

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Community Safety Partnership Brief**

**19 MAY 2021**

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**Working to Prevent Drug Dealing and Drug Related Crime in Cardiff following the outbreak of Covid-19**

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**1. Introduction**

To provide the Committee with a brief of the following:

- An overview of the current Community Safety Partnership landscape and governance structure.
- A profile of all forms of drug dealing and drug related crime in Cardiff, prior to the initial covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 and as it currently stands.
- To demonstrate how the Community Safety Partnership are planning to address this issue and provide insight into any associated challenges.
- To receive an update on the relevant recommendations put forward by the 2018 joint Task & Finish inquiry.

**2.0 Community Safety Partnership Overview**

**2.1 Vision**

2.1.1 Over the last year, Covid-19 has brought significant and unprecedented challenges across public services, requiring a recalibration of resources and partnership focus to respond to emergent issues across the city. In the wake of the pandemic, the Community Safety Partnership delivered an effective and coordinated response to the new regulatory environment, with safeguarding and public health at its core.

2.1.2 As we emerge from the pandemic and look towards the city's recovery, the Community Safety Partnership have agreed a strategic governance structure with four thematic work programmes. Drug-related crime and its impacts are complex and require a long-term multi-agency focus which includes both prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation pathways.

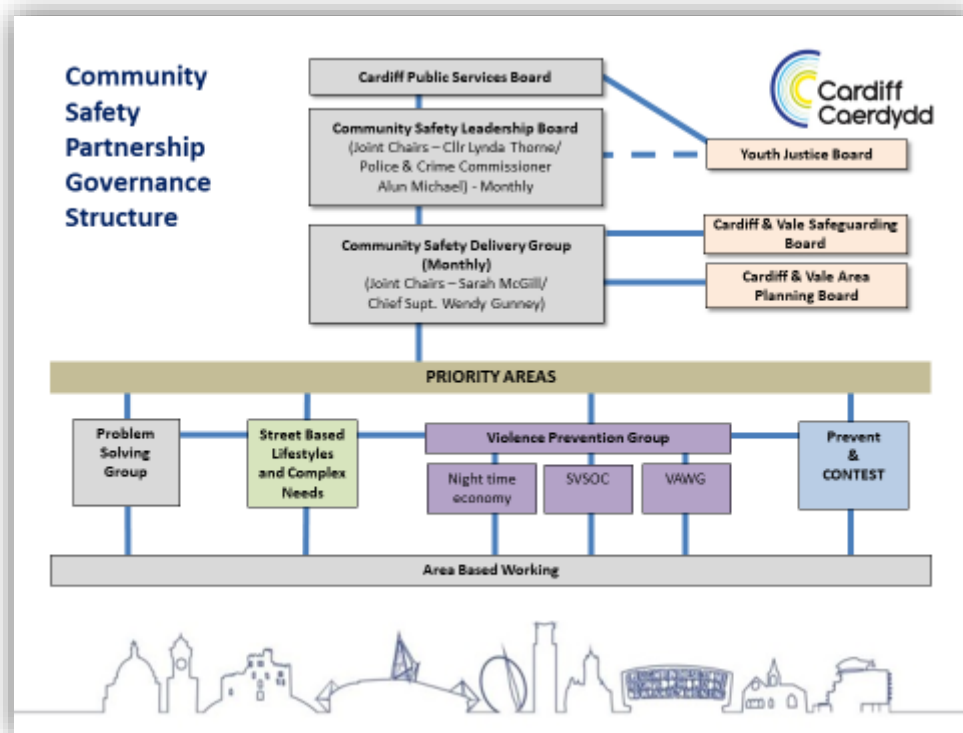
2.1.3 This briefing highlights some of the key projects and deliverables for the Community Safety Partnership with relevance to drug-related crime across the four strategic priorities; which covers diverse work areas ranging from a public health approach for those struggling with substance misuse, through to diversionary support and targeted

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local approaches for parts of the city experiencing the harmful impact of drug-related behaviours and crime in their neighbourhood.

2.1.4 These groups will report their progress directly to the Community Safety Delivery Group via high level reports, which are then provided to the Leadership Board and Public Services Board sequentially.

