



An inquiry report of the:
**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee &
Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Preventing Young People's Involvement in Drug Dealing

November 2018



Cardiff Council

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
CHAIR'S FOREWORD	1
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
KEY FINDINGS	7
• Culture Shift - the "Normalisation" of Drugs	7
• Impact on Communities	7
• Safeguarding Young People (and their families)	10
• The role of Agencies	13
• Education and Awareness Raising	15
• Crime & Enforcement	17
RECOMMENDATIONS	20
KEY EVIDENCE	26
Face-to face evidence gathering from witnesses	27
Survey Results	49
Secondary desk based research	60
INQUIRY METHODOLOGY	68
BIBLIOGRAPHY	71
LEGAL & FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	73
TASK GROUP MEMBER PHOTOS	74
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
TERMS OF REFERENCE	75
COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
TERMS OF REFERENCE	76
<u>Appendix 1</u> – Email from a former drug dealer to the T&F Group	78

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I would like to thank the Members of both the Children & Young People and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committees who took part in the task and finish inquiry. I would also like to thank Councillor Lister for his contribution to the Inquiry and all the witnesses who gave evidence in front of the Inquiry Team during the process. Their input was invaluable. I would like to extend thanks to the public for taking the time to take part in the Inquiry survey. Finally, I would like to thank Mark Jacques, for his invaluable support during this important inquiry.

This was always going to be a challenging Inquiry, having experienced first-hand as ward Member for Butetown the impact drug related crime and activity can have on communities and individuals. I have witnessed a number of young people in my community who have been coerced or chosen the “wrong path” and the impact this has had on their long-term life plans. I have also seen the impact it can have on individuals and the wider community.

It was important for us to identify what would drive a young person to become involved in drug dealing. This resulted in a very complex number of reasons, ranging from poverty and lack of opportunities to seeing it as a quick way to earn money and gain material goods. However, what was imperative was to keep in mind that these were still (in the main) vulnerable young people preyed upon and groomed by older people.

Conversely, the Inquiry also uncovered the fears and frustrations felt by communities having to witness and deal with drug-related activity and crime. The Inquiry Team felt that all communities deserved to live in a safe and healthy environment where drug dealing,

taking and other related nuisance such as discarded needles should not be blighting their lives. Children should not have to witness this type of behaviour and see it as the “norm” on their streets.

The Inquiry Team heard from a wide range of organisations who are dealing with this issue. We all acknowledged that they were all working hard to tackle this issue. Many praised the Police in their commitment in working within communities, but more needed to be done to support this.

Throughout the Inquiry, I was heartened to hear the real desire by individuals and organisations to step up and make a real difference to the lives of all young people in their communities. I believe that if communities, agencies and partners were able to work together to provide a range of local measures, we could all make a real impact in providing services, role models and options for young people to choose a more positive path.

I believe that, through the recommendations set out in this report, the Council and its partners can take a significant leap forward in tackling this issue.

Thanks again to everyone who took part.



Councillor Saeed Ebrahim
Task Group Chair

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As part of the 2017/18 Scrutiny Work Programme, Members of the Children & Young People and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committees agreed to undertake a joint Inquiry into ***“Preventing Young People’s Involvement in Drug Dealing”***. This Inquiry sought to:

Identify and Investigate:

- The contributing factors that give rise to young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city
- The positive contributing factors that communities can put in place to protect and prevent young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city
- Determine the effectiveness of current policies and services in protecting and preventing young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city.
- Identify good practice
- Determine how best statutory agencies can work with communities to ensure they are informed about services and support available and are confident to report concerns
- Make recommendations to be taken forward to the Safer & Cohesive Communities Programme Board

The Committees agreed that the Membership of the task & finish group would comprise:

- Councillor Lee Bridgeman
- Councillor Saeed Ebrahim (Chair)
- Councillor Kathryn Kelloway
- Councillor Ashley Lister
- Councillor Mary McGarry
- Councillor Mike Phillips
- Councillor Kanaya Singh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, Councillor Lynda Thorne, wrote a letter (dated June 27, 2017) to the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Lee Bridgeman. In this letter, Councillor Thorne expressed concern about the increasing issue of drug dealing by young people in the Butetown and Grangetown areas of the city. Councillor Thorne observed that there was some merit to the suggestion that the reduction in youth provision across the city had some part to play. It was suggested that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee establish a Task and Finish inquiry to look into young people's involvement with drug dealing and whether or not the reduction in youth services was a contributory factor.

As the topic covered issues relating to crime and disorder and community safety (which fell under the terms of reference of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee), it was agreed that a joint-inquiry with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee be undertaken. Members of both Committees, plus Ward Members from Butetown and Grangetown made up the Task Group.

This Inquiry took place between October 2017 and May 2018, and during this time, Members were working within a fast-moving and ever-changing landscape around drug-related activity, including the rise of coverage in relation to County-Lines.

The Task Group heard evidence from a wide range of individuals and organisations who told Members about a range of drug-related issues that had affected their lives. In total, Members heard from approximately 30 witnesses face-to-face. In addition, a survey was distributed to the general public, which resulted in 413 responses.

Members uncovered a range of key themes and messages that arose from the evidence. Throughout this report, the Task Group grouped the evidence, findings and recommendations under a number of headings. These were:

- Impact on Communities
- Safeguarding Young People (and their families)
- The role of Agencies
- Education and Awareness Raising
- Crime & Enforcement

Members considered its evidence in the backdrop of the increasing “normalisation” of drugs in society. Whilst changes of cultural and societal norms were outside of the remit of the Inquiry, it was an important consideration for Members throughout the Inquiry.

In relation Councillor Thorne’s original concerns, Members concluded that the role of the Youth Service in providing crucial community-based services should be acknowledged and supported.

In relation to the impact on communities, Members heard evidence of the real issues that blight communities affected by persistent and open drug dealing. They concluded that community engagement and consultation was crucial in improving relationships between them and agencies in their areas, so that communities feel that concerns and problems were heard and dealt with. Members also heard that the communities themselves felt that they had a role to play in terms of providing services, role models and ambassadors within their communities and that this should be facilitated. There was also a call for better community engagement in the siting of drug-related facilities.

Safeguarding of young people and their families was also highlighted as an important issue in tackling this issue. The problem of “grooming” young people into dealing drugs was (in the main) as prevalent as it is in other areas of grooming – sexual exploitation; radicalisation etc.

Agencies involved in tackling drug-related crime and activity also needed to improve lines of communication between themselves and other individuals and organisations who could significantly contribute to tackling the issue at both strategic and operational levels. In order to bring this work together, a comprehensive strategy, supported by an education and awareness raising campaign was recommended.

The Inquiry concluded that the Police were working hard tackle the issue, but more needed to be done too support and strengthen current arrangements. County Lines was highlighted as a particular threat, as well as links to other crime, such as knife crime.

KEY FINDINGS

There were a number of key findings and conclusions arising from the Inquiry that could be drawn under a number of themed headings. These are as follows:

Culture Shift - the “Normalisation” of Drugs

KF1. Throughout the Inquiry, Members repeatedly heard about the culture shift in relation to views on drugs. They were informed that, particularly in relation to cannabis, it was viewed as less dangerous than alcohol and was more widely used at home. Sharing cannabis amongst friends was not seen as “dealing”.

Impact on Communities

KF2. The Inquiry concluded that there needs to be a real commitment across the Council and wider partnership to ensure that it plays a key role in improving engagement and consultation with communities in tackling this issue.

KF3. Throughout the Inquiry, Members (both in their roles as Ward Members and Scrutineers) highlighted that there needed to be improved relationships between agencies and the community. The community survey undertaken revealed that two thirds of respondents (67%) did not feel that the authorities were doing enough to tackle drugs amongst young people and that drug issues had got worse in their communities (47%) or there had been no change (39.3%).

KF4. Communities need to feel confident that their concerns are heard/dealt with. Members heard, and had experience of, the difficulties in reporting incidents of drug-related activity. In addition, communities need to be satisfied that agencies would do all they tackle and minimise the recurrence of the problem in the future.

KF5. Throughout the Inquiry, witnesses stated that they felt that people weren't being listened to. Members felt that often it's normal for communities not to engage with the Police and this is then an ideal model for drug dealers to exploit. Linked with the previous key findings, Members felt that communities need to feel confident in reporting drug-related crime and this be dealt with minimal recrimination.

KF6. Conversely, agencies stated that communities need to take responsibility and have an honest conversation with authorities about what is happening where they live to enable the agencies to establish a full picture of what is going on in the area. Agencies acknowledged that more work was needed to educate communities about services available, but that this can be varied as some communities know more than others.

KF7. During the Inquiry, Members heard from a range of individuals and organisations who called for a clear model of how to engage with communities to be developed and implemented. Communities should be involved in all stages of the process and be empowered to contribute to suggesting and taking forward solutions in tackling the problems that blight their communities.

KF8. Throughout the Inquiry, Members heard from Agencies and individuals who stated that role models and ambassadors within the community could provide young people with advice, guidance and direction in alternatives to drug-related activity. This was also backed up by around a third of people (30.9%) who responded to the community survey, who felt that a lack of role models for young people – whether within the family or the wider community - contributed to them being influenced into drug-related crime.

KF9. Members heard evidence that the key to the success of this would be to ensure that role models, volunteers, community ambassadors etc would need to be based in the local community, be able to relate to young people and be visible within their communities. It was crucial that they not be seen as one of the "authorities" but people who could be impartial, and be trusted. Critical to this would be the need for

partners and third sector agencies to provide thorough support through training and counselling to enable people to be equipped to undertake this role.

KF10. When meeting with community representatives, there appeared to be a real desire for members of the community to get involved with running clubs and groups voluntarily to give young people support and a place to go, outside the hours of council-run youth services. Members stated that this, along with support and training would be an excellent opportunity for the community to feel empowered in getting involved in their communities.

KF11. Members stated that the Council and its partners could provide the tools to enable members of the community to be involved in activities and services to improve the lives of young people in their areas. As well as practical ways in terms of access to and use of buildings, training, volunteering, it would present an opportunity to empower adults within the community to contribute, and also present an opportunity for young people to gain skills and knowledge that could then see them progress to future role models and active members of the community. Members heard from current young adults already undertaking this via sport, and their work in their communities should be commended.

KF12. A recurring theme that came out during the Inquiry was the perception amongst Inquiry Members of a correlation in drug dealing/taking, other drug-related crime and the location of drug services (such as needle exchanges). A disproportionate number of drug-related services had been placed in and around the city centre, and this, it was felt, attracted people into the neighbouring areas, resulting in increased crime, anti-social behaviour, discarded needles, and affects on the local community. It was felt that the lack of consultation, engagement and understanding of this within communities had contributed to a breakdown of trust and understanding between agencies and the community. In addition, children and families in these communities were witnessing drug taking in daylight and school hours.

KF13. Members heard evidence that more needed to be done by drug related services to take responsibility for ensuring that people who use their services do consider the impact of what they do. Whilst it was fully acknowledged that these services were critical in ensuring that drug users had access to clean needles etc, Members and witnesses had had to personally deal with clearing of needles, witnessing open drug dealing and taking on their streets. Members felt that there was a direct correlation between the location of drug-related services and the problems that were taking place in these communities.

KF14. Members concluded that the closure of Council-run Youth Centres had not contributed to an increase in drug related crime. In the light of Councillor Thorne's original concerns, as set out in the Executive Summary, Members discovered, via South Wales crime data, that the highest number of arrests in relation to drug-related activity, were in wards which still had youth centres.

KF15. However, Members strongly concluded that the Youth Service provided an invaluable and crucial service to young people in Cardiff. Members concluded that the Council and its partners needed to acknowledge this issue in relation to the future of the Service. In addition, Members felt that youth services should be seen as a "community" service, as it was felt that it had a wider reach than the current education-based setting. If the remaining youth centres are to continue to offer young people a place to go, feel safe and be supported, budgets should be protected as much as possible, and considered as an integral part of the development of community-based services and facilities highlighted elsewhere in this Section.

