



Public Accountability Meeting June 2018 'Drugs & County Lines in North Yorkshire'

Detective/Supt Steve Thomas



Drugs Offences and Signs



- Possession – Personal Use
- Possession with intent to supply/ Supply (allow premises to be used)
- Manufacture/ Production
- Importation/Export

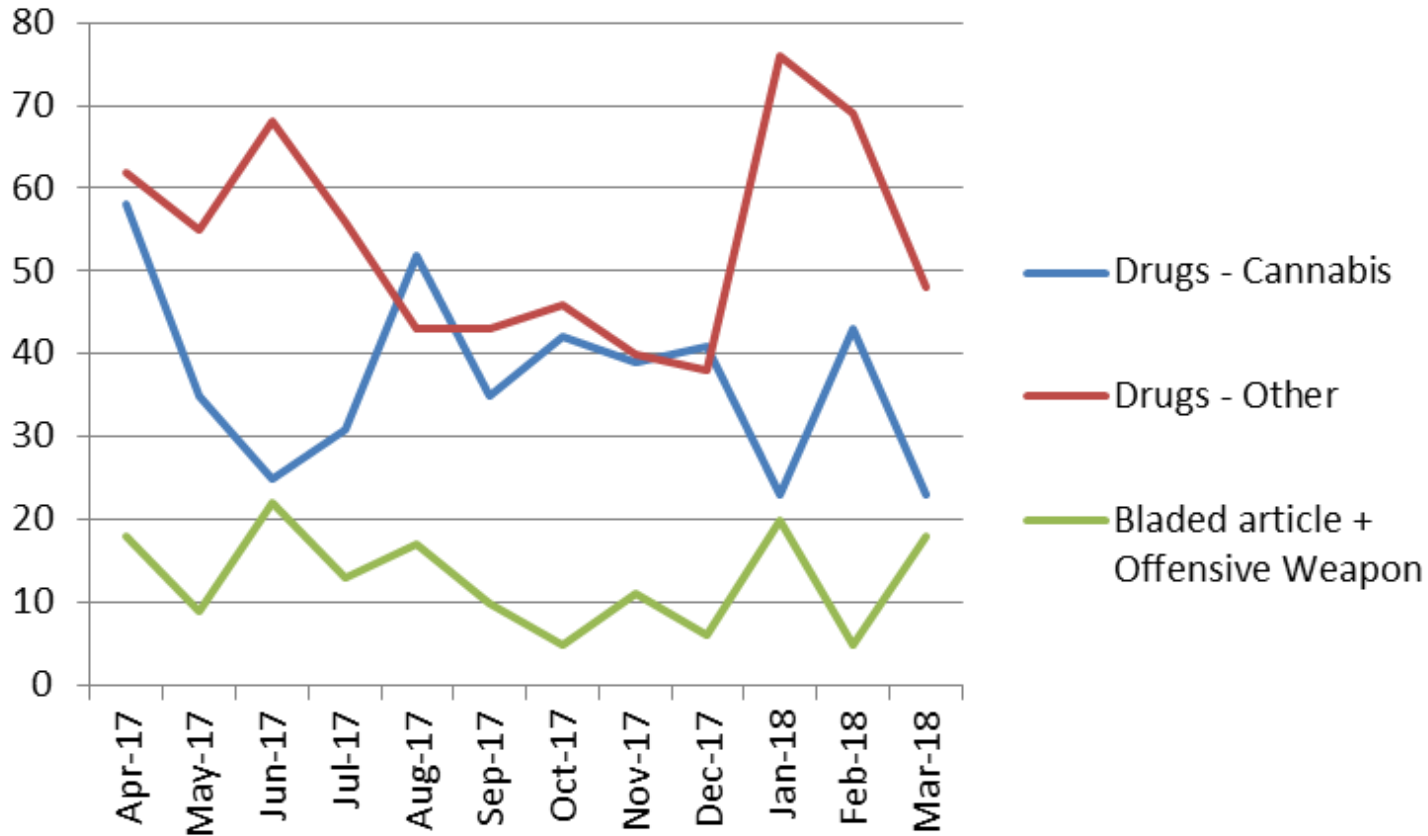
Most offences are generated or found as a result of police activity.

Classification of Drugs and Sentences



Class	Drugs	Possession	Supply/PWITS
A	Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth)	Up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both
B	Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (e.g. mephedrone, methoxetamine), ketamine	Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
C	Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), piperazines (BZP), khat	Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both

Stop & Search – Proactivity = Crime





How big a problem ?

