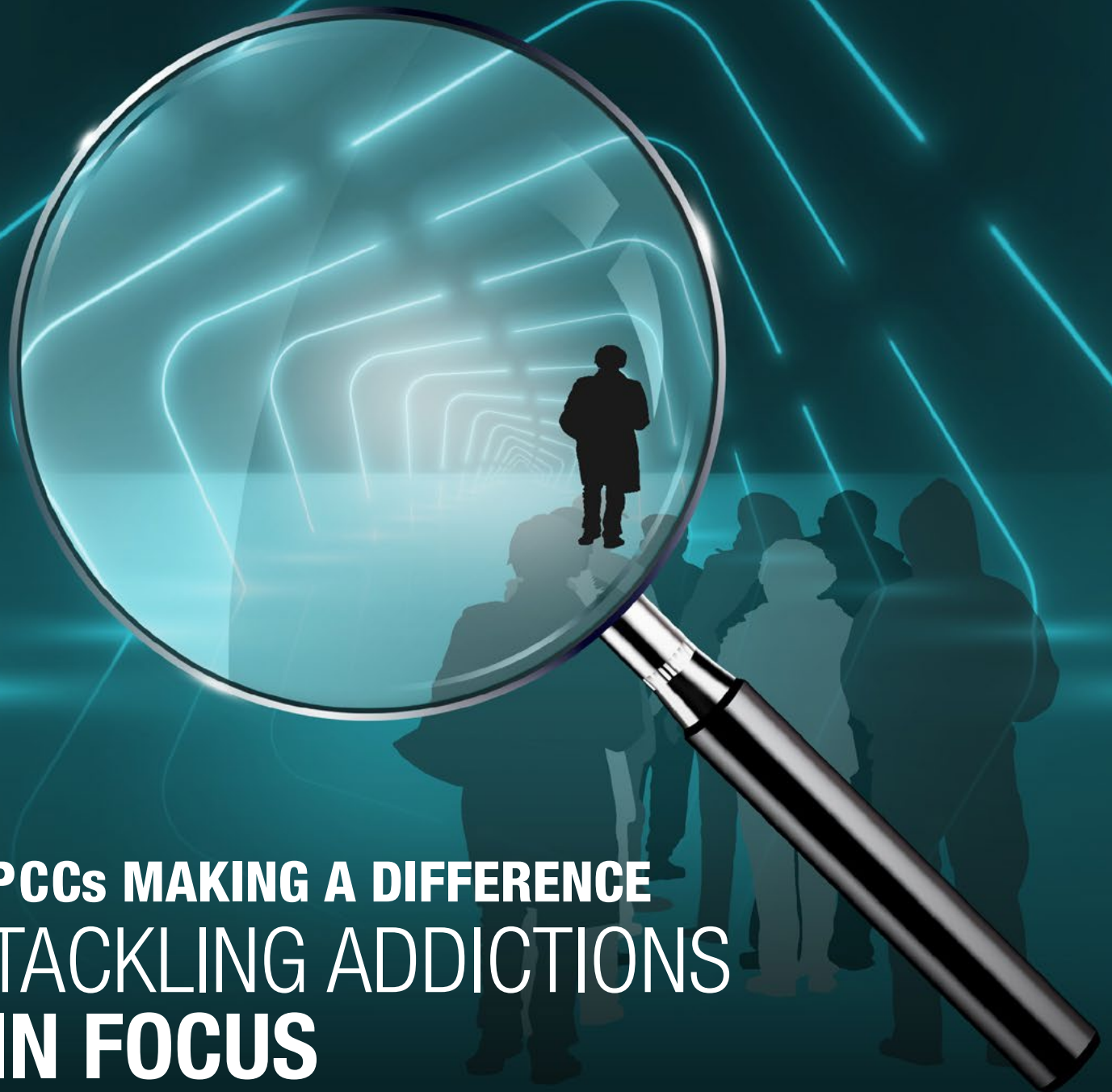




Association of
Police and Crime
Commissioners



PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE TACKLING ADDICTIONS IN FOCUS

With half of all homicides and acquisitive crimes believed to be drug-related, tackling drugs may be the single biggest thing that PCCs can do to prevent crime and make communities safe.

TACKLING ADDICTIONS IN FOCUS

Foreword from APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse Leads: **Joy Allen** and **David Sidwick**:



JOY ALLEN
PCC for Durham



DAVID SIDWICK
PCC for Dorset

Drugs drive crime and anti-social behaviour. With half of all homicides and acquisitive crimes believed to be drug-related, tackling drugs may be the single biggest thing that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) can do to prevent crime and make communities safe.

This *In Focus* report shows how they are doing this across England and Wales, contributing to all three of the pillars in the **From harm to hope drug strategy**: robust enforcement to cut supply; help to get offenders with addictions into treatment and off drugs; and reducing demand by changing attitudes to drug misuse, including with young people who have started using illegal gateway drugs like cannabis, nitrous oxide, MDMA, ketamine and powdered cocaine.

It's not only delivering each of the pillars that's important, but – as **Project Adder** has demonstrated – joining them up. Some of the biggest challenges arise in the gaps between systems and services. For example, we need to get more people who are engaging with treatment in prisons linking up with services in the community on release, and more offenders with addictions who appear – often again and again – before our courts into treatment with robust community sentences to ensure they are getting their lives back on track and addressing their offending behaviour. We also need to get our schools, colleges and Universities more involved given their critical role in shifting attitudes.

PCCs are uniquely placed to convene and drive the partnerships that join the dots – many are leading their Combating Drugs Partnerships (or Area Planning Boards in Wales), most are chairing their Local Criminal Justice Boards, and all are expecting changes to strengthen their relationship with Community Safety Partnerships. As the APCC's Addictions and Substance Misuse portfolio leads, we sit on the cross-governmental ministerial forum which is bringing together ministers from six key ministries to ensure a coherent national approach across Whitehall, and to support our local partnerships to deliver.



We also work closely with leads at the National Police Chiefs Council, Local Government Association and with other national partners to drive this agenda.

Increasingly we are working alongside other APCC portfolios, because tackling addictions and substance misuse is critical for so many areas across crime reduction and community safety, from mental health to tackling anti-social behaviour to road safety.

It's not just drugs that are the issue of course – alcohol is behind much crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly violence both in the night time economy and in the home, and we have recently joined a new national Working Group on Alcohol Related Crime and Homicide.

Our portfolio has also taken a national lead in highlighting the problem of gambling related crime, working with colleagues at the Local Government Association. While many people gamble unproblematically, the Howard League's Commission on Gambling and Crime recently found 'high prevalence rates of crimes being committed by people in order to fund their gambling' including theft, fraud and street robbery, with evidence of links to domestic abuse and child neglect. This report highlights ground-breaking work by some PCCs to start to address this hidden issue.

There is no doubting the scale of the challenge to PCCs from drugs and other addictions, nor the benefits to our communities of getting this right in terms of reduced crime, safer communities and support for vulnerable people. We have an historic opportunity to turn the tide, notably with the ten year Drug Strategy and the investment that is supporting it. This In Focus report showcases work PCCs are doing to deliver that promise on the ground.

Foreword from **The Rt Hon Chris Philp MP, UK Government Combating Drugs Minister:**



Combating illicit drugs is critical to reducing acquisitive and violent crime, making our streets safer and saving lives. Various studies show that between 30% and 50% of all crime – from street anti-social behaviour, to burglaries to violent crime – is linked to drug consumption or linked to drug dealing. Beating drugs and beating crime are inextricably intertwined.

Our collective plan is set out in the 10-year drugs strategy: From Harm to Hope. Delivering this is a top priority for the government. It has also been set as a key priority for police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) through the recently published Strategic Policing Requirement.



If we are to achieve the aims of the drugs strategy, we will need effective, coordinated action at a local level.

We know that treating addiction reduces crime and increases how safe people feel in their local community. As demonstrated through Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), recovery from addiction requires partnership working across a range of different organisations and forms of support; and enforcement activity is most effective when it is coordinated with drug diversion and treatment.

We need to make sure there are clear, accessible paths into treatment from the criminal justice system, and then integrated support for both physical and mental health needs, as well as wider support for issues like housing, finances and employment. If we can treat drug addiction it reduces demand and reduces crime. Every individual person coming off drugs makes a real difference.