Safeguarding Young People (and their families)

KF16. During the Inquiry, Members discovered a range of factors that may contribute to a young person to becoming involved or "groomed" in drug-related activity. They were advised by the St Giles Trust that some vulnerable young people perceive drug gang members as role models who fill a gap in their lives. In the case of County Lines activity, gangs find out what is missing in a child's life and the try to fill it – they will target young people who have difficult family lives, though this is not exclusive.

KF17. In addition, like other young people who may be subjected to grooming, Members also highlighted the importance of having the processes in place to identify them and their families. The community survey also highlighted the need for earlier intervention in protecting vulnerable young people, with over a quarter (28.1%) of respondents stating this. Members were advised that the issue of identification and intervention was complex and it was imperative that intelligence and information was used effectively in these cases. In addition it is critical that, in the case of young people, they are viewed as a victim, rather than a criminal.

KF18. South Wales Police advised Members that those aged 16 and under didn't constitute a huge problem in the area, but is more apparent in those in their late teens.

KF19. During the Inquiry, Members received details of Home Office Guidance¹ in relation to County Lines Drug Activity, which set out how county lines, like other forms of abuse and exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

- KF20. Members acknowledged that not all young people engaged in drug-related activity would immediately be considered as “vulnerable” in terms of the characteristics that would normally be applied, but they can be targeted and groomed and attracted to drug crime because of the perceived “cool” factor and quick wealth.
- KF21. In order to tackle the issue, Members concluded that a number of preventative, diversionary methods needed to be put in place to help in steering vulnerable young people onto a more positive life path. Members stated that diversionary activities (including sports and art), the chance of undertaking apprenticeships, training opportunities and working with community role models, ambassadors, mentors could help achieve this. The community survey undertaken as part of the Inquiry asked what agencies could do to tackle drug dealing – almost a third of respondents (30.5%) stated that “more activities available to young people in the community” and a quarter (24.7%) stating that “better job opportunities – training, apprenticeships etc” would be a way forward.
- KF22. Throughout the Inquiry, it was acknowledged that, working with the family as a whole would be critical in tackling the issue. Members were told that, in some cases, intensive work with a vulnerable family, whose child has become involved in drug dealing would be required, and this could be covered by existing family-related services. However, Members heard that, on a wider scale, issues such as parents being better informed in recognising the signs of drug involvement was critical, as well as acknowledging the very real fears of parents not wanting to report their children to the Police, for fear of a broken relationship with that child, and consequences arising from it.
- KF23. Linked with the above, Members concluded that tailor made packages for vulnerable young people (and their families) offering a range of solutions was the best way forward. They acknowledged that much good work was already in place and therefore felt that linking with existing services in relation to vulnerable young people (child sexual exploitation, radicalisation etc) would provide a major step forward in taking forward this work.

KF24. During the Inquiry, Members heard about the impact that issues such as exclusion and reduced timetables had in exposing vulnerable young people, as it resulted in additional unsupervised time that could be exploited. Members acknowledged the limited options currently available to schools and pupils in terms of remaining in school if punished for a drugs-related offence, but considered that the development of a range of diversionary options could help alleviate this. Schools based staff suggested that, in cases of excluded pupils, a care package should be put in place, with parents signing-up to a rehabilitation project for offenders.

The role of Agencies

KF25. During the Inquiry, Members heard from partners and the third sector and concluded that improved joined up working was needed. Members were aware of the role of the Community Safety Board (part of the Cardiff PSB) that had made a number of strides to address and tackle this issue, as well as its continued development in making the Board more effective. However, joint working across all agencies and relevant third sector organisations was going to be critical in addressing a range of issues relating to tackling drug dealing AND identifying and intervening with vulnerable young people. In addition, the increasing threat of County Lines activity needed wider joined up thinking and working across the wider region and beyond.

KF26 Members considered best practice examples of dealing with drug dealing in Northumbria and Manchester² in relation to tackling New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) which also highlighted the need for good partnership working.

KF27. Members were aware that the Community Safety Board (formerly, the Safer & Cohesive Communities Board) conducted regular meetings, and already had mechanisms in place to conduct high-level/strategic meetings, but concluded that other relevant third sector organisations could also be included to enable everyone to contribute to tackling the issue and provide a “whole picture”.

² ***New Psychoactive Substances: the response by Probation and substance misuse services in the community in England*** – HM Inspectorate of Probation and the Care Quality Commission (November 2017).

KF28 In addition, Members concluded that the key to the success of any campaign to tackle drug crime would be to hold localised, operational meetings, to include trusted community members, which could cover a range of issues highlighted during the Inquiry such as:

- Data, intelligence, Information
- Budgets and Resources
- Latest Developments
- National and local campaigns (such as “Fearless”, “Switched On!” Operation Purple Ash etc)
- A mechanism for discussing and addressing hotspots/problem areas

Members also stated that a further mechanism would also be required for identifying and dealing with individuals - this could include what levels of support they may need at one end of the scale, to potential enforcement at the other.

KF29. Throughout the Inquiry, numerous witnesses called for the development and implementation of a comprehensive Strategy. It was agreed that this complex issue was not one that could be tackled by one partner alone. It was felt by Members that a Strategy would pull together work already being undertaken, and give direction and commitment to tackling drug-related crime.

KF30 During the Inquiry, Members were told that there was a lot of good work being done by schools, the third sector and at community level but that the resulting intelligence wasn't being brought together. Together with many of the issues that are highlighted in this report, a Strategy could assist in drawing together many of the issues and concerns raised, as well as address issues such as the budgetary constraints that continue to challenge public sector bodies.

KF31. Members felt that this Inquiry presented opportunities for agencies to further connect with colleagues within their own organisations and other networks already in place. As already highlighted in this Section of the Report, Members identified that lots of positive work is already taking place in terms of helping young people - safeguarding,

CSE, violence, sex work, radicalisation etc. Members felt that lots could be learned and good practice implemented where appropriate.

KF32. During this Inquiry, Members undertook a community survey to gain a snapshot of opinion in relation to drug related activity in Cardiff. It was hoped that a “young person” survey could also be undertaken. A lack of resources and issues in relation to confidentiality prevented this taking place during the lifetime of this Inquiry. However, Members were informed by the Community Safety Board of the potential of them, along with the Youth Service to carry out a youth survey to ascertain attitudes to drugs and drug-related crime. Members concluded that they would wish to strongly encourage that this take place at the earliest possibility.

Education and Awareness Raising

KF33. Throughout the Inquiry, Members consistently heard a wide range of messages/evidence from organisations and individuals relating to how they get access to information and services; as well as awareness of campaigns already in existence. For example, one witness stated that, within some neighbourhood areas, information outlining parental advice was unclear. Other witnesses felt that a more accessible and clear tool-kit of information should be made available. Members stated that, in order to tackle the issue and draw together all the streams of work developing and already in existence, a comprehensive education and awareness raising campaign was required. This would not only give the public the information and advice they needed, but also send a clear message that drug-related crime and activity would not be tolerated in Cardiff.

KF34. Linked with the previous KF, Members felt that education and awareness would address some of the other issues highlighted in the Inquiry. For example, clear messages would assist in forging better relationships in communities and help breakdown barriers across agencies, as well as the work of some of the drug-related facilities that could be within their areas. A key part of this should also include on how the public can report suspicions.

KF35. Members recognised the range of education programmes currently conducted in schools through the St. Giles Trust, the All-Wales Schools Programme, youth service, school liaison officers and related sessions in areas such as CSE, radicalisation etc, but felt that a review of what is being offered across the board could be undertaken to streamline systems and provide a comprehensive education programme that will cut time, avoid duplication and maximise impact. Members were told by witnesses based in schools that school/education related programmes should include parental classes, so that parents are made aware of the warning signs connected with drug involvement.

KF36 Schools based witnesses informed Members of prevention in schools. They claimed that year 5 and 6 pupils were now displaying behaviour which used to surface at years 8 or 9. They suggested that talks about substance misuse should take place in Primary Schools. To back this up, Members considered a study undertaken by the Early Intervention Foundation Review³ which explored the extent to which young children at risk of gang involvement or youth violence are supported through evidence-based early intervention, particularly within primary schools. It draws on qualitative interviews with schools, local government officials, police and voluntary sector organisations within the London boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth, and built on earlier EIF research which indicated that risk factors for gang involvement and youth violence can be spotted as early as age seven.

The study identified a range of concerns, including:

- the lack of a clear or shared understanding of the level of risk within a school
- a lack of clarity or confidence in identifying and accessing statutory and other services beyond the school walls
- a limited awareness of the range and quality of external support that is available to schools, and little evaluation of the external support that is commissioned
- the pressure on schools to focus on academic performance to the exclusion of children's wellbeing, a challenge which is often exacerbated in schools located in areas where the risk of gang and youth violence is likely to be higher.

³ *Intervening early to prevent gang and youth violence: The Role of Primary Schools* – Early Intervention Foundation (March 2018)

KF37. Linking with some of the other key findings, another key factor that presented itself during the Inquiry was the perceived “attractiveness” of drug dealing to some young people, with “rewards are higher than the risk.” Witnesses informed Members that, in their view, certain young people become involved because of the perceived “cool factor”. They aspire to be like the drug dealers with their expensive trainers and nice car. Witnesses stated that, any education/ awareness raising programme needs to highlight the consequences of drug-related crime to young people. Witnesses cited case studies and Members were told that there were two reasons why young people became involved with drug dealing – (i) poverty and (ii) money. Wrongly, dealing is perceived as an easy option initially for making money. Others stated that they thought a lot of young people asked themselves, “why should I work for minimum wage when I can earn more selling drugs?” In addition, witnesses also commented on the relative ease now of starting to deal in drugs.

Crime & Enforcement

KF38 The Inquiry concluded that, in terms of enforcement, the Police were working hard to tackle this issue. Many witnesses praised the Police in their commitment in working within the community, but more needed to be done to work with them to strengthen current arrangements. Members were advised that a city-wide, rather than localised model was needed in terms of tackling drug-related crime. This was to ensure that drug-related problems were not “moved on” from one neighbourhood to the next, but tackled right across the city. In addition, Members were aware of the limited powers that PCSO’s have in communities, and how this could impact the levels of enforcement in certain areas.

KF39. Members were informed that white males born in Wales were identified as the biggest group of offenders but found that drug-related crime crossed all age ranges and backgrounds.

KF40. Throughout the Inquiry, Members heard from witnesses about “Hotspots” in their areas. As ward Members, they were also able to provide examples of certain areas where drug-related activity was regularly taking place, and was often “open” with a

perceived lack of enforcement to stop it. Community witnesses called for more Police, CCTV cameras and street lighting as ways to improve the current situation at community level. In addition, the community survey asked the public to name some hotspots in their area, and almost half of respondents (45.0%) were able to name one or more areas within their communities where this was taking place.

- KF41. A “zero tolerance” approach in terms of enforcement was suggested by community representatives. Communities blighted by drug dealing and taking felt that authorities were taking too long to deal with issues, and when they do, the problem would arise again. Members heard evidence of children and families witnessing drug taking, having to deal with discarded needles, anti-social behaviour and other issues, such as defecation in their communities and it was concluded that this should not be acceptable.
- KF42 Members acknowledged that communities were now seeing not just known individuals involved with this type of crime, but felt that anyone could move to an area and pick-up with County Lines activity.
- KF43 Throughout the Inquiry, Members were told about the increase in County Lines activity, not only in Cardiff, but across the UK. The media has also highlighted this particular type of drug-related crime. Members heard some of those targeted by County Lines gangs can be paid as much as £300 per week just for holding drugs and firearms.
- KF44 Members were told by St Giles Trust Cymru that some of those extricated by agencies from gang influence are reluctant to leave because of the support network they have in Cardiff. Case studies on this issue are highlighted in the “background evidence” section of this report.
- KF45. Whilst Members heard that only 4 cases of County Lines activity had been highlighted in the City, they felt that the threat of this type of activity warranted further work, particularly with the St. Giles Trust, who had a dedicated County Lines Officer in place, who could advise and assist on tackling this issue. Members heard that, in the opinion of witnesses, local drug dealing was following the County Lines

model in as much as vulnerable people are being used by gangs to do their “dirty work” for them, using the County Lines model in terms of an operating template.

