



De Cymru
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau
Police and Crime Commissioner
South Wales

South Wales Police Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy (2022-2025)

Working with partners to prevent the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol

Foreword

The scourge of problematic substance misuse has reached critical levels in communities across South Wales, and it requires a robust response by the police, which we are committed to giving. However, police action alone cannot solve the problems nor turn back the tide. Actions by Policing and other Criminal Justice bodies in Wales has to be seen in the context of action by **all** agencies to understand and tackle the issues. Prevention, early intervention and treatment are crucial. Tackling substance misuse must be a central priority within community safety strategies in every area, led by local government and policing together but involving all other agencies and particularly the Health Service and the Voluntary Sector. Public Health Wales is a key partner for us, since the demand on the police and demand on the NHS often spring from the same causes, as illustrated graphically by the Welsh report on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). It is within that whole systems approach that the actions by the police to deal with those who profit from the pernicious trade in drugs makes sense. The “business model” of county lines mobilises and exploits vulnerable individuals who become victims as well as offenders which is one reason why we cannot simply arrest our way out of the drug problems that are persistent and significant in so many of our communities. This strategy therefore sets the South Wales Police approach within the context of partnership working in which we will play our part but also look to Welsh Government and all our local partners to play their part too.

Drug deaths are at record levels in Wales, with the highest numbers since records began, with deaths from drug poisoning having increased by 78 per cent over the last 10 years.¹ Premature deaths from drug use are preventable and we are committed to working with our partners to prevent future tragic deaths.

The rise in drug deaths is only one indicator of the rising damage from substance use in local communities. Hospital admissions, blood borne viruses, alcohol specific deaths, school exclusions related to drugs, re-offending rates and drug related violence are all indicators of the level of harm experienced. The impact of poverty is evidenced through the proportion of all patients admitted for alcohol-specific conditions living in the most deprived areas in Wales as being 3.3 times higher than those from the least deprived areas in Wales. In relation to illicit drug use, this figure rose to 7.3 times higher.²

The impact on children and young people is clear, with evidence that suggests that as of the 31st of March 2020, there were 4,405 children receiving care and support due to parental substance misuse. The number of children receiving care and support whose own substance misuse was identified as a problem was 560, representing 3.4 per cent of all children receiving care and support.³ These are just some of the worrying statistics that provide a reflection of the damage felt in communities. The impact of substance misuse is felt at every level of society and is felt within the services whose aim it is to support individuals and communities including Education, Social Services, Health and Social Care, and Criminal Justice.



Given the scale and complexity of substance misuse, it is likely that every member of the population will know someone affected or experiencing difficulties. We have a joint determination to do all we can to tackle substance misuse and reduce the considerable harm it causes individuals, families, peers and communities. It is imperative that we have the support of the people in our communities to help us, we cannot succeed alone. Many individuals and families may have kept silent about substance related issues. Breaking the silence and isolation around such issues is crucial, so that individuals and families confronting substance misuse and its consequences know they are not alone. This is why the role of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) as a communicator at the very personal local level will ensure that an in-depth understanding of the community is developed. The PCSO will listen to the individual and to people in their community, who will develop confidence in their local PCSO personally. Listening to those with lived and living experience of substance misuse will continue to be key to our ability to fully understand how we can effectively shape our response in partnership.

Whilst this strategy will provide a framework on which to operate on a South Wales basis, this approach does not detract from the need for local area partnership responses which will need to be developed based on local needs analysis. It is important that partnerships understand the problems and challenges locally, analyse the facts forensically, and jointly design ways of reducing and preventing harm. They should share the insights and understanding with local people so that they understand the challenges facing the partners and feel informed and even included in the response. The increases we have seen in drug related deaths from the Office of National Statistics recently confirms that we need to do more. In Wales, 322 deaths related to drug poisoning were registered in 2021, this represents a 32% increase compared to 2020 when there were 224 registered deaths. This is unacceptable and we are determined to effect lasting change in this area which we see as requiring a critical Public Services response at pace.

We are working tirelessly with partners to tackle the problem in a number of different and innovative ways. We aim to be the best at understanding and responding to the needs of all our communities. Working with partners is fundamental to ensuring people receive the response they need, when they need it. Tackling offenders especially organised criminals who are involved in the production and sale of drugs, and those who prey on vulnerable people, is a priority but this must be balanced with early intervention and prevention and a full understanding of equalities and diversity.

The South Wales Police Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy has been developed with partners and outlines how we will work better together to understand local issues and develop a whole system, multi-agency approach that will help break demand for controlled drugs and reduce harm in our communities. We will continue to work with partners to ensure that the most vulnerable receive the help and support they need to deal with substance dependency, and we will be relentless in pursuit of those who threaten our communities

Neighbourhood Policing is crucial, and we are strengthening the PCSO role to focus on communication, speaking to and listening to communities about their concerns and experience of substance misuse. The PCSO role will be key in local problem solving and empowering communities

¹ <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/drug-deaths-at-their-highest-ever-levels-in-wales/>

² <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/data-mining-wales-the-annual-profile-for-substance-misuse-2020-21/p10>

³ <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/data-mining-wales-the-annual-profile-for-substance-misuse-2020-21/p10>



to be resilient, safe, and confident, providing an opportunity to change attitudes to substance misuse. We are also dealing with the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). As well as supporting victims, we are tackling perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse, and so the PCSO role will be a key part of our work in addressing these issues which are often interconnected with substance misuse.

Working with Probation we are improving offender management. We aim to maintain high levels of victim satisfaction. We will work to strengthen Community Safety Partnerships, Area Planning Boards and Youth Justice Services who have been key partners in developing and delivering the activities within this strategy. It is our intention to ensure that a public health approach is taken, continuing our work with Public Health Wales and developing strengthened partnerships with the Swansea, Cwm Taf Morgannwg and Cardiff and Vale Health Boards to develop our whole system approaches to tackle this prevailing health need.

Drug Trafficking and Supply is a crime and disorder priority for South Wales Police. This Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy has been produced as the formal manifestation of our force's intent in relation to tackling existing drug markets and restricting supply of illicit drugs into the force area. South Wales Police through this strategy is to robustly target and restrict the supply of illicit drugs into the force area with an explicit and prioritised focus on problematic drug markets and those individuals and groups involved in street level and middle market (multi-kilo) drug supply.

It will bring together existing control strategies, delivery plans and intelligence requirements to ensure a single consistent approach. Whilst requiring annual review, the strategy has been produced with the intention of setting the force direction in relation to tackling this threat over the next three years (2022 through to 2025).

Policing activity, not least through Project ADDER, has had some positive outcomes, deploying additional officers into enforcement. It is our intention to work effectively, across the partnership landscape, with our Public Services Boards, providing a public service response to the issue in order to achieve the maximum positive impact.