This is why we have ensured that Combating Drugs Partnerships (CDPs) are established in every area of England, to ensure that all the relevant organisations are coming together to coordinate their work, maximising their impact and efficiency. Area Planning Boards (APBs) seek to play a similar role in Wales.

PCCs are in a unique position to drive real change in local systems, and I have been encouraged by the leadership they have shown across the country in the CDPs. PCCs have the ability and opportunity to see the bigger picture in an area, and hold a distinct role in convening and coordinating local partners.

We have invested a lot more in treatment capacity recently, and waiting times are now a few weeks on average. We now need to make sure that Policing, the CPS, the courts and the defence community identify criminals with drug problems and get them referred into treatment – either voluntarily or through a court order, usually a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR). A DRR will generally require a Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) for the Judge or Magistrate to consider as they pass sentence, and so co-ordination with the Probation service, who prepare the PSR before sentencing, is required. This is the kind of thing PCCs can drive through the Local Criminal Justice Boards which you chair.

Of course enforcement is vital too. Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) supplying drugs need to be targeted through Regional Organisation Crime Units (ROCU) as well as the 43 territorial forces; the rollout of Clear Hold Build is vital; and the County Lines work is leading to lots of arrests and line closures. There is scope to co-operate with the four forces where most County Lines originate (Met, West Midlands, GMP, Merseyside) to dismantle lines, including working with the National County Lines Coordination Centre. Stop and Search also disrupts drugs supply more locally too. Nationally, we are looking to increase the National Crime Agency and Border Force's work at the UK border to reduce the supply of drugs into the country.

This guide is very welcome – showcasing some of the excellent, joined-up work being led by PCCs across the country. I hope to see the continuing positive impact of these initiatives, and their further expansion.

I am grateful to all PCCs for all the hard work they and partners have been putting in to make the drugs strategy a success. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to address illicit drug use and make our communities safer and healthier.



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PCCs are leading efforts to cut the supply of drugs by prioritising disruption of drug markets in their Police and Crime Plans, by ensuring that their forces have the resources and capabilities they need to target the organised crime gangs and by monitoring progress on delivery.

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DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

PCCs are working with their partners locally to get additional investment into treatment and recovery services. This includes increasing referrals into treatment from the criminal justice system and improving the engagement of prisoners on release with local treatment and recovery services.

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DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

PCCs have a particular passion for crime prevention and are leading the way in getting upstream to 'turn off the taps' that drive drug markets and the harms that are associated with them.

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BEYOND DRUGS: PCCs PIONEERING WORK ON NEW FORMS OF ADDICTION

PCCs know that it is not only substance misuse that can drive crime, but other forms of addiction too. Many PCCs are playing a leading role in raising awareness of the issue of gambling-related crime and in developing projects and interventions locally to address it.

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THE ROLE OF PCCs IN THE NEW LOCAL COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIPS

PCCs are responsible for bringing together local partners, like health, local government, criminal justice agencies and the voluntary and community sector and for weaving the three strands of the drug strategy into a comprehensive local plan to address local needs issues.

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DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are leading efforts to cut the supply of drugs by prioritising disruption of drug markets in their Police and Crime Plans, by ensuring that their forces have the resources and capabilities they need to target the organised crime gangs who bring drugs into our communities, and by monitoring progress on delivery. As conveners of local partnerships, they are ensuring that robust enforcement is supported by opportunities to access help and support for those vulnerable people who themselves get caught up in the drug trade, including children and young people.

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DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

SOUTH WEST POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS UNITE TO TACKLE DRUG-RELATED CRIME

A regional, co-ordinated campaign led by the region's PCCs is tackling drug-related crime, rooting out dealers and disrupting supplies of drugs onto the South West's streets.

The five PCCs from Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset agreed with their respective Chief Constables that their forces would **combine operational powers to tackle cross border drugs supply**, drug-related crime and associated anti-social behaviour (ASB).



This is the first time in the UK that five PCCs, and their respective forces, have joined together to target drug-related crime by setting aside regional boundaries.

Operation Scorpion, which first took place in March 2022 and has seen three iterations since, **harnessed collective powers to disrupt drug crime** in the South West by dismantling drugs supply networks, arresting those who profit from them, and it means criminals will be under no illusion the South West is **#NoPlaceForDrugs**.

All five PCCs have met with Home Office ministers to share the success of Operation Scorpion and are sharing the results with other Commissioners.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

Their collaboration, and increased focus on making the South West of England a hostile place for drugs and criminal gangs, is directly delivering their own Police and Crime Plans in each area, contributing to the **APCC's #PCCsMakingADifference campaign** and delivering the **Home Office's Beating Crime Plan**.



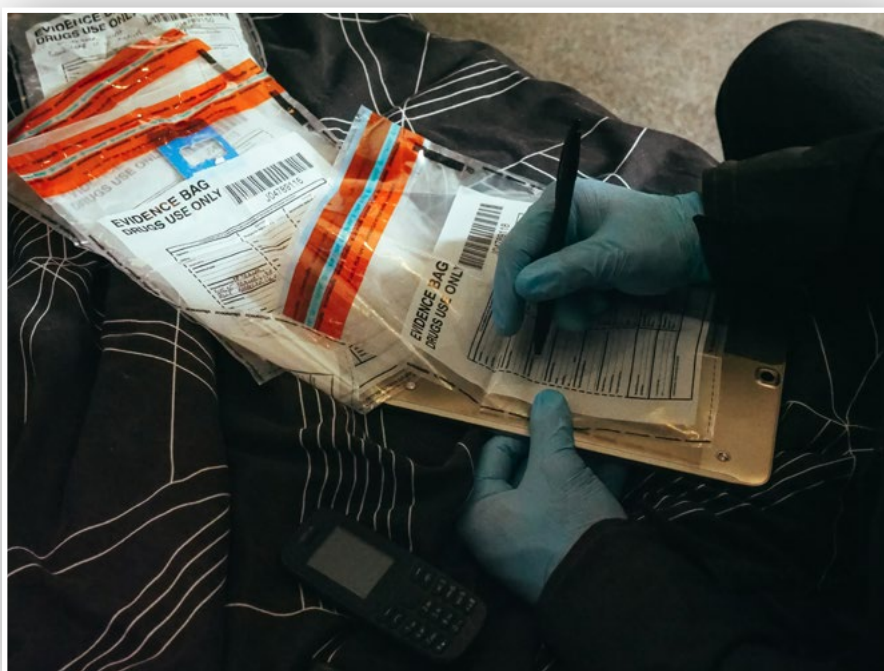
OPERATION SCORPION RESULTS ACROSS THE SOUTH WEST, BETWEEN MARCH - DECEMBER 2022, INCLUDE:

- 1,514 drug disruptions
- 388 drug-related arrests
- Approx £363k of cash seized
- 579 adults and children safeguarded, with welfare/vulnerability checks carried out
- More than £1.1m street-value drugs removed from the South West's streets
- A vast array of weapons seized (including air rifles, knuckledusters, machetes, tasers and knives) and removed from circulation.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

David Sidwick, Dorset PCC and the APCC's Joint Lead for Addictions and Substance Misuse, said: *“Five regional forces and commissioners are working together to help protect our residents and communities from the harm that illegal drugs do. Illegal drug use is just that and the partners of Operation Scorpion will continue to work together - targeting criminality, taking drugs off our streets, sharing intelligence, protecting the vulnerable and putting a ring of steel around the South West.”*



Alison Hernandez, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly PCC, said: *“Operation Scorpion has taken drugs, weapons and those involved in drug supply out of our communities and presented those who want help to get off drugs with the help and support they need. It has sent a strong message to those who seek to exploit the most vulnerable people in society that we do not tolerate drugs in the South West.”*