2.1.5 This new structure has been created to provide partners with a clear line of sight between key themes and encourage effective join up and collaboration across the Community Safety Partnership. The attendance of each thematic group ensures broad representation of statutory partners as well as other key stakeholders, such as; C3SC, Safer Wales and FOR Cardiff.

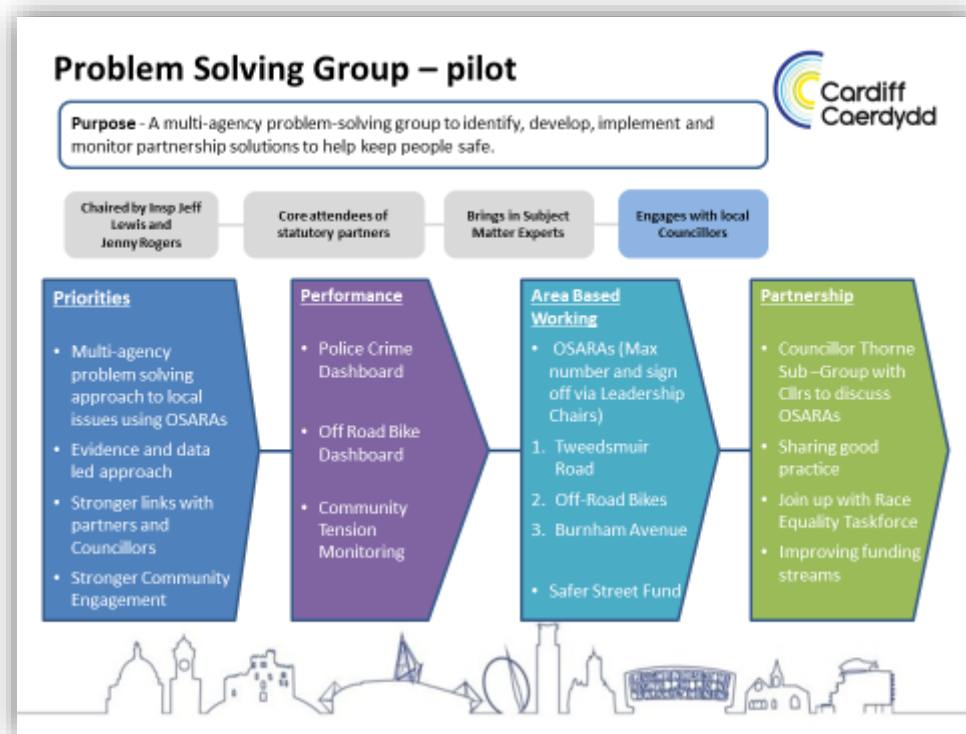


2.2.6 A strong partnership approach is central to the delivery of our priorities and the work of the Community Safety Partnership is also aligned with key partnership strategies and associated boards, such as the Child Friendly City Strategy, the Youth Justice Development Strategy 2020-2022, and the Young Person Safeguarding Strategy.

2.2.7 Following the confirmation of the above governance structure in March 2021, the partnership are well-poised to deliver against their priorities and are ambitious in their pursuit.

2.2.8 The following section of this report explains the role of the Community Safety Partnership's thematic sub-groups, their areas of focus for 2021-2022 and highlights areas of work that will be of interest to the Committee in relation to drug-related crime.

