



# Exploitative Drugs Networks: County and Local Lines

## Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec 2020) and 2020 Review

| Intelligence Handling Code (3x5x2)                                                                                                                  |                                                    |                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| To be completed at time of entry into an intelligence system and reviewed on dissemination                                                          |                                                    |                                              |
| P – Lawful sharing permitted                                                                                                                        | C – Lawful sharing permitted with conditions       |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                     | X                                                  |                                              |
| Specify Handling Conditions: For use of Wiltshire Police Partner Agencies. Do not share outside original recipients without consent of the authors. |                                                    |                                              |
| MOPI GROUP                                                                                                                                          |                                                    |                                              |
| Group One<br>Public Protection Matters                                                                                                              | Group Two<br>Other Sexual and<br>Violent Offenders | Group Three<br>All other offences            |
| MAPPA managed offenders<br>Serious offences specified in the CJA 2003<br>Potentially dangerous people                                               | Other Sexual and<br>Violent offences               | All other Offences non sexual or non-violent |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                            | X                                                  | X                                            |

| Area        | Section                            | Slide |
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## Glossary:

**County Line:** A drug line which operates across county borders; the base and dealing locations are often separate.

**Local Line:** A drugs line which activity confined to a local (in-county) area; often managed my local people.

**Domiciled Local Line:** A Local Line managed by a person who originates from outside of the county but operates within it.

**Youth Gang/Youth Street Gang:** An organised collective of youths (and associated adults) which act together criminally. Drug dealing, robbery, and burglary are commonly associated crimes.

**Criminal Peer Group (CPG):** A group of youths who are friends/associates who may or may not associate with wider criminality. These are often contained to specific locales (i.e. the students of a particular school) and are prone to incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and rivalries with other CPGs.

**OCG:** Organised Crime Group; an organised group of nominals which act together criminally.

## 2020 Q4 Key Findings

| Area                    | Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>County Lines</i>     | Q4 had the lowest total volume of violent occurrences tagged with a drugs qualifier in 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Local Lines</i>      | Most local lines that remained active throughout 2020 were either well established, prolific units or related to youth gangs/CPGs.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Gangs/ CPGs</i>      | Increased hostility between youth groups and Police.   Spate of burglaries associated to youth gangs.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>General Policing</i> | A technical fault saw the accidental deletion of approximately 150,000 police records from PNC.<br>( <a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/150-000-arrest-records-wiped-in-tech-blunder-krhlf302h">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/150-000-arrest-records-wiped-in-tech-blunder-krhlf302h</a> ) |
| <i>Cyber Crime</i>      | Snapchat also frequently appears in intelligence as a method of illicit drug advertisement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Q4 Exploitative Local Lines Update

|            | Findings                                        | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gangs/CPGs | Increased hostility between youth and Police    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• October intelligence indicates that members of a Swindon Criminal Peer Group (CPG) have sought to disrupt police patrols response activity in the area.</li></ul>                                                                                  |
|            |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|            | Burglaries Associated to Youth Gangs in Swindon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 180 burglaries were reported in Q4 of 2020 with 81 of those in December and 169 occurring in Swindon.</li><li>• 87 Swindon-burglary-tagged intelligence reports were made in the same period; 47 of these can be linked to a youth gang.</li></ul> |

## 2020 Key Findings

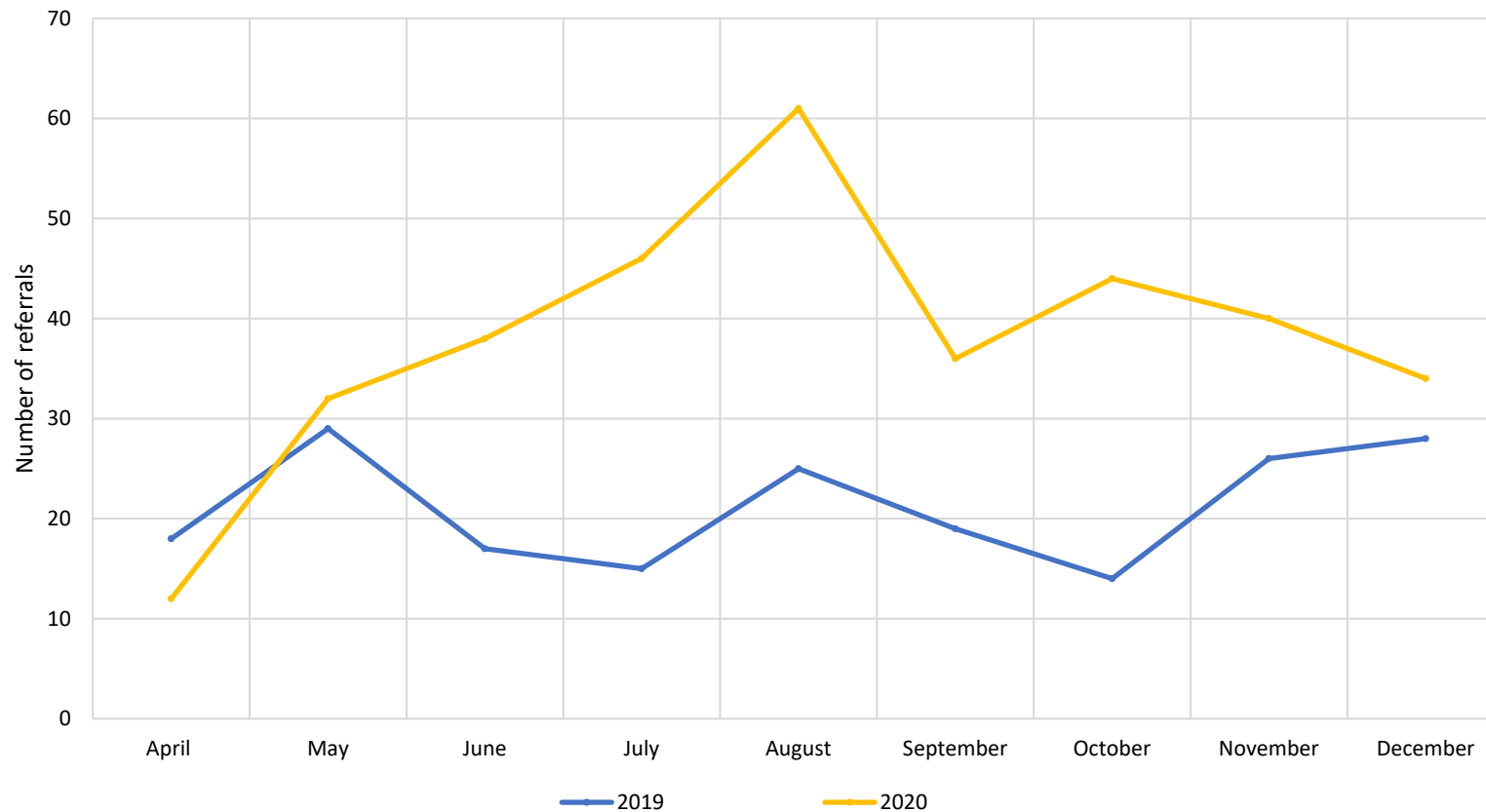
|                              | Findings                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>County Lines</i>          | 2020 saw a decrease in 3 county lines from 2019 (50 down to 47). However, the lines have not been as persistently active in 2020.                                                |
| <i>Local Lines</i>           | 'Cry Exploitation' Advice.   The majority of local lines that remained active throughout 2020 were either well established, prolific units or those related to youth gangs/CPGs. |
| <i>Gangs/CPGs</i>            | Rivalries between gangs and CPGs have become more violent and noticeable to the public.                                                                                          |
| <i>Violence</i>              | January saw the highest number of county line related violence.                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Drug-Linked Robberies</i> | Intelligence reported drug-linked robberies frequently in 2020. These occurred in relation to county lines, local lines, gangs, CPGs, and user-dealers.                          |
| <i>Cyber Crime</i>           | Local users concerned about drug availability in the November lockdown turned to Dark Web.                                                                                       |
| <i>Drug Purities</i>         | A&S published December data on purity of seized drugs- heroin purity dropped by 28%.                                                                                             |

County Lines: 2020 Cuckooing



## County Lines: 2020 Turning Point

Monthly number of referrals for non-opiates in Wiltshire and Swindon



- The number of referrals for non-opiates made to Turning Point increased during the first national lockdown between the end of March and August.
- October saw the largest percentage increase of 214% in the number of referrals for non-opiates from 14 in 2019 to 44 in 2020.
- Turning Point reported that some service users found engagement in treatment more effective with the provision being virtual and some found the absence of physical groups challenging.