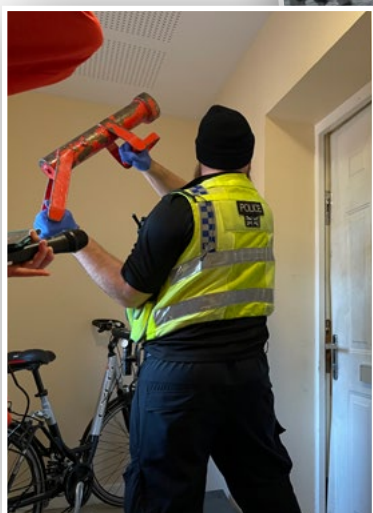
Philip Wilkinson, Wiltshire PCC said: *“The South West is no place for drugs and Operation Scorpion has certainly reinforced that message. I’m proud of this project and the disruption caused to such a remarkable amount of drugs activity. Those who want to are now being pointed in a direction where they make a better contribution to our society - a significant step towards making Wiltshire a safer place.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

Mark Shelford, Avon and Somerset PCC said: *“Drug crime has devastating consequences for the vulnerable individuals involved and damages the wider community. I have been clear social drug use should not be perceived as normal and recently targeted the supply, and use of drugs, within the night-time economy. I am proud of the proactive work Avon and Somerset Police carried out within these targeted operations.”*

Chris Nelson, Gloucestershire PCC said: *“Scorpion is a brilliant endeavour that strengthens co-operation across our five forces, shares best practice and helps tackle the problem of anti-social drugs in our communities. Modern policing is busy with many things, so our officers appreciate the renewed focus on proactive and surge operations, and the return to traditional policing that takes a zero-tolerance approach to a crime that has for too long antagonised communities all over Gloucestershire.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

DURHAM PCC

Durham Police are involved in a number of proactive investigations linked to drug supply. Disruption activity associated to mapped organised criminal gangs (OCGs) undertaken by the Specialist Crime Operations Unit (SCOU) over the last 12 months (2022) **include seizures in excess of 29 kilos of Class A drugs with a street value of £1.1m and £30,000 of Class B drugs.**

A large number of **Op Venetic operations** remain in the criminal justice system, with significant seizures of cocaine, amphetamine and cash and the sentencing of principal members of an OCG, part of over sixty years of sentencing in recent convictions.

Amongst several successful operations targeting drug supplies was **Operation Bathurst**, a County Lines investigation by **Locality Intelligence Teams** into the supply of cocaine and cannabis in the Newton Aycliffe area. Search warrants between October 2021 - February 2022, **resulted in the seizure of mobile phones, weapons and a significant quantity of class A and B drugs.**

Operational work in Darlington supported by funding from the **National County Lines Coordination Centre** successfully targeted the supply of drugs. The police identified a number of perpetrators involved in targeting children and young people with intimidation and violence. The proactive police response led to the arrest of a number of key individuals, the recovery of drugs and of large quantities of cash.

Joy Allen, Durham PCC and the APCC's Joint Lead for Addictions and Substance Misuse, said: *"The North East recorded the highest rate of drug deaths by drug misuse, with 24% of drug deaths occurring in the last eight years in our Force area. It is vital these operations continue to ensure we eliminate these dangerous substances from our streets. I am pleased drug-related offences have reduced by 7%, which wouldn't have been possible without the dynamic efforts of operations such as these."*



The North East recorded the highest rate of drug deaths by drug misuse, with 24% of drug deaths occurring in the last eight years



Drug-related offences have been reduced by 7%



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS







CAMBRIDGESHIRE PCC

Darryl Preston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, is determined to make the county a hostile environment for organised criminals by **disrupting their activities**, taking away their freedom and hitting them where it hurts most – by confiscating their ill-gotten gains.

The PCC welcomed the launch of **Operation Hypernova**, a Cambridgeshire Constabulary crackdown on exploitation and illegal drugs aimed at identifying individuals posing the greatest threat to the community and arresting those controlling county lines.

The operation was carried out with support from the Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police and the Eastern Regional Specialist Operation Unit.

IT RESULTED IN:

-  44 arrests
-  31 people charged
-  139 drug charges
-  The dismantling of 33 drug lines
-  The seizure of drugs to the value of £600k along with hundreds of thousands of pounds in cash and assets including vehicles, jewellery, and clothing
-  Several weapons were also seized.



Mr Preston said: *“As an ex-police officer myself and someone who sat on the national county lines working group, I’ve seen the misery that drugs bring to our communities. Much of the serious violence and gun and knife crime we see on our streets is the result of illegal drugs networks with criminals exploiting vulnerable young people to front their activities.*”

“Operation Hypernova strikes at the heart of these issues, ensuring those who bring drugs into our area receive the full weight of the law while protecting vulnerable young people from the same fate.”

View Operation Hypernova YouTube Video: Making the county hostile towards county lines drug dealers, preventing further exploitation of young and vulnerable people and reducing serious street-based violence.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

LINCOLNSHIRE PCC

Lincolnshire PCC, Marc Jones, has always recognised the importance of providing the Force with the ‘right tools for the job’. He has recently funded the purchase of a **Bruker drug testing device** - bringing an opportunity to charge or dispose upon first arrest.

The **Bruker Alpha II is a drug testing machine** which uses an infrared Spectrometer that can identify the chemical makeup of a particular substance. It assists in identifying some of the hundreds of substances Lincolnshire Police receive each year. At present many substances that aren’t drugs are submitted for forensic examination including crushed paracetamol, medicines and counterfeit medicines, tobacco – even oregano and washing powder.

Initial testing on Bruker **prevents unnecessary submissions, costing time and money** - and allows finalisation at the earliest opportunity, avoiding long waiting periods for those previously released under investigation.

Mr Jones said: *“It is imperative that we make use of the latest technology in our fight to keep our communities safe. The purchase of the Bruker device has already had significant impact on our police and the safety of our communities, whilst saving the taxpayer money.”*

“Early identification of bad drug batches that reach our streets and come to police attention enables swift action in reaching out to partners and putting safeguarding procedures in place.”



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 1: BREAKING DRUG SUPPLY CHAINS

LANCASHIRE PCC

Police and Crime Commissioner Andrew Snowden and Lancashire Police are taking the fight to organised crime with **Operation Warrior**. This is dedicated to bringing more offenders to justice as well as stripping them of their cash, cars, and other assets. **Operation Warrior** targets both individuals and gangs involved in crime, as well as associated issues such as violence and intimidation, **large scale drug supply**, exploitation and fraud, all of which cause serious harm to local communities.

Mr Snowden said: “The operation is also supported by a wider media campaign sharing key successes like the number of organised crime-related arrests as well as drugs and cash seized. The campaign also encourages members of the public to report any suspicious activity and to keep Lancashire safe.”

LANCASHIRE POLICE’S INVESTIGATIONS INTO ORGANISED CRIME ARE WORKING:

- Every week, on average, officers arrest 17 organised crime gang suspects and seize 2kg of Class A and B drugs
- Every month, officers seize over £55,000 in cash from criminals
- From August 2021 to August 2022, evidence secured has helped to put organised crime gang members behind bars for 485 years
- Every month, officers safeguard 17 vulnerable children and adults
- Every month, officers seize over 400 cannabis plants

The PCC awarded £165,156 through the Police Innovation Fund to support a dedicated **Suspicious Activity Reports** researcher, Financial Investigator and Economic Crime Unit Coordinator to focus on Suspicious Activity Reports and Confiscation Orders for an 18-month pilot. This will **support the work of Op Warrior by building intelligence on drug-related serious and organised crime** to assist with enforcement, disruption and safeguarding and strengthen the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme revenue streams.

We seize **2KG** of class A and B drugs **Every. Single. Week.** And we're going after more.

We seize over **£55k** in cash from criminals **Every. Single. Month.** And we're going after more.

We arrest **17** organised crime gang suspects **Every. Single. Week.** And we're going after more.

We secured evidence to put gang members behind bars for **485** years **in the last year alone** And we're going after more.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Access to evidence-based treatment and recovery services can save lives, turn them around and have a huge impact on crime and anti-social behaviour. The Drug Strategy suggests that treatment could prevent around 740,000 crimes by 2024-25, of which around 140,000 are expected to be neighbourhood crimes like burglary, robbery and theft. PCCs are working with their partners locally to get additional investment into treatment and recovery services. They have a particularly important role to play in increasing referrals into treatment from the criminal justice system and in improving the engagement of prisoners on release with treatment and recovery services in the community.

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DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

COMBINED SUBMISSION BY FOUR WELSH PCCs

There were 210 drug overdose deaths across Wales in 2021. This figure was the highest since records began in 1993 and represented a 40 percent increase on the year before.