## 2.3 Problem Solving Group

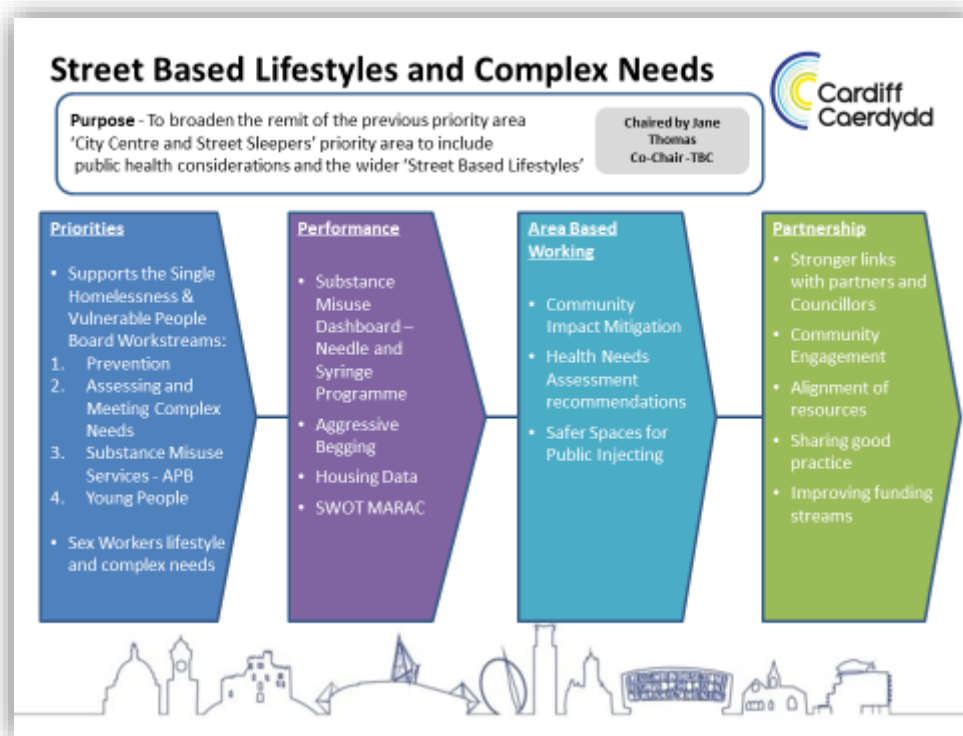


2.3.1 This group is a one-year pilot of a multi-agency problem solving group which seeks to address complex localised issues. Where issues are identified and meet the criteria/remit of the group, the multi-agency partners will conduct an OSARA (A police problem solving model which stands for – Objectives, Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment) in order to develop an action plan for addressing the issue.

2.3.2 There is also an additional sub-group meeting which is held with Councillors to provide them with updates on the live OSARAs. This process enables elected members to contribute local knowledge, to support agreed actions and assist their communication with constituents regarding these issues. There are currently three OSARAs being progressed by the Community Safety Partnership; Tweedsmuir Road, Off-Road Bikes, and Burnham Avenue. For all three OSARAs there are underlying concerns relating to youths being involved in drug related activity.

## 2.4 Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs

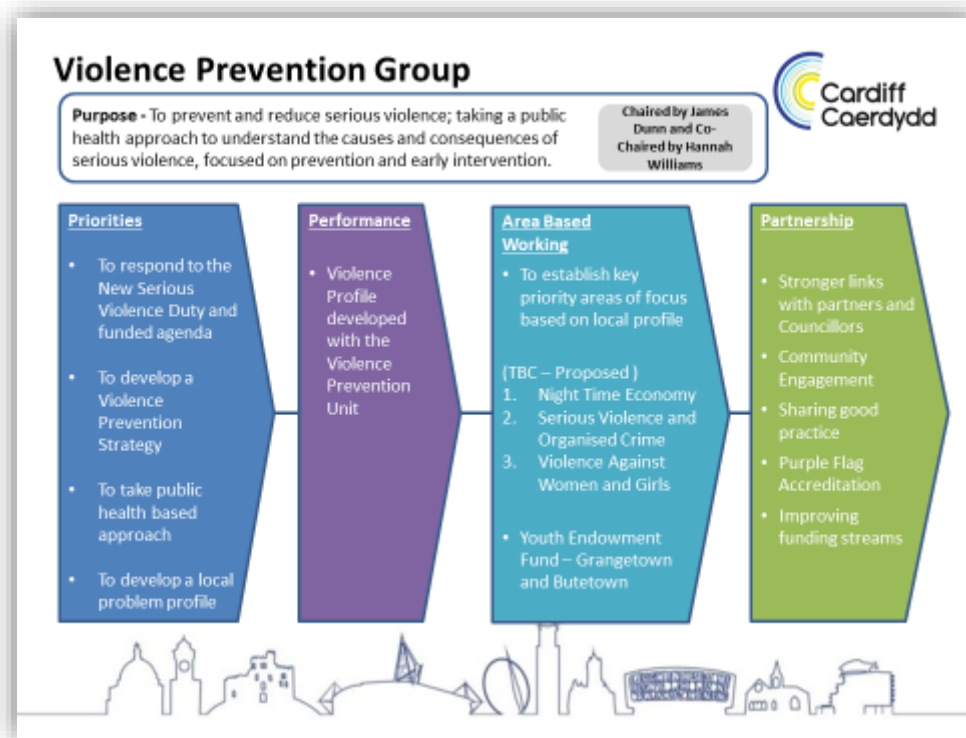
2.4.1 This group has evolved from the previous Community Safety Partnership priority of ‘City Centre and Street Sleepers’, which was a multi-agency response and approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable people sleeping rough in the city; and also to address any associated issues including the pitching of tents, aggressive begging and anti-social behaviour. This group seeks to build upon successful interventions to date, and will also support the Cardiff & Vale Area Planning Board’s ‘Health Needs Assessment’ agenda. In addition, the group will coordinate activity relating to broader issues connected to Street Based Lifestyles, such as sex work.