## The Impact of COVID-19

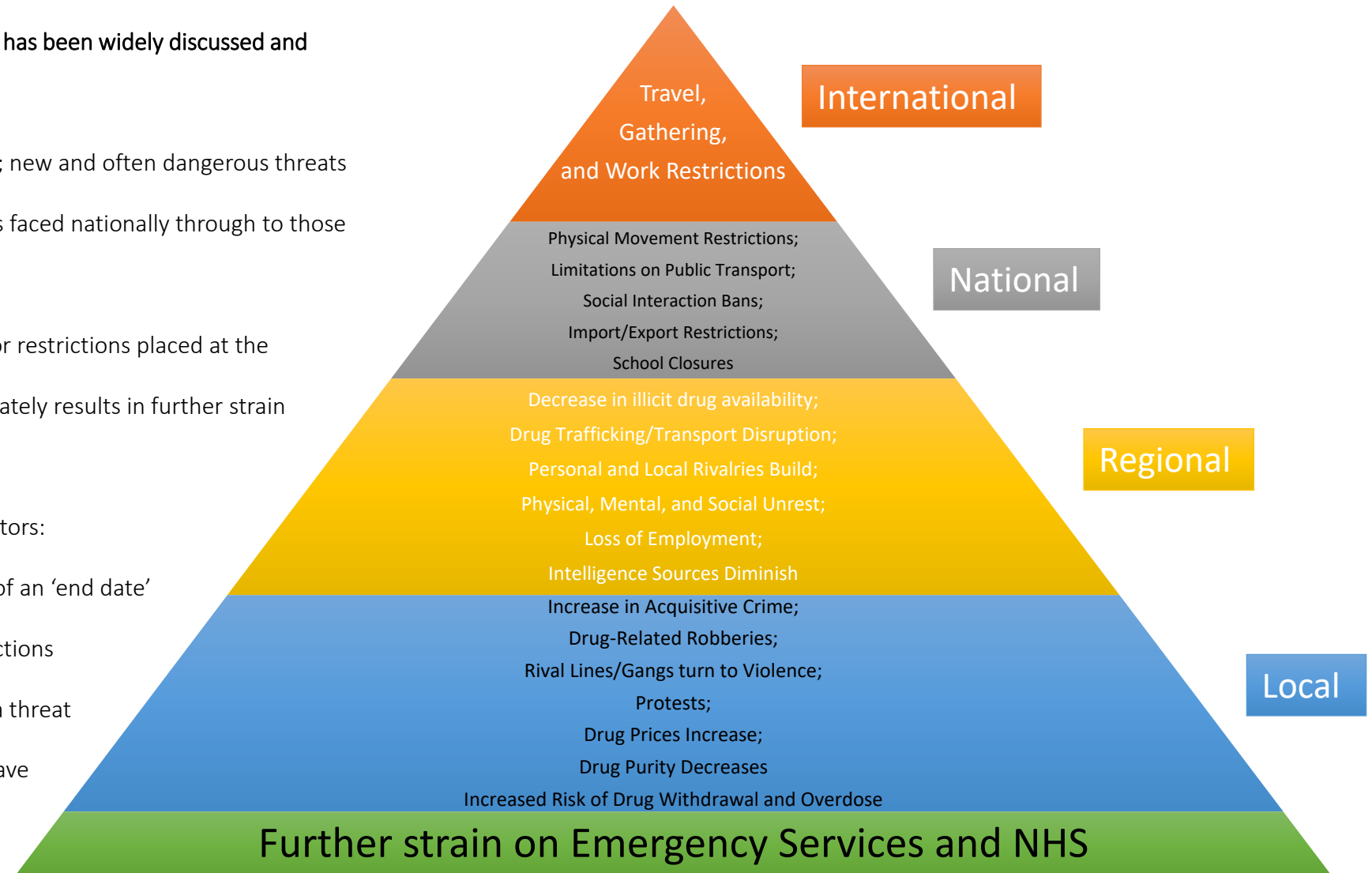
The impact of COVID-19 on drugs-related intelligence has been widely discussed and reported upon during 2020.

Drug markets have been affected internationally; new and often dangerous threats are introduced at every level of the chain from issues faced nationally through to those experienced locally.

As the adjacent diagram demonstrates, the major restrictions placed at the (inter)national level cause a ripple effect which ultimately results in further strain placed upon our emergency services.

This increase in strain has many exacerbating factors:

- Length of the pandemic up to this point and lack of an 'end date'
- Public anger and disinterest towards COVID restrictions
- Organisational inexperience at dealing with such a threat
- Personal or family sickness/mourning requiring leave
- Decrease in staff wellbeing