This is the reason why hundreds of police officers across the country are now **carrying naloxone - a medicine which reverses opioid overdoses in children and in adults.**

Naloxone works by attaching itself to opioid receptors, reversing and blocking the effects of other opioids. It is a safe medicine which can be injected or delivered via a simple nasal spray.

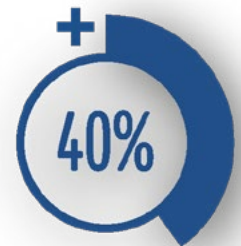


Police and Crime Commissioners across Wales have championed the use of naloxone by front line workers and have worked with key partners on area planning boards, and also the **Welsh Government**, which provides funding for police officers to carry the kits as part of its Substance Misuse Delivery Plan, to maximise access to this life-saving medicine for front line workers.

North Wales Police was the first force in Wales to equip police officers with naloxone back in 2020, when during a brief pilot involving just 12 officers, two lives were saved. Naloxone can now be voluntarily carried by their front-line police officers, and also PCSOs, who have also been given access.

Andy Dunbobbin, North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner said:
“Keeping the people of North Wales safe is my overriding vision as Police and Crime Commissioner. Those who suffer with addiction are some of the most vulnerable within our community which is why I will continue to support the roll out of officers voluntarily carrying naloxone in North Wales. The lives saved from the pilot in North Wales is evidence enough of the success of this scheme.”

The three other Welsh police forces have now also introduced naloxone to front line officers since the pilot. Currently, 267 South Wales Police officers volunteer to carry naloxone and fourteen lives have been saved since then.



Increase in drug overdose deaths in Wales from previous year



ANDY DUNBOBBIN
North Wales PCC





DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Alun Michael, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner said: *“Sir Robert Peel identified that one of the core responsibilities of the police service is to protect and preserve life. Police officers are often first on the scene of potentially life-threatening situations and each occasion presents the opportunity to save somebody’s life, but also provide them with support and offer a vital pathway away from drug related harm. Drug users are so often victims themselves, and that’s why it’s so important that we work on new approaches to help break the cycle of harm.”*



ALAN MICHAEL
South Wales PCC

Matthew Rafferty, Harm Reduction Lead, Western Bay Area Planning Board said: *“Without your intervention Claire (not her real name) would not be alive today given the severity of her overdose. Your actions single handedly saved a life and prevented Claire from becoming another tragic statistic in the area. Hopefully, now we have the opportunity to make some meaningful change with her.*



JEFF CUTHBERT
Gwent PCC

“Again, thank you on behalf of all our substance use services. Both yourself and South Wales Police should be proud of your interventions.”

Please note: The Harm Reduction Lead is an external partner based within the Area Planning Board (APB) Support Team. The key role of the APB is to assist responsible authorities to discharge their duties in relation to substance misuse.



DAFYDD LLYWELYN
Dyfed Powys PCC

Officers in Dyfed-Powys Police now carry Nyxoid, a nasal spray version of Naloxone. Dyfed-Powys take a multi-agency approach and Area Planning Board partners have promoted the use of naloxone in A&Es.

Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner said: *“Here in Dyfed-Powys my priority is to support victims and prevent harm and this is achieved through proactive and innovative diversionary and preventative activity and educating the Dyfed-Powys community.”*

Notably, since the roll out of naloxone to police officers and nurses in A&E, the Hywel Dda Health Board area has seen a **decrease in the number of drug related deaths.**

Chief Inspector Christina Fraser said: *“The impact of all partner agencies, working together with absolute determination, to reduce the unnecessary harm from illicit drugs is having real, tangible and significant outcomes for service users; we are excited about the future of harm reduction.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE PCC

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston, quickly recognised the necessity of a **coordinated approach to tackling drugs** and other high harm issues. So, he launched a new **Countywide High Harms Board in 2022** to provide a strong platform for agencies to work together to prevent and tackle problems more effectively.

The Board meets quarterly to address issues such as drugs, serious violence, violence against women and girls and serious and organised crime. Many of these issues are intertwined and require a unified approach with all partners contributing to the solutions.

Operationally, Cambridgeshire Constabulary has also been at the forefront of a **new trial to administer a life-saving nasal spray to reverse drug overdoses**.

With the full backing of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston, officers from the force were among the first in the region to receive training on how to administer naloxone to help save the lives of people who have overdosed on opioids.

So far, the scheme has **saved the lives of at least nine people** across the county and has now been extended. This means specially trained officers in the area will be able to administer the spray while waiting for blue light medical help to arrive.

Mr Preston said: *“By the nature of their work, police officers are often the first to arrive on scene in an emergency. Any equipment or first aid resources we can provide to help them save the lives of vulnerable people in crisis has to be fully embraced.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

CUMBRIA PCC

County Lines Informed Cumbria (1CLIC) funded by Cumbria's PCC, Peter McCall, is a two-year pilot programme targeting county lines in South Lakes.

In summer 2021, there were nine known county line organised crime groups (OCGs) operating in the south of the county and in under 12 months, these have all been disrupted, with **no active county lines in operation**.

1CLIC, sees Cumbria Constabulary **working in partnership** with The **Well Communities**, an organisation that **supports those recovering from addiction** through counselling, peer mentoring, social activities, and other practical services such as housing and employment support.

Mr McCall said: "As a rural county, Cumbria is affected by County Lines drugs supply imported from larger metropolitan areas. The 1CLIC programme is a fantastic pilot that cuts off the drugs path into south Cumbria."

SINCE THE PILOT LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY 2022, 1CLIC HAVE ACHIEVED:

- 1,340 vulnerability visits to known drug users (minimum of two visits per week, needs led)
- 139 referrals to partners for support services
- 446 intelligence reports from the local community
- 50% reduction in consequential crime and demand on response policing in relation to drugs

Tom Sharp, project lead with lived experience of substance abuse, said:

"1CLIC has helped us reach people who would previously have been missed. The connections we have made through probation, food clubs and other organisations is helping us deliver a bespoke care model to every single person on our case load, no more 'one size fits all'. This collaboration between Cumbria Police and the Well has proven its worth in gold by the sheer number of lives it has saved and changed for the better."

Comment from a service user: "I'd be in prison or dead if it wasn't for Tom and Kev from 1CLIC. Thank you so much. I'm really looking forward to a new life."

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTY LINES INFORMED CUMBRIA:

- [Project to help tackle drugs trafficking in Barrow a success](#)
- [68 people at risk from crime gangs identified in Cumbria pilot programme](#)

The Well



Reduction in consequential crime and demand on response policing in relation to drugs

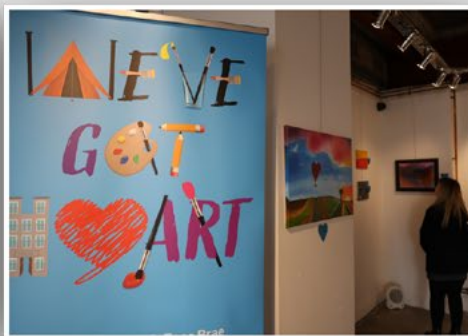
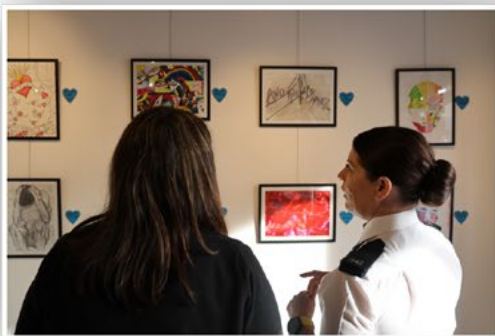


DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

MERSEYSIDE PCC

Policing alone cannot tackle the issue of drugs in our community, that's why in Merseyside the **PCC Emily Spurrell** is supporting an innovative approach **combining enforcement with treatment** and support through a whole-system approach.

As part of **Project ADDER** (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), Merseyside Police are working with partners to **explore new ways to engage with vulnerable people** to support them away from crime and help them to channel their energy into something much more positive.



This has included **'We've got HeART'**, a pioneering creative arts projects which has seen officers on the Wirral **engaging with services users** who have shown a talent for art.

More than 50 vulnerable people, most of them residents of hostels on the Wirral, have embraced the opportunity to create a piece of art, all of which contain a heart.