2.4.2 ‘Complex needs’ are defined in this case as those who are affected by multiple issues such as alcohol, drugs, mental health, physical health problems and learning difficulties. The combination of overlapping needs often compound each other, meaning a multi-agency response is essential to achieving change. Cardiff’s ‘Housing First’ approach has introduced a highly effective assessment process, ensuring a focus on each individual’s needs and having the right accommodation pathways in place. As a result of this model, tent dwellers and rough sleepers in the City Centre has reduced significantly since 2019. The creation of Multi-disciplinary Outreach Teams (MDTs) have also provided an opportunity to better understand and support individual needs.

2.4.3 The purpose of the ‘Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs’ group will be to work with partners to understand the ‘complex needs’ landscape and the associated issues that relate to community safety and the wider community impact; such as crime, antisocial behaviour, and contextual safeguarding. This will be achieved via significant information sharing that builds a local picture of issues such as; Drug Offences and Crime, Needle and Syringe Programmes, Support Services, Aggressive Begging, Drug Littering and Public Perceptions. By analysing this information collectively, the Community Safety Partnership will achieve a comprehensive understanding of connected issues and be able to coordinate an effective partnership response to mitigate both individual risk and community impact.

**2.5 Serious Violence Group**



2.5.1 Following the announcement of a new Serious Violence Duty in December 2019, which is anticipated to commence in 2021, the Community Safety Partnership will be required to demonstrate a strategic approach to the prevention and reduction of serious violence. This includes both taking a public health approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence and a focus on prevention and early intervention. The partnership will be required to work together to establish the local problem profile / strategic needs assessment, develop and publish a local violence prevention strategy, which will outline the collective action we intend to take.

2.5.2 The group will establish three themed sub-groups in quarter 2 of 2021-2022; Night Time Economy, Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime (SVSOC), and Violence Against Women and Girls. The most relevant aspect of this structure with regards to drug-related crime and activity is the SVSOC subgroup; which will include a focus on youth violence and County Lines activity.

**2.6 Area Based Working**

2.6.1 In 2019/20 the Community Safety Partnership took forward an ‘Area Based Working’ trial within the Butetown and Splott wards. With a strategic focus at the local level, this pilot aimed to address the underlying causes of recurring crime and ASB by establishing a framework for enabling data-lead, adaptable, proactive and joined-up partnership responses. Briefly paused during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, this work reconvened in August 2020 championing new methods of working online. As we emerge from the pandemic, the Partnership will identify key lessons from the pilot and adopt successful techniques within each of the work streams within the new governance

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structure where they can be developed and applied across the city, as guided by the data and the priorities of the partnership.

2.6.2 Partnership action is currently coordinated via three interconnected work streams:

1. **Resilience** Covering tactical interventions by partners and efforts to empower residents in playing an active role in addressing concerns and steering strategy. Key actions include:
  - Coordinating *CCTV tactical group* with partner agencies.
  - Development of a *Crimestoppers & Fearless* campaigns addressing low community engagement with public services and South Wales Police where appropriate.
  - Promoting *Probation Community Payback* projects.
2. **Aspirations** Aimed at developing messages to counter the attraction of drug crime faced by some young people, promoting employment opportunities and supporting active community groups. Key actions include:
  - Coordination of the *Butetown Employment Forum*.
  - The *Butetown Parents Community Workshop* held with 22 residents and 14 partner organisations.
  - Proof of concept *Community Link* Online Job Fair highlighting employment opportunities with 5 employers and attended by 56 participants.
  - Initiation of the *Anchor Organisation* platform coordinating strategic response with a network of established and trusted community organisations.
3. **Environment** Addressing the impact of drug crime on communities, such as drug litter, open drug activity and the stigma faced by vulnerable groups. Key actions include:
  - Proof of concept *Environmental Improvement Dashboard* utilising a range of partner data sets via the Power BI platform.
  - Identifying and disrupting areas of drug activity (dealing and using).
  - Regular litter picking sessions held from specialised service user facilities i.e. the Huggard centre.
  - Measurable increase in the reporting of drug litter via Cardiff Gov app.