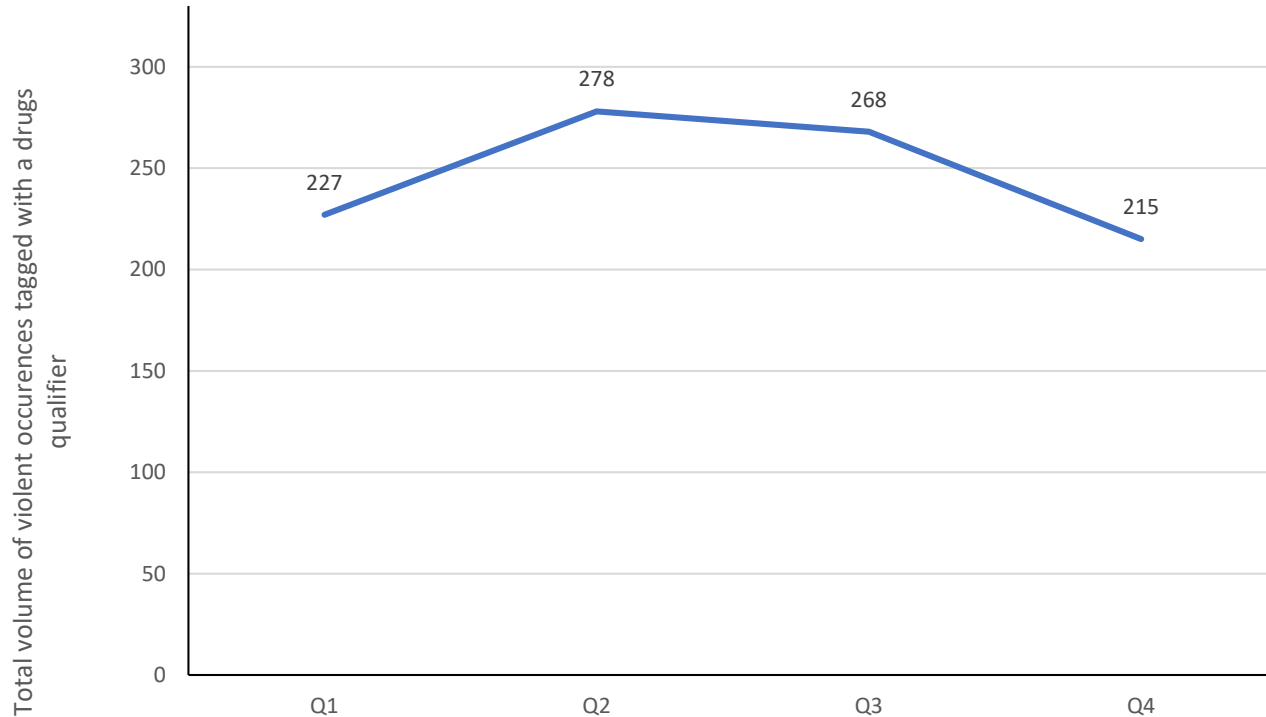




## County Lines Update

## Violence

Total volume of violent occurrences tagged with a drugs qualifier



- County lines do not appear to be major drivers of the total volume of violent occurrences tagged with a drugs qualifier. e.g. in December 2020 there were 64 violent occurrences tagged with a drugs qualifier.
- Swindon holds 68% of county lines/local lines recorded violence (141/206).

2020 saw a decrease in county lines/local lines recorded violent intel/occurrences on 2019 (206 vs. 272)

Q4 had the lowest total volume of violent occurrences tagged with a drugs qualifier in 2020 (Q1 – 227; Q2 – 278; Q3 – 268; Q4 – 215).

- January was a peak month for county lines/local lines recorded violence.
- January – March each had 30+ county lines/local lines related violence intel/occ. Each month had fewer than this for the rest of the year,

August saw an increase in county lines/local lines recorded violence.

## Intelligence Frequency

There has been an increase in drugs intel for the last 4 years.

Despite COVID-19 and Gov. restrictions across the world affecting global supply routes and restricting movements within the UK, drugs intel continued to increase in 2020.

2019 saw the biggest increase in drugs intel from the previous year.

Exploitative Local Lines Update

|              | Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Local Lines  | Most local lines that remained active throughout 2020 were either well established, prolific units or related to youth gangs/CPGs.                                                                          |
| Gangs / CPGs | Rivalries between gangs and CPGs have become more violent and noticeable to the public.                                                                                                                     |
| Violence     | Intelligence of violence has decreased during the two 2020 lockdowns with December having only six intel reports of this kind. October saw the highest level of violence related intelligence (74 reports). |



## Drug-Related Robberies

**Intelligence identifies 66 drug-related robberies occurred in 2020 with varying levels of detail provided in each instance.**

**This form of criminality primarily affects Wiltshire nominals in the 18-25-year-old age bracket with involvements spread across local lines, county lines, youth gangs/ Criminal Peer Groups (CPGs), and user-dealers.**

**The intelligence highlights those with local line involvement to be most likely to fall victim to a drug-related robbery whilst user-dealers are the most common perpetrators.**

- Drugs and cash were stolen in the vast majority of drug-related robberies with drugs being more common.
- Violence and premeditation are central concerns of drug-related robberies.