The artwork, which ranges from drawings to paintings, sculptures, poems, and photography, has been used to create an exhibition, opened by the PCC, being showcased at a supportive local art gallery.

Ms Spurrell said: *"Ultimately, if we can help people to tackle and overcome their addictions, we will help to prevent crime, have fewer victims and build stronger, safer communities – that has to be our goal."*

Daniel Davies, who runs the gallery, added: *"This is the sort of initiative that breaks down barriers and makes a tangible difference."*

DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

CLEVELAND PCC

Combatting drugs has been a top priority for **Cleveland PCC Steve Turner** since taking office in 2021.

Illegal drugs not only cause daily misery for substance misusers, but they also bring the scourge of organised crime gangs onto Cleveland's streets - as well as the potential for lower-level criminal behaviour.

As part of his Antisocial Behaviour Fund, the PCC gave £5,000 to Stockton-based charity the **Moses Project**. Since then, its **Fresh Start initiative** has **helped 22 men address their substance misuse issues**.

The initiative has provided mentoring and support to the men, helping with everything from travel warrants to rehab to essentials like toiletries.

Almost half of the total have made it into residential rehab - away from the streets of Stockton and the temptations of drink and drugs.

After engaging with the faith-based project, **65% of participants surveyed said they no longer stole items which were easy to sell or swap for drugs**. A total of **75% have not re-offended**.



Ashley Allcock, 33, of Stockton, was helped by the Moses Project. He has gone from being one of the biggest drug dealers in the North East, to working full-time and being sober for five years. He said: *"I'm a different person now. The same thing is on offer here for anyone else, who wants it, because you are surrounded by the right people."*



Of participants surveyed said they no longer stole items which were easy to sell or swap for drugs



Have not re-offended



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

The PCC decided to give the Moses Project a further £10,000 towards a Community Engagement Support Mentor. Cash came from the PCC's Police Property Act Fund.

The mentor will support the charity's plans to set up a dry house, where all residents, apart from those on methadone-reducing plans, live drug and alcohol-free while getting support to overcome their problems.



Brian Jones BEM, Chief Executive Officer of the Moses Project said: *“We look at the root cause of addiction with our people. Drug use drops as part of finding - and looking at - that root cause, as their drug use is just part of it.”*

Mr Turner said: *“This is exactly the kind of drugs’ project that I want to fund. It engages with a relatively large number of people and supports them to make challenging life choices on the road to recovery.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

DURHAM PCC

The **FREE Program** offers **support and empowerment to women** in County Durham, to move them **away from abuse and addiction**, to improve their mental health and wellbeing and ensure they remain out of the criminal justice system.

Joy Allen, Durham PCC said: *“These women often have low self-esteem and don’t want to attend groups where men are present. The FREE program runs weekly group sessions, delivered from experts who are passionate about helping others.”*



54 people were supported between October - December 2022, all with multiple and complex needs



23 people presented to the service with problematic alcohol misuse and 21 with problematic drugs/substance misuse



32 sessions have been attended, on average, by 17 to 20 women



Of the 54 women from October - December 2022, 17 were referred on for drug/alcohol support



ONE GROUP MEMBER SAID:

“I really felt comfortable talking about domestic violence here. I came to get clean and as soon as I’m clean my past kills me. This group has opened my eyes to why I used drugs to cope in life.”

CASE STUDY:

Nadia (not her real name) is a 35-year-old female who has been alcoholic since being a teenager. Her background was troubled, and her family had a long criminal history. She was under Offender Management supervision for several years due to her prolific offending, and numerous safeguarding forms were submitted, following her calls to emergency services whilst intoxicated and making threats to self-harm. Since 2015, 84 crimes and 87 safeguarding reports have been linked to Nadia.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Her Offender Manager brought Nadia to the first FREE group in May 2022, and she has attended 28 out of the 36 weekly sessions.

Nadia states she is in her longest period of abstinence from alcohol. She is attending day care at a facility local to her home and is keen to complete a 12-step Narcotics Anonymous programme to change her behaviours and address issues around alcohol misuse.

In the past eight months, no crimes have been linked to Nadia and only one safeguarding report. From ringing the police on a weekly basis, she has now not contacted them at all in the last eight months.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

WEST YORKSHIRE MAYOR

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, through her Mayor's Safer Communities Fund, has granted around **£130,000 to 18 local organisations** working to tackle drug and alcohol related issues.

The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund is financed through money recovered from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Local groups can bid for a grant of up to £8,000.

Funded projects include outreach programmes with targeted support for young and homeless people, as well as initiatives to improve mental health and provide diversionary activities.

St George's Crypt in Leeds received £6000 for their **Growing Rooms project**. They work with homeless and vulnerable adults providing immediate care and support. **The project helps vulnerable men break free from addiction.** It is a 12 to 15 month journey consisting of a programme of abstinence and reintegration into society.



It is led by therapeutic support workers who have themselves walked the same recovery paths and the programme is the only residential one of its kind in Leeds. Through intensive group work, peer support and structured volunteering, clients are given a platform to contribute to the community, reducing crime, NHS admissions, drug and alcohol misuse and everything that goes with it. The course helped 120 people over the year.

Christine Lane, Head of Health and Wellbeing at St George's Crypt said:
"The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund enabled all our Growing Rooms clients to access recovery meetings throughout the city and beyond. It also funded transport to and from voluntary placements that are a key part of our drug and alcohol addiction recovery programme. Without this funding, it would have been difficult for our clients to engage in all aspects of their recovery journey and would not have produced the successful outcomes that they have achieved."



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

NORFOLK PCC

In Norfolk a service keeping vulnerable women out of the criminal justice system is continuing its vital work thanks to funding from the Norfolk PCC, Giles Orpen-Smellie.

The **WONDER project** (Women of Norfolk Diversion, Engagement and Rehabilitation). was launched in 2017 as a one-year pilot to offer **help and support to women in the community** at risk of offending, and those being released from police custody facilities in two parts of the county.

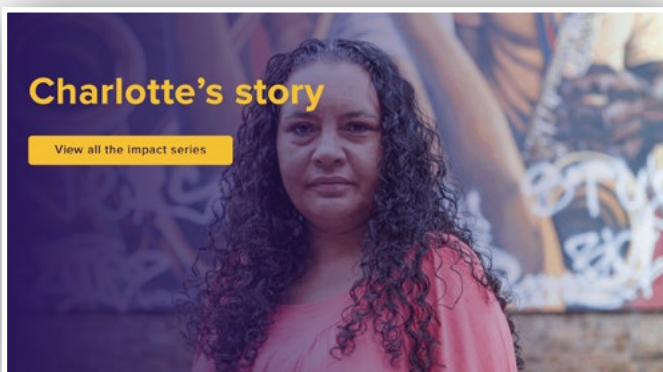
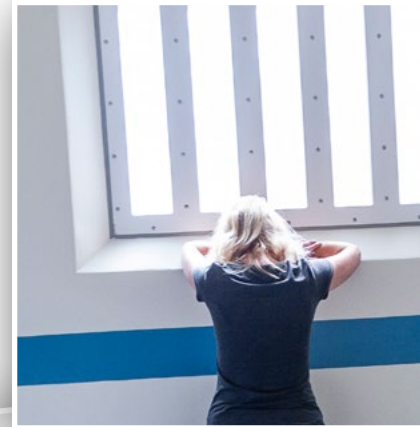
The initiative has since evolved into the **WONDER+ scheme**, extending across Norfolk and providing **dedicated support to women in areas including substance misuse**, through **Project ADDER**.

Charlotte, a former WONDER+ client said: *“They picked me up, with absolutely no judgement. They treated me like a human being who needed to be heard. The compassion they showed me made me believe in myself again.”*

Mr Orpen-Smellie said: *“It is vital we continue to work together with partners to help people when they are at their most vulnerable to access the support they need and find a more positive path in life.”*

St Giles, which runs the scheme, has a team of dedicated support workers who meet with the women to assess their needs, agree a support plan, and facilitate access to services.

More than 1000 women have been referred to the project since its introduction resulting in more than 5000 intervention meetings, meaning positive changes for hundreds of women including around substance misuse.