KF46. Members were advised during the Inquiry that other related crime had increased. This was particularly true of knife crime that had increased during the life time of this Inquiry. Members also heard that those involved with drug-related crime were threatened with weapons and therefore arm themselves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee has identified areas that merit consideration in taking review activity to the next level, and particularly wish to draw the Cabinet's attention to the following recommendations. Each recommendation is supported by the associated key finding listed earlier in this report.

The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee have endorsed the following recommendations. They are commended to the Cabinet for implementation, in consultation with the Community Safety Board and wider partnership. Both Committees require an initial response to the recommendations during Spring 2019, with a further review in September 2019.

It is recommended that:

Impact on Communities

R1. Improve community engagement and consultation in terms of tackling drug-related crime by replicating the locality based partnership model and strengths based approach model implemented in Butetown, via a sequenced roll-out to other parts of Cardiff.

Supported by Key findings 2-3

R2. The Community Safety Board undertake a neighbourhood review to work towards formalising engagement with the community, using the resources of PACT within the new arrangements. This new arrangement should be a two-way communication tool between partners and the community.

Supported by Key findings 4-7; 28

R3. The volunteer portal already in place to include attracting volunteers to act as community role models and ambassadors in order to advise young people on the dangers of drug-use and involvement with drug-related crime. This voluntary scheme should be suitably funded and involve collaborative working with relevant groups and partners.

Supported by Key findings 8-11

R4. For the Council, through its neighbourhood partnerships, explore the use of community facilities by the community – creating a pool of volunteers; offering support and training; and explore funding opportunities, to enable the community to have access to these buildings to run clubs/groups for young people, and give them a place to go outside of normal hours.

Supported by Key findings 10-11

R5. The Council and its partners review where drug related services are located and commit to thorough community engagement in areas of the city chosen for any proposed location for drug-related services such as needle exchanges. The size of the development should be clearly explained to residents as part of this engagement process.

Supported by Key findings 12-13

Safeguarding Young People (and their Families)

R6. The Council and partners undertake a review of current youth service provision. This should include assessing the function and developing a new model of service delivery that is more effective and fit for purpose. This should include an evaluation of the flexibility of the service and how it can meet the demand. The service could be more sessional based approach, linked up across a range of partners and be available outside of school hours and in the school holidays. There is a need to recognise the crucial role played by youth services in preventing young people's involvement with drugs and drug-related crime and that the Council should be mindful of this factor before future funding decisions are made regarding the service. If the remaining youth centres are to continue to offer young people a place to go, feel safe and be supported, budgets should be protected as much as possible, and

considered as an integral part of the development of community-based services and facilities.

Supported by Key findings 14-15

- R7. The Council and partners to undertake a review of all streams of “safeguarding” related activity across the City, with a view to developing a model for intervention and prevention for young people vulnerable to drug-related crime. There is a wide range of good practice already in place in relation to child sexual exploitation, FGM, radicalisation, sex work etc. and Members agreed that pooling the expertise and knowledge from these streams would establish the links with current work and assist in developing a specific model for young people caught up in drugs. This will also provide the tools required for engaging the parents/carers and families of these young people.

Supported by Key findings 7; 15-16

- R8. The Council and partners develop a “Well-being Strategy” for young people based on the strengths based approach, and using initiatives such as “Goodies in Hoodies” that had had a positive impact on tackling negative perceptions of young people.

Supported by Key findings 7; 18-20

- R9. The Council and its partners undertake a major review of current arrangements in relation to options available to young people who find themselves excluded from school or on reduced timetables. Schools should play a central role in this review. The review should include drawing on existing examples of good practice already in place in some of Cardiff’s schools. The review should include the identification and implementation of a number of preventative, diversionary methods to help steer young people towards a more positive life path. Sport, art, the opportunity to undertake apprenticeships and training, working within their community should all be considered to help achieve this. The review should also consider the development of a measurement to monitor and review school practice in relation to this area.

Supported by Key findings 21-24

The Role of Agencies

R10. The Council and its partners ensure the development and implementation of a city-wide strategy on tackling drug-related crime to highlight in particular the dangers posed by the UK-wide increase in “County Lines” activity. Part of this strategy should include a hard-hitting communications campaign involving social media platforms and more traditional advertising measures such as the use of billboards. This should be coordinated with recommendations 15 and 16 below.

Supported by Key findings 29-31

R11. The Safer Communities Board ensure that relevant third sector organisations are invited to operational meetings in order to achieve a wide-ranging approach to tackling the issue of drug-related crime. All parties should then be encouraged to promote each other’s services and campaigns on their respective communication platforms in order to raise public awareness. Such action would give residents clearer indication of points of contact for reporting incidents of drug-related crime.

Supported by Key findings 25- 27

R12. The Council and its partners develop and implement a system of community based operational meetings to include partners, third sector, parents and community members to share local data and intelligence in order identify hotspots, problem areas and shared solutions to the problem. This could include adopting a similar approach used by the CSE PING meetings.

Supported by Key finding 28

R13. The Council and partners adopt a similar model used by other work areas (such as CSE) to enable them to discuss individual young people in order to assess and address the individual’s needs – including issues raised in recommendations 7 and 9. This should also link with the early help new proposals and the young person’s gateway.

Supported by Key finding 28

R14. Cabinet ensures that plans for a city-wide youth survey to ascertain attitudes to drugs and drug-related crime are fully supported by Cardiff Council and that meaningful results are eventually achieved. Currently, it is proposed that a potential youth survey be commissioned by the Community Safety Partnership, in partnership with Youth Services. Members would wish to strongly encourage that this take place at the earliest possibility

Supported by Key finding 32

Education and Awareness Raising

R15. A strategic, coordinated Communications Plan be developed with input from all partners. This should include the coordination of current materials that could be used as part of the programme. The programme should include mechanisms for delivering a large scale campaign across the City, and also more targeted awareness raising and training with recognised vulnerable groups. This should be developed in line with the Strategy recommended in R10 above, and should acknowledge the range of diverse communities across Cardiff. The Communications Plan should also develop targeted programmes for specific areas of Cardiff to address specific challenges faced by that area.

Supported by Key findings 33-37

R16. A programme of campaigns for children and young people be developed by young people and current providers (for example, the St. Giles Trust), to include PSHE teaching materials, social media, development of apps, etc. The wording of all material should be very carefully considered and should include a strong message in informing young people of the consequences of being involved in drug dealing; recognising grooming; where they can go for more advice; and what options are available to them if they find themselves in trouble via drug-related activity. The coordination of budgets from other sources (Public Health Wales, Welsh Government etc) should also be explored as part of developing this campaign.

Supported by Key findings 33-37

Crime and Enforcement

R17. The Police & Crime Commissioner review the powers that are given to PCSO's.

Supported by Key finding 38

R18. The Community Safety Board explore options of enforcement routes to tackle anti-social behaviour associated with drug dealing and problematic drug use in order to strengthen current arrangements and ease pressure on the Police. This could include a local, hybrid version of the use of Public Spaces Protection Orders.

Supported by Key findings 39-42

R19. The Council and partners link with relevant third sector providers to address the issue of "County Lines" activity in the City and links to other drug-related crime, such as knife crime. This should form part of both the strategic and operational elements of work going forward.

Supported by Key findings 43-46

KEY EVIDENCE

FACE-TO FACE MEETINGS WITH WITNESSES

Councillor Thorne's original concerns

The Ward Member for Plasnewydd reminded the Task Group that the role of scrutiny was to offer practical and feasible solutions, so therefore calling for additional funding for youth services after a process of cuts wasn't appropriate.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

The Achievement Leader for Youth Support at Cardiff Council suggested that a remedy for the drugs problem was broader than just being one of reinvestment. A Councillor also pointed out that according to South Wales Police crime data, the highest number of arrests were in wards which still had youth centres.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The coordinator for the Into Work service, told Members that in her opinion the drug-related crime situation crossed all age ranges and backgrounds. She highlighted the lack of youth services in certain areas and observed that nothing was replacing closed facilities, which was creating a void. She pointed out that money was the driving force for people getting involved in drug dealing. She thought a lot of young people asked themselves, "why should I work for minimum wage when I can earn more selling drugs?"

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Impact on Communities

The Community Safety Manager explained how a clear model of how to engage with communities so that they see themselves as part of the solution was needed. The model should also look at what factor made young people become involved in drugs crime. What

is it that gang membership provides which is lacking from the community and society at large?

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

Members were told about the role of Community Ambassadors by Cardiff Council's Community Safety Manager. A package based on recruitment and training was provided specifically designed to understand some of the dynamics associated with substance misuse and explaining what services are available to help the situation.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

The Ward Member for Riverside raised the issue of locating needle exchanges. He said that there was an issue in terms of why their locations were chosen and the concern that the exchanges actually drive drug-related activity.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

The Chair highlighted the increase in young people openly drug dealing in the Butetown area. It was observed that Community Elders had raised concerns as it's no longer just known individuals involved with this type of crime but that now anyone can move to an areas and pick-up with County Lines activity.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Chair observed that some young people dealing in Butetown, with the right encouragement, could be A Star Students.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

After hearing about the preventative work done in schools by St Giles Trust Cymru Cllr S suggested creating a voluntary bank of volunteer role models from local communities who could give talks in their neighbourhood schools. This would offer a less authoritarian message than that given by the Police and contain more realistic street experience. It was pointed out to Members that this free advice would be more natural and not informed by the system. The Community Safety Manager advised that for this to work properly schools would have to have proper support structures in place in areas such as training and counselling.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Chair advised the Task Group that certain drug dealers in his ward, were former straight A students in school but had then been groomed and attracted to drug crime because of the perceived “cool” factor and quick wealth. He believed that the situation differs in each part of the city but his point illustrates that drug crime doesn’t just attract vulnerable young people from deprived backgrounds.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Chair told the group about an example of a parent who knew that his son was involved with drug-related crime, but was afraid to take action involving the authorities for fear of permanently losing his relationship with his son.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Substance Misuse Project Manager at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, highlighted the “Switched On! Drug and Alcohol Awareness Sessions”. This training is available to everyone, particularly children and young people, parents/guardians, practitioners (youth staff, teachers, healthcare professionals etc.) and also staff working in the voluntary sectors. He outlined to Members the difficulty of getting into certain communities. But he praised the work of BME officers and especially highlighted the good work carried out in the Czech Romany community.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

KS raised concerns about commissioning and locating services without full community engagement. He advised the Task Group that in his ward, services were introduced without adequate public consultation. KS claimed that the needle exchange led to people witnessing drug deals 3 or 4 times a day.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

KS informed the group about a user of hard drugs had been housed in flats on Tudor Street next to a single mother. KS suggested that reviewing the system for mixing vulnerable people should be a big consideration. The Chair also gave an example of a man in Butetown with mental health issues who had spent £10,000 smoking crack as a result of dealers being rehomed in the area. He suggested that a wider risk assessment was needed

prior to rehoming. SE said the whole package of services within communities needed reviewing.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

South Wales Police told Members that individual communities need to take responsibility and have an honest conversation with authorities about what is happening where they live. It was highlighted that at the moment the Police aren't getting a full picture from some communities.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Chair observed that greater community engagement was essential. More Police action was needed and community support was needed to empower them. SE explained that often it's normal for communities not to engage with the Police and this is then an ideal model for drug dealers to exploit.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

GE advised Members that more work was needed to educate communities about services available. But that it was a mixed bag as some communities know more than others.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