### **3.0 Profile of Drug Related Activity**

#### **3.1 Overview**

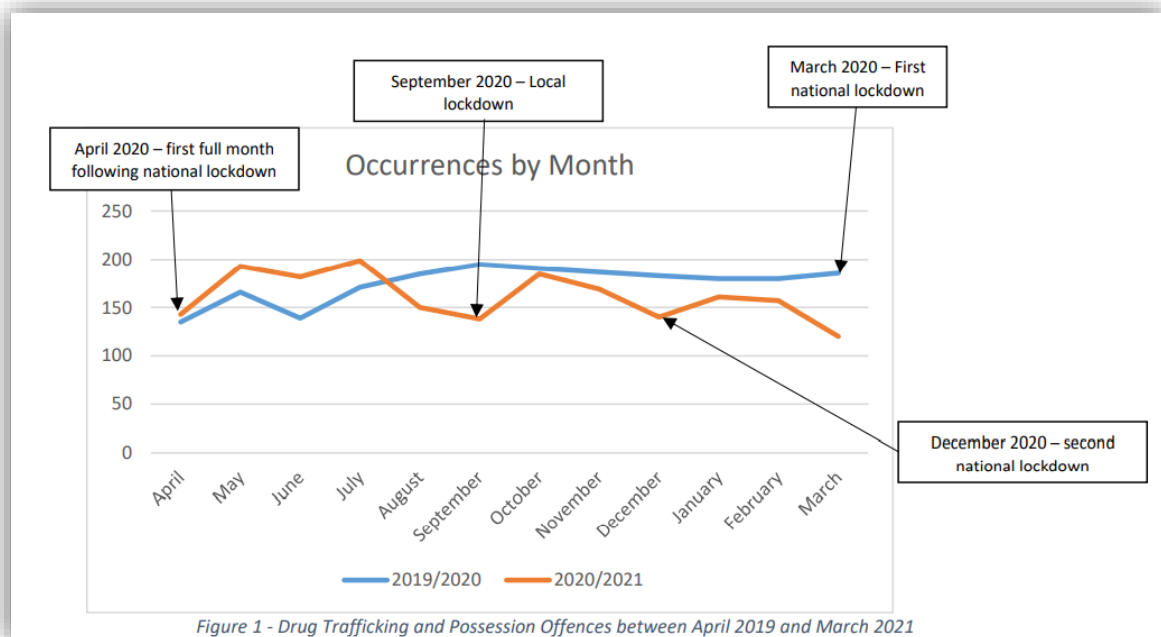
3.1.1 As detailed in the UK Government's [Independent Report: Review of Drugs 2020](#), completed by Dame Carol Black, illegal drug markets have unique complexities in measuring their scale and distribution, particularly at the local level, through the mix of distribution methods, including social supply, social media, county lines and the dark web. Whilst heroin and crack are generally supplied by street dealers, recreational drugs (e.g. powder cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy) are distributed through a range of channels.

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Intelligence regarding drug supply may be received by police forces through a range of sources, and inform different aspects of enforcement activity including national (UK-wide) responses. Due to the complexity of this picture and difficulty of presenting the local picture with accuracy using an agreed national standard, here we focus on possession offences as one indicator of the local drug market, although this data should be interpreted in recognition of this limitation.

3.1.2 From April 2019 to March 2021 there were 4,035 Drug Offences reported. In the 2019/2020 financial year there is a general increasing trend in offences, whereas 2020/2021 sees a general decrease in offences. This can be seen in the graph below. The numbers dipped in April, September and December 2020 which coincide with national and local lockdowns enforced due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. (Police figures reflect Cardiff and the Vale as per the Police Command Structure).

3.1.3 The 2020/2021 financial year saw both the highest and lowest number of occurrences reported with 199 in July 2020 and 120 in March 2021. There were 8% fewer drug offences reported in 2020/2021 (1,937) than 2019/2020 (2,098).



### 3.2 Areas of interest

3.2.1 It must be noted that some of the occurrences reported were related to drug warrants which occurred at multiple locations, which explains why the total numbers per sector below is higher than the total number of distinct Drug Trafficking and Possession Offences that is given in the above section. Also the translation of police data is reflected by policing sectors and not at a ward level.

3.2.2 The sector with the highest number of drug offences during the entire time period is Cardiff Bay (743), with Cathays (479), City Centre (465), and Canton (407). This is a substantial difference, although 279 of the occurrences have the premise 'Cardiff Bay



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Police Station' linked as the occurrence address due to searches whilst in custody, which explains this.

3.2.3 The most notable drug offence increases in 2020/2021 when compared to 2019/2020 occurred in Fairwater (+38), St Mellons (+34) and Llanishen (+30). The City Centre had the biggest decrease in drug offences with 143 fewer reported in 2020/2021 than 2019/2020. Roath also saw substantially fewer drug offences with 68 less offences. The following table shows the other sectors in comparison.

Sector	2019/2020	2020/2021	Total	Difference
Cardiff Bay	348	395	743	47
Cathays	274	205	479	-69
City Centre	304	161	465	-143
Canton	221	186	407	-35
Roath	202	134	336	-68
Fairwater	118	156	274	38
Ely	112	136	248	24
Llanedeyrn	106	120	226	14
Llanishen	63	93	156	30
St Mellons	36	70	106	34
Rumney	54	50	104	-4
Unidentified Sector	0	2	2	2
Total	1838	1708	3546	-130

### 3.3 Offences

3.3.1 There were 63 different Drug Trafficking and Possession offences recorded during the period April 2019 to March 2021.

3.3.2 The most recorded offence by far was 'Cannabis: Having possession of a class B controlled drug' with 2,200, which is over half of the occurrences reported in this time period.

3.3.3 The next highest offence recorded was 'Cocaine: Having possession of a Class A controlled drug' with 233 occurrences, followed by 194 occurrences of 'Possession of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists – Class B'.

3.3.4 The below table shows a breakdown of the class and type of drug involved in the offences. The majority of the offences related to Class B drugs (2,902) with Cannabis making up the bulk of these figures at 2,504. There were 968 offences relating to Class A drugs with the main drugs being Cocaine (335), Heroin (252) and Crack (166). Although it must be noted that 178 of the offences did not specify the type of Class A drug. There were also 121 offences involving Class C drugs and 44 which did not specify a class.



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Class of Drug	Type of Drug	2019/2020	2020/2021	Total
Class A	Cocaine	217	118	335
	Heroin	144	108	252
	Unspecified	83	95	178
	Crack	77	89	166
	MDMA	19	7	26
	Liquid Amphetamine	2	3	5
	Methadone	1	3	4
	LSD	1	1	2
Class B	Cannabis	1259	1245	2504
	Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists	97	116	213
	Unspecified	51	40	91
	Amphetamine	56	28	84
	Ketamine	5	3	8
	Cathinone derivatives (Mephedrone)	1	1	2
Class C	Unspecified	51	60	111
	GHB	1	3	4
	Piperazines (including BZP)	1	2	3
	Gammabutyrolactone and Butanedio	1	1	2
	Anabolic Steroids	1	0	1
Unspecified	Unspecified	21	6	27
	Khat	9	8	17

*Table 3 - Number of Drug Offences by Class and Type*

3.3.5 The number of Cocaine and Heroin offences decreased in 2020/2021 compared to 2019/2020 by 46% and 25% respectively. The number of MDMA offences also dropped significantly with 63% fewer occurrences reported. However the number of Crack offences increased by 16% (12) although the numbers are extremely small. Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists, commonly known as Spice, increased by 20% (19) in 2020/2021, whereas Amphetamine and Ketamine decreased by 50% (28) and 40% (2) respectively.

### 3.4 Outcomes

3.4.1 The majority of the Drug Trafficking and Possession offences ended with a 'Charged/summonsed' outcome, with 1,342 occurrences. A caution or warning was issued for 1,038 of the occurrences. 639 of occurrences resulted in 'Not recognised as an official outcome' and 559 of occurrences ended due to 'Evidential difficulties'.

### 3.5 Operation Talon

3.5.1 Operation TALON was a long standing operