

Stop and Search Community Monitoring Network
Wednesday 24th November 2021

Attendance List

Names taken from sign in screen on MS Teams

Barnet	Mohamed Banur
Bromley	Ian Smith
Camden	John Kilvington
Croydon	Marzia Nicodemi
Greenwich	Steve Bone
Hackney	Nicola Baboneau
Hammersmith and Fulham	Jane Davis Sarah Chambers
Havering	Linda Van De Hende
Haringey	Bennett Obong
Kensington and Chelsea	Lucy Smith-Ryland
Lewisham	Tayo Disu
Newham	Chris Roffey
Redbridge	Julie Fallon
Richmond - Upon - Thames	Apologies
Southwark	Avril Jones
Wandsworth	Barbara Madelof, Andy Healey
Westminster	Nathalie Stewart (CMN Chair)
MPS	Chief Insp John Evans Insp Chris Williams Sgt David Ginn Superintendent Gerry Parker Detective Inspector Nick Harvey Detective Sgt Rick Sewart PC Ian Johnston
MOPAC	Chris Benson Jamie Keddy

Apologies: Adrian Jacobs – Barnet, Carole Atkinson – Richmond, Herval Almenoar -Haringey, Ian Weatherley – Havering, Michelle Dibble - Hillington, Sheri Lawal - Islington, Stefano Patracchio - Merton, Commander Helen Harper - MPS, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Jane Connors - MPS

1. Housekeeping

JK welcomed the group and went over housekeeping.

2. Chair's welcome

The Chair welcomed the group and confirmed apologies.

3. County Lines Presentation – Detective Superintendent Rick Sewart & Detective Inspector Nick Harvey (RS & NH)

RS and NH introduced themselves to the group and confirmed they are leading on an MPS Operation targeted at combating county lines. The project is funded by the Home Office. They then gave a presentation to the group (*see appendix 1*). The key points were:

Summary

- County Lines is a dealing enterprise managed from a larger urban area into a rural town.
- The supply is managed through the use of a mobile telephone number.
- Reliant on advertising to the local customer base, often branded for added recognition.
- Controllers often remain distant from the supply by recruiting young people to conduct the physical exchanges.
- Previously a low risk, high reward enterprise, with those controlling the supply rarely in physical possession of drugs.

Operational Overview

- The operation focuses on telecommunications method. Because it operates via a telephone number, officers can associate it to a group of individuals.
- This approach has helped the MPS achieve a 98% conviction rate and an 85% early guilty plea due to level of evidence obtained.

London Picture

- Operational activity is currently focused in boroughs that border Surrey as the routes into rural areas pass through that county.
- Lines have been identified across London as referenced in slide four of the presentation.

Modern day slavery

- Telecommunications analysis means that those responsible for exploiting the young people can be identified and targeted.
- Currently county forces including Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Essex, South Wales, Wiltshire, Norfolk, Hampshire and Kent have identified modern day slavery cases.

Case Study – Reece Line

- London based line trafficked a 15-year child from London to Somerset as a drugs runner over the Christmas period in 2020/2021.
- Joint operation between Operation Orochi and Avon and Somerset Police led to the simultaneous recovery of the child in Somerset and arrest of the London based line holder and subsequent victimless prosecution.
- Child was recovered in possession of crack cocaine and heroin. Forensic analysis showed the line holder's DNA on the packaging.
- Line holder arrested in possession of the deal line at his home address.
- The line holder, EL-HADDAD pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Crack Cocaine and Heroin and S.2 Human Trafficking. Sentenced to 7 years and 2 months imprisonment.

Cost Summary

- Associated socio-economic cost per year - £376.6M
- Associated crime cost per week £3.70M

RS highlighted that county lines does not target recreational drug users from affluent areas. The majority of targets are heroin and crack cocaine users.

RS and NH then took questions from the group.

<p>Why are county lines set up in rural areas and how are the MPS measuring the size of each operation?</p>	<p>MPS analysis maps out the customer base which helps identify how many drugs are being sold. Should the number of drugs being sold consistently remain high the MPS will work with rural forces on operations to tackle the dealers. The scale of a county line is measured through reviewing the number of phone numbers contacting the drug line indicating the size of the customer base. The MPS will continue to work with Public Health England in drug intervention programs.</p>
<p>How is drug dealing dealt with inside of London?</p>	<p>Officers from Basic Command and specialist Crime Units are focused on borough-based crime. The county lines project funded by the Home Office is specifically used to assist force areas with limited resource and knowledge of the lines.</p>
<p>How much cash is seized in county lines operations, is the money seized reinvested into preventative programmes?</p>	<p>The current MPS project has seized 1.5 million in cash. The money goes to central government who distribute it however intervention and preventative programmes do receive investment.</p>
<p>Is there an ethnicity breakdown of those identified and charged in County Lines?</p>	<p>Line Holder Ethnicity Origin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black 70% • White 16% • South Asian 11.5% • Mixed 2.5% • Average age is 24 however youngest was 15.
<p>How many of those involved in county lines are successfully diverted away from crime?</p>	<p>Successful diversion is challenging to quantify however safeguarding issues are recorded on the police computer system called MERLIN. Diversion</p>