SE highlighted the importance of analysing the backgrounds of people involved with drug-related crime. SE gave the example of an academic young man who became involved in drugs and as a result his father left home leaving just the son and his mother. But because of language issues the mother doesn't have the capabilities to know how to get help and even if she did she couldn't ask for it. SE said that fears around these sorts of gaps needed addressing.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

SE observed to the Task Group that community role models were needed from specific communities. SE believed that young people in particular will respond to people who live in the same community as them and who they see on a regular basis, in a way that they won't with people dropped in to deliver a message.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

Lloyd George Avenue resident informed Members that there was a huge problem around the city centre end of the avenue and Bute Street. So far this year 4,500 syringes had been recovered in this area alone and 500 had been found in April.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Lloyd George Avenue resident told the Task Group about a tent erected near the junction of Bute Street with Callaghan Square. One day he counted 14 people going into the tent and he believed this was for drug activity. Members were advised that it took the Authorities 3 months to remove the tent.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

A community rep raised the role communities can play and observed that they need to be pointing the finger at known drug dealers.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

KS advised that within his ward he had a needle exchange, wet house and a probation service. In KS's opinion drug-related problems followed the associated support services.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Lloyd George Avenue resident told the group about an incident where the Headmistress of St Mary's school had to arrange for the removal of syringes from the playground prior to school assembly. She said that this illustrated how those injecting drugs don't care about the consequences. A community rep advised the meeting that he regularly sees human defecation near the Mosque.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Butetown resident observed that at needle exchanges only 20% are actually exchanged. He is Tiger Bay U14's Coach and he told Members how football games were having to be stopped whilst needles were cleared off the pitch.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Splott resident thought that more services should be run by the communities and that more community mentors are needed. She explained that she thought a more creative leadership model would come from the community, and she also expressed the need for greater sports provision.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

In response to the question: *What is the most effective way of tackling community drug dealing?* A former drug dealer replied: “The most effective way of helping to understand community drug dealing is to talk to those involved and try to see things from their point of view. Drugs are used by most people in society illegal and legal including alcohol. Addiction comes in many forms. Illegal drugs are not more evil than alcohol or legal drugs. Regular meetings to discuss ways of kicking habits and addictions can be effective in leading to solutions.”

(Written evidence received: January 12, 2018)

Safeguarding Young People (and their families)

The Community Safety Manager explained to Members that preventative work designed to identify and tackle problems at an early stage was in existence.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

Members heard from the Community Safety Manager that there was a Serious Organised Crime Board model based on deep-dive case studies. This investigates family connections of those convicted and attempts to prevent younger siblings from following a similar route.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

St Giles Trust Cymru advised Members that some vulnerable people perceive drug gang members as role models. They fill a gap in their lives. The caseworker told the Task Group that typically County Lines gangs find out what’s missing in a child’s life and then try to fill it. They target children from broken homes but not exclusively.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Senior Youth Worker advised Members that young people involved with drugs don't engage with youth workers as they're viewed as a "grass" and representing authority. In his view certain young people become involved because of the perceived "cool factor". They aspire to be like the drug dealers with their expensive trainers and nice car.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Community Safety Manager raised concerns about safeguarding vulnerable pupils who have been put on reduced timetables at their school. The logic behind the concern being that it increased the time available to fall prey to drug gangs.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines Caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru, made a point about parental concern over dealing with children involved with drugs. In her view many parents would be afraid to inform on their children as it may lead to removal and ruin their relationship with that child for life.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Substance Misuse Project Manager at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board stressed the importance of highlighting the consequences of drug-related crime to young people.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Community Safety Manager advised Members about the work of peer mentors from communities and the effectiveness when youths are paired up with these people via Peer Membership Projects.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

South Wales Police advised Members that the categories associated with drug-related crime was complex. For example, a runner who is also drug dependent is more victim than criminal. So the question becomes how do we protect vulnerable people at an early stage? He explained that those aged 16 and under don't constitute a massive problem. But it is more difficult for those in their late teens and it's definitely a work-in-progress. He said the current system is not perfect but it is driven by information.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

A councillor highlighted to Members the Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – the service for vulnerable children and adults – and said that nothing happens with approximately 80% of the referrals received.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

Lloyd George Avenue resident observed that help should be available to vulnerable young people so that they're not ruining their lives. She explained that there should be new facilities for homeless people rather than better ways of giving money which has been piloted on the Hayes. (The Give DIFFerently campaign allows payments of £2 via contactless cards).

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

In response to the question: *What are the most effective safeguards that can be introduced at community level?* A former drug dealer said: "Education, Education, Education. Graphic pictures and classes that invite ex dealers, addicts to speak of their experiences are a great way of communicating awareness of the dangers of getting addicted to any substance."

(Written evidence received: January 12, 2018)

The Role of Agencies

Cardiff Council's Community Safety Manager updated Members on key priorities for the Safer and Cohesive Communities Board. The priorities outlined are: **Cohesion & Integration**, under this category it was explained that here are 8 regional coordinators across Wales who analyse tension monitoring reports based on community data. These coordinators assess reports on such issues as the number of hate crimes committed. **Night-time Economy**, this priority concentrates on tackling associated crime and addressing vulnerabilities. It addresses how safe people feel in city and town centres and includes areas such as the homeless situation. **Protecting Vulnerable People**, concentrating on cutting crime and advising on how to reduce reoffending rates. **Resilient Communities**, this is a wide-ranging priority that covers everything from Emergency Planning to Substance Misuse.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

The Community Safety Manager outlined the work carried out by the Serious Organised Crime Board in terms of drawing-up gang profiles in order to combat drug-dealing. It was explained that there is minimal County Lines activity in Cardiff but as a result a close working relationship has been developed with the associated caseworker with St Giles' Trust Cymru. Amongst other community-based activities the charity offers support to people in the criminal justice system.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

Members were advised by St Giles Trust Cymru that there was poor communication and understanding of County Lines crime between UK regions. Also increased resources would help the situation.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru outlined to Members the importance of agencies having regular information sharing meetings.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Achievement Leader for Youth Support at Cardiff Council agreed that the perceived normalisation of drug-use was a significant issue.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Achievement Leader for Youth Support at Cardiff Council told Members that there was a lot of good work being done by schools, the third sector and at community level but that the resulting intelligence isn't being brought together.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School observed that generally within society there was almost an acceptance of moderate social drug use without an understanding of the broader problems for society. Also those who sold cannabis to friends didn't consider it a drug crime. The Achievement Leader for Youth Support at Cardiff Council thought that a range of strategies was needed to tackle drug-dealing.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru questioned the worth of handing leaflets out to youths at community youth centres. But she did point out that South Wales Police had poster campaigns aimed at different organisations. One of the campaigns highlighted what changes to look out for when somebody becomes involved with drugs, which was especially useful for parents. These campaigns have only been running for six months so it was too early to properly evaluate their effectiveness but they appear to be working according to Rebecca.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru told Members that the charity used ex-gang members for talks in schools which had proved effective according to the feedback received.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

KS pointed out the need to challenge the culture and acceptance of drug-use and that current measures weren't robust enough. KS thought that an education programme needed to be developed that was more powerful. He also pointed out that needle exchanges and wet-houses in his ward provided a networking opportunity for those associated with drug-related crime. KS told the group that residents in his ward believed that from a community perspective the situation was getting worse because of this situation which was importing the problem into their community.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Senior caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru claimed that work at an educational level can provide high engagement. Lee makes school visits and can talk about his own background which is different to more traditional establishment figures. He told Members that he started smoking cannabis at 12 or 13, he committed theft, dealt in drugs and served a prison sentence. So in terms of the "badge of honour" amongst drug-related criminals, he had one and youths engaged with and listened to him in a different way because of his background. The charity's senior caseworker explained that his message of rehabilitation extended beyond schools to engaging with youths and former gang-members via recreational activities such as fishing. He also highlighted the problem of normalisation within society and how some vulnerable youths regularly see drug-use within the home environment.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

MP advised Members that millions of pounds had been spent on warning people about the dangers of smoking and yet the only thing to have had a major impact was the legislation banning smoking in enclosed spaces. So therefore he questioned the worth of concentrating on education alone.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Achievement Leader for Youth Support at Cardiff Council advised that a multi-layered strategy was needed which would both work with, and challenge families.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru advised Members that previously, related agencies would meet once a quarter to share resources and advise each other about their latest developments and campaigns. These quarterly meetings no longer happened and communication had become disjointed with agencies less well-informed as a result. She gave the example of the “Fearless” service run by Crimestoppers Wales which is an anonymous channel for reporting crime aimed specifically at young people. “Fearless” plays an important engagement and educational role for young people and yet very few people know about the service or how to use it. She pointed out that the general situation would be improved upon if regular quarterly meetings resumed between related agencies and partners. It would be a good way of sharing resources and promoting services such as confidential ways of reporting crime.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

KS agreed that a multi-layered strategy was needed and the Chair added that localised intelligence was also crucially important. The Community Safety Manager advised that any new strategy needed to work in stages. A softer approach for dealing with vulnerable people at the early stages of enforcement was recommended.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Chair of the Safer & Cohesive Communities Board emphasised that partnership working was an effective way of resolving drug-related crime issues. He highlighted Operation Purple Ash, an initiative to tackle street begging in the city centre, as an example of best-practice. Members were reminded that budgetary constraints were a considerable

challenge for all public sector bodies. It was pointed out that in terms of drug dealing amongst young people it was a UK-wide problem and therefore wasn't something that one partner can tackle alone. So a joined-up approach is the best way forward.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Operational Manager of Children's Services advised Members that a preventative programme funded by the Welsh Government was in existence. It was highlighted that of 150 children brought to the attention of and helped by Children's Services, approximately 30-40 had drug offences. In terms of County Lines activity he highlighted the complex landscape and suggested that a multi-layered approach was needed. He summed up by saying that the way forward needs to include a combination of diversionary activities, a healthy relationship with communities, known families and the ability for everybody to recognise and act on early warning signs of drug involvement.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

Team Leader with Housing & Communities advised Members that currently information outlining parental advice was unclear. She thought that a more accessible and clear tool-kit of information should be made available.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

South Wales Police told Members that in his experience, there was an understanding of the size of the problem and the willingness to work towards a solution amongst public services.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Substance Misuse Project Manager at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, advised that more could be done to "sign-post" young people to existing diversionary services.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Operational Manager of Children's Services, stressed the importance of having clarity on where drug dealing is happening. He pointed out that strategies were in place and claimed that his staff hadn't noticed activity on Saturday night patrols. He told Members that moving forward it was possible to put in requests for expanding projects funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner's Grant Fund.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

South Wales Police outlined to Members the importance of having consistency for all types of drug crime. He emphasised that structures were in place to tackle drug-related crime and that a co-ordinated process exists. However, he did point out that sometimes gaps in the service can't always be seen because of variance of practice caused because partners work for separate organisations. He observed that every agency could possibly do more and that there was certainly the will on behalf of partners to make improvements.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Community Safety Manager advised the group about proposed PSB quarterly network meetings held at different parts of the city which would be organised by the Cardiff Community Safety Partnership.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

Splott resident observed that people weren't being listened to in her opinion. On the issue of locating services in certain areas it was easier for the Authorities to do this if it fitted into the narrative on socio-economic conditions. But she thought that the real question should be what can be done to improve an area.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Education /Awareness Raising

The Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School spoke about the perceived normalisation of taking cannabis. He told the group that the last four permanent exclusions at Fitzalan High School had been because of substance misuse. He talked about the managed exit process and observed that he felt an appropriate care package was needed for pupils excluded and that this should involve the parents signing-up to rehabilitation project for offenders.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

It was pointed out to Members by the Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School that parental classes should be available in schools so that parents are made aware of the warning signs connected with drug involvement.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Members heard from Youth Service Team Leader that police gave talks in schools as part of Welsh Government preventative policy. His view was that the problem with this approach was that an educational message was being lost during the process which focussed on enforcement.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School raised the issue of prevention in schools. He claimed that year 5 and 6 pupils were now displaying behaviour which used to surface at years 8 or 9. He suggested that talks about substance misuse should take place in Primary Schools.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School told Members that that fixed term (reduced) timetables were exclusive and worked out based on the offence. He said that it was a difficult decision for schools to make but that there was little else that schools could do in terms of a punishment.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School thought that specialist anti-drug talks in school were important. But from a schools perspective it was difficult to fit these additional hours into the teaching day. This was because schools had a legal requirement to deliver a set curriculum in schools.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Community Safety Manager highlighted Youth Service work in schools which warned about the dangers/consequences of drug-use and offered a range of diversionary activities. But she did point out that reduced timetables as a deterrent were problematic as they gave vulnerable youths additional unsupervised time which could then be exploited.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

SW Police advised the Task Group about the All-Wales Schools Programme which was funded by the Welsh Government. He outlined the role of Schools Liaison Officers who divided their time equally between work in the community and at schools.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Operational Manager for Children's Services advised Members that in terms of education there was a raft of services available which can help to identify problems. He mentioned the "Families First" packages which had been funded by considerable investment.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Community Safety Manager advised the Task Group that Cardiff Public Services Board was interested in conducting a youth survey with a wider brief, but that attitudes to drug-crime could be included within it. The ambition was for this survey to be sent to all schools and further education colleges in Cardiff.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

It was unanimously agreed that a final recommendation from the Task and Finish Group would be that the Cardiff PSB Youth Survey takes place and that attitudes to drug crime should be included in this study.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

In response to the question: *What role, if any, should education play?* A former drug dealer, replied: "All children should be taught about the dangers of all drugs and alcohol and be shown graphic images of what can happen to a person who is addicted to a substance. This should include pictures of the lungs of smokers. Lessons on what can happen if you do this or that."

(Written evidence received: January 12, 2018)

Crime and Enforcement

Members were advised by the Community Safety Manager that knife crime had increased in the last two quarters.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

When asked about a dominant ethnic grouping associated with anti-social behaviour and drug-dealing, the Community Safety Manager advised Members that those involved in Cardiff were white, working-class, Welsh males in the main.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

The Community Safety Manager advised Members on the Police approach to combating drug dealing in Cardiff. Members were told that SW Police are working on a staged model approach. This sets out interventions before strict enforcement.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

Members heard from the Community Safety Manager that a city-wide rather than localised model was needed in terms of tackling drug-related crime. Members were advised that in Copenhagen there was soft and hard zones in terms of enforcement. In soft zones drug dealing was only monitored by the Police but any activity in the hard zones became an immediate enforcement issue.

(Meeting October 25, 2017)

Members heard how St Giles Trust Cymru worked in partnership with South Wales Police in an attempt to tackle County Lines activity. This work was funded through Children in Need and since July 2017 there had been numerous referrals received. Four of these referrals had been identified as County Lines related and engagement had been provided.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines Caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru explained to the Task Group that those involved with drug-related crime are threatened with weapons and therefore arm themselves.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Members heard from St Giles Trust Cymru that some of those targeted by County Lines gangs can be paid as much as £300 per week just for holding drugs and firearms.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Members were told by St Giles Trust Cymru that some of those extricated by Agencies from gang influence are reluctant to leave because of the support network they have in Cardiff. Caseworker gave the example of a case-study.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Senior caseworker at St Giles Trust Cymru explained to the Task Group how gang members are trained not to talk or “grass” on their mates.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Community Safety Manager for Cardiff Council highlighted the relatively small number of County Lines cases in Cardiff.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Senior Youth Worker observed that in his opinion local drug dealing is following the County Lines model in as much as vulnerable people are being used by gangs to do their “dirty work” for them. St Giles Trust Cymru concurred that local dealing was following the County Lines model in terms of an operating template.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Youth Service Team Leader speculated that as the return was much higher for Class A drugs this is an obvious factor in escalation of dealing. But he did say it was a big jump up from dealing in cannabis. Community Safety Manager told Members that it wasn't necessarily sequential that dealers would escalate to higher grade drugs.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Members were told by Youth Service Team Leader that drug-related activity wasn't a problem in the Centres. If dealing was known to be taking place it would be reported straight away. Members were advised that this is not to say that it doesn't happen, but those in charge of the Centres aren't aware of it taking place. Senior Youth Worker,

explained that the reality was that a dealer didn't need to use the Centres. Because of the criminal nature of the activity it was done in more secluded public places such as car parks.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Community Safety Manager advised Members that a Serious Organised Crime Partnership had just been launched in Cardiff. Opportunities to intervene can be developed as a result of case-study work.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Achievement Leader for Youth Support at Cardiff Council gave Members the example of a young man who returned to working for a gang rather than attending a course offered at Cardiff and Vale College because of the immediate financial gain. Youth Service Team Leader advised Members that there were two reasons in his opinion why young people became involved with drug dealing – (i) poverty and (ii) money. Wrongly, dealing is perceived as an easy option initially for making money.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Senior Youth Worker commented on the relative ease now of starting to deal in drugs. In the past the supply wasn't as plentiful and therefore initial costs were prohibitive.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School said that many young people wouldn't consider supplying cannabis as a drug crime, as the attitude would be it was "only a bag of cannabis."

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

The County Lines Caseworker questioned the effectiveness of Referral Orders as a deterrent.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Senior Youth Worker told Members that in terms of cannabis there was a confusing picture worldwide with many people thinking it was a harmless drug. This viewpoint is strengthened by visiting countries where it is freely available. He gave Members the example of visiting a supermarket in Switzerland where he saw cannabis on sale alongside cigarettes.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Community Safety Manager advised Members that Police grade the intelligence received. The rating for the intelligence is higher if a dealer is named. It is therefore a better option than purely reporting drug dealing on the end of your street or in a public space.

(Meeting January 19, 2018)

Members received South Wales Police data of recorded drug crime amongst those aged between 11 and 24 in Cardiff from 2014 until 2017. The figures show that when totalled together, all types of recorded drug crime had increased year-on-year but not by hugely significant amounts. The total for 2014 = 391, 2015 = 454, 2016 = 484 and the total for 2017 is 498. It was explained that the ward-by-ward figures are recorded in accordance with where the crime was identified. So for example, if a shoplifter at a supermarket in Llandaff is searched in custody and found to be in possession of a controlled substance, the drug related crime is recorded in the ward where the custody suite/ Police station is located. It was observed that this might skew the figures for some wards. White males born in Wales were identified as the biggest group of offenders.

(Meeting January 12, 2018)

South Wales Police briefed Members on the drug crime data for those aged 24 and under. It was pointed out that the overall 2017 figure for the full range of drug-related crimes was 498. The city-wide figure for all ages under just the classification of intent to supply was around 1,000 arrests which added perspective in terms of dealing. He advised Members that the issue of gang membership was very complex. In terms of the youngest end of the age spectrum less than 50 people under 17 were arrested per year. In conclusion, He explained that the figures for those involved in drug crime, under the age of 24, was small but that doesn't mean that a strategy isn't needed to tackle what does take place in Cardiff.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

South Wales Police advised Members that for every 4 people arrested for using drugs, 1 is arrested for supplying. Last year around 100 people were arrested for supplying drugs. The highest number of arrests (309) was for possession of cannabis. The number of arrests for possession of cocaine was 40 which shows a huge disparity between Class A and Class B controlled drugs. He highlighted that in terms of County Lines activity stop and search had been used and some arrests had been made but he advised that the situation wasn't as bad as some parts of the UK where "turf war" took place. He also claimed it was important to understand the complexity of the issue. For example with homeless people it's hard to get a clear picture because of a lack of engagement with official bodies.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

On the issue of community youth provision, South Wales Police pointed out that traditional youth clubs had always had an element of temptation. So it was therefore hard to give one reason for the drug crime situation and he suggested that perhaps a better understanding of the layers of risk and harm was needed.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Operational Manager for Landlord Services gave the Task Group a housing perspective on drug-related crime. She outlined how it was possible to apply pressure via tenancy arrangements in order to change behaviour. However, she did not think that this was the answer. In her opinion it was better to build relationships in order to prevent youth arrests.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

SW Police spoke about confidential lines for the reporting of crime and advised Members that heavy enforcement was counter-intuitive. He advised that it is better to manage the risks rather than lock people up, unless there's a broader public risk. Unsocial behaviour amongst those under 25 was a bigger issue than drug dealing but he accepted that the areas over-lapped and that the situation was complicated.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

KS asked for phone-booths used for drug dealing to be removed and for an increase in stop and search in the Riverside area.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Operational Manager for Children's Services advised Members about the low levels of Class A drug dealing. He informed the group that it was common for dealers to be armed with a knife. For this reason he explained that staff had a metal detector wand which was used before people were allowed into Council-run centres. This was now essential to ensure the safety of staff.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

South Wales Police explained to Members the range of enforcement measures available. For example, restorative programmes rather than criminalisation. But it was pointed out that these options are considered on a case-by-case basis and that sometimes a criminal record is the only effective route to take.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

Community Safety Manager offered Members an explanation on the laws governing stop and search powers. She advised that rather than this approach specific questions need to be asked about what needs to be done for the age group identified.

(Meeting January 23, 2018)

The Community Safety Manager advised Members that investigative work was being carried out by the Serious Organised Crime Agency which responded to alerts about different types of household waste at a particular property. For example, if waste sacks were full of just takeaway packaging this could be a sign of shift patterns by drug dealers at that property.

(Meeting February 20, 2018)

The Into Work Service claimed that the principal problem was that dealing was taking place freely in the open and it appears that there are no consequences.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

A community rep highlighted to Members that Christina Street was one of the worst areas for drug dealing. It was pointed out that on the side-lanes it was common to see people dealing drugs. This was done on a 24-hour basis. He knew of taxi drivers working until 3am

who would see dealers at that time openly selling drugs. He said it appears that drug dealers operate a shift system of working.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Community representatives invited to the Task Group meeting agreed that generally community policing was very good. But the lack of power for Police Community Support Officers was an issue.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

KS observed that there were 3 main issues around drug-related activity in his ward. (i) An addiction issue, (ii) a dealing issue and (iii) the role of agencies in certain areas of the city. KS told Members that there was a perception amongst the public that multi-layer agencies are turning a blind eye to the issue of drug-related crime.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Butetown resident advised Members that the city centre attracted a lot of drug crime from surrounding areas. He thought that the 101 service was a “joke” and that a zero tolerance approach across the city was needed in terms of tackling drug-related crime. He said he wasn’t attacking the Police as they were doing a good job. However, he pointed out that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) had no powers which was a problem. He gave the example of somebody who was moved on by a PCSO after being caught openly injecting in broad daylight in the city centre. **(Meeting April 16, 2018)**

KS observed that the normalisation of drug use in society was the main problem. It was now becoming normal for children to see some drug taking in cities.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Butetown resident observed that some homeless people are begging for money to buy drugs and then deal, and advised that they be targeted by the Authorities. In her opinion there was no reason to be sleeping on the streets as there are beds available in centres for the homeless such as the Huggard. A resident advised Members that a lot of the dealers were coming to the city from outside Cardiff.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

In terms of what can be done to tackle drug-related crime, a resident suggested to Members that a greater Police presence and more CCTV cameras was the answer.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Lloyd George Avenue resident advised Members that the core of the problem was in the city centre. He suggested that this was where people were coming from to use the needle exchanges. He reiterated that a zero tolerance approach was needed. He gave the example of an initiative in Bath, where begging on the street was prohibited.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

Resident suggested to Members that more street lighting and CCTV cameras would also help the situation in Butetown in terms of tackling drug-related crime.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

The Chair said that the Mosque in Butetown needed more support for its community work. SE observed that those offering advice were now more concerned about the dangers of drug dealing than that posed by radicalisation.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

The 'Into Work' coordinator suggested to Members that the emphasis should be on exchange at needle exchanges.