Read Charlotte's story on the St Giles Trust website



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

SURREY PCC

Responding to high impact complex drinkers (HICD), Surrey has launched a **High Impact service for adults with problematic substance misuse issues**. This new, enhanced initiative was co-commissioned by Surrey County Council (Public Health) and the Surrey OPCC and is delivered by Westminster Drug Project (WDP).



It was based on guidance available from the **Blue Light Project** which began as a pilot in 2016 and is for adults with a **problematic substance misuse issue**, including the use of opiates, stimulants, hallucinogens and alcohol, as well as their families, carers or partners.

The High Impact service focuses solely on people who find it hard to engage with structured interventions and are alcohol dependent.

Surrey PCC, Lisa Townsend said: *“My office has supported this service since the pilot in 2016. Utilising an assertive outreach approach, the service works with a very vulnerable and hard to reach group of people who tend to be experiencing multiple disadvantages. I am very happy that seven years later, we continue to co-commission the service with Surrey County Council.”*

The **service has led to a reduction in demand** such as reduced ambulance callouts, reduced A&E attendances, a **65% reduction in alcohol-related arrests** and a significant reduction in S136 detentions. Clients who engage with the service have experienced improved mental and physical health and wellbeing and some have sustained tenancies which were at risk due to their alcohol-related anti-social behaviour.

Vanessa Duke, Area Director for the service providers Westminster Drug Project, said: *“The HICD service is a valuable resource for a really vulnerable group and WDP are pleased to be delivering this service in collaboration with Surrey County Council, the OPCC and other key stakeholders in the county. Working together we are able to empower our service users to improve their health and wellbeing and gain independence.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

STAFFORDSHIRE PFCC

The Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Office is working with two local authorities to commission a range of substance misuse-related interventions at key stages of the criminal justice system – at the point of arrest, immediately following arrest, first court appearance and upon release from prison.

THE AIM IS TO:

- Improve care pathways between criminal justice settings and drug treatment services
- Increase the number of adults and young people engaged in treatment as a condition of Community Orders, including following release from prison
- Improve access to residential drug rehabilitation for offenders, where appropriate



Specific interventions have been commissioned to support magistrates in offering community sentences with treatment requirements, enabling courts to better respond where offending is linked to substance misuse.

The disposals available to the courts include **Drug Rehabilitation Requirements, Alcohol Treatment Requirements** and Mental Health Treatment Requirements, supported by a **dedicated prescribing clinic** for substance-using offenders. The senior commanding officer has also commissioned, alongside regional PCC colleagues, a drug-related Out of Court Disposal which will offer appropriate, proportionate drug and alcohol-related interventions for those arrested for relatively low-level, related offences.

Staffordshire PFCC, Ben Adams said: *“Providing effective treatment for addiction is vital in breaking the cycle of harm, both to the substance users themselves and the predominantly young people who are being drawn into crime and violence by organised crime gangs as a result.”*

Cllr Abi Brown, leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council said: *“I’m pleased to be working with the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office to make our communities healthier and safer by addressing the root cause of substance misuse-related crime.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

WEST MIDLANDS PCC

West Midlands PCC, Simon Foster, has invested in the **Offender to Rehab scheme**, which is estimated to have saved retailers in Birmingham around £800,000.

The project **focuses on people who are engaging in prolific shoplifting, to fund their chronic addiction to illegal drugs and aims to support them into rehab**. Funded by the PCC, it focuses on addressing the underlying causes of crime, with a view to preventing it happening in the first place.

Relatively short stints in prison, for people who are stealing to pay for Class A drugs, are known to be ineffective at breaking the cycle of crime. Instead, under the Offender to Rehab programme, people with substance misuse issues are identified and **referred to residential rehab facilities**. Once their addiction is treated, they are highly likely to stop stealing.

Between July 2021 and July 2022, the initiative **saved retailers in the region of £800,000**, after 27 prolific shoplifters were enrolled.

Between July 2021 and July 2022, the initiative **saved retailers in the region of £800,000**, after 27 prolific shoplifters were enrolled.

The Offender to Rehab initiative has been recognised nationally and won a **Howard League for Penal Reform award**.

Mr Foster said: *“It is an innovative scheme that is proving very successful. It is cutting crime and saving hundreds of thousands of pounds every year. Whilst we have focussed on Birmingham so far, I would like to see it rolled out across the entire region and potentially across the country.”*

The PCC has also commissioned the **Cranstoun Arrest Referral Service**. As part of this service, there are drug workers within all of the custody blocks across the WMP area, engaging offenders in custody, post-arrest and providing an opportunity to break the cycle of drugs and offending.



cranstoun

DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 2: WORLD CLASS TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT PCC

We know that there is a link between drug dependency and crime. If we can help break that cycle, we can reduce crime and protect victims. That's why **Donna Jones, PCC for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**, is investing in **Drug Testing on Arrest Hampshire (DToA)** to identify individuals who misuse specified Class A drugs and commit crime to fund their habit and instead offer them appropriate help in custody.

THE PCC LAUNCHED DRUG TESTING ON ARREST (DToA) IN BASINGSTOKE CUSTODY IN OCTOBER 2022. THE PILOT FOUND THAT FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022:

- 335 people were eligible to be tested (not all were tested due to having no indication of drug use to commit the offence, or the offender was a child)
- 261 were tested equating to almost 78%
- 178 were trigger offenders with associated intelligence of suspected drug use
- Police referred 157 offenders to commissioned treatment services to help deal with their addictions (and other societal issues)
- Of those, 30 failed to attend their assessment (19%) with 26 being prosecuted. Police believe that if treatment services were based in custody suites this figure would dramatically reduce



Mrs Jones said: *“These figures demonstrate what was achieved in a short space of time and in one custody suite alone. Police colleagues have reported being hugely impressed with what is being achieved.”*

The PCC utilises Drug Confiscation Funding to support a DToA Inspector.

Following its initial success, DToA will be rolled out to two other Custody Centres in Hampshire from April 2023.

DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

Reducing demand is perhaps the most challenging of the three strands to deliver, because we know less about what works when it comes to shifting attitudes to drugs and preventing young people from experimenting with them; but it is also, in many ways, the most fundamental. So long as there is demand for illegal drugs, there will be criminals looking to supply the market and many people will continue to develop addictions and to pay for them by committing crime. PCCs have a particular passion for crime prevention and are leading the way in getting upstream to ‘turn off the taps’ that drive drug markets and the harms that are associated with them.

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DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

DORSET PCC

Dorset PCC, David Sidwick, is ensuring that substance misuse treatments are offered at every stage of dealing with criminal offences by young people. Using funding from both the PCC and the Government's Drug Strategy Public Health Treatment Services Grants, multi-agency guidance and procedures have been produced by the Local Authority Substance Misuse Treatment Commissioners, the commissioned treatment service providers and Dorset Police.

This guidance ensures **increased access to treatment** and also ensures police officers have a **better understanding of referral routes** and the feedback given by treatment services.



There are a number of options for responding to criminal offences by young people, known as the five 'levels' of interventions. At each level, the local substance misuse service is offered to the young person, and the whole family, if there is a need.

Since the guidance and procedures were put in place in 2021 the number of **youth justice intervention cases**, where the young person is worked with by the substance misuse services, has **increased from 33 to 135** (up to October 2022).

Mr Sidwick said: *“Education and diversion are key to keeping our young people away from illegal gateway drugs. By ensuring that support and treatment is frequently offered, we can really get the message across and start to divert the course of a young person who may be heading down the wrong path in life.”*



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

WEST MIDLANDS PCC

The West Midlands PCC, Simon Foster, commissions **DIVERT**, a pre-arrest drug diversion scheme.

Available across the whole force area, it takes the form of a community resolution and allows offenders who are caught in possession of any drug for personal use, to be referred into drug education sessions delivered by **Cranstoun**, rather than receiving a criminal justice system outcome - and therefore avoiding a criminal record.

Since launching the scheme, we have had more than 6,000 people referred into the scheme.

Mr Foster said: *“The purpose of this scheme is to adopt a public health and educational approach to the use of controlled drugs; educating people about the harmful effects of the drugs they are using, and where necessary, encouraging them into treatment.*

“The programme’s flexibility also allows for referrals into other services when required, for ex-ample: housing, further drug treatment, Citizens Advice Bureau and mental health services.”

