



# Exploitative Drugs Networks: County and Local Lines

## Strategic Review – Jan 2021 to Apr 2021 (SANITISED COPY ONLY)

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| 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                                            |

## Crack-Cocaine and Heroin Market in Wiltshire

Most recently published review of drug usage in England and Wales. This is a reference document and its findings are key for a deeper understanding of the Wiltshire drugs market which is central to supply networks. Note key findings of report highlights the importance of drug treatment of OCUs (Opiate and crack-cocaine users). Current Home Office initiative Project Adder

Dame Carol BLACK, *Review of Drugs (in England and Wales)*, for

ce, published Feb 2020, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-review-of-drugs-by-professor-dame-carol-black>



### HEROIN

- **261,000** users in England.
- **53%** in treatment.
- Majority of users use most days to avoid withdrawal.
- **0.5g** avg daily use 0.5g; **251** days avg usage per year; **£12,538** avg annual spend.
- More users now also using crack-cocaine.



### COCAINE POWDER

- **976,000** est number of users in England and Wales in the last year.
- **£2,200** avg annual spend.

### SYNTHETICS (MDMA, amphetamines and NPS)

- **524,000** people in England and Wales used in the last year.

### CANNABIS

- **2,572,000** people in England and Wales used in the last year.
- Avg annual spend £1,000.

### ESTIMATED ECONOMIC COST OF DRUG USE

- **£19.3bn** total cost of harms related to illicit drug use in England, 2017-18.
- **86%** of cost associated with OCUs.
- **£553m** drug treatment and prevention.
- **With fewer users in treatment, costs and harms will likely be increasing.**



### CRACK-COCAINE

- **181,000** users in England.
- **39%** in treatment.
- Significant increases in: 1. Older heroin users consuming crack-cocaine; 2. New users of only crack-cocaine, no heroin.
- Crack-cocaine tends to be used in binges of a few days at a time, often alongside alcohol and other drugs.
- **0.4g** avg daily use; **157** days avg usage per year; **£6,263** avg annual spend.
- Younger users now see it as more acceptable.
- Risk that crack-cocaine users may start using heroin.

### OCUs: VERY PROFITABLE POPULATION

- Cannabis and powder cocaine have a large number of users who purchase a small amount of drugs on average, as their use is typically infrequent.
- The opposite is true for heroin and crack-cocaine. Dependent users will consume these drugs most days to avoid withdrawal.
- **£19,000** Annual spend of someone using both heroin and crack-cocaine.

### DRUG DEATHS

- Drug related deaths are at their **highest level ever**, driven mainly by heroin users.
- **Three quarters** of these deaths under 50yo.
- **Doubling** of heroin deaths since 2012, highest levels ever (2017-2019- Swindon x23 or 3.4 per thousand; Wilts 43 or 3.1 per thousand; 2010-2012 Swindon x19 or 2.8; Wilts County 19 or 1.4)
- **Six-fold increase** in cocaine and crack-cocaine deaths since 2011 and were cited in 1 in 7 deaths in 2018.



## WILTSHIRE HEROIN & CRACK-COCAINE MARKET 2021

- Wiltshire heroin and cocaine-crack market latest estimates in 2020 were £48,000 a day / £339,774 a week /£17,716,808 a year.
- In view of the Dame Carol BLACK review, estimations as indicated in table below have **increased slightly** to £18,905,200 a year.
- Estimated economic cost of OCUs not in treatment in Wiltshire estimated at **£64,352,160**.

**Table: Estimations based on 2016-17 opiate/crack use prevalence estimates and latest Dame Carol BLACK report**

|                                                   | Swindon    | County     | Wilts Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>OCU users</b>                                  |            |            |             |
| OCU users prevalence estimates 2016-17            | 1,075      | 1,337      | 2,412       |
| OCU users not in treatment (based on average 46%) | 495        | 615        | 1,110       |
| Economic costs of OCU users (based on £58,000)    | 28,681,000 | 35,671,160 | 64,352,160  |
| <b>Opioid users</b>                               |            |            |             |
| Opioids user prevalence estimates 2016-17         | 868        | 1,168      | 2,036       |
| In treatment (53%)                                | 460        | 619        | 1,079       |
| Not in treatment (47%)                            | 408        | 549        | 957         |
| Annual yearly spent based on £12,538              | 5115002    | 6882860.48 | 11,997,863  |
| <b>Crack cocaine users</b>                        |            |            |             |
| Crack-cocaine users prevalence estimates 2016-17  | 736        | 1072       | 1,808       |
| In treatment (39%)                                | 287        | 418        | 705         |
| Not in treatment (61%)                            | 449        | 654        | 1103        |
| Annual yearly spent based on £6,263               | 2811836    | 4095501    | 6907337     |

## TREATMENT FOR DRUG USERS

- Treatment of OCUs. High potential to disrupt markets.
- Research shows that treatment for dependent drug users can also reduce:
  - The cost of drug related social care by 31%. (Current national total estimated at £630m.)
  - The cost of drug related hospital attendances by 31%. (Current national total estimated at £156m.)

## ENFORCEMENT: A WHACK A MOLE GAME?

- Impact of enforcement activity by itself on overall drug supply market is very limited in the medium-long. Demand still exists.
- Some county lines/local lines are very resilient and flexible.
- Enforcement can have unintended consequences. E.G. increasing violence by:
  - creating a gap in market for dealers to compete over
  - increasing distrust in drugs market
  - runner beaten by controller for getting arrested and product/cash seized

## Recent Uplift in County Lines Intel



March 2021: **47** intel reports identified as county lines

April 2021: **81** intel reports identified as county lines

- The volume of county lines intel increased by approx. 70% from March 2021 to April 2021.
- Most noticeable increase in county lines intel in at least 6 – 9 months.

Although there was more Drugs intel overall from March 2021 to April 2021, the increase was within the typical range of monthly fluctuation seen in previous reporting periods (March 2021: 1,899 vs. April 2021: 2,101). This alone does not account for this increase.