(Meeting April 16, 2018)

In response to the question: *What would you say are the main reasons why people become drug dealers and continue to operate in this way?* Former drug dealer, replied: "The main reasons why many people start dealing in drugs is because they are themselves addicted. There becomes a need for more money to support the addiction and dealing is an easy step to get your own regular supply and to have extra money as well."

(Written evidence received: January 12, 2018)

A former drug dealer was jailed for twelve years for smuggling cocaine, in response to the question: *How should the Police combat County Line crime?* He replied: "Police should not treat illegal drugs as worse than alcohol and legal drugs and not use swat teams as if they

are catching terrorists. Illegal drugs should be legalised in order to have more control over them with taxes and health warnings.”

(Written evidence received: January 12, 2018)

SURVEY RESULTS

As part of the Inquiry, Members were keen to hear from people in the community who may be affected by drug dealing in their area, and to gain a snapshot of people's feelings on what may drive young people to get involved in drugs. Members agreed that it should also include gaining views on how people in the community feel about how the "authorities" are dealing with the issue; and what could be done to tackle the problem going forward.

The Inquiry Group would like to acknowledge the assistance of Cardiff Research Centre, Cardiff Council's Communications Team and colleagues in the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team, who contributed greatly to the success of this work.

METHODOLOGY

Members of the Inquiry Group agreed that an online survey be developed and circulated to networks identified by individual Members, supported by social media coverage by the Council's Communications Team.

The survey was developed and agreed by Members, using SNAP Survey software. The survey was uploaded onto the Cardiff Council website, and links to the survey (in English and Welsh) were circulated to Members for distribution.

In addition, the Chair of the Inquiry Group requested 200 hard copies be circulated to community buildings to encourage further take up of responses.

The survey was open from the 7th to the 23rd March 2018. **In total, 413 responses were received.**

The following sets out the results of the survey

RESULTS

How would you describe drugs-related crime in the area where you live?

Almost two thirds of those surveyed (65.4%) think that drugs-related crime where they live is either a very big problem or a fairly big problem. This compares with slightly more than a quarter (27.2%) who thought it was not a very big problem or not a problem at all. Only

5.1% of those surveyed believe that drugs-related crime is not a problem at all in the area where they live.

	No.	%
A very big problem	131	32.1
A fairly big problem	136	33.3
Not a very big problem	90	22.1
Not a problem at all	21	5.1
Don't Know	30	7.4
Total	408	100.0

In the past 12 months, would you say that the situation has become better or worse?

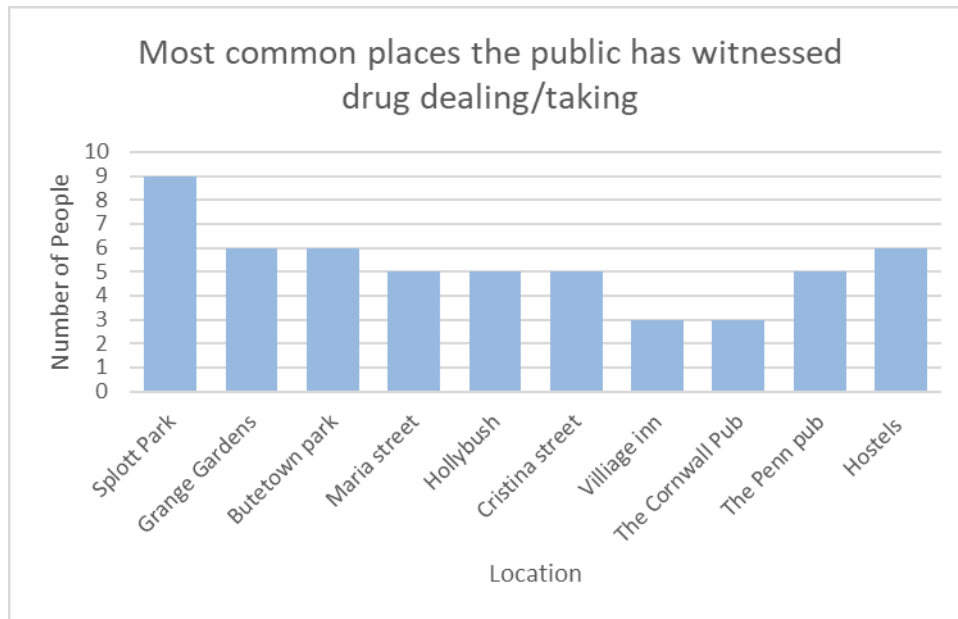
Almost half (47%) of those surveyed think that the situation has become worse in the past 12 months. Only slightly more than 2% of respondents thought that the situation had got better. Just over 39% said that they had noticed no change.

	No.	%
Better	9	2.23
Worse	190	47.0
No Change	159	39.3
Don't Know	46	11.4
Total	404	100

In the area where you live, are there any areas (e.g. pubs, bars, parks etc.) that you know of which are associated with drug dealing?

64% of people know areas in their neighbourhood where drug dealing takes place. Compared with 20% who didn't know of any areas associated with drug dealing.

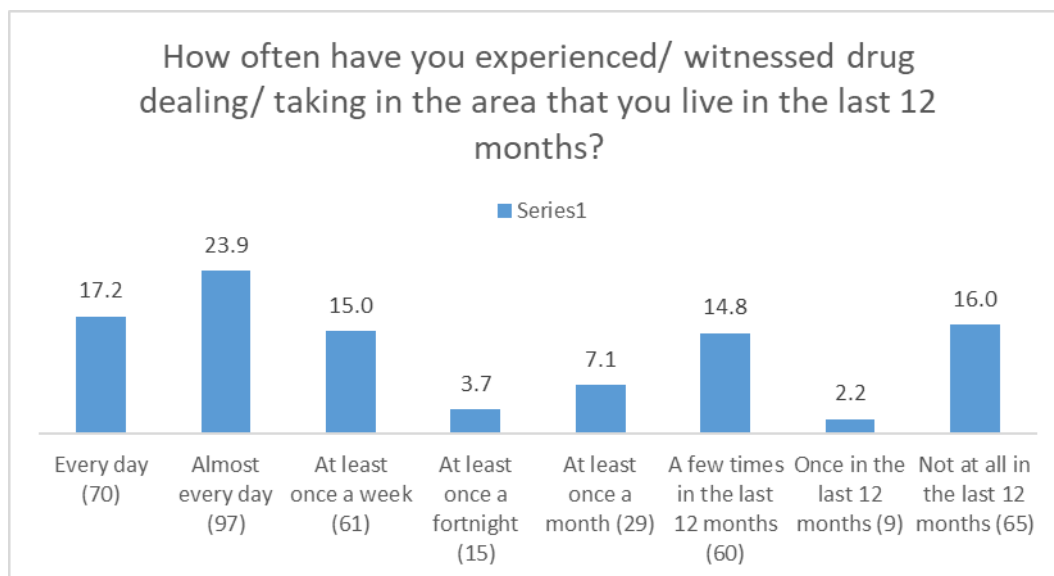
	No.	%
Yes	260	64
No	80	20
Don't Know	67	16
Total	407	100



How often have you experienced/ witnessed drug dealing/ taking in the area that you live in the last 12 months?

In the past 12 months 17.2% of those surveyed claim to have witnessed drug dealing every day in the area where they live. Only 16% of respondents had seen no drug dealing in their neighbourhood. Just under 24% witnessed drug dealing almost every day and 15% had seen it take place at least once a week.

	No.	%
Every day	70	17
Almost every day	97	24
At least once a week	61	15
At least once a fortnight	15	4
At least once a month	29	7
A few times in the last 12 months	60	15
Once in the last 12 months	9	2
Not at all in the last 12 months	65	16
Total	406	100



Have you ever reported a drug-related crime to the Police or another agency e.g. 101, crime-stoppers etc.?

Over 40% of residents have seen drug-related crime in their area but chose not to report it. This compares with just over 35% who say they've reported this sort of crime to either the Police or another agency. 24.1% of respondents hadn't witnessed a crime of this sort.

	No.	%
Yes – to the police	120	30
Yes to another agency	24	6
No - I have never witnessed a crime of this sort	97	24
No - I have witnessed a drug related crime but chose not to report	162	40
Total	403	100

If yes, how would you describe your experience of reporting the crime?

Just over 50% of those who reported drug-related crime described their experience as either not very good or not good at all. This compares with the slightly more than 20% who described the response they received as either very good or quite good. But 27.9% of those who reported drug crime to the Police or another agency described the experience as neither good nor bad.

	No.	%
Very good	10	7
Quite good	19	14
Neither good or bad	39	28
Not very good	48	34
Not good at all	24	17
Total	140	100

Do you think young people in your area are at a greater risk to elsewhere in the city?

Just over 40% of residents think that young people are at greater risk in their locality than they are elsewhere in the city. But 36% believe that this is not the case. 23% of respondents didn't know one way or the other.

	No.	%
Yes	165	41
No	147	36
Don't Know	94	23
Total	406	100

Do you think the Authorities do enough to tackle drugs amongst young people?

On the issue of whether or not Authorities do enough to tackle drug crime amongst young people, only 6% of those surveyed thought that they did. A clear majority of 67% thought that the Authorities didn't do enough and 27% of responses said that they don't know one way or the other.

	No.	%
Yes	21	6
No	254	67
Don't Know	101	27
Total	376	100

If no, what more do you think they could do? (Please choose your top three priorities ONLY)

In terms of what more Authorities could do to tackle drug crime amongst young people, the most popular responses were:-

- (i) More activities available to young people in the community
- (ii) Earlier intervention in protecting vulnerable young people
- (iii) Better job opportunities – training, apprenticeships etc.

Better drug education in schools was also a popular option with just over 13% of respondents selecting this priority.

	No.	%
Better drug education in schools	88	13
Involve more members of the community in the lives of young people	49	7
Improved safeguarding of vulnerable young people	77	12
Community role models / ambassadors	24	4
Earlier intervention in protecting vulnerable young people	116	18
Better education opportunities	36	5
More activities available to young people in the community	126	19
Better job opportunities - training, apprenticeships etc.	102	16
Other	38	6
Total	656	100

What do you believe are the biggest influencers to young people becoming involved with drug dealing? (tick 3 only)

On the subject of what influenced young people to become involved with drug dealing, the most popular responses were:-

- (i) It's an easy way to make money
- (ii) Lack of positive role models in the family
- (iii) Lack of education and employment opportunities

	No.	%
It's an easy way to make money	147	12.9
Lack of positive role models in the family	126	11.1
Lack of education and employment opportunities	116	10.2
Peer Pressure	108	9.5
Poverty	98	8.6
Little consequence	94	8.3
Poor home environment / In care	73	6.4
Boredom	67	5.9
Fund own drug habit	66	5.8
Its "cool"	62	5.4
Increased status amongst peers	56	4.9
Lack of positive role models within the community	37	3.2
Lack of education	28	2.5
Curiosity	26	2.3
Other	20	1.8
Don't Know	15	1.3

Are you...

In terms of the gender of respondents – 62% are female, 35% male and 3% classed themselves as other or preferred not to say.

	No.	%
Male	140	35
Female	251	62
Other	2	0.5
Prefer Not To Say	11	2.5
Total	404	100

What was your age on your last birthday? (please tick one box only)

Given that the survey looks specifically at drug related crime and young people, it is gratifying that 5% of respondents are aged 16 -24 and that 26% are aged between 25 and 34. The majority of responses (32%) came from the 35 – 44 age range and 19% of respondents are aged between 45 and 54. A good sample was achieved across the age groups.

	No.	%
Under 16	1	0.5
16-24	19	5
25-34	107	26
35-44	130	32
45-54	75	18.5
55-64	49	12
65-74	19	5
75+	4	1
Total	404	100

Which area of Cardiff do you live in?

Responses were received from all areas of the city. The highest number of respondents (23%) live in the Pentwyn area but this was followed by Butetown at 12%, Grangetown on 11% and 8% of responses came from the Splott area. Given the context of the original letter from Cllr Lynda Thorne it is especially gratifying that such a good response was received from the Butetown and Grangetown areas of Cardiff.

	No.	%
Pentwyn	93	23
Butetown	51	12
Grangetown	44	11
Splott	31	8
Heath	18	4
Penylan	18	4
Riverside	16	4
Canton	14	3
Gabalfa	12	3
Plasnewydd	11	3
Whitchurch & Tongwynlais	14	3
Adamstown	9	2
Caerau	7	2
Cyncoed	7	2
Ely	7	2
Fairwater	9	2
Pontprennau/ Old St Mellons	8	2
Towbridge	8	2
Cathays	4	1
Llanishen	4	1
Rhiwbina	5	1
Rumney	4	1
Creigiau/ St Fagans	3	0.5
Lisvane	2	0.5
Llandaff	1	0.5
Llandaff North	3	0.5
Llanrumney	2	0.5
Pentyrch	3	0.5
Radyr & Morganstown	2	0.5
Outside of Cardiff	2	0.5
Total	412	100

DRUG DEALING TASK & FINISH GROUP – 16 APRIL 2018

Review of studies into the exploitation of children & young people in drug-related activity

Background

1. This Inquiry's Terms of Reference included the commitment to...

Identify and investigate:

- The contributing factors that give rise to young people being involved in drug dealing in the city
- Determine the effectiveness of current policies and services in protecting and preventing young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city.
- Identify Good Practice

2. The following is a review and summary of studies that have taken place into drug (and gang) related activities. The studies are:

1. ***Intervening early to prevent gang and youth violence: The Role of Primary Schools*** – Early Intervention Foundation (March 2018)
2. ***New Psychoactive Substances: the response by Probation and substance misuse services in the community in England*** – HM Inspectorate of Probation and the Care Quality Commission (November 2017)
3. ***Criminal Exploitation of children & Vulnerable Adults: County Lines Guidance*** – Home Office (July 2017)
4. ***County Lines Gang Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply 2016*** – National Crime Agency (November 2016)
5. ***Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation*** – HM Government (January 2016)

3. The following summarises the findings in relation to Paragraph 1 of this paper to assist Members in identifying:

- What factors may determine a young person becoming involved in drug dealing
- What are statutory agencies and partners doing to tackle this issue
- Best Practice from across the UK

4. INTERVENING EARLY TO PREVENT GANG AND YOUTH VIOLENCE: THE ROLE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS – EARLY INTERVENTION FOUNDATION (MARCH 2018)

This report was chosen for review following evidence received at the evidence gathering session in January, which highlighted the critical role of schools in not only identifying children who may be at risk and vulnerable to exploitation, but also the crucial role schools play in the lives of children and young people and their development. It also highlights that schools provide strong role models, and the issues that school staff face when presented with a child that may be showing signs of “taking the wrong path”. Whilst it is aimed at risks in relation to gang and youth violence and not drugs directly, the fact that it studies issues in relation to children as young as seven years old, it was deemed important to consider in terms of risk factors, the role of schools, and a number of recommendations that may be used in developing good practice.

The full report can be access here:

<http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/intervening-early-to-prevent-gang-and-youth-violence-the-role-of-primary-schools/>

Overview

The report explores the extent to which young children at risk of gang involvement or youth violence are supported through evidence-based early intervention, particularly within **primary schools**. It draws on qualitative interviews with schools, local government officials, police and voluntary sector organisations within the London boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth, and builds on earlier EIF research which indicated that risk factors for gang involvement and youth violence can be spotted as early as age seven.

The research paints a picture of primary school staff who know their children and local families well, and who go above and beyond to try to provide strong, positive role models and to support children’s emotional wellbeing. However, there is also a strong sense that some school staff are intensely frustrated and feel unsupported in their efforts to work with vulnerable children. Some staff expressed anger and sadness as they told the EIF that they feel unable to change children’s outcomes in spite of their best efforts.

The school staff and stakeholders the EIF spoke to identified a range of concerns, including:

- the lack of a clear or shared understanding of the level of risk within a school

- a lack of clarity or confidence in identifying and accessing statutory and other services beyond the school walls
- a limited awareness of the range and quality of external support that is available to schools, and little evaluation of the external support that is commissioned
- the pressure on schools to focus on academic performance to the exclusion of children's wellbeing, a challenge which is often exacerbated in schools located in areas where the risk of gang and youth violence is likely to be higher.

The **recommendations** concentrated on four areas:

- improving the **use of evidence** in commissioning in-school support and programmes, including by providing improved information to schools and by calling on funders and commissioners at the national or regional level to make evidence-based decisions
- increasing the emphasis on and time available for developing children's **social and emotional skills** in primary schools, including by making PSHE compulsory in all schools and by requiring Ofsted to consider how well schools are supporting children's wellbeing alongside the academic performance
- improving the links between schools and the **wider early help system** in their area, so that school staff are clear about the options that are open to them and confident that referrals will result in support for children and families
- examining how the **police** can most effectively work within primary schools to help prevent gang and youth violence.

The report is the first output of a three-year project that will explore and support the testing of evidence-informed approaches to early intervention to prevent gang involvement and youth violence. The EIF will be working with the local authorities, police, participating schools and providers in Lambeth and Wandsworth over the next two years, with a view to co-designing, implementing and testing new approaches to preventing gang and youth violence through effective early intervention.

5. NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES: THE RESPONSE BY PROBATION AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY IN ENGLAND – HM INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION AND THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (NOVEMBER 2017)

Whilst this study was targeted at “**New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) - formerly known as “legal highs” - and the work of the probation service, it was felt that this study be included as NPS’s are an increasing problem, highlighted regularly in the media, and although banned, are cheap and easy to obtain.** The report also highlighted examples of some good initiatives by local partners which Members may find useful.

A copy of the full report can be found here:

<https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/ciji/inspections/newpsychoactivesubstances/>

Overview

The Inspection covered:

- 59 cases examined in detail
- 102 interviews with police, health and drug misuse professionals
- 33 interviews with probation leaders and frontline staff
- 25 interviews with service users and peer mentors

To give context the study found:

- **620 New Psychoactive Substances being monitored by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, at the end of 2016.**
- **147,000 estimated users in England and Wales**
- **1.6% young men aged 16-24 have used NPS**
- **75% of NPS users have used other drugs**
- **79 deaths of prisoners and probation service users associated with NPS 2013-2016**

Key findings:

- The assessments and plans completed by substance misuse services were sufficient overall
- Probation workers do not know enough about NPS use to help service users into treatment and to reduce offending.

- Probation providers did not always know what was available through substance misuse services
- **The risks to children and vulnerable adults were not considered often enough**
- Confidence, knowledge and awareness were the key areas that affected the quality of work for both probation and substance misuse services.
- Prisoners were being released into the community with no information shared about their NPS use with probation or substance misuse services.

Whilst the inspection was focussed on probation services, the findings above indicate that there are gaps in areas such as specialist knowledge, working with other agencies, and information sharing – all of which have also been highlighted during this Inquiry. The Executive Summary on Pages 9 and 10 of the report give more detail on these issues.

Examples of good Practice

This inspection highlighted a number of key areas of good practice in relation to tackling NPS. These are detailed below.

Good practice example of a coordinated approach to tackling NPS:

Northumbria Police has taken a leading role in the area's approach to dealing with concerns about NPS. A combination of police responses, collaborative working with partners and the new legislation has meant that NPS-related incidents have reduced dramatically, not only in Newcastle city centre but across Northumbria.

Work started with Operation Jakarta, conducted by the city centre neighbourhood support team in conjunction with Newcastle City Council in July 2015. Several different approaches were used, including Community Protection Notices, Closure Orders and two charges under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985. Subsequent work focused on providing support and safeguarding NPS users. Operation Falconry, implemented as a direct result of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, resulted in thousands of pounds of NPS being seized and court proceedings against suppliers. In response, NPS incidents in the city centre reduced dramatically.

Good practice example: the response in Manchester

The use of NPS in Manchester has been widely reported in the media. Production was often home grown, with organised crime groups sourcing liquid synthetic cannabinoid from China, sometimes via Eastern Europe, and making up their own final product by spraying the liquid onto dried leaves and bagging it up. Test purchases of NPS revealed that these samples were up to 700 times stronger than what had previously been sold in head shops: "Like swapping a pint of lager for a pint of vodka" (Dr Ralphs, senior criminology lecturer at

Manchester Metropolitan University). The true extent of the problem was unclear, owing to poor recording and knowledge gaps at the front line (health, housing, police, prisons and probation). There was also a mistaken belief that substance misuse services could not help with NPS. In response, the local authority is coordinating a multi-agency response involving public health, police, drugs agencies and children's services. The substance misuse service Change, Grow, Live (CGL) took services out into the community to where NPS use was most prevalent. It was linked with day centres and night shelters, where it had a regular presence and specifically focused on NPS use. Eighty staff benefited from training with the mental health Dual Diagnosis Liaison Service, focused on mental health interventions and strategies for responding to crises and managing risks. Police officers' main focus had been tackling supply and closing head shops where NPS were still being sold. They moved to be co-located with the neighbourhood homeless team, working together to address NPS use among street homeless. Manchester strategic partners developed workshops to deliver training and share good practice and lessons learned from the front line. Staff working in day centres, hostels, supported housing, approved premises and prisons have contributed their expertise, gained through day-to-day contact with NPS users. Greater Manchester is now using a Local Drug Information System model developed by Mike Linnell for PHE. The model has been set up for professionals to share information about drugs with other members. This could include alert notices or discussion topics around new symptoms or reactions that have emerged. It is intended to respond to immediate risk, to be a low-cost, low-maintenance multidisciplinary system that uses existing local expertise and resources.

6. CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS: COUNTY LINES GUIDANCE – HOME OFFICE (JULY 2017)

This guidance focusses on identifying and explaining how young people are exploited for county lines drug activity. Whilst County Lines is not currently a major issue in Cardiff (based on evidence received to date), it none the less highlights how vulnerable young people are targeted for drug-related activity.

Copy of the full guidance document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

This is a guide produced by the Home Office for frontline staff who work with children, young people and potentially vulnerable adults. The guidance sets out an explanation of what County Lines exploitation is, which Members will already be aware of and states:

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating

impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

This guide also sets out how county lines, like other forms of abuse and exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

It also goes on to state that

- Children as young as 12 years old being exploited by gangs to courier drugs out of their local area; 15-16 years is the most common age range.
- Both males and females being exploited.
- White British children being targeted because gangs perceive they are more likely to evade police detection.
- The use of social media to make initial contact with children and young people.
- Class A drug users being targeted so that gangs can takeover their homes (known as cuckooing)

The guidance also sets out the factors that makes a young person “vulnerable”. This includes:

- Having prior experience of neglect, physical and/ or sexual abuse;
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);

- Social isolation or social difficulties;
- Economic vulnerability;
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
- Connections with other people involved in gangs;
- Having a physical or learning disability;
- Having mental health or substance misuse issues;
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)

This Guidance also sets out a case study from South Wales Police:

At least one vulnerable female has been used by a gang from London to sexually service its members and has been subjected to sexual violence. As a result of drugs debts they attempted to kidnap her at least twice and it is believed that they have also trafficked her to London in order to pay off a debt through prostitution.

7. COUNTY LINES GANG VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND DRUG SUPPLY 2016 – NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY (NOVEMBER 2016)

This report informed the production of the guidance detailed in Paragraph 6 above and drew its information on returns from UK Police Forces. A Copy of the full report is set out here:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/958-county-lines-drug-networks-now-a-nation-wide-issue>

In relation to this Inquiry, it gives an overview of:

- Typical County Lines Methodology
- Scope and scale of County Lines
- Gang Origins
- Common themes and characteristics
- Drug Markets and Supply
- Exploitation of children
- Links to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Violence
- Telephone Lines
- Transport

The key conclusions drawn on this study are highlighted on pages 12 and 13 of the attached document.

8. ENDING GANG VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION – HM GOVERNMENT (JANUARY 2016)

This document sets out the 6 priorities of the new cross-government approach to ending gang violence and exploitation.

