



RUNNING THE LINES - LESSON PLAN

Film running time: 10 minutes

Advised session duration: 30 to 50 minutes

Film released: June 2019

Age rating: 11+

Contains references to drug taking, alcohol, drug dealing, violence and threats of violence. Contains some scenes that viewers might find distressing.

Synopsis: 'Running the Lines' - Fearless film raises awareness of how 'county lines' drug gangs exploit young people to sell drugs. The story follows Evan who is groomed, exploited and threatened into becoming a drug runner for a London based organised crime gang.

Film link: Visit the FearlessORG YouTube channel
Main film: <https://youtu.be/aS1tlx47-uc>
Evan's Story: <https://youtu.be/75s6lKRvjBM>
Jamie's Story: https://youtu.be/qf_Eah0br3o

Additional materials/links: Visit <https://www.fearless.org/en/professionals> for additional resources and links, including the Fearless County Lines Educational Resource
Visit <https://www.knifefree.co.uk/>
Read All Wales practice guide - Safeguarding children from Child Criminal Exploitation, part of the Wales safeguarding procedures

Closing message and accessing help:

County Lines is more than drug running. Its grooming, exploitation and violence. *Exploitation is never your fault.* Be Fearless and speak up if you know it's happening to you or your friends.

Call the police on 101 or if they are in immediate danger, dial 999. Alternatively, you could speak with a trusted adult such as a parent, family member, carer, teacher, youth, health or social worker. If you wish to remain anonymous you can use <https://www.fearless.org/en/anonymous> or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111. There are also other organisations listed under useful links at Fearless.org where you can get further help.

Reflecting on “Running the Lines”

1. How did watching ‘Running The lines’ make you feel?

Notes: it might be worth asking if they thought things like that happened where they live? Why do they think drug gangs recruit young people to help them move and deal drugs ?

2. Why do you think Evan became involved with the gang?

*Notes: Evan is an ordinary boy with no previous connections to crime who gets lured in to County Lines and is in above his head. *This could happen to anybody*. He is groomed by Tyler who is friendly at first, offering a job, new watch and trainers. Tyler is part of an organised crime group, being controlled by London based criminals who run a ‘county line’ into Wales.*

3. What crimes do you think may have taken place during the film?

Notes: The film depicts several crime types - possession of drugs, possession of drugs with intent to supply, possession of an offensive weapon. Exploitation & trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act. Violence - Affray, Assault, Attempted Wounding with intent to cause Greivous Bodily Harm. Possibly sexual abuse/exploitation too. For more information about crime types visit the A-Z at Fearless.org

4. Do you think Evan a victim or perpetrator?

Notes: At first, Evan seems confident, and shows off about his gifts, but hides the source of them because he knows what he is doing is wrong. Evan is involved in crime but first and foremost he is a victim – he’s been groomed, exploited, threatened and used and controlled by the organised crime gang.

5. What signs does Jamie spot that causes him to be concerned about Evan?

Notes: Jamie is Evan's best friend, and witness to events. Jamie is really concerned about the changes in his friend and what he may be getting involved in. He texts him to check he is ok and follows him. Do you think he could do anything else? What would you do if you were Jamie?

6. What do you think was happening with the young girl (Sophie) in the alleyway? How may she feel?

Notes: We don't know much about the girl. We do know that county lines has links with sexually exploiting girls and boys, so it possible that she has been given drugs to control her as part of her exploitation.

7. How was Evan feeling about his train journey to London?

Notes: Evan knows what he is doing is wrong and against the law, he could also be scared going to London to collect drugs from strangers. It is common for the people in the gangs to be violent towards people they exploit; fear and violence is part of the exploitation.

8. What could happen to Evan when he is bringing the drugs back to Wales?

Notes: He could be stopped by police on the train. What would happen if he was? He could also be attacked by rival gang members and have the drugs taken off

him. If Evan was robbed of the drugs, he would now owe the gang what had been taken from him. He would be trapped into something sometimes called “debt bondage” meaning that Evan would have to do whatever the gang told him to and that he wouldn’t even get paid to do it.

9. Who do you think is the person laying on the floor at the drugs den?

Notes: We see a drug addict laying on the floor. They could be being used by the gang to watch the premises and even deal drugs for them. Sometimes gangs will prey on vulnerable adults and take over their home, known as ‘cuckooing’ - they will control them by drugs and fear. They could also be vulnerable to exploitation (including sexual exploitation), slavery and trafficking.

10. We see Evan pull a knife on Tyler, what could happen?

Notes: Tyler gives Evan a knife to protect himself (and the drugs) but if you carry a knife you are more likely to become a victim. Evan has realised the seriousness of his situation and is frightened, in panic he pulls a knife on Tyler who is not at all bothered, and in turn pulls a bigger knife on Evan, threatening him not to talk to the Police. Time dependent, you could explore the myths and laws around carrying knives - noting, even the smallest knife wound could prove fatal.

11. How do you think Evan and Sophie feel when the Police raid the building and arrest them?

Notes: Whilst they may not want the police involved, it is a way out for them and there will be help available for them when the police know that they have been exploited.

12. How would you feel if you were in Jamie’s position? What would you do if you or someone you know was at risk of or being exploited?

Notes: when someone has been groomed and exploited it is hard to understand what is going on. Often it is easier for others to see what is going on. You could try speaking to the person about what is going on or raise your concerns with a trusted adult.

You could also ask whether they think Jamie reported his concerns about Evan? We don’t know but if he had reported via Crimestoppers or Fearless.org no-one would know because you remain anonymous. It may be worth reinforcing what it means to be anonymous and the Fearless anonymity promise.

Reiterate ways to report: Call the police on 101 or if they are in immediate danger, dial 999. Alternatively, you could speak with a trusted adult such as a parent, family member, carer, teacher, youth, health or social worker. If you wish to remain anonymous you can use <https://www.fearless.org/en/anonymous> or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111. There are also other organisations listed under useful links at Fearless.org where you can get further help.

Ending the session: Provide reassurance - reports of young people in Wales being involved in County Lines are low and 99% of young people in England and Wales live knife free. We hope through this session you feel better informed about the signs of exploitation and feel more confident to speak up. Look out for your friends. Stay safe. Be fearless!