Rt Hon Alun Michael
Police and Crime Commissioner

Jeremy Vaughan
Chief Constable



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Context

Substance misuse is a significant challenge to public services across Wales, including Health, Education and Social care, local Policing and Local Authorities, as well as to our wider communities. Whilst substance misuse damages all parts of society across Wales, there are geographic variations with some regions in Wales experiencing higher levels of adverse outcomes than others due to historic patterns of alcohol and drug use, socio-economic deprivation and current trends in availability, methods of use and poly-drug use. In 2018, the level of drug-related deaths and severe infections amongst people injecting drugs in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea was an increasing concern. Swansea had substantially higher rates of drug misuse deaths than any other local authority area in Wales in 2018, and was second only to Blackpool. Alongside drug death numbers, the increasing prevalence of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in the region and the emergence of county lines activity, led the Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB) to take action and request a “Critical Incident” meeting of the Public Service Boards (PSBs) for Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Leaders of all public bodies, including the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner, both in person, and the leaders of both Local Authorities met and agreed that substance misuse must be treated as the immediate and critical priority across the area. This included the health board area, which encompasses both local authorities, the police basic command unit and the probation delivery area. Over the proceeding months a plan was agreed via further joint meetings and the task of implementation was given to the Area Planning Board. A further such ‘Critical Incident Meeting’ has been called to discuss progress and to look to put fresh vigour into the joint endeavours to tackle the problems of substance misuse and their impact by all available means. Each of our Public Services Boards agreed that something must be done. It is evident from the recent figures published in 2022 by the Office of National Statistics that drug deaths have risen further with other areas in Wales not far behind Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

Representatives of the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner will make the case at every Public Services Board across South Wales for tackling substance misuse to be a key priority by the partners. The PSBs of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot jointly convened “critical incident meetings” and put in place plans to respond both to the very high level of drug deaths in the local population of both council areas and the levels of human misery and exploitation that sit below those tragic figures. Many other areas of Wales are not far behind, and we urge Welsh Government, the Future Generations Commissioner and all PSBs to join us in giving real urgency to action to tackle the issue.

Drug deaths are not the only measure of harm posed by substance misuse. The costs to the individual, family, community and state are not only felt for the lifetime of the individual, but may be intergenerational in nature, further increasing the human, financial and societal burden in the form of neglect, abuse, family and relationship breakdown, physical and mental ill health and wellbeing. According to the recent Independent Review of Drugs by Dame Carol Black “the total cost to society of illegal drugs is around £20 billion per year”.

[Independent review of drugs by Professor Dame Carol Black - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/reviews/independent-review-of-drugs)



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There exists an established evidence base on the complex link between drugs, alcohol and crime. Historically, the criminal justice approach has primarily addressed the issue of substance misuse via punitive sanctions delivered by the Criminal Justice System (CJS). There is recognition that reducing drug supply and demand through effective policing and law enforcement is a key part in addressing the harms caused by substance misuse, however, every available way of tackling substance misuse needs to be deployed, from education, early intervention, treatment, support, publicity, persuasion alongside law enforcement. We look to work with all individuals and organisations who want to share the task of turning the situation around.

This strategy sets out the clear expectation that South Wales Police (SWP) will take strong enforcement action against those who deal drugs and target vulnerable people. The Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) 1971 continues to be the overarching legislation for drug enforcement in the UK, with the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 introduced to deal with the supply of psychoactive substances not covered in the MDA. The Chief Constable's Delivery Plan 2021-2025 provides an absolute commitment and operational focus on preventing harm from serious and organised crime as it causes harm to our communities and exploits those most at risk. Working with partners to protect those who are less able to protect themselves, or others from harm or exploitation is a key feature of the Chief Constables Delivery plan. Ensuring that those who are at risk of exploitation by those involved in the supply of substances are recognised, protected and supported is a priority within this Substance misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy.

[chief-constables-delivery-plan-final.jpg \(1780x2518\) \(south-wales.police.uk\)](#)

In December 2021, the Government published 'From Harm to Hope - A 10-year Drugs Plan', which states, "Decriminalisation is often suggested as a simple solution to many of the problems caused by illegal drugs. This is not the case. It would leave organised criminals in control while risking an increase in drug use. What is required is the whole system approach recommended by Dame Carol Black and, in implementing all the key recommendations of her review, that is what this strategy seeks to do: cutting off the supply of drugs, preventing and reducing drug use, and world-class treatment and recovery support for those battling addiction over the next decade".

[From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (AMCD) has twice recommended diversion schemes as an effective drug policy approach. They have argued, "For people found to be in possession of drugs for personal use (and involved in no other criminal offences) they should not be processed through the CJS but instead diverted into drug education/awareness courses or possibly other more creative civil punishments...reducing repeat offending and reducing the costs to the CJS." This strategy will outline the SWP commitment to a more effective and sophisticated whole system approach where the police are trusted as professional decision-makers who can access a range of services in partnership from early intervention pathways, Out of Court Disposals and where necessary, Prosecution.



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The South Wales Police and Crime Plan 2022-26, highlights the significance of drugs as a cross-cutting theme in crime, policing, and justice strategy. **This includes links to organised crime, victims, violence, mental health, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), young people and the adverse childhood experience.** The Police and Crime Plan highlights the dedication of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to work in partnership, so we are better able to identify and help those at risk of harm at the earliest point. Through developing our early intervention pathways, we are better placed to get people help and support with a range of different needs they may present with, including substance misuse needs. Prevention and early intervention are at the heart of the Police and Crime Plan, with a focus on taking a **public health approach in tackling harms including but not limited to the harm from substance misuse and violence.** Diversion from the Criminal Justice System as an approach recognises that the traditional Criminal Justice routes for dealing with minor offences has not been effective in addressing the issue. The Police and Crime Commissioner with the support of the Chief Constable, has driven progressive diversion approaches, recognising the need to apply a public health lens in their policing approach with examples such as the development of the 18-25 programme in which motivation of avoiding a criminal record through acceptance to an early referral for treatment or support is well established. The Women's Pathfinder, with its emphasis on early identification of factors that lead to a woman being drawn into the Criminal Justice System and with action to address those factors, has been endorsed by magistrates and others on the Out-of-Court Disposal Panel.

A peer review undertaken of those forces involved in the drug diversion programmes has reported that, *'There are strong arguments to support the hypothesis that harsher penalties for possession do not reduce subsequent drug possession or deter use.'*⁴

There is a commitment within the plan to continue to develop excellence in early intervention and prevention pathways, utilising evidence based best practice, to divert those who use drugs and alcohol away from offending through measures such as drug testing on arrest, using Out of Court disposals and through effective substance treatment and support pathways.

[Police & Crime Plan 2022-2026 \(southwalescommissioner.org.uk\)](https://southwalescommissioner.org.uk)

Race equality is a priority for the Commissioner and Chief Constable who are working through a Joint Race Equality Action Plan (2021 - 2025) to deliver change, in conjunction with communities to ensure **race disproportionality is reduced** in South Wales Police. The Joint Race Equality Plan will form the basis of the focussed work that the police Force and the Commissioner will conduct and oversee in relation to race equality across South Wales Police. It is underpinned by many other areas of activity and is wholeheartedly committed to promoting South Wales Police culture that supports equality, diversity, and inclusion for everyone. We are **committed to listening** to our communities during the life of the plan, ensuring that progress is truly being made and we will work to ensure that real change is evidenced. **It is vital that as part of this Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy, that race equality continues to be a priority, with continued focus to develop our understanding of**

⁴ Albrecht & Ludwig-Mayerhofer et al (2011) Diversion and Informal Social control. Prevention and intervention in childhood and adolescence. An interdisciplinary project of the University of Bielefeld.

Clutterbuck, R (1995) Drugs, Crime and Corruption. Thinking the unthinkable. Palgrave Macmillan, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited 1995.

UK Drug Commission 2008 <https://www.ukdpc.org.uk/>



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where race inequality exists in the substance treatment systems, services and processes, and our responsibility to work with our partners, external organisations, experts, communities and individuals to understand how to reduce it effectively.

[Joint Race Equality Plan, 2021-2025 | South Wales Police \(south-wales.police.uk\)](#)

Baroness Corston's Report, the review of women with vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System (2007) identified that women can present as extremely vulnerable with a range of complex needs that have been found to be distinct from the needs of men who commit crime. One of these complexities may include substance misuse and is therefore why a gender specific response to substance treatment has a specific emphasis within this strategy. Involvement in the Criminal Justice System can have far-reaching and long-lasting effects on the women themselves, their families and the communities in which they live. **The challenge is to provide a joined-up approach that acknowledges the gender-specific needs of women with substance misuse issues and ensure that the substance treatment interventions commissioned and offered promote positive wellbeing that supports successful long-term outcomes to reduce reoffending.** Progress in this area has already been made, with Welsh Government, UK Government and policing in Wales working together with justice partners to develop Blueprints for delivery of female offending and youth justice services. This Blueprint for female offending sets out the ambition to accelerate the transformation of services to create a **fairer, more equal society** with better outcomes and justice for all.

[female-offending-blueprint_3.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

[The Corston Report - NICCO](#)

Many women who are caught in a cycle of substance use disorder, which is often associated with domestic violence and abuse or sexual abuse and other significant social and personal problems, end up in the criminal justice system with no way out. Women often find themselves in prison for offences that are less serious than men, and as such we are committed to addressing this issue. Entering the prison system has its own damaging effects, which can be equally severe in terms of disruption of family life, impact on children and personal well-being and mental health. It is to break the cycle of despair that we have strongly supported the development of a residential women's centre to intervene constructively and significantly in the lives of individual women and we are working with colleagues in the probation service on the development of a residential women's centre in Swansea with the support of local leaders and politicians.

It will create sustainable community-based solutions to keep women and communities safe and free from criminal behaviour. South Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales is working with partners to reduce the complexity and vulnerability of women who come into contact with policing and Criminal Justice Services (whether as perpetrators and/or victims) where this is linked to substance use (i.e. through the South Wales and Gwent commissioned 'Women's pathfinder whole system approach', and the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and HM Prison and Probation Service co commissioned substance misuse treatment service delivered by 'Dyfodol De Cymru'). **In the implementation of this Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy, we will**



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listen to females who have experienced and/or continue to experience substance misuse and strengthen trauma and gender informed approaches in relation to substance misuse delivery to ensure strategic and delivery alliance with the Blueprints.

[Substance Misuse Intervention \(southwalescommissioner.org.uk\)](https://southwalescommissioner.org.uk)

Preventing children from entering the Criminal Justice System, minimising their contact with it and maximising opportunities for diversion is essential in supporting them to lead crime free lives. The statutory aim of the Youth Justice System is to prevent offending by children. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out requirements to ensure local services are provided to prevent children from offending and to promote their future welfare. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have a significant effect on mental well-being throughout life leading to negative outcomes such as involvement in crime. Those with four or more ACEs are 15 times more likely to commit violence and 20 times more likely to be imprisoned. Policy is therefore focused on preventing and minimising the impact of ACEs, of stopping inter-generational problems and developing resilience to improve life chances. **South Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales are working in partnership, taking a cooperative approach to deliver a whole-system approach which sets out the ambition for a rights-based and trauma-informed system, that provides opportunities for diversion into treatment and support for those at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System.** It is therefore vital that in developing our ability to work within the early intervention and prevention space, this Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy considers how partners in Youth Justice Services, Local Authorities, Public Health and Education settings can work together to reduce ACEs, supporting our ability to build resilience in young people, providing opportunities to reduce the risk of harm posed to themselves through drug misuse and listening to the voice of young people in understanding how to do this effectively. Our Neighbourhood Policing strategy is focussed on ensuring young people having confidence in talking to a PCSO, as a trusted, dependable and approachable officer they can rely on to help with the range of issues they may be facing, including for example violence, racism, exploitation and substance misuse.

[youth-justice-blueprint_0.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

The Welsh Government (WG) Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-2022 (the 'Plan'), which was published in January 2021, sets out the Welsh Government's key policy and operational priorities for the coming years. The priorities set out in the plan were informed by consultation with Police and Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales, and which is aligned with the South Wales Police Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy. Taking a co-operative approach in aligning strategies supports the development of joint agreement in how to progress joint initiatives. An example from the Welsh Government's strategy is the first key aim, 'preventing harm' and 'ensuring people are able to make informed choices in order to prevent and reduce the harm associated with substance misuse' of which one activity is for Welsh Government to work with Policing, Police and Crime Commissioners, and Public Health Wales partners on developing training, information and material to raise awareness of the trauma informed approach to substance misuse provision in Wales. The objective seeks to stop intergenerational problems and develop resilience to improve life chances, focussed on preventing and minimising the impact of ACEs. It notes that Welsh Government will work



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with partners who will also consider, for example, alignment with the Youth Justice and Female Offending blueprints for Wales objectives that will take place. It is noted that the Welsh Government intend to review their strategy and will engage with Police and Crime Commissioners and Policing in Wales to ensure the collaborative approach is maintained. The existing Welsh Government strategy can be located using the link below for further detailed information. At the time of writing, there are plans by Welsh Government to review and refresh the delivery plan.

[Substance misuse delivery plan: 2019 to 2022 | GOV.WALES](#)

South Wales Position

Drug Trafficking and Supply is a current South Wales Police force crime and disorder priority, consistently assessed as one of the highest thematic MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) risks. In the 2021 process, problematic drug markets were the highest prioritised risk, with middle market drug supply ranked second, illicit benzodiazepines fourth and county lines criminality tenth out of 44 assessed areas, indicating the scale of impact on the communities we police. There is nothing to indicate this level of risk will reduce in the short to medium term, with restricting the supply of illicit drugs highly likely to remain a force priority.

The following areas have been specifically identified within the overarching priority area, due to the perceived level of risk linked to them:

- Problematic Drug Markets
- Middle Market Drug Supply
- County Lines

This Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy has been produced as the formal manifestation of the force's intent in relation to tackling existing drug markets and restricting supply of illicit drugs into the force area. It will bring together existing control strategies, delivery plans and intelligence requirements to ensure a single consistent approach. Whilst requiring annual review, the strategy has been produced with the intention of setting the force direction in relation to tackling this threat over the next three years (2022 through to 2025).

The strategy is driven by the Mission, Vision and Values of the force with the overarching aim of **keeping South Wales safe**. It aligns closely with the operational strand of the Chief Constable's Delivery Plan and with the South Wales Police and Crime Plan (2022-26) and will prioritise preventing harm from Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and providing protection against exploitation. Effective partnerships are at the heart of the force's response to tackling drugs with a multi-agency approach accepted as the only effective way of restricting supply and reducing demand.

Drug Markets

The force published a comprehensive analytical profile of the drug markets impacting the force area in August 2021. This was the first such market profile in two years and has considered changes since the last assessment, the impact of Covid-19 on the market and how closely national trends and



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emerging issues are reflected at a local level. The profile has been widely shared internally and to trusted partners.

A summary of relevant high-level findings from the profile are outlined below:

- The number of recorded occurrences linked to drug possession or supply has increased by 30% in the last two years.
- There is little to indicate that severe Covid-19 restriction over the last 18 months has had a notable impact on either supply or demand for illicit drugs, with existing markets adapting and new markets emerging. It is unlikely that new methods and markets for supplying commodities during lockdown will disappear once restrictions are removed.
- There is nothing to indicate a reduction in demand for Heroin, with no notable reduction in supply within the force area due to Covid-19 or Op Venetic disruption.
- Cannabis remains the most prevalent drug across the force area. An emerging trend is noted in the increased sale and use of cannabis extracts as opposed to traditional herbal cannabis.
- Use of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs commonly known as 'Spice') continues to be problematic and has increased, specifically within the homeless community and prison environment.
- The use of cocaine has traditionally been heavily linked to the night-time economy therefore, there will be increased availability and demand due to the easing of restrictions and the re-opening of nightclubs, festivals and other entertainment venue.
- As a result of lockdown and the sustained restrictions on the night-time economy, intelligence suggests that Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) have stockpiled MDMA/Ecstasy which has had an impact on price, with one gram of MDMA selling for half of what it was 12 months ago.
- The use of illicit benzodiazepines has increased significantly in recent years, a trend illustrated by both police and partner intelligence sources. Whilst traditional supply routes through misappropriated prescription medication remain, the rise in widescale benzodiazepine use is largely driven by a growing online market.
- The link between illicit drug use and poverty is widely accepted. Across the force area there is a strong and visible link between areas considered high on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation and well-established problematic drug markets.
- A majority of those arrested for drugs *supply* offences during the review period were aged between 18 and 34 (61%), white British and male. Typically, they have drugs, mental health or violence warning markers on their NICHE records and have been previously arrested for drugs, violence or theft and handling offences.
- A majority of those arrested for drugs *possession* offences were also aged between 18 and 34 (61%), white British and male. Many have multiple vulnerabilities including mental health, debt and homelessness, are often repeat offenders, problematic drug users and involved in violence and crime.
- Two thirds of partners surveyed for the profile felt that there is notable hidden demand for illicit drugs within the force area, not currently seen by law enforcement or specialist substance misuse services.



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Objective

The overarching objective for South Wales Police through this Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy is to robustly target and restrict the supply of illicit drugs into the force area with an explicit and prioritised focus on problematic drug markets and those individuals and groups involved in street level and middle market (multi-kilo) drug supply.

The strategy also outlines how the force will work with partners to better understand local issues and develop a whole system, multi-agency approach that will help break demand for controlled drugs and reduce harm in our communities. Working with our communities, empowering people locally and ensuring people have confidence to work with PCSOs and Police Officers in solving local problems is vital.

Strategic Aims

a. Early intervention and Prevention

We will work with partners with the intention of preventing substance misuse with a public health approach. We will continue to build the range of knowledge, expertise, and intelligence to enable us to fully address the complex issues associated with substance use and associated harm and crime. To support this, we will equip our staff with the tools to understand, identify and develop best operational practice across each force area. Specifically utilising our PCSO's as part of our neighbourhood policing strategy, they will:

- Understand the problems and challenges locally
- Analyse the facts forensically
- Ensure that Police and partners design ways of reducing and preventing harm at the earliest point
- Ensure that local ownership of those problems and solutions is at the heart of what we do
- Share the insights and understanding with local people

Together we will seek to implement educational programmes, improving awareness of the dangers of drug misuse to help divert people from misusing in the first place. This will seek to include the needs of young people including those in education, employment, or training via the Wales Police Schools Programme, Higher Education facilities and partnership agencies.

b. Breaking the Cycle of Addiction

We will work effectively to support the aims and objectives of key strategic boards to ensure there are sufficient and appropriate drug treatment services force wide (for example Area Planning Boards (APBs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)). We will also be working with partners including youth justice, offender management and criminal justice partners to deliver services that divert people from criminality and drug use, and in doing so, we will listen to the voices of those with lived experience, families, victims and communities to ensure their views on how we operate are considered.



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We will help protect vulnerable adults and young people through effective partnership working, utilising the role of the PCSO as a communicator and using their problem-solving approaches to reduce drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour associated with drug and alcohol use. We will improve outcomes for individuals, recognising the impact of disproportionality on marginalised groups and a commitment to addressing those inequities in access to diversion.

Additionally, we will promote information and intelligence sharing with partners and inform communities about the work we are doing. The role of the PCSO as a communicator, listening to people in their local area and ensuring the information is understood and communicated to support risk management and intelligence development will form a vital role in intelligence gathering for each Basic Command Unit. Together with our partner agencies and with the APBs we will explore and be involved in discussions around progressive methods of preventing and minimising further harm caused by drug addiction, including opiate substitute therapies available.

We will ensure we use a range of Out of Court Disposals that provide diversion opportunities away from further offending, into appropriate treatment, support, and education and will undertake a progressive and innovative approach to drug intervention, ensuring service-user voice and those with lived experience are involved in collaboration with community and criminal justice drug services. A key aspect to this will be the sharing of the learning derived from Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), a Home Office funded initiative to tackle drug misuse and drug-related crime. We will seek to influence and shape the development of effective Out of Court Disposals.

c. Tackling Supply

We will relentlessly pursue offenders as individual forces, as well as a region. We will increase the use of community and covert intelligence to help develop our capacity and capability to tackle drug trafficking and supply both locally and regionally. We will continue to collaborate with regional and national partners to effectively target upstream drug supply and target the finances of those involved. We will continue to robustly prosecute those supplying controlled drugs, and support those exploited, those who are vulnerable, those who have reported and have witnessed drug use and ensuring those who provided information feel safe and are protected. Ensuring Communities are safe, supported and engage with us in this work is key to its success and impact.

These Strategic aims are ambitious, far-reaching, costly, and resource intensive. However, they demonstrate the commitment the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner to safeguarding communities and delivering an excellent service. However, policing cannot achieve this alone.



Tactical Delivery

Whilst the first responsibility of South Wales Police is to prevent crime and harm, the police cannot do this on their own. We need effort from everyone including at Welsh Government level and at a Public Health Level. We also need local councils, schools, local youth clubs, the NHS, people working in mental health, the third sector, area planning boards and community safety partnerships, and above all local people themselves. The power of the local community to do good cannot be underestimated. The neighbourhood policing strategy sees PCSOs communicating with their local communities and empowering people in the community to have the confidence to do things that make life better for themselves, their families and their neighbours. PCSOs will be working as problem solvers bringing people together, harnessing the understanding of those in other services around them. It may involve mobilising police resources or joint action by the police. It may be working with a local youth group or council due to the specific local area and the concerns of groups. **It is vital that we have the support of the communities we serve if we are to keep South Wales safe.**

To meet the outlined strategic aims of the strategy, several overarching tactical deliverables have been identified for each defined aim. These have been outlined in the below table, along with a named owner who has responsibility for implementation. Each of these deliverables will be reviewed annually, with the first review to take place in August 2023.

Deliverables

Tactical Delivery	Owner
<i>1.1 Enhance our community intelligence through encouraging residents to come forward, ensuring that partners and communities are clear about the different avenues of reporting.</i>	
a. Neighbourhood policing strategy to ensure integration of PCSOs and engagement links with all communities are strong	Neighbourhood Policing Lead
b. Communications strategy to consider the different avenues of reporting and ensure accessibility for partners and communities	Corporate Communications
<i>1.2 Develop our capacity and capability to tackle drug trafficking and supply both locally and regionally.</i>	
a. Develop covert and overt investigative skills at Base Command Unit (BCU) level	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit
b. Improve the timeliness of drugs identification processes for Criminal Justice process	Force Drugs Lead
c. Improve the timeliness of digital examinations and communications data acquisition	Force Covert Operations Management Unit
d. Utilise national mobile phone property register on arrest	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
e. Collaborate with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to improve intelligence sharing and reduce drugs and crime in prison	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead



1.3 Improve collaboration with regional and national partners to effectively target upstream drug supply (for example linking in effectively with Regional Safeguarding Boards and Contextual Safeguarding Boards).	
a. Seek opportunities for joint operational activity	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
b. Continue engagement through the Regional Intelligence Group and Regional SOC Tasking processes	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
c. Ensure representation from police at regional and contextual Safeguarding Boards across the South Wales footprint	Public Protection Unit Lead
d. Contribute and engage with the regional drugs action plan and attend the regional drugs thematic delivery group	Force Drugs Lead and PCC Substance Misuse Strategic Lead
1.4 Simplify tasking processes to ensure prompt and effective disruption of those causing the most harm.	
a. Deliver on revised Daily Tasking processes by Autumn 2023	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
b. Ensure the Force Intelligence Group identify key opportunities for intervention and operational support	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
c. Successfully elevate high level cross-border Organised Crime Groups through Regional SOC Tasking processes	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
1.5 Target the finances of those involved in drug supply.	
a. Increase cash seizures	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
b. Increase Asset recovery performance	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead

Tactical Delivery	Owner
2.1 Ensure bespoke drug intervention programmes are being delivered in line with the needs of young people including those not in education, employment, or training via the Wales Police Schools programme, Higher Education facilities, and partnership agencies.	
a. County Lines awareness presentations delivered to Community Safety partners	Force Drugs Lead
b. Wales Police Schools programme delivering bespoke presentations	National Coordinator and Regional Coordinator of Wales



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	Police Schools Programme
c. Opportunities to work collaboratively with Wales Police School Programme and HMPPS in Wales to deliver key messages in schools	HM Prison and Probation Service Regional Drug Strategy Lead
d. Organised Crime Team officers delivering awareness presentations to Tertiary colleges	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
e. Optimising Crimestoppers 'Fearless' campaigns and St Giles Trust awareness raising	Force Drugs Lead
f. Gender and trauma informed awareness integration into briefings delivered: Linking staff delivering briefings into Female Offending blueprint which is rolling out a multi-agency gender and trauma informed practitioner skills training package	HM Prison and Probation Service Female Offending Blueprint Lead
2.2 Review the Wales Police Schools programmes and work in partnership to ensure specialist services are delivering appropriate harm reduction advice and support.	
a. Work with partners on considering the recommendations from the review of the Wales Police Schools Programme	National Coordinator Wales Police Schools Programme
b. Develop in partnership localised school programmes that reach targeted audiences which are bespoke to each area	Regional Coordinator Wales Police Schools Programme
c. Share learning from bespoke approaches across South Wales footprint and identify best practice	Harm Reduction Leads
2.3 Ensure partners work collaboratively with youth justice to deliver early intervention services that divert young people away from criminality and drug use.	
a. Work with Youth Justice services across a South Wales Footprint to ensure opportunities for diversion are available (out of court disposal opportunities and Restorative Justice disposals)	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
b. Ensure PCC-funded substance workers linked to YJS are effective, integrated into local substance treatment provision and improving referral pathways for young people	PCC Strategic Leads for Criminal Justice and Substance Misuse
c. Youth Justice Substance Misuse Workers to provide targeted information sessions to staff at residential placements to ensure they are kept up to date	Local Authority Youth Justice Leads
2.4 Develop a communications strategy, internally and externally, to raise awareness and enhance intelligence opportunities and ensure the community is confident in reporting.	
a. Formulation of an overarching communications strategy	Corporate Communications Department



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b. Delivery of monthly external bulletins/good news stories to promote the work of SWP and partners	Corporate Communications Department
c. Delivery of internal awareness raising to staff on matters of operational priority such as spotting signs of vulnerability and exploitation	Corporate Communications Department
d. Delivery of regular, timetabled Continuous Professional Development events for practitioners	Learning and Development Services Department
e. Ensure the PCSOs understand their role as being key in raising awareness and providing an opportunity to change attitudes to substance misuse	Neighbourhood Policing Lead Base Command Unit Commanders
2.5 Listen to the voices of those with lived and living experience, families, and victims to ensure their views on how we operate are considered.	
a. Feedback from the public via the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner walkabouts and community conversations	SWPCC Engagement Officer
b. Service user experience through Project ADDER to be shared across South Wales	Service User Involvement Officer for Project ADDER
c. Consider feedback from young people via the Police and Crime Commissioners 'Young Voices Forum'	SWPCC Engagement Officer
d. Residents' responses who participate in the annual Community Survey will be considered as part of ongoing activity and communications development	SWPCC Engagement Officer
e. Linking in with Female Offending Blueprint we will listen to the lived experience of the female cohort to strengthen trauma and gender informed approaches	HM Prison and Probation Services Women's Pathfinder Programme Manager
f. Linking into the work of the Joint Race Equality Plan we will listen to the experiences of Black and Minority ethnic people and communities	PCC Strategic Lead for Scrutiny, Assurance and Equality
g. Ensure PCSO's are able to provide the feedback they receive from communities to ensure a developed intelligence picture is captured	Neighbourhood policing Lead Base Command Unit Commanders
2.6 Develop systems where intelligence can be shared effectively between partners to understand the current and emerging threats and to prevent serious incidents of harm.	
a. Partnership with WEDINOS to collect, test and understand recovered substances	Force Drugs Lead
b. Sharing of information in relation to drug testing results with partners	Force Drugs Lead



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c. Review Drug Testing on Arrest (DTOA) processes and implement ongoing effective practices	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead and Project ADDER coordinator
d. Improved efficiency of testing of substances found at scene following suspected Drug Related Death	Force Drugs Lead
2.7 Work with the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) to tackle youth violence and exploitation linked to drug supply.	
a. Ongoing work with established multi-agency contextual safeguarding frameworks and a local level, including the commissioning and monitoring of special support services e.g., Media Academy Cymru, St. Giles Trust	Force Drugs Lead/VPU Lead/ Strategic lead for Community Safety and Violence Prevention
b. Educational campaigns focussed on exploitation and vulnerability e.g., Fearless Campaign	Force Drugs Lead
c. Utilise data and intelligence provided by NHS Violence Prevention Teams in Cardiff and Swansea to develop appropriate responses.	Violence Prevention Unit
d. Work with the Peer Action Collective (PAC) to develop focused pieces of coproduction work, exploring links between substance misuse, youth violence and associated vulnerabilities.	Violence Prevent Unit
e. Enhanced analysis to understand drug markets and target hot spots	Force Intelligence and Organised Crime Unit Lead
2.8 Work with Community Safety Partnerships to address issues in the night-time economy.	
a. Ensure substance misuse is considered as part of local Night time Economy strategies	Community Safety Partnerships

Tactical Delivery	Owner
3.1 Develop and maintain relationships with partners to enhance referral mechanisms and maintain effective service delivery.	
a. Enhanced links with Harm Reduction Leads	Force Drugs Lead
b. Improve sharing of APB work across South Wales Police	Harm Reduction Leads
c. South Wales Police to work collaboratively with HM Prison and Probation Service to ensure effective information sharing between policing and prisons to reduce drugs in prisons	HMPPS Drugs Lead and Joint Intelligence Project Lead
3.2 Prosecute those supplying controlled drugs, and support those exploited, those who are vulnerable, those who have reported and have witnessed drug use and ensuring those who provided information feel safe and are protected.	
a. Ensure safeguarding measures are implemented (e.g., Social Service referrals, National Referral Mechanisms)	Public Protection Unit
b. For Youth Justice Services (YJS) to be made aware of potential victims related to supply and being (or suspected of being) exploited with appropriate support to be offered	Public Protection Unit



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c. Listen to the recommendations from the South Wales Victim and Survivor collaborative network	PCC Strategic Lead for VAWDSV
d. Enhanced work with Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to determine appropriate charges for serious and complex cases (for example needle stick injury, vulnerable persons)	Force Drugs Lead
e. Enhanced work with Crown Prosecution Service and Youth Justice Services to enable early identification of young people involved in supply – to enable sharing of information to highlight needs, risks and vulnerabilities at the earliest point accessing opportunities for diversion into support	Youth Justice Service Leads
3.3 Ensure we use a range of Out of Court Disposals (Out of Court Disposals) that provide diversion opportunities away from criminal justice into appropriate treatment, support, and education.	
a. Embed revolving door processes and effectively use Out of Court Disposals where appropriate	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
b. Ensure access to diversion opportunities that address disproportionality and ensure equality of access	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
c. Work with partners to ensure they can manage demand on services through diversion	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
d. Develop Restorative Justice street disposal work across South Wales (learning from early implementation in Cwm Taf and Cardiff)	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
3.4 Undertake a progressive and innovative approach to drug intervention, ensuring service-user voice and those with lived and living experience are involved in collaboration with community and criminal justice drug services.	
a. Learn from pilot ‘Out of Court Disposals’ and implement new and innovative approaches based on service user feedback and evidence need	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
b. Sex Worker and Homeless Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference	Force Public Protection Unit Lead
c. Engage with experts to address inequities in service provision and disproportionality in access to diversion services (i.e., ensure Joint Race Equality action plan, Youth Justice and Women’s Blueprints are considered and integrated into diversion approaches)	Force Criminal Justice Unit Lead
d. Review the most up to date research internationally, nationally, and locally from key partners and consider problem solving approaches	Force Drugs Lead and PCC Substance Misuse Strategic Lead
e. Learn from and extend the Nasal Naloxone pilot	Force Drugs Lead
3.5 Develop and share the learning from Project ADDER, a Home Office funded initiative to tackle drug misuse and drug-related crime.	
a. Project ADDER ongoing as part of national pilot	ADDER Coordinator

Tactical Delivery	Owner
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4.1 Work effectively with key strategic boards to ensure there are sufficient and appropriate drug treatment services force wide (for example Area Planning Boards (APBs) and Community Safety Partnerships).	
a. Ensure police representation in Area Planning Boards and Community Safety Partnerships across South Wales	PCC Strategic Lead for Drugs Force Drugs Lead Strategic lead for community safety and violence prevention
b. Partnership work to understand localised supply and demand issues	Force Drugs Lead
c. Work with partners to facilitate the rollout of Naloxone to front line officers across the force area and contribute to other Naloxone provision opportunities (for example Swansea City Rangers)	Force Drugs Lead and PCC Strategic Lead
4.2 Improve information sharing with offender management service providers, youth justice and criminal justice partners to better understand local issues and develop appropriate services.	
a. Improved engagement with Harm Reduction Leads	Force Drugs Lead
b. Improved engagement with Drug Agencies	Force Drugs Lead
c. Sharing of drug data between Joint Scientific Investigation Unit /WEDINOS and Harm Reduction Leads	Force Drugs Lead
d. Identify opportunities to collaborate with YJS to improve information collation and develop robust intelligence sharing	Force Drugs Lead and Youth Justice Service Leads
4.3 Enhance intelligence gathering at all levels to gain a more accurate understanding of local and force wide threats.	
a. Force Communications strategy linked to Crimestoppers	Corporate Communications
b. Develop partnership information sharing with Local Serious Violence and Organised Crime Board (LSVOCB)	Base Command Unit Commanders
c. Pro-active development via Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Community Engagement methods from PCSOs	Base Command Unit Commanders
4.4 Develop communication methods for sharing information with partners and our communities, recognising the importance of partners and communities knowing how their contribution has helped achieve positive outcomes.	
a. See action 2.4. a	



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Intelligence Requirement

Understanding the size, scale, and complexity of drug markets along with the identity of those individuals who facilitate supply, create demand, or are exploited within the force area is an essential aspect of being able to effectively tackle the threat. Reliance on traditional police intelligence and data will provide a skewed and inaccurate picture of the market and will limit the accuracy and value of both strategic and tactical analytical products.

Therefore, it is a priority for current and future Intelligence Requirements to actively identify and source a broad cross-section of data and intelligence from law enforcement, public sector partners and third sector agencies who can help build a holistic and accurate picture that reflects the true level of threat.

At the most strategic high level, all drug related intelligence requirements should focus on developing our understanding in relation to:

- Who is involved in the supply of illicit drugs within the force area?
- Who is most at risk of being drawn into drug use and supply?
- Who is being exploited because of drug trafficking and supply within the force area?
- What commodities are available within the force area and are there differences in availability in different geographical areas or communities?
- What are the catalysts and enablers for drug trafficking and supply?
- Where do drug hotspots exist within the force area?
- Where and when are drugs being supplied?
- Why are drugs being supplied or used?
- How do local drug markets operate?
- How do we go about disrupted identified drug networks?

Data analysis and information is key to developing our understanding of the landscape across South Wales, and South Wales Police recognise the importance of disaggregating data by gender, and ethnicity, to provide a more nuanced understanding of particular themes and issues for women and black minority ethnic communities.

Multi-Agency Approach

Whilst the police and other law enforcement agencies are undoubtedly best placed to restrict the supply of illicit drugs into the force area, they do not necessarily have the remit, specialist skills or legislative powers to reduce demand and minimise harm. It is therefore essential that a multi-agency approach is adopted to tackle the drug threat in a holistic way.

Area Planning Boards (APBs) were established in 2010 as part of the new arrangements to deliver the Welsh Government Substance Misuse Strategy 'Working Together to Reduce Harm'. The APBs provide a regional framework, to strengthen partnership working and strategic leadership in the delivery of the substance misuse strategy; and enhance and improve the key functions of planning, commissioning, and performance management.



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The membership of the APBs includes representatives from all the responsible authorities which comprise Community Safety Partnerships to enable statutory responsibilities in respect to substance misuse to be discharged at a regional level and South Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner is represented at each of the Area Planning Boards. There is substantial variation in how Area Planning Boards operate and so we will work closely with Welsh Government to ensure there is drive, ambition, innovation and importantly urgency in the work of all APBs. We will endeavour to take steps to support APBs in achieving greater effectiveness, with a focus on **consistency, delivery and impact** on local communities.

Law Enforcement

In terms of law enforcement, South Wales Police will work tirelessly with partners in adjacent forces, the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) network and the National Crime Agency (NCA) to identify, target and disrupt those individuals and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who actively supply or enable the trafficking of illicit drugs into the force area.

We will continue to monitor identified drug traffickers through the Criminal Justice System and will engage with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to ensure that career criminals involved in the supply and trafficking of drugs are deterred from offending inside the prison estate and on release.

Substance Misuse and non-Law Enforcement Partners

By developing our relationships with the three designated Harm Reduction Leads in each local authority within SWP we will develop our understanding of local drug markets, improve our intelligence, and ensure that we make appropriate referrals for those that need intervention and outreach. This will impact on the demand for drugs in the community.

The Nasal Naloxone pilot being implemented in Swansea Neath Port Talbot (SNPT) BCU is a significant Harm Reduction initiative aimed at preventing drug related death and ensuring those who overdose are referred to the national Harm Reduction database and subsequently provided with outreach to prevent further incidents.

Performance Indicators

To assess the effectiveness of this strategy, a performance framework is required to provide an evidence base for progress against the defined deliverables and overarching objective. Whilst currently a work in progress, the below measures provide a useful starting point. With more sophisticated strategic quantitative and qualitative indicators developed in collaboration with partners as the strategy develops.

Our main focus is the safety and wellbeing of our communities. We will initially monitor the effectiveness of activity through:

Prevention and Diversion: achieved through engagements with young people in education through the Wales Police School Programme.

Community Engagement work: Public surveys to measure how effective we are at dealing with drug crimes in our communities.



Dyfodol De Cymru: The programme of drug intervention that identifies, tests, and refers drug using offenders into treatment to break the cycle of drug use and crime.

Disruption of Serious Organised Crime: Recorded disruption activity against individuals, Gangs and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved in drugs trafficking and supply through targeted enforcement.

Quantitative Measures of Police Activity: These may include but not be limited to Drug related Arrests, Commodity seizures and Confiscation of assets.

Intelligence and Analysis: Reflecting changes to the size, scale, and complexity of existing drug markets, along with associated threat, risk, and harm.

Communication Strategy

The following Communication Strategy has been developed to aid in the effective delivery of the force Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction Strategy in reducing demand and restricting supply of illicit drugs within our communities.

1.1 Background

The harmful effects of the misuse of drugs impacts upon many people in our communities and exploits the most vulnerable members of society. It is critical that South Wales Police demonstrates its' commitment to tackling this form of criminality and fulfils its' mission, to keep South Wales safe.

1.2 Aim

- To raise awareness internally and externally of drug related criminality, how to spot the signs of vulnerability such as cuckooing/county line activity and what to do when this is suspected
- To educate the public about the harmful effects of new and emerging substances
- To promote the action of South Wales Police and develop confidence in our communities that work is being done to tackle drug supply

1.3 Objectives

- To develop a better understanding of what works to change behaviour on the part of individuals, families and communities
- To mobilise communities in support of local action to reduce substance misuse and improve resilience
- To educate internal audiences through the promotion of regular workshops and education sessions
- To raise awareness of how drugs is affecting South Wales and our communities To educate external audiences of the signs of drug and county lines activity, and what action they can take to help
- To raise awareness of the action taken by South Wales Police by publicising newsworthy and positive outcome cases
- To make access to information on county lines accessible for both internal and external audiences



ANNEX A

Acronyms

AMCD – Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
BCU – Base Command Unit
CJS – Criminal Justice System
COMU – Covert Operations Management Unit
DRD – Drug Related Deaths
FIOCU – Force Intelligence & Organised Crime Unit
FCJU – Criminal Justice Unit
HMPPS – Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service
JSIU – Joint Scientific Investigation Unit
LDIS – Local Drug Information System
LSVOCB – Local Serious Violence Organised Crime Board
MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MDMA - Methylenedioxymethamphetamine
MoRiLE Risks – Management of Risk in Law Enforcement
NCA – National Crime Agency
NPT – Neighbourhood Policing Team
OCG – Organised Crime Groups
OCT Officers – Organised Crime Team officers
OoCD– Out of Court Disposals
PCC – Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSO – Police Community Support Officers
RJ – Restorative Justice
ROCU – Regional Organised Crime Unity
SCRA – Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists (commonly known as Spice)
SOC Tasking – Serious Organised Crime Tasking
SWP – South Wales Police
VAWDSV – Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
WPSP – Wales Police Schools Programme
WEDINOS - Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances
YJS – Youth Justice Services



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Definitions

Wales Police Schools Programme

The Wales Police School Programme is an example of partnership working between the Welsh Government and the four Welsh Police Forces and consists of a series of Crime Prevention inputs and lesson deliveries and Supportive School Policing initiatives that aim to:

- educate children and young people about the harm substance misuse can cause to their health, their families and the wider community
- promote the principles of positive citizenship through the medium of education
- achieve a reduction in the levels of crime and disorder within our young communities.

The Wales Police School Programme provides a wrap-around service to schools in Wales offering crime prevention education and supportive policing services captured in the Programme's strap line, "Police safeguarding the children of Wales through crime prevention education"

County Lines

"...a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons." - NAC (20)173 – Drug Supply into County Lines Interim Assessment

Dyfodol De Cymru

Since 2016 the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Probation Service have jointly commissioned a service that is provided in the Custody Suite, to the clients of Probation, in the local prisons across South Wales and to ex-prisoners for a year after release from prison. We have sought to connect this service to local NHS services with variable results. Dyfodol De Cymru is a consortium of providers commissioned in 2016 by South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. The Consortium includes G4S, Kaleidoscope and Adferiad and operates across the South Wales Police area and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and Swansea Bay University Health Board.

The service provides a whole system approach to providing interventions and support for individuals, throughout the Criminal Justice System. Those with problematic substance misuse and offending in the community and prisons are provided with both psychosocial and clinical interventions to reduce the harm posed to the individual and community. The service provides cost effective treatment services, working hard to get people into treatment and supporting those who may pose a high risk of harm individuals.

