

<b>For Information</b>	
<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Police and Crime Panel</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Monday 7 September 2015</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner</b>
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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>6</b>

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## **Update on Police and Crime Plan Strategic Priority Theme 4 - Reduce the Impact of Drugs and Alcohol on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To provide a general update on the area of work to reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol on crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to consider the contents of this report.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 To inform the panel on force activity and progress.

### **4. Summary of Key Points (this should include background information and options appraisal if applicable)**

#### **4.1 Performance snapshot**

- There has been an overall reduction in drug possession offences, down 26.9% or 144 offences in the first two months year to date. In the last 12 months, recording peaked in December 2014 with 268 offences. Since then, figures have declined to a 5 month average of 187. City and County have recorded decreases
- The only volume increases so far this year have been in the City Centre (16) and Rushcliffe (3). The largest volume decreases so far this year have been in City South and City Central
- For supply and production offences, this year there has been an increase of 84 offences, up 76.4% on last year. The month of May recorded an increase of 46 offences, up 70% on May 2014. City South has recorded the largest increase of 69 offences (Operation Jongleur), and recorded 43% of all supply offences this year. Overall, arrests for drugs formed 7.8% of all arrests in May 2015. The

rolling average has been 8.8%. The 132 possession offences in May 2015 included , 63 for cannabis, 39 cocaine, 9 amphetamine and 6 opiates. The 94 supply offences for the same month included, 33 for supply of cannabis, 19 for production of cannabis and 23 for supply of cocaine

- A three month comparison March to May 2014, and the same period this year shows large drops for possession arrests for cannabis (305 down to 183), and amphetamine (55 down to 29). Cocaine possession has increased over the same period (84 up to 97). For the same period, supply of cannabis has fallen (238 down to 195), and cocaine has fallen (61 down to 54). Supply of opiates has increased (29 up to 34), and amphetamine has increased (9 up to 14). On average, 300 offenders brought into custody are meeting the criteria to be subjected to drug testing. The long-term positive test rate is 43%
- The number of people found to be in possession of cannabis needs to be viewed in the context of changes to our stop and search approach. We have reviewed our approach to not prioritising searches for possession of cannabis, and sought to be more focused on supply offences

#### **4.2 Operation Promote**

- There is considerable evidence to demonstrate the harm caused by drinking alcohol alongside taking stimulant drugs. The metabolite 'cocaethylene' forms in the body when cocaine and alcohol are consumed, which as a powerful psychotic agent, is a proven driver of violence. Drinking alongside stimulants like cocaine also enables individuals to continue to drink to extremely harmful levels while remaining lively and alert – so called wakeful drunks
- A partnership approach has been developed to support the city's alcohol strategy to reduce violence in Nottingham, which supports the Police and Crime Commissioner's alcohol strategy, in addition to the city's wider strategic approach to substance misuse. Operation Promote works to reduce violence in Nottingham City centre's night time economy (NTE) using a Home Office recognised best practice approach of restricting the supply of cocaine and other stimulants
- Following the successful deployment of a pilot in November and December of 2013, in which violence was reduced by 23%, funding was secured for a further deployment of 20 nights per year for three years. The impact of crime recording changes following inspection by HMIC resulted in an increase in incidents being recorded as violent crimes. Nevertheless, over the 2014/15 deployment proactive activity by Operation Promote saw violence increase by only 5.74% on the nights it operated against a city centre NTE increase of 17%. Operation Promote has recently achieved its 150<sup>th</sup> arrest
- The operation has started its 2015/16 run with successful initial results, weapons and high-risk individuals continue to be encountered and managed further supporting the value of the model in reducing risks in the NTE context. As the

removal of alcohol from the NTE is impracticable (and potentially undesirable) the continued management of other identifiable risks represents a strong approach both in outcomes as well as economy of effort

- Operation Promote is closely aligned to the principles of the Police and Crime Commissioners' alcohol strategy, supporting and sign-posting people with treatment and tactics such as the use of club hosts. It should also be acknowledged that changes in the counting rules mean that whilst there has been an increase of reported crimes overall, the number of incidents has decreased. While recorded violence on the city has shown an overall increase of 17%, Operation Promote has reduced that to 5% on high risk nights

### **4.3 Unexplained Drug Related Deaths**

- In mid-June Nottinghamshire County Council issued a public health alert, in respect of what were believed to be six drug related deaths, suspected to be as a result of particularly pure heroin. This created considerable media and community interest
- It has now been established, that there were in fact five deaths of Nottinghamshire residents (one occurred elsewhere in the country). All of them were males, in their 40s and who were long term service users of the county substance misuse service CRI. Two of the males died as a result of natural causes and had no significant toxicology. The remaining three are awaiting toxicology results. All of these people had significant health conditions, with one having been just released from hospital after a stroke, and all had significant alcohol dependency and a low tolerance to opiates. The deaths took place over a longer time frame than initially thought, and there was nothing established to confirm any direct connection to a batch of purer than normal heroin
- A multi-agency review of all the intelligence and information sharing has been arranged for the end of July 2015. This meeting will consider if improvements are needed in sharing information between agencies and how and when alerts are issued. Also learn any lessons from unexplained deaths

### **4.4 Cannabis Dismantling Team**

- 34 cannabis grows have been recorded in April and May 2015. 4 of these were within the City, 14 in Mansfield and Ashfield, 11 South Nottinghamshire and 5 Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood. 11 home invasions have been reported to the police in this period, where cannabis grows have been targeted by other criminal groups. The majority of those (9), took place in the City
- Some of the grows have been extremely large, sophisticated operations. One in Kirkby contained cannabis with an estimated street value in excess of £1 million pounds, and attracted considerable press and community interest. The impact of that one grow alone, was an estimated £200,000 loss of income to the power company involved. Liaison was underway anyway, in order to secure sponsorship funding from utility companies, in order to secure the long-term

future of the team. By use of this expert team, savings of £46,000 have been realised since their inception in January 2014.

- The team is also utilised to effect fail to appear warrant arrests, 28 of which they made in April and May 2015 alone

#### **4.5 Closure of Problem Premises**

- Four premises have been closed in the past two years in the City Centre (Coco Lounge, Dogma, Bleu and BZR). All were closed as a result of the number of violence offences occurring there, and perceived poor management after determined efforts to work with them and improve matters. All the premises had their licence revoked at Licensing Panel
- Similarly, two other premises (Schnapps and Arriba) were persuaded to close earlier, and as a result they have seen a marked improvement

#### **4.6 New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs)**

- These substances have been identified as a national risk, and legislation is being prepared accordingly. Probably the most striking area where it has become an issue is within all the prison establishments in the County. All have reported an increase in availability of NPSs, which has led to an increase in levels of reported violence both between inmates, and against staff. The increased numbers of prisoners being subject to recalls whilst on licence, due to the changes in probation arrangements, has increased the amount of contraband being smuggled into prisons. This again, is a national problem
- A multi-agency steering group has been formed specifically for this problem, with representation from Trading Standards, the Police and Public Health. This group reports to the Substance Misuse Strategy Group. Local work aims to reduce demand through education and awareness raising among young people and key target groups, as well as the general public, and to reduce the supply through use of Local Government powers
- Local intelligence is the key to successful work with NPSs as there is little evidence available nationally of usage. Whilst the national evidence is now in development, information from local organisations is invaluable in building up a picture of the situation across the county
- The local picture mirrors the national one with:
  - High reported usage in prisons
  - Lack of co-ordinated intelligence around who is using NPSs
  - Lack of co-ordinated intelligence as to where they are being accessed
  - Lack of co-ordinated intelligence as to the problems that are being created by usage at individual, community and wider community level
  - Lack of a co-ordinated response locally to all the above

- In order to start to address these problems a workshop is planned in October for Nottinghamshire County, which will bring together key local partners. The aims of the workshop are to:
  - Raise awareness of NPSs and the problems they cause
  - Gather information and intelligence across partner organisations, sharing local knowledge in order to create a picture of NPS usage across the county
  - Pull together this local intelligence to support the mapping out of a targeted education and awareness raising campaign across the county
  - Use this local intelligence to plan local enforcement activity
  - Work with local services to support appropriate treatment for people affected by use of NPS