Feedback from service users has also been positive, with those engaging in the programme responding positively to how accessible, informative and impactful DIVERT has been.

More information on the DIVERT scheme in the West Midlands can be found on the **Centre for Justice Innovation website**.



CRANSTOUN

Empowering People, Empowering Change

DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT PCC

Donna Jones, PCC for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

commissions the homelessness and substance misuse charity **Society of St James (SSJ)** to **provide Integrated Offender Management Houses (IOM)** in Gosport, Portsmouth and Southampton with plans for a fourth IOM House in Basingstoke. The IOM houses encourage healthy lives free from crime and substance abuse and offer support to offenders leaving prison.

Residents take part in a weekly timetable of meaningful activities and engage with peer mentors to help them tackle underlying causes of offending. On average a resident lives in an IOM house for 22.5 weeks.



THE HOUSES HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL THAT BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH 2022:

- Twenty residents (65% aged over 35 years, 100% male, 95% White British, 10% with a disability) were supported in the programme
- This was a highly vulnerable group: 50% were victims, perpetrators or grew up around domestic abuse, 85% were not in employment or education, 95% had self-reported mental health issues, and 55% grew up with family members with substance misuse
- The PCC made 51 referrals to support services, including 17 for physical health, 14 for drug and alcohol misuse, eight for mental health

the society of
st James >
believing in your future

The programme has **demonstrated significant impact on social outcomes**, including engagement in life skills development (100%), sports activities (100%), voluntary work (80%), courses or training (50%), peer support sessions (40%), and paid employment (20%). All residents engaged in mandatory substance misuse treatment after one month. The average length of stay in the programme was four months and three residents successfully left the programme to live with family.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

WEST MERCIA PCC

Since 2021, PCC John Campion has funded an education programme that improves treatment pathways, diverts drug users from long-term drug use and reduces drug-related crime.

The **DIVERT** programme, ran by **Cranstoun**, delivers tailored advice and support at the earliest opportunity to low level offenders, steering them away from a further criminal record and other issues such as unemployment, and towards better outcomes in life.

Understanding that it can take more than one intervention to change behaviour, individuals can be referred to DIVERT more than once.

SINCE THE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED, IT HAS ACHIEVED:

- 943 referrals
- 663 assessments (70.3%)
- Only 3 individuals have been seen more than once

John Campion said: *“Early interventions can make such a difference to individuals, to communities and to potential future victims of crime. By diverting drug users to support and health services, we make a real culture change approach that ensures the best outcomes for everyone.”*

Megan Jones, Director at Cranstoun said: *“Making the right intervention at the right time is crucial to ensuring that we break the cycle of crime and get people any support they need.”*

“With DIVERT, we are able to work with a predominantly young cohort of people who often have never spoken to anyone about their drug use.”

“Receiving a criminal record for simple drug possession has the potential to make it difficult to find employment, training and other opportunities.”

“Through DIVERT we are able to ensure that the right intervention is made, rather than opting for criminalisation and putting someone through the criminal justice system.”

CRANSTOUN
Empowering People, Empowering Change

DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

DURHAM PCC AND NORTH WALES PCC

The PCCs in both these force areas have been using the funding of **Checkpoint** and **Checkpoint Cymru** to divert offenders from criminal pathways at an early stage.

Checkpoint is a voluntary adult offender diversion scheme within County Durham and Darlington and **Checkpoint Cymru** performs the same function within North Wales. Both initiatives are voluntary adult offender projects which **target low and moderate level offenders at the earliest stage of the criminal justice process** and offer them no criminal conviction in return for successful participation in their programmes. They are credible alternatives to prosecution, identifying and supporting relevant needs and “critical pathways” out of crime and the criminal justice systems for low and medium adult offenders.

Durham PCC Joy Allen said: *“The Checkpoint Scheme provides low level offenders the opportunity to exit the criminal justice system whilst addressing the underlying causes of offending, often relating to drugs and alcohol. We know that having issues with drugs and alcohol is one of the main causes that lead people to commit crimes and ultimately reoffend also. We have already seen so much success from this scheme so I look forward to seeing the progress we can make with it in the future.”*

Checkpoint and Checkpoint Cymru offer participants a bespoke and individually-tailored “contract to engage” to be complied with. This might, for instance, involve a Drug Education Programme for those offenders with low-level possession for personal use and first-time drug offences.

First, introduced in 2015, **Checkpoint offers eligible offenders a meeting with a navigator to discuss their needs and identify the underlying causes of their offending.** In the meeting, the offenders agree a contract, which lasts for four months. Upon agreement to the contract, the offence outcome is then classed as a deferred prosecution, which can be invoked at any point during the four-month period should the offender breach the conditions of the contract.



DRUG STRATEGY STRAND 3: REDUCING DEMAND, SHIFTING ATTITUDES

Upon completing the Checkpoint or Checkpoint Cymru schemes, the offender exits the criminal justice system with no criminal record. If the offender fails to complete the contract or reoffends any time throughout the duration of the contract, they will be prosecuted.

To date in County Durham and Darlington alone, over **3,000 people have been diverted from the Criminal Justice System due to this scheme.**

Based on the premise of out of court disposals and offender management principles, **Checkpoint Cymru** aims to provide a credible alternative to prosecution, by identifying and supporting relevant needs and the ‘critical pathways’ out of crime, with the result being that low and medium adult offenders are diverted away from the Criminal Justice System.

Checkpoint is a voluntary adult offender project, but this will result in an exit from the criminal justice system should the bespoke and individually tailored ‘contract to engage’ be complied with; an example of which is a Drug Education Programme, which is offered to those with low level possession for personal use and first-time drug offences.



BEYOND DRUGS: PCCs PIONEERING WORK ON OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTION

It is not only substance misuse that can drive crime, but other forms of addiction too. In particular, the Howard League's recent Commission on Gambling and Crime found 'high prevalence rates of crimes being committed by people in order to fund their gambling', including theft, fraud and street robbery, with evidence of links to domestic abuse and child neglect as well. This has been a priority for the APCC's Addictions and Substance Misuse portfolio and PCCs are playing a leading role in raising awareness of the issue of gambling-related crime and in developing projects and interventions locally to address it.

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BEYOND DRUGS: PCCs PIONEERING WORK ON OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTION

DURHAM PCC

The **Reconnect Hub** opened its doors in November 2022, to provide a safe and accessible venue for those **leaving prisons from the North East**. The Reconnect service can monitor and manage their health and wellbeing needs. The hub is commissioned by the NHS England Health and Justice Team and delivered in partnership with HMPPS (His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service). The aim is to provide a more holistic level of support to those engaged with Reconnect leaving prisons but also including self-referrals for the early days following release from prison.

Since opening in November, the service has supported approximately 40 individuals - both on an *ad hoc* and planned-appointment basis. Individuals attending the hub have gained support including harm reduction and relapse prevention information, mental health advice and guidance and benefits advice, as well as practical liaison with probation and community services.

The Reconnect management team has now started to explore service delivery with community partners and have secured an agreement with **Gambling Anonymous** to facilitate fortnightly sessions at the Hub.

Joy Allen, Durham PCC said: *"I am delighted at the success that we have already seen in these few months since the opening of the Reconnect Hub. I hope as this programme develops, we are able to see the real difference it will make in ensuring we reduce re-offending, improve the mental and physical health of prison leavers and target the issues that really make a difference to our prison leavers head on, such as addictions, gambling and even homelessness. This work is a testament to the enormous successes that can be achieved with effective partnership working."*

RECONNECT
Care in custody • Care after custody

The Reconnect Hub

Located just down the road from HMP Durham, The Reconnect Hub is a safe and accessible venue where our staff can help you manage your health and wellbeing needs after release. Due to open in November 2022, the hub aims to provide service users who are being supported through the Reconnect project with a more holistic level of care.