Middle Market Drug Supply

"The middle market consists of multi commodity drug brokers occupying a broad strategic position that links wholesalers and upper-level traffickers to lower level retail dealers. When considering County Lines business model, the Middle Market is positioned towards the retail end of the drug supply process." - NAC (20)173 – Drug Supply into County Lines Interim Assessment



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Problematic Drug Markets (Crack, Heroin, Spice, Benzodiazepine and Cocaine)

Problematic market operates through a combination of low level "local" dealers (often dealing to fund their own habit) operating alongside USGs (Urban Street Gangs), OCGs (Organised Crime Groups) and County Lines.

Cannabis has consistently been the most-used drug in England and Wales (ONS, 2020). It remains the most commonly seized drug across all SWP BCU's accounting for 60% of all drugs recorded within occurrences.

The seizure of Cocaine within the force area has seen a reduction during the 2020/2021 period, however it remains the second most commonly recorded drug seized in South Wales. Cocaine is often seen as a party drug however the data shows that the demand has continued even with the closure of the night time economy.

The number of occurrences related to the seizure of Heroin have remained relatively stable since the last review period which as with Crack Cocaine supports the understanding that Heroin is largely a problematic drug that users have continued to use. Due to the highly addictive nature of Heroin, users are unlikely to have been impacted by the pandemic and have just continued to use as they did previously.

Spice is currently the fourth most commonly seized drug in South Wales and has seen a large increase since the 2018/2019 review with over 234% more occurrences mentioning the possession or supply of Spice. Respondents to the SWP Partnership survey indicate that the availability of Spice has increased during the pandemic and the market has been "cornered" by a few wholesale dealers who then sell through dependant users.

Illicit Benzodiazepines have seen one of the highest increases in the 2020/2021 period. With the COVID-19 pandemic causing increased anxiety and stress, this may come as no surprise. They are the most widely prescribed group of medicines in the world and are used to treat a range of conditions, including anxiety, insomnia, epilepsy, and alcohol withdrawal. Examples of Benzodiazepines include Valium, Xanax and Diazepam.

Substance Misuse: The term in this document is used to describe the use of alcohol, illegal drugs or over the counter or prescription medications being used in a way that they are not meant to be used and could be harmful to the person or to others around them.



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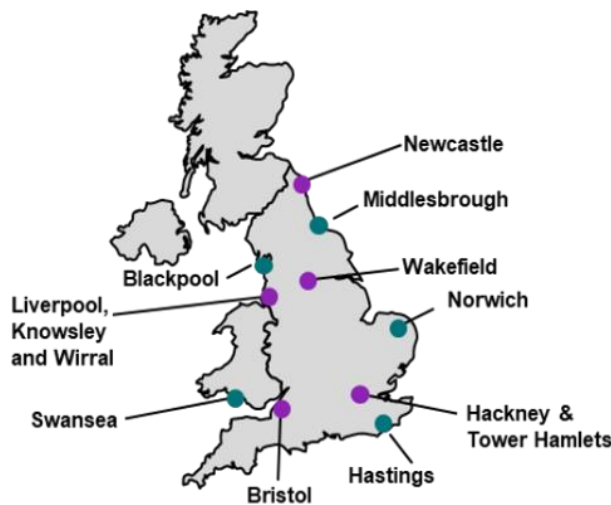
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Project ADDER

Project ADDER is a whole-system response to combatting drug misuse. It is a four-year programme (2021 – 2025) funded by the Home Office and coordinated locally by the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner’s Team.

The programme seeks to ensure that more people get effective treatment, with enhanced treatment and recovery provision, including employment support, and improved communication between a range of organisations including treatment providers, Courts, Prisons, Probation and Police.

Project ADDER is delivered across a range of sites in England and in Wales as indicated on the map below.



There is only one Project ADDER site in Wales which covers the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot area. As the only site in Wales there are notable differences from the Project ADDER sites in England. [Dyfodol De Cymru](#) operates across the South Wales footprint, and therefore ADDER funding in Wales is utilised to dovetail with existing substance misuse provision from community and criminal justice partners. It provides support to ensure existing provision is robust, providing support where there are gaps in provision and building on areas of good practice and future innovation. This highlights how ADDER in Wales is contributing to a whole system approach that meets the multiple needs of people within Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

There are four overarching project aims across all Project ADDER sites, which are:

- to reduce drug-related death
- to reduce drug-related offending
- to reduce the prevalence of drug use
- sustained and major disruption of high-harm criminals and networks involved in middle market drug/firearms supply and importation



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The programme has three core elements - co-ordinated law enforcement activity, alongside expanded diversionary activity, and treatment/recovery provision in the project areas.

Local Enforcement - funding has been utilised to employ additional staff, purchase IT equipment, and provide financial support to speed up enquiries and investigations to ensure swift enforcement action is taken. There is financial support to provide overtime for officers and additional transport costs which enables us to keep officers 'on the street'.

Local Diversion, Treatment, and Recovery – funding has been utilised to support four key local projects:

Early Intervention - Additional staff are employed as part of the Offender Interventions Service (Dyfodol De Cymru) to ensure people have access to advice, support, and treatment at the earliest opportunity to prevent the development of increased difficulties. Brief interventions of six to eight sessions are offered, as well as supporting people to access other services where appropriate.

Rapid Access Prescribing Service (RAPS) - This service is jointly funded with the Western Bay Area Planning Board and supports those who are most vulnerable and at high risk of drug poisoning or exploitation. People do not have to be involved in the criminal justice system to access this service, as the aim is to prevent vulnerable people from entering criminal justice services. The service provides assertive, focused, and persistent outreach for people with complex and/or multiple needs who will often struggle to engage with services.

Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) - This project is jointly funded with HM Prison and Probation Service. Forensic Psychology Consultancy (FPC) provide a psychology team who can offer pre-court advice, assessments, and treatment pathways for people who come before the Court where there is a link between offending behaviour and low to medium level mental health issues. The project supports people to improve their wellbeing and to link in with other services where appropriate.

Recovery Plus - A new service supporting those who are reaching the end of their twelve-month Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (court order), by extending their support to help them move forward positively in their recovery. This can include support to access follow on services, to safely detox from substances, and be supported to engage in positive activities to help achieve long term recovery.

Project ADDER funding has also been utilised to fund two posts within the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Team:

A Service User Involvement Officer to ensure that the Service User voice is integrated into the review of existing services, and development of new services, as well as engaging with partner organisations to find opportunities to effectively engage the community and support people to



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access services and reduce stigma. The Service User Involvement Officer also supports a Peer-to-Peer Naloxone distribution project. The aims of this project are to:

- Distribute as much naloxone as possible into communities and drug hot spots in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, including to those not seeking formal treatment and assertively targeting those most at risk of drug poisonings.
- Deliver brief interventions and harm reduction advice. Interventions to include brief advice, safer injecting and sharps disposal advice, signposting to Needle and Syringe Programmes, poly-drug use, risks associated with use of street purchased benzodiazepines.
- Engaging non-treatment seekers into treatment and explaining the benefits of treatment and educating communities about drug related death and overdose awareness.
- Enhance the reach of naloxone to professional networks in the region. Targeting areas that have frequent non-fatal overdose notifications e.g., hostels.

A **Strategic Coordinator** to analyse and oversee the performance management framework, coordinate and project manage, and liaise with partner organisations including Area Planning Boards and Community Safety Partnerships.



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