	programmes are usually spread across several organisations including the police, Local Authorities and the NHS.
At what point did the MPS begin treating young drug runners, targeted by gangs, as victims rather than criminals?	The MPS have been focusing on Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) rather than low-level drug runners since the introduction of The Modern Slavery Act 2015 and multiple projects which commenced in 2016/17 across the UK targeting those gangs involved in county lines rather than low level dealers who are exploited.
How are the line controllers and those that sit above spending the money?	Analysis shows that a lot of the money is spent on things like clothing, car rental and crypto currency.
What is the wider cost to society as a whole including users, families, councils and the NHS?	The Blare Index tracks the cost of county lines through quantifying the exchanging of drugs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated socio-economic cost per year - £376.6M • Associated rime cost per week £3.70M

4. Search Wands Presentation - Superintendent Gerry Parker (GP)

GP gave a presentation to the group on search wands (*see appendix 2*). The key points are:

- Following the death of Sergeant Matt Ratana in 2020, the Commissioner pledged to continue the rollout of metal detecting screening wands as part of her priority that Met officers are well equipped.
- There will be 4300 new devices supplied to officers across the MPS from 1st December. This will include wands which will be assigned to police vehicles and custody suites.
- The new version is smaller and more precise.
- Handheld screening devices are **NOT** a replacement for a physical person search, but an aid to systematic search - use does not negate a hands on search.
- Screening device will only be used **AFTER** the appropriate grounds for a search are formalised.
- The screening devices are used over clothing and add a layer of reassurance to the search processes.
- Wands will detect metallic objects only. Plastic / ceramics will not be detected.
- The handheld screening device can also be used in post arrest searches.
- Handheld screening devices are not a replacement to a physical search.
- Screening device will only be used after grounds for a search are formalised
- Screening devices are used over clothing and add of layer of reassurance to the searching process.
- The MPS will be publicising the introduction of the wands in the coming months.

MOPAC Action: when redesigning the Know Your Rights leaflets to incorporate information on search wands.

Question & Answer

How much does a wand cost?	The wands will cost the MPS £68.72 each which is inclusive of the battery, charger and delivery. This totals £460,639 over four years which includes replacement batteries and devices.
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Can the wand be used for Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act search?	Should an officer suspect someone has drugs they can only use the wand if there is a suspicion, they are in a metal container such as a tobacco tin.
Should an officer want to search someone under a Section 32 PACE search can the wand be used?	Yes, this acts as another layer of searching however there will need to be justification for the search from the officer.
Can officers use the search wand without grounds for a full search?	Every officer will need to justify search grounds prior to using the wand. The wand is an additional layer of the search and should not be used alone.

5. MPS Update – Stop & Search Figures - Chief Inspector John Evans & Inspector Chris Williams

CW confirmed the available Section 60 statistics;

September 2021	18
October 2021	17

He went on to explain that on average there are 4/5 searches per Section 60, the tactic yields a low number of searches because it is used as a preventative measure. The Central Team monitor the use of the power closely and review every Section 60 authorisation on a weekly basis.

CW confirmed that there is a new analyst who is working to improve the public stop and search dashboard. He explained that there is a new e-learning package which has been rolled out to all new officers prior to their Police and Safety training (replaced Officer Safety Training). This includes new sections on de-escalation during interactions.

CW confirmed that the stop and search video-based exercise called “A Different View” has been around for three years and has been positively received by officers and the wider public. It is now available on an app. Officer are currently being trained to go out and deliver the package to communities.

Action MPS: Check with Police and Safety Training team on what/ if any changes will be made to stop and search training in light of the Independent Office for Police Conduct recommendations?

What is the MPS policy on feedback and consultation regarding section 60s with CMG chairs?	Since the Home Office ceased the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS) the MPS retained their policy that authorising officers for section 60s should speak to chairs and community groups. Should a Section 60 go in late at night officers will not call CMG chairs however the Partnership Inspector will speak to chairs the following day.
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CW confirmed that he would be leaving the Central Stop and Search team and thanked the group for their support over the past years. Sgt David Ginn introduced himself to the group as the new contact from the Central Stop and Search Team.

Next CMN meeting: Wednesday 26th January 2022

DRAFT