Reconnect staff will be on hand to help you with:

- » Accessing health and wellbeing services to keep you healthy and well during the release period.
- » Helping you to access technology to support your health and wellbeing needs.
- » Accessing practical support to aid your transition back to the community.
- » Signposting to other agencies such as food banks or benefits.
- » Providing a safe place for you to meet other professionals such as social workers who you may be engaging with.
- * **The Reconnect Hub can also support you if you have not already engaged with Reconnect before.**

Service users can access the building via appointment or by simply dropping in during the following times:
Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm
You can find us at:
21 Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HW

Logos: Working in Partnership, Durham Prison & Probation Service, Spectrum, 0253, humankind, NHS



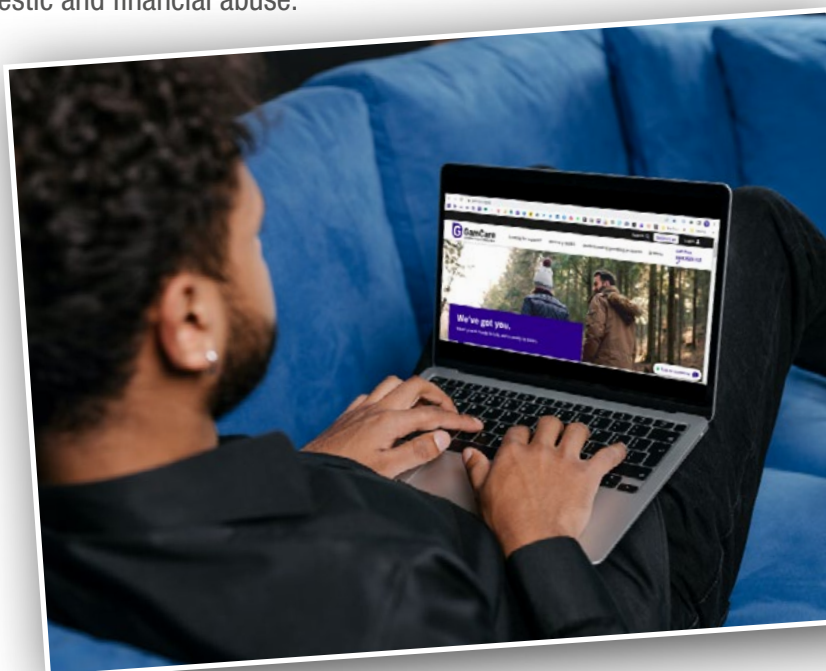
BEYOND DRUGS: PCCs PIONEERING WORK ON OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTION

HERTFORDSHIRE PCC

David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire has acknowledged the evidenced links between harmful gambling and crime. Whether it is committed to support gambling or to pay off related debts, linked offending includes fraud, theft, domestic and financial abuse.

His office funded a two-year pilot by **GamCare**, a gambling support charity, to introduce screening for gambling harms at key points across the criminal justice system.

Working with **16 key organisational partners**, such as the Probation Service, The BeNCH CRC, Hertfordshire Constabulary, and HM Prison Service, they **trained over 500 frontline staff** on the issue. This included increasing understanding of how it is a hidden addiction and the drivers, signs and triggers for problematic behaviour. A wide range of screening cards, self-help workbooks, and leaflets and posters to promote support options were also distributed to gambling addicts and their families. Support clinics were also held at HMP The Mount Prison.



Mr Lloyd said: *“For some people gambling harm can be as much a driver of crime as drugs. I supported this project to reduce the impact on the police and criminal justice system for individual offenders, victims, and their families. By working with offenders and partner agencies we can steer people away from committing crime in our communities.”*

A probation officer who received the training said: *“The most useful aspect of the training included learning the difference between gambling and problem gambling, and how gambling affects the people we work with and how they can access support.”*



BEYOND DRUGS: PCCs PIONEERING WORK ON OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTION

WEST YORKSHIRE MAYOR

The **Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin**, has co-ordinated bids locally to the **Safer Streets 4 Fund** that have resulted in safe spaces being introduced in towns and cities. These safe spaces support people to enjoy the night time economy and offer a range of services and support, including help to those that become vulnerable due to consuming drugs and or alcohol.

The Wakefield city centre based Safe Space Unit has **supported over 150 people** in its first three months, dealing with a range of incidents including **intoxication and drugs offences**.



Mayor Brabin said: *“Alongside the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, I will continue to work with police and partner agencies to ensure funding such as this truly delivers for those who are most vulnerable, putting them at the very centre of our response.”*

THE ROLE OF PCCs IN THE NEW LOCAL COMBATTING DRUGS PARTNERSHIPS

The delivery of the Drug Strategy is being led by new local Combatting Drugs Partnerships, many of which are PCC-led. They are responsible for bringing together local partners – like health, local government, criminal justice agencies and the voluntary and community sector – and for weaving the three strands of the drug strategy into a comprehensive local plan to address local needs issues. PCCs are playing a critical role in these partnerships, often as leads and facilitators.

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BEYOND DRUGS: THE ROLE OF PCCs IN THE NEW LOCAL COMBATting DRUGS PARTNERSHIPS

DORSET PCC

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick said: *“Local Drug Strategy Partnerships need to bring together treatment, prevention and enforcement, as PCCs have a cross-cutting voice they are in an ideal position to take on the role of Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). As SRO it is my responsibility to ensure that we are meeting both the required national outcomes and local outcomes. I must also make certain that all the correct partners are involved in the collaboration, it is vital that we have everyone engaged and working together if we are going to really drive change.”*

WEST MIDLANDS PCC

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Foster said: *“It is an honour and a privilege to have been appointed as the Senior Responsible Owner and Chair of the West Midlands Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (CDAP).*

“The CDAP provides an opportunity to implement all three of these three key themes, with the aim of preventing crime, protecting people and saving lives. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with all of our CDAP partners and the government in order to build strong collective engagement, hold partners and government to account and to offer constructive challenge and support – all with the intention of implementing a shared plan, to deliver on the National Combatting Drugs Outcomes Framework.”



BEYOND DRUGS: THE ROLE OF PCCs IN THE NEW LOCAL COMBATting DRUGS PARTNERSHIPS

MERSEYSIDE PCC

Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner, Emily Spurrell said: *"The dealing of illegal drugs not only blights the lives of the people who use them, but also brings misery to families and whole communities.*

"I'm committed to working with partners from all sectors across Merseyside to deliver a whole-system approach to cutting drug-related crime and harm in our communities.

"Merseyside's Local Combatting Drug Partnership is a great mechanism for us to work together to drive this work forward, tackling and disrupting the organised criminal gangs who inflict this suffering, while also diverting vulnerable drug users into treatment and recovery services."

CAMBRIDGESHIRE PCC

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Darryl Preston, was pleased to be asked by partner organisations to take on the role of Senior Responsible Owner for Cambridgeshire for the Harm to Hope Drug Strategy. The PCC Chairs Cambridgeshire's Countywide High Harms Board which oversees work to tackle serious crime such as drug dealing (including County Lines), serious violence, violence against women and girls, serious and organised crime and knife crime.

Mr Preston said: *"As an ex-police officer myself and someone who sat on the national county lines working group, I've seen the misery that drugs bring to our communities. Much of the serious violence and gun and knife crime we see on our streets is the result of illegal drugs networks.*

"I was pleased to be asked by partner organisations locally to take on the role of Senior Responsible Owner for the Harm to Hope Strategy. This means I have oversight for the delivery of the drug strategy here in Cambridgeshire, through the High Harms Board which I chair.

"Organisations across Cambridgeshire are working together to combat illegal drugs. Whether that's police enforcement to break drug supply chains, or drug treatment and recovery services to break the cycle of addiction. We are all focused on reducing drug use and cutting crime."



BEYOND DRUGS: THE ROLE OF PCCs IN THE NEW LOCAL COMBATTING DRUGS PARTNERSHIPS

STAFFORDSHIRE PFCC

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime, Ben Adams said: *“I am delighted to be in a position to directly influence addiction. It underlies a huge percentage of police activity and impacts all areas of crime – particularly the most harmful involving violence, and the corruption and coercion of young people. I welcome the increased funding for treatment, which not only saves lives but reduces reoffending.”*

CLEVELAND PCC

Cleveland PCC, Steve Turner said: *“This is a fantastic opportunity to work with local partners to tackle the recreational use of drugs.”*

“I’ve been clear since taking up this role that combatting drugs is one of my top priorities. Illegal drugs do not only affect the people who take them. They are a blight on our communities. The criminal activity and organised crime gangs associated with illegal drugs and their supply bring misery to large parts of our towns and villages. Their reach ranges from criminal associates fighting over drug debts and in turf wars to the children and young people groomed to become part of the County Lines supply chain.”



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