Offence Type	Year to May 17	Year to May 18
Drugs Crimes	1549	1534
Linked to Supply	191	216
Drugs Incidents (not alcohol)	1333	1284
Violence	450	455
Burglary	5	24
Robbery	10	8
Intelligence	2219	3849

‘County Lines’ is now a national high priority threat !

The Story So Far.....



- 1985 'Dance, Trance, Rave scene and MDMA or Ecstasy.
- Opiate boom throughout 1990's and associated volume crime.
- Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) in large metropolitan areas controlling coastal towns (Op Jugulate – Scarborough 2004).
- 2008 New Psychoactive Substances (Spice, Mamba etc).
- 2010 early signs of 'Coke Britain' developing.
- 2012 Housing Benefit 'Single Occupancy' rules and the impact on coastal housing/ Bed and Breakfast's.
- 2015 first National assessment of 'County Lines' by National Crime Agency (NCA).
- 2016 Synthetic Opiates and sharp rise in related overdose deaths.
- 2018 County Lines, high priority national threat and a broadening of its definition.

County Lines - Definition



Previous definition

- County Lines is the term used by police and law enforcement to commonly describe the approach taken by gangs and criminal networks originating from urban areas, who travel to locations *such as county or coastal towns* to sell class A drugs. Gangs typically use children and vulnerable people to deliver drugs to customers and this often involves deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage (*labour/services to repay debt*) and/or grooming. The county lines business model is linked by a marketed mobile phone line through which users phone for specific drugs to be supplied.

New definition

- County Lines is a term used to describe gangs or organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs in to 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 and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

NYP Current picture



- A draft version of the Control Strategy Delivery Plan has been circulated for early consultation which will determine the overall strategy.
- 39 Organised Crime Groups of which 62% of activity is focused on drugs (not including County Lines).
- National Crime Agency Tracker 2758 lines active nationally.
- There are at least nine identified active County Lines currently operating in North Yorkshire. Four in Scarborough, three in York and two in County.
- All active lines are subject to 'live' investigation and disruption activity.
- MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) used to define Threat, Risk and Harm across region to inform tasking and put the protection of vulnerable individuals as the priority.

How do we address the problem?



PREPARE;

- National Law Enforcement structure, National Crime Agency (NCA) Tracker, Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) Tasking, Organised Crime Group Mapping (OCGM) Tracker update, Exporting force responsibility. Force Control Strategy priority and plans.
- Partnership structures, Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Board, Disruption Panel, Community Hubs.
- Intelligence sharing and collection, Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS), Crime Management System (CMS), Media and briefing.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) intelligence sharing across region
- Drug worker embedded in Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process
- Lifetime Offender Management (LOM) Process (Serious Crime Prevention Order (SCPO), Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) etc...)

PROTECT;

- Cease and Desist process.
- Commissioned drug support and rehab services extended to include on street referral. ('Changing Lives' in York and 'Horizons' in North Yorkshire County Council)
- Daily Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and partner engagement with those who are vulnerable.
- Community briefing and intelligence submission protocol

How do we address the problem?



PREVENT;

- Cease and Desist process.
- Crimestoppers 'Fearless' promotion in education facilities.
- Youth Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) visits to secondary schools.
- 'Crucial Crew' delivery.
- 'Trapped' campaign delivery (Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)).
- Disruption Panel focus on wider family networks and partnership intervention.

PURSUE;

- Monthly National Crime Agency (NCA) 'Tracker' returns and regional tasking of proactive/covert resources.
- Active partnership with exporting forces (West Yorkshire Police, Greater Manchester Police, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police).
- Daily tasking and briefing of Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and Specialist Operations resources.
- Deployment of dedicated staff each day to target and disrupt market place.
- Planned series of disruption events, transport hubs, knife wands/arches.

Impact.



Activity outlined in the previous slide has resulted in;

- **Op Viking (Organised Crime Group) 41 yrs sentences and 3 x Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPO's)**
- **Op Yearn (Organised Crime Group) 18 yrs 2 x Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPO's)**
- **Multiple arrests and charges, since 1/1/18 84 Possession with Intent to Supply (PWITS) (up 47% on 2017)**
- **Over £500k in drugs recovered**
- **Multiple cash seizures, 10 x Confiscations, 6 x Forfeitures = £155k**
- **Vulnerable individuals being safeguarded and referred to support**
- **Acknowledgment from National Crime Agency Coordinator**

Public Help



- Signs of needles and burnt foil
- Intelligence currently indicates dealers travelling from, Manchester, London, Liverpool and Midlands, if suspicious about new faces/people let us know.
- Information about people from 'out of town' staying within 'drug community' or cuckooing.
- Conflict within existing dealer networks
- Ring 101 or contact Crimestoppers, often our response is covert and although it may not be seen we will act upon your information to disrupt these criminals.



The End – Questions ?