In particular, it is aimed at local areas that were involved in the Home Office ending gang and youth violence (EGYV) programme. The refreshed approach responds to the needs identified by the EGYV frontline team and its partners.

The document is also aimed at:

- local partners in policing
- local authorities
- the voluntary sector

A copy of the full report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-gang-violence-and-exploitation>

This 8 page reports sets out an overview of the 6 priorities mentioned above, including:

- **Tackle county lines** – the exploitation of vulnerable people by a hard core of gang members to sell drugs
- **Protect vulnerable locations** – places where vulnerable young people can be targeted, including pupil referral units and residential children’s care homes
- **Reduce violence and knife crime** – including improving the way national and local partners use tools and powers
- **Safeguard gang-associated women and girls** – including strengthening local practices.
- **Promote early intervention** – using evidence from the Early Intervention Foundation to identify and support vulnerable children and young people (including identifying mental health problems)
- **Promote meaningful alternatives** to gangs such as education, training and employment

INQUIRY METHODOLOGY

<p>Meeting 1 17 October 2017 Room 263C, County Hall</p>	<p>Setting the context</p> <p>To receive a context (paving) report outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the UK – wide legislation relating to drugs – enforcement, sentencing, penalties • Overview of drug-related activities in the UK- scale of the issue • UK Government Drug Strategy 2017 • Welsh Government Drug Strategies and Initiatives • Cardiff Strategic and operational arrangements, data, on drug related crime rates, local media articles • Some examples from other parts of the UK in tackling drug related crime <p>Members to discuss and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for undertaking the inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Election of Chairperson to lead the inquiry ○ Timescales ○ Number of meetings • What the Task Group ultimately wants to achieve from the inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terms of Reference ○ Scope of the inquiry • Potential Witnesses • Potential Research
<p>Meeting 2 25 October 2017 Room 263C, County Hall</p>	<p>Planning meeting - to deliberate what has considered to date and the next steps in the investigation</p> <p>Steph Kendrick-Doyle, Community Safety Manager will be in attendance at this meeting to set the context in Cardiff, including the work of the council and its partners, the role of the PSB and some data/information on the landscape in Cardiff.</p>
<p>Meeting 3 12 January 2018 Room 263C, County Hall</p>	<p>Planning meeting – to agree updated Scope, Terms of Reference and the draft questionnaires/ surveys</p> <p>The Task Group were presented with South Wales Police data of recorded drug crime amongst those aged between 11 and 24 in Cardiff from 2014 until 2017. The group were also updated on witnesses confirmed for forthcoming meetings.</p>

<p>Meeting 4 19 January 2018 Function Room A, City Hall</p>	<p>Evidence gathering “Round Table” Discussions with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Morris, Achievement Leader (Youth Support) • James Healan, Team Leader (Youth Service) • Stephen McCambridge, Senior Youth Worker (Lifelong Learning) • Lee Dutton, Senior Caseworker, St Giles Trust Cymru • Rebecca Miller, County Lines Caseworker, St Giles Trust Cymru • Alun Evans, Behaviour Manager at Fitzalan High School • Tom Bailey, Behaviour Team at Fitzalan High School
<p>Meeting 5 23 January 2018 Function Room A, City Hall</p>	<p>Evidence gathering “Round Table” Discussions with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimee Bamford, Cardiff Probation Office • Louise Bassett, Team Leader, Housing & Communities, Cardiff Council Ellen Curtis, OM, Landlord Services, Cardiff Council • Ben Davies, Substance Misuse Project Manager, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board • Inspector Gary Evans, South Wales Police • Dan Jones, OM, Children’s Services, Cardiff Council • Chief Inspector Joe Jones, South Wales Police • Steph Kendrick-Doyle, Community Safety Manager, Cardiff Council • Sian Kirby, Tenancy Manager, Landlord Services, Cardiff Council • Joe Reay, Head of Performance & Partnerships, Cardiff Council
<p>Meeting 6 20 February 2018 Room 263C, County Hall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review evidence received to date and any written evidence • Receive update on surveys/ questionnaires • To discuss emerging themes • To identify gaps/ further work needed
<p>Meeting 7 16 April 2018 Meeting Room D City Hall</p>	<p>Evidence gathering “Round Table” Discussions with community representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyn Eynon • Ayan Hersi • Intisar Ibrahim • Adam Ismail • Layla Saeed • Hussein Samater • Sara Omar • Debbie Wilson • Tom Wilson. <p>Drugs Survey – Findings</p> <p>Review of studies on Young People’s Attitudes to Drugs –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Digital “<i>Smoking, Drinking And Drug Use Among Young People England: 2016</i>”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Give Us A Chance” – Barnardos • Youth Attitudes On Drugs - European Commission/Gallup (2011) <p>Review of studies into the exploitation of children & young people in drug-related activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Intervening early to prevent gang and youth violence: The Role of Primary Schools</i> – Early Intervention Foundation (March 2018) • <i>New Psychoactive Substances: the response by Probation and substance misuse services in the community in England</i> – HM Inspectorate of Probation and the Care Quality Commission (November 2017) • <i>Criminal Exploitation of children & Vulnerable Adults: County Lines Guidance</i> – Home Office (July 2017) • <i>County Lines Gang Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply 2016</i> – National Crime Agency (November 2016) • <i>Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation</i> – HM Government (January 2016)
--	--

Community Survey

As part of the Inquiry, Members were keen to hear from people in the community who may be affected by drug dealing in their area, and to gain a snapshot of people’s feelings on what may drive young people to get involved in drugs. Members agreed that it should also include gaining views on how people in the community feel about how the “authorities” are dealing with the issue; and what could be done to tackle the problem going forward.

METHODOLOGY

Members of the Inquiry Group agreed than an online survey be developed and circulated to networks identified by individual Members, supported by social media coverage by the Council’s Communications Team.

The survey was developed and agreed by Members, using SNAP Survey software. The survey was uploaded onto the Cardiff Council website, and links to the survey (in English and Welsh) were circulated to Members for distribution.

In addition, the Chair of the Inquiry Group requested 200 hard copies be circulated to community buildings to encourage further take up of responses.

The survey was open from the 7th to the 23rd March 2018. **In total, 413 responses were received.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Overview of UK- wide legislation relating to drugs – enforcement, sentencing, penalties
 - The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
 - Psychoactive Substances Act 2016
 - The Medicines Act 1968
 - Customs and Excise Management Act 1979
 - Road Traffic Act 1972
 - Drug Trafficking Act 1994
 - Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Written evidence submitted by former drug dealer Pastor Brian Morris who was jailed for 12 years for smuggling cocaine.
- Media coverage- to be detailed in draft report
- HM Government Drug Strategy (July 2017)
- Working Together to Reduce Harm: The Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales 2008-18
- Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance. (Home Office, July 2017)
- Injunctions to Prevent Gang-Related Violence and Gang-Related Drug Dealing - A Practitioners' Guide. (Home Office, May 2016)
- Statutory Guidance: Injunctions to Prevent Gang-Related Violence and Gang-Related Drug Dealing. (Home Office, May 2016)
- Ending gang violence and exploitation. (Home Office, January 2016)
- NHS Digital "*Smoking, Drinking And Drug Use Among Young People England: 2016*".
- "Give Us A Chance" – Barnardos
- Youth Attitudes On Drugs - European Commission/Gallup (2011)
- *Intervening early to prevent gang and youth violence: The Role of Primary Schools* – Early Intervention Foundation (March 2018)

- *New Psychoactive Substances: the response by Probation and substance misuse services in the community in England* – HM Inspectorate of Probation and the Care Quality Commission (November 2017)
- *County Lines Gang Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply 2016* – National Crime Agency (November 2016)

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Executive/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

**JOINT CYPSC/CASSC INQUIRY – DRUGS
TASK & FINISH GROUP**



Councillor Lee Bridgeman – Chair
CYPSC



Councillor Mary McGarry – Chair
CASSC



Councillor Saeed Ebhrahim – Butetown
Ward/CASSC Member – ***Inquiry Chairperson***



Councillor Mike Phillips – CYPSC
Member



Councillor Kathryn Kelloway – CASSC
Member



Councillor Kanaya Singh – CYPSC Member



Councillor Ashley Lister – Grangetown Ward Member

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of children and young people, including the following:

- School Improvement
- Schools Organisation
- School Support Services
- Education, Welfare and Inclusion
- Early Years Development
- Special Educational Needs
- Governor Services
- Children's Social Services
- Children and Young Peoples Partnership
- Youth Services and Justice
- Play Services

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the Welsh Government, Welsh Government, Sponsored Public Bodies and quasi-departmental non-governmental bodies on the effectiveness of the Council's service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures which may enhance the Council's performance in this area.

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of community and adult services, including:

- Public and Private Housing
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Community Safety
- Neighbourhood Renewal and Communities Next
- Advice & Benefit
- Consumer Protection
- Older Persons Strategy
- Adult Social Care
- Community Care Services
- Mental Health & Physical Impairment
- Commissioning Strategy
- Health Partnership

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the Welsh Government, joint local government services, Welsh Government-sponsored public bodies and quasi-departmental non-governmental bodies on the effectiveness of Council service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures which may enhance Council performance and service delivery in this area.

To be the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee as required by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and any re-enactment or modification thereof; and as full delegate of the Council to exercise all the powers and functions permitted under that Act.

APPENDIX 1:

Email to Task Group containing response from former drug dealer, Pastor Brian Morris. It was received by Scrutiny Services on January 12, 2018.

Dear Councillor,

I've been in touch with a former drug dealer in order to gather evidence for your Task Group. Pastor Brian Morris was jailed for 12 years for smuggling cocaine – more information here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-14554527> . He's currently too unwell to attend a meeting but he's answered my questions which I send for your information.

What led you to become involved with drugs?

I was aged 16 in December 1969 and had left school aged 15 about 6 months before. Flower power and the hippy scene were well established and my friends and I listened to Jimi Hendrix and Fleetwood Mac. We started attending the first British pop festivals in 1969 and 1970 in Bath, Shepton Mallet and the Isle of Wight. Drugs were the new fashion with the hippy movement and we were excited to smoke weed and take LSD. We all felt it was the cool thing to do. But little did we know it was a slippery slope to a wrecked life.

What would you say are the main reasons why people become drug dealers and continue to operate in this way?

The main reasons why many people start dealing in drugs is because they are themselves addicted. There becomes a need for more money to support the addiction and dealing is an easy step to get your own regular supply and to have extra money as well.

What is the most effective way of tackling community drug dealing?

The most effective way of helping to understand community drug dealing is to talk to those involved and try to see things from their point of view. Drugs are used by most people in society illegal and legal including alcohol. Addiction comes in many forms. Illegal drugs are not more evil than alcohol or legal drugs. Regular meetings to discuss ways of kicking habits and addictions can be effective in leading to solutions.

How should the Police combat County Line crime?

Police should not treat illegal drugs as worse than alcohol and legal drugs and not use swat teams as if they are catching terrorists. Illegal drugs should be legalised in order to have more control over them with taxes and health warnings.

What role, if any, should education play?

All children should be taught about the dangers of all drugs and alcohol and be shown graphic images of what can happen to a person who is addicted to a substance. This should include pictures of the lungs of smokers. Lessons on what can happen if you do this or that...

What are the tell-tale signs that someone is getting involved with drugs?

Dishevelled and unkempt physical appearance, twitchy nervousness and constant itching, loud talking, blotchy skin and weight loss are all signs of drug or alcohol addiction.

What are the most effective safeguards that can be introduced at community level?

Education, Education, Education. Graphic pictures and classes that invite ex dealers, addicts to speak of their experiences are a great way of communicating awareness of the dangers of getting addicted to any substance.

I hope that this written evidence is useful and broadens understanding of some of the issues around drug-related crime.

Scrutiny Services, Cardiff County Council
County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW
Tel: 029 2087 2296 Fax: 029 2087 2579
Email: scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk