAVE JUST ONE QUESTION.
DOES THIS SUIT... COME WITH A RESET SWITCH?

3. Knowledge is Power!

OUR COMIC WILL provide a realistic narrative to assist our readers in identifying when they may be at risk of exploitation. Additionally, our narrative will explore four key stages in county lines exploitation:



Signposting

AS OUR STORY develops, we will signpost readers to relevant organisations and helplines that actively work to support young people and their families.



About Us

Liberty Lines Project

Liberty Lines Project works to end the criminal exploitation prevalent within the UK's illegal drug market. We believe that it is from our own communities that localised and lasting solutions will be built; solutions which can effectively challenge the underlying conditions that fuel exploitation.

Collectively, we are resilient and innovative; together, we will protect children and young people from exploitation.

We seek change: a shift from a traditional law and order response to one founded upon protection and understanding, where the needs and ideas of local communities sit firmly at the forefront.

Learn more: www.libertylinesproject.com

Our Collaboration with Sovereign Comics

FOUNDED BY Paul Nelson and Dean Richards, Sovereign Comics is a group of highly creative minds behind a galaxy of new stories. Sovereign Comics creates incredible story content for young and old alike, from interactive learning resources to animation. They focus on the aspirational and educational as well as the all-out entertaining.



THE MOST RECENT comic created by Sovereign Comics is the Super Healthy Comic, a powerful resource to aid the reduction of health-related inequalities among future generations in England.

Website: <https://www.sovereigncomics.co.uk>

Learn about: [The Super Healthy Comic](#)



Our Collaboration with **Paul McKenzie**

WE ARE DELIGHTED to work on this project with Paul McKenzie of [Youth Unity CIC](#). Youth Unity CIC delivers projects across London and various parts of the UK, working primarily but not exclusively with youth people.

OVER THE YEARS, Youth Unity has delivered workshops in schools, colleges and pupil referral units. They also run more specific intervention workshops aimed at young people at risk. These workshops are powerful and help to engage hard to reach cohorts.

THEY SEEK TO safeguard children and young adults against the dangers of specific manipulation linked to criminal and/or sexual exploitation.

THEY OFFER NON-JUDGEMENTAL advice via motivational workshops, which are delivered to local schools, youth organisations, and parents. These actors have a distinct need to understand the complexity of processes such as County Lines.

PAUL WILL CONSULT on and contribute to the comic content. He is a professional Public Speaker, Youth Worker, and Public Correspondent.



Our Timeline

| Post fundraising, our comic will be in schools within 7 months.

1

Writing

Timeframe: 2 Months

The comic script will be reviewed by experts to ensure it meets its aims. The review panel will include a teacher, a barrister, a social worker, a school safeguarding lead, a county lines and criminal exploitation expert and a CAMHS practitioner.

Timeframe: 2 Month

First, Sovereign Comics will write the script of the comic book, based on research compiled by Liberty Lines Project and Paul McKenzie.

2

Review

Timeframe: 2 Months

Once the final draft of the script is finalised, Sovereign Comics will get to work on illustrating and animating the comic book.

3

Production

Timeframe: 1 Month

We will send our comic book to the printers and put the interactive edition online.

Printing

4

5

Delivery

Done!

Time to send the comic book to our backers and to schools and youth centres across the UK!

Our Rewards

Everyone who donates will get an Ebook of the Comic book by way of a PDF file!

£20+

Interactive Version

Access to the online interactive edition and Ebook.

£57+

Complete Comic Book Collection

Ebook, access to the online interactive edition and a printed comic book sent to you (or a UK based school as a gift from you)!

£100+

Complete Comic Book Collection for you and an Educational Centre

Complete Comic Book Collection for you and an educational centre of your choice, i.e., a school, youth centre, or local library.

£250+

Our Superheroes!

- Complete Comic Book Collection.
- 5x printed copies of the physical comic book (to you or an organisation of your choice).
- Option to have your name and/or your organisation's name/logo included on the "Our Superheroes" page of the comic book.

Our Rewards

| Thank you for supporting our Comic Book!

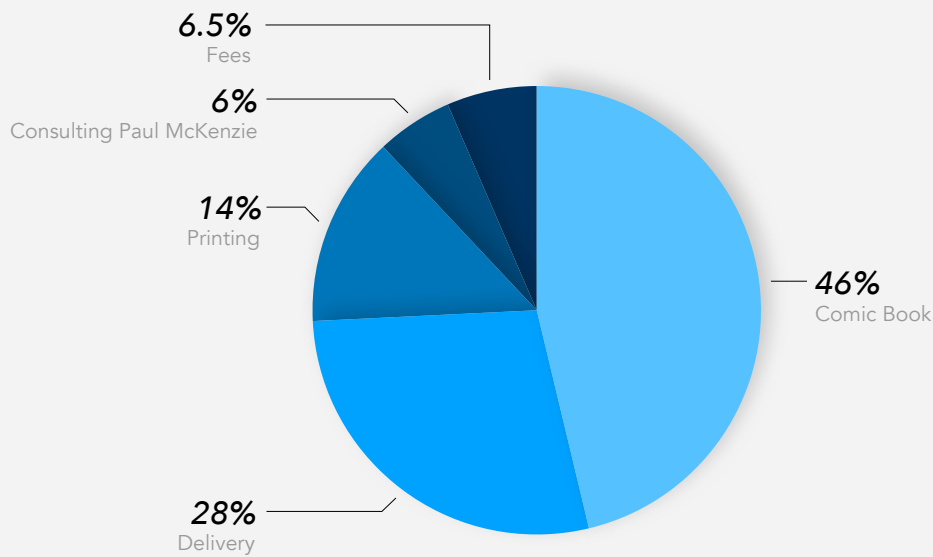
£500+

Our Superheroes & Training with the Team

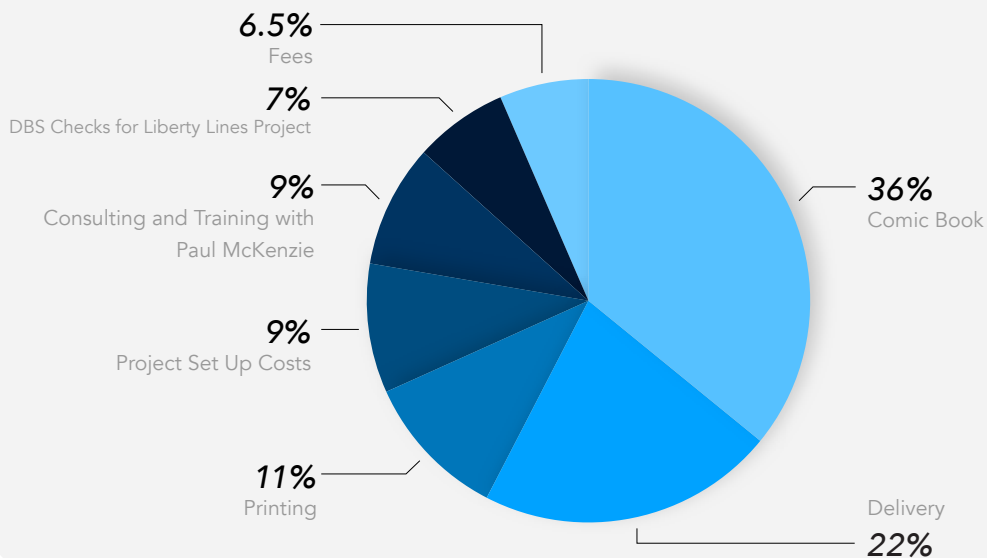
- Complete Comic Book Collection.
- 10x printed copies of the physical comic book (to you or an organisation of your choice).
- Option to have your name and/or your organisation's name/logo included on the "Our Superheroes" page of the comic book.
- Two-hour workshop at a venue of your choice. Workshops can be held for a wide range of participants such as students, teachers, youth workers, and more. Workshops can be adapted to meet your specific needs (online or in person, Covid-19 dependent).
- Workshops can be provided for you or an organisation of your choice, e.g. your local school.

Funding Goals

Our Goal (£9,100)



Our Stretched Goal (£12,000)



Risk and Challenges

THE BIGGEST LOGISTICAL risk for this project is timing. Because this is Issue #1, there may be some unanticipated setbacks along the road that may push back our publication date. Such setbacks may include printing or shipping issues, creation delays, or – the best kind of surprise – additional content to add having reached our pledged goal!

THE UNCERTAINTY caused by the Covid-19 pandemic may cause unforeseen challenges. We will remain in communication with those who pledge and provide clear updates about any issues we may be facing.



With your help, our comic book will
**protect children from
criminal exploitation**



*Thank you for your
support!*

References

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- **Transform Drug Policy Foundation (2019).** *Reforming Drug Policies to Reduce the Trafficking and Exploitation of Vulnerable People.*
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