#### **4.7 Police and Crime Commissioner Alcohol Action Plan**

- A version of the Cardiff Model data sharing arrangement is now fully established in the City. The Nottingham model is known as the Insight Hub, the team have been operational since March 2015. An intelligence product has been developed to provide data to support the management of the NTE, and this has been active since May. Using data from the product, there have been three arrests for drug dealing in the NTE since then. The data will also be used to track licensing activity across all licensed venues. In the longer-term, data from the Insight Hub will support partners to target resources and manage demand more effectively
- Following the Drinkaware campaign “You wouldn’t do it sober, you shouldn’t do it drunk”, initial evaluation has been published which indicates the campaign had a positive impact upon attitudes, particularly in relation to the younger age group, and especially with females. When hosts were present in venues, there was a reduction in the number of incidents on those occasions. Discussions are currently in progress regarding a further pilot using club hosts at city venues
- Diversion and prevention measures continue to be used effectively both in the City and County. An update about the progress in relation to these measures is referred to earlier in the report
- The Best Bar None scheme is well established in the City, and since its launch in the County is becoming very successfully embedded. The scheme aims to raise standards in licensed premises and to improve customer experience. In addition, a number of premises in the County have submitted minor variations to include conditions to have CCTV, door staff and to use polycarbonate glasses. This is a result of the Police county licensing team working with problematic premises to reduce their incidents and improve standards. Best Bar None award ceremonies will be held by the City and County in October 2015
- Partnership arrangements, both in the City and County, have proved to be successful both in terms of collaborative working and a shared commitment to the objectives in the plan. This approach has made an important contribution to the achievement of the objectives and continues to do so

#### **4.8 Responsible Drinking Initiative**

- Nottingham through the Local Alcohol Area Action plan, and further to its strategic approach to alcohol which is aligned with the Police and Crime Commissioner's alcohol strategy, has worked to support venues in the NTE. The aim of the Nottingham Safe Drinking Initiative is to promote the responsible drinking and selling of alcohol within the NTE and to reduce the personal vulnerability of individuals who have consumed alcohol
- Training for bar staff and door staff is essential to ensure that those already intoxicated are not served further alcohol. The use of breathalysers is intended provide an additional, discretionary tool at the door which will also allow a strong, clear message to be sent to NTE patrons on the consequences of 'pre-loading'. It is intended that the breathalysers serve as a reminder alongside provided advice and specialist training of the requirement of door supervisors to meet the needs of potentially vulnerable patrons
- 22 venues signed-up to use the breathalysers but more importantly also received a specialist training package developed by Northumbria Police aimed at ensuring the correct response it delivered to individuals who are vulnerable in the NTE. The training was well received by venues. The issued breathalysers have of July 2015 been collected in and analysis will be undertaken to establish their impact

#### **4.9 Mansfield Multi-Agency Weekend**

- In June 2015, in line with the objectives in the PCC Alcohol Plan, there was another highly successful Mansfield Partnership Against Crime night of action. The evening saw patrols involving officers from different organisations, to tackle drunkenness and drug misuse. Four licensed premises subsequently received warning letters for not having staff available to operate CCTV equipment. Door supervisors were supported in refusing entry to intoxicated people, and that information shared at all venues to ensure the refusal applied to all. Checks took place at all licenced premises, food outlets and taxis. Warning letters and follow up visits were utilised
- The activity was well received, fewer drunken people were seen at large and no reports of violence received. Mansfield Street Pastors played a full part, engaging with the public and providing reassurance to vulnerable individuals. These nights are run on a regular basis, with a range of organisations involved in their planning and delivery, with themes rotated. These have included drink driving, theft from the person and domestic abuse

#### **5.0 Licensing Update**

- Vulnerability of the public within the NTE is being addressed. Door staff have received training on how to recognise and deal with the issue. Taxi drivers will receive training on safeguarding and this will be a mandatory requirement for all new taxi drivers and renewals of badges.

- Community alcohol partnerships (CAPS) have been established in Mansfield and Ashfield to tackle the problems associated with underage drinking. This is a partnership initiative that includes the trade working with police, local authority, county council, youth services, education, trading standards and fire service. Regular patrols are undertaken within the CAPS area by the partners with aim to assist retailers with problems they face with underage drinkers
- Doorwatch has been launched in Mansfield. It is chaired independently and funding has come from Mansfield Community Safety Partnership. Communication has been significantly improved between different door teams, police and CCTV since the launch. The door staff have received vulnerability, fire and first aid training

### **5.1 Custody Health Provision**

- Since April 2015, mental health nurses have been working from our custody suites screening offenders for mental health issues and ensuring they are routed through appropriate health and social care pathways when necessary. They have close working relationships with the drug/alcohol workers, with the street triage team and offer verbal support to officers needing advice. The nurses are also present at the courts and are available for support in voluntary attendance interviews. Also in April, we stopped accepting children detained on a section 136 of the Mental Health Act in our cells. Close working and negotiating with partners has achieved 100% success rate so far, and we intend together to exclude adults so detained from October 2015. This ensures that patients are cared for in the most appropriate place and does not necessarily criminalise someone who is in mental health crisis
- We now ask all detainees whether they have ever served in the armed forces, as there appears to be a correlation with some veterans and alcohol-related crime. We are referring them into health and social care where necessary and working with local veterans charities to offer on-going support

### **5.2 City Criminal Justice Substance Misuse Service – Framework**

- Framework commenced provision of the city substance misuse service in May 2015. Since then, following a name change to “Clean Slate”, the focus during these initial months has been on implementation. The service provision includes prison in-reach, remand-on-bail and custody initial assessments, with follow up assessments offered where appropriate to anyone identified with substance misuse problems, both drug and alcohol. The custody provision also includes undertaking regular cell checks to identify and offer voluntary engagement or advice to anyone who may have alcohol related offending.
- The service is also aligned with the Through The Gate Resettlement Service (TTG), which commenced in May 2015 and which requires Community Rehabilitation Companies to undertake an assessment prior to release for all sentenced prisoners. In line with TTG, Clean Slate will provide a service on

release to anyone identified with a substance misuse problem and who is resident in the City

- The Engagement Team undertake Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) and Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) pre-sentence assessments. The Treatment Team provide the treatment post-sentence as well as work with other offenders with substance misuse problems who are motivated to engage with the service. A minimum of twelve weeks intervention is offered to anyone assessed as requiring treatment for alcohol and/or drug misuse
- The service provision includes a requirement to support and work with Integrated Offender Management (IOM) nominals, along with close liaison with the IOM team who are located in the same building at Castlegate House in Nottingham.
- Priorities during the implementation period have been to ensure staff are assigned to appropriate roles, that effective arrangements are in place with the courts to manage Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) and Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs) and the development of a new group-work package to align with the Rehabilitation Activity Requirements, (the community sentences introduced in May 2015 by the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014.)
- During the implementation period, day-to-day delivery of the substance misuse service has continued without interruption. This includes treatment provision for DRRs, ATRs, custody assessments and prison in-reach. A full set of performance data is expected at the next performance review in September 2015

### **5.3 County Criminal Justice Substance Misuse Service – Crime Reduction Initiative**

- From the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI) has been jointly commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver the adult substance misuse recovery services in Nottinghamshire. This service provides drug and alcohol treatment to anyone with drug and/or alcohol substance misuse problems who is resident in Nottinghamshire County. This is not confined to illegal drug misuse, it also includes prescription drugs and those sold over the counter. The range of services provided includes advice and sign-posting, referrals to other agencies, and treatment provision, as well as advice for carers and legal guardians. CRI are also responsible for the provision of the Criminal Justice substance misuse service in the County. This includes custody assessments, as well as treatment provision for individuals subject to DRRs and ATRs
- The service has been commissioned on an outcome basis, with the focus on service users achieving sustained recovery, and enhanced social integration and well-being. As a new service which incorporates a shift from traditional “treatment” models, the priority since commencement has been to ensure the provision is effectively embedded. As such, the first twelve months of the contract have been seen as a year for base-lining. Work has also been



undertaken during this period to develop the performance framework, and a full set of data, down to district level, should be available at the end of August

- CRI intend to hold an event during the Autumn of 2015 to launch the service under the name of “New Directions”. The event will be open to all

## **6. Financial Implications and Budget Provision**

6.1 None.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 None to note.

## **8. Equality Implications**

8.1 Considered and none to report.

## **9. Risk Management**

9.1 Considered in terms of maximising opportunity to prevent harm of those most at risk of substance abuse.

## **10. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

10.1 Links to the OPCC Alcohol and Drug strategy

## **11. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations**

11.1 No further considerations.

## **12. Details of outcome of consultation**

12.1 Internal consultation on the draft strategy is currently underway. Action updates are drawn from police lead officers and alcohol licensing departments. Consultation has also taken place with the Crime and Drugs Partnership.

## **13. Appendices**

13.1 None.

## **14. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)**

None