



Drugs and Exploitation– Quarter 3 (July-September 2020)

20/10/2020

Sanitised

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MOPI GROUP		
Group One Public Protection Matters	Group Two Other Sexual and Violent Offenders	Group Three All other offences
MAPPA managed offenders Serious offences specified in the CJA 2003 Potentially dangerous people	Other Sexual and Violent offences	All other Offences non sexual or non-violent
☐	X	X

Contents

Thematic	Topic	Slide
	Summary	3
	Cuckooing	4
	Violence	5
	Drug Market	6
	County Lines	7
Local Lines	Local Lines Trends	8
	Gang Violence and Local Exploitative Drugs Lines	9
	Exploitative Local Lines: Swindon Statistical Overview	10
	Cyber Enabled Drug Criminality	11

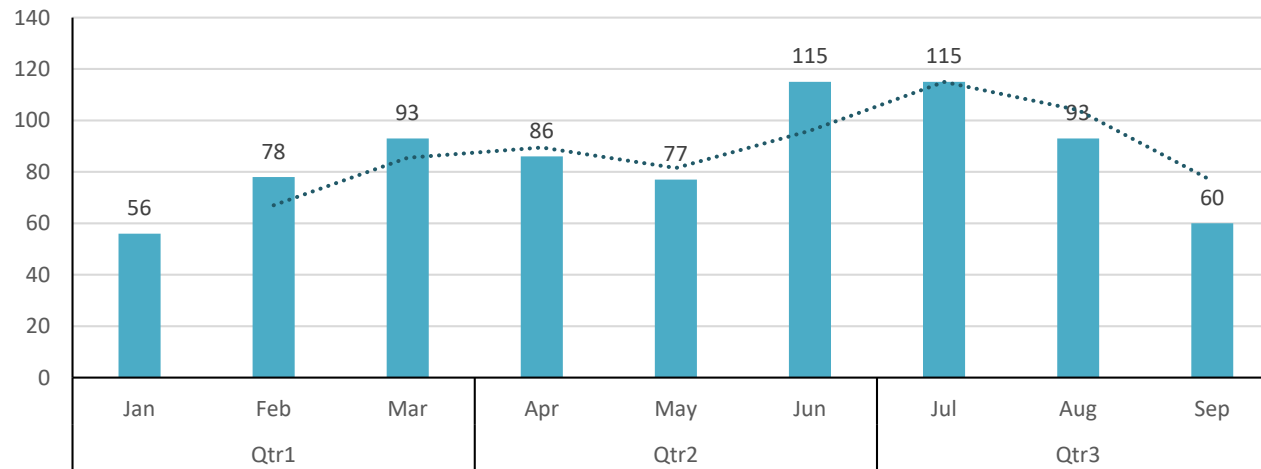
Summary

Section	Key Findings
<i>Stats.</i>	Levels of cuckooing indicate a downward trend with County most decreased. Levels in Swindon have increased in Q3 from Q2.
	Levels of violence have decreased in Q3 from Q2 but remain higher than pre-COVID levels. Drug markets are central to the issue of violence.
<i>Trends</i>	Local drugs lines have a far greater community impact compared to County Lines due to their embedded nature within the community.
<i>Drug Market</i>	Similar pricing and drug scarcity issues as Q2. Markets are displaying higher levels of violence (particularly local and youth). Dealer robberies are frequent. Lines attacking those dealing on 'their patch'.
<i>County Lines</i>	Number of juveniles exploited by County lines has decreased. Exploited juveniles come from different town/cities.
<i>Cyber</i>	Drug sale through social media Knife purchasing.
<i>COVID-19</i>	Little change from Q2 but with further lockdown-type restrictions likely to occur, intelligence picture may mirror early Q2 when lockdown was in place.

Cuckooing

Violence

Drug Tagged Violent Occ.'s By Month



Whilst, anecdotally, levels of violence are believed to have increased in Q3, analysis of the occurrence and intelligence data from Q3 suggests that the level of violence has decreased from Q2 but is still elevated from Q1.

Levels of violence have consistently decreased in Q3

Spikes in violent occurrences/intel occurred in Mar-Apr and Jun-Jul. These periods mirror the beginning of lockdown and the first decrease in drug availability and when pubs etc. opened respectively.

Swindon is the most common town for violence to occur with the SN3 postcode featuring at the highest frequency.



Levels of Slight and No injury have remained steady throughout 2020 with Serious injuries having remained the same from Q2 (but with an increase in youth-related).

Victims of drug tagged violence are most likely aged between 16-25 with offenders aged between 21-25.

Drug Market

Drug Scarcity and Substitution

- There have also been reports of paracetamol and other drugs being used.

Price Changes

- Bulk pricing increases for Class A drugs.

Inter-Line Conflict

- Violent incidents between county line members and local lines.
- Youth gangs are now dominating the drug market in much of central and north Swindon.

Attacks on Dealers

- Known user-dealers in Swindon have conducted robberies/attacks on drug dealers (local and county) who have sold poor quality/dud products as well as individuals who may be holding drugs or cash.

Attacks on Dealers

- Over the past quarter, there have been violent events in relation to illicit drug activity including knife crime, arson, humiliation tactics, robberies, and assaults.
- Analysis of violence tagged occurrences and intelligence has shown that, whilst the general level of violence has increased in 2020, less violence was recorded in Q3 than Q2. It is considered likely that whilst general violence decreased in Q3, the amount of serious or attempted serious crimes has anecdotally increased due to the increase in youth-related serious violence seen.

The number of juveniles exploited by County lines has decreased by 5 from 9 in Q2 and 4 in Q3.

Local Lines Trends

- Victims of violent crime are less likely to support police investigations where drugs or gangs are involved.
- Fear of gangs / drug dealers outweighs the trust of the police's ability to protect residents, so they would rather keep quiet about information helpful to police investigations.

- In Q1 of 2020 the issue of youth violence within schools was recognised, but understandably died down with lockdown and school closure. With reopening of schools we are seeing the issue of youth violence in or near to these premises re-emerge and it is evidently linked to youth gangs and their associates.
- Parents have resorted to picking their children up from school. However, this has not deterred the violence.

Local Class A lines selling Cannabis alongside Class A

- County lines are transient in nature, coming and going from Wiltshire and having a limited and fleeting impact. Local lines, however, are embedded within the community so their impact is often longer-lasting and more damaging.

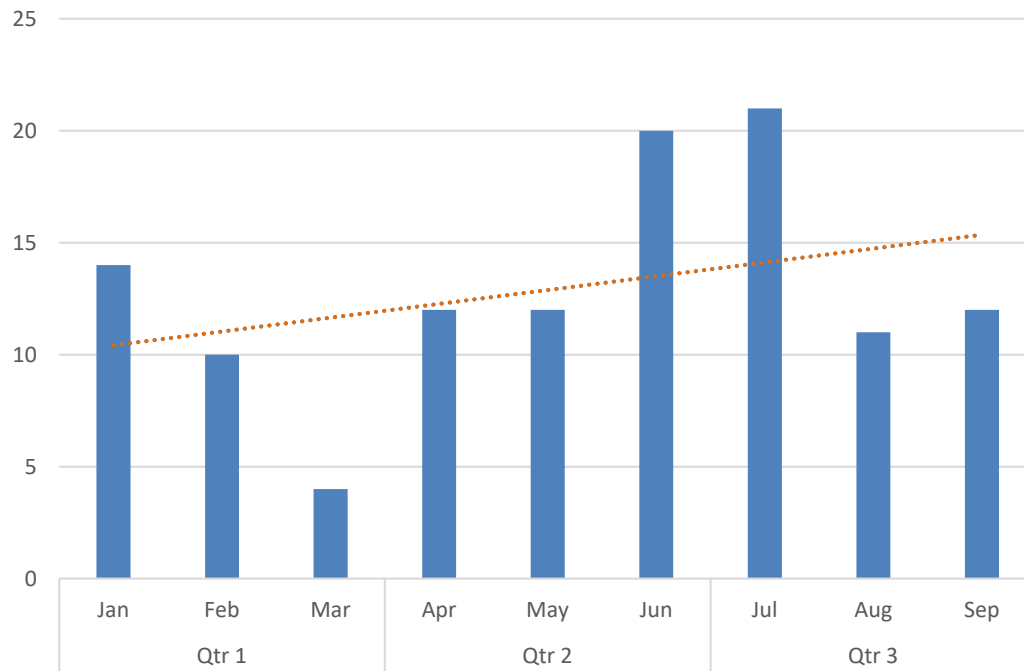
Gang Violence and Local Exploitative Drugs Lines

Over the course of 3 months, a rise in violent incidents has been noticed in Swindon between different youth gangs (USG) and criminal peer groups (CPG). A high majority of recorded incidents have involved the use of knives (including machetes) and weapons, of which possession has seen a big increase over this quarter. It is believed that the violent incidents have occurred due to a mixture of personal rivalries and links to different local drugs lines. Although the escalation in violence is not a direct result of drug territorial feuds, each of the groups are believed to have an influence on the drugs market within their respective districts, running small-to-large scale local lines, and this likely has an influence on the groups' aggressive mentality and group identity.

This displays the impact that violent local drugs gangs have on exploited youths within Swindon and the overall community impact.

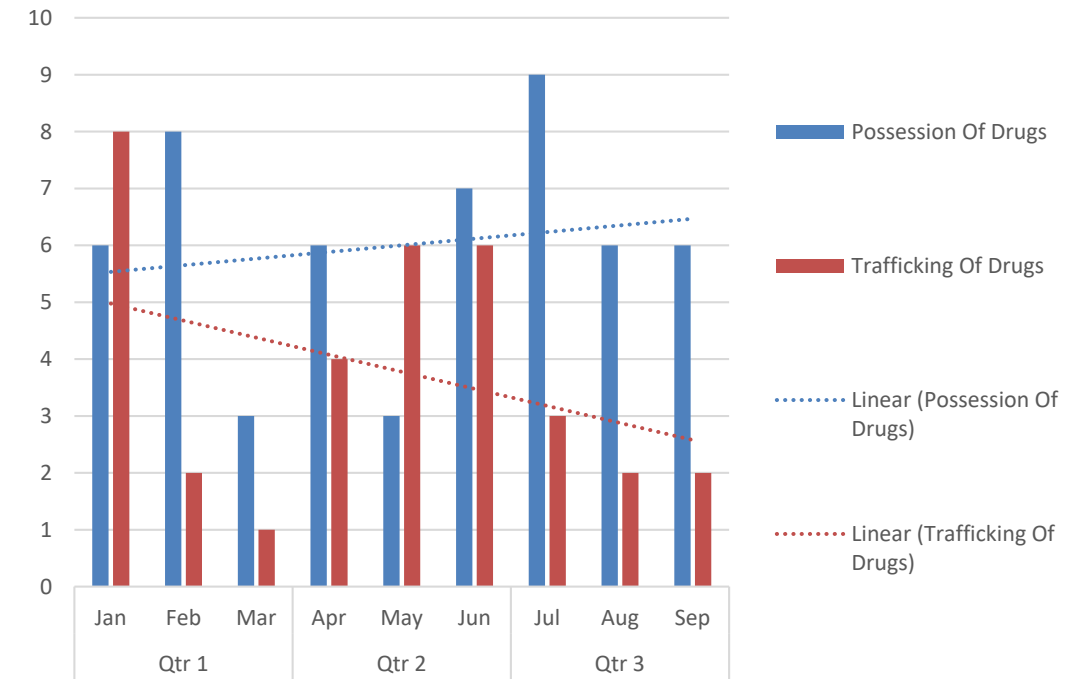
Exploitative Local Lines: Swindon Statistical Overview

Drugs-Tagged Offences by Under 18-Year Olds in Swindon



Although we have seen a general drop in young people in Swindon being arrested for drug related offences over this quarter, the trend-line indicates that we are seeing an overall rise as the year has progressed.

Drugs-Tagged Offences by Under 18-Year Olds in Swindon by Crime Sub-Group



Intel reports indicate that drug supply by youths is actually escalating in Swindon and that more children are concerned in the supply of drugs along with joining youth groups.

Cyber-Enabled Drug Criminality

Findings	Notes
Use of Instant Messenger Apps	Several county lines have been found to use online messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger to communicate between members/runners/cuckoos.
Social Media Advertising	- Particularly common for local dealers to use apps like Snapchat to advertise and organise the sale of illicit drugs. - Cannabis is frequently advertised in this manner.
Knife Purchases	Certain young people in Swindon have been ordering their knives and dangerous weapons, outside of household utensils, online and they are having to find ways to bypass the identification system for age purposes to get the orders fulfilled.