

# THE ESCAPELINE BULLETIN

Preventing Child Exploitation



## OUR SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2023 SUCCESS



As we approach the Christmas break, we celebrate how the start of the new school year for Escapeline has been a huge success.

### Here is the breakdown of the figures:

We have educated **7,620** young people across Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire between the ages of 9 to 18 years old. Additionally, we have provided educational sessions to **282** professionals. **139** parents/carers have also attended awareness talks to educate on county lines and exploitation and how we can protect our young people.

## Our Dorset Services

We are excited to be able to offer our support services across Dorset county!

In addition to the targeted support work we provide across Somerset and Wiltshire, we now have a project worker based in Dorset who will continue to expand our support services across the county to families with children identified as being at risk or vulnerable to exploitation by criminal gangs. We are keen to spread our message amongst the community to ensure we are able to reach children in need of education, awareness and support and work in collaboration with other agencies to achieve the collective goal of keeping young people safe.

## An introduction to our YOUTH MENTORS

We have recently appointed some fantastic and motivated youth mentors from Bournemouth University to help continue our vital support work with vulnerable young people in the Dorset community. Our mentors will provide 1:1 guidance to the young people currently being supported through a 6-week education programme by our Escapeline team. They will fulfil a key role in children's lives by assisting with life's general worries, providing career and educational guidance and advocating on their behalf to support their interests and engagement in extra-curricular activities.



## Support Escapeline in the London Landmarks Half Marathon!



Missed the ballot for the London Landmarks Half-Marathon?

Join the Escapeline Team! Do something amazing in 2024 and help to support vulnerable young people across the South West.

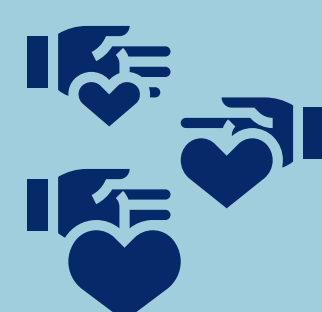
The Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 7th April 2024. Contact us at [enquiries@escapeline.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@escapeline.org.uk) to sign up now!

## We need YOUR support - help us fundraise

We are a partially funded charity and need your help and support to allow us to continue the key work we do with at risk children.

We are asking schools to help by putting on a non-school uniform day for students to help us raise money and awareness of county lines and exploitation and continue our battle against criminal gangs.

Please contact us at [enquiries@escapeline.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@escapeline.org.uk)



## Criminal gangs are targeting primary schools!

Sadly, we are seeing an increase in the number of primary school aged children being targeted by county line gangs. Young children are exceptionally vulnerable to exploitation, manipulation and grooming by criminals who cause harm for their own financial gain. Criminal gangs are highly sophisticated and effective in their methods of brainwashing young people into joining their ranks. We are now seeing children as young as 6 years old being exploited.

Gangs will use exploited young people in targetting young children to draw them in with promises of protection, high earnings and friendship.

We deliver tailored workshops for pupils in years 5 & 6 to educate them on the risks of exploitation in the community, positive friendships, and how to keep safe. Contact us now to book a workshop for the New Year!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **Donate:** visit <https://link.justgiving.com/v1/charity/donate/charityId/2895223?startedBy=webjustgiving>
2. **Follow us** on social media: share our resources and campaigns with your friends and communities
3. **Get informed:** check our website for resources on signs of grooming and exploitation
4. **Invite us in:** get in touch with us through our contact email
5. **Report:** If you see something suspicious, or you suspect a young person is being exploited call 101 or report to Crimestoppers 0800 555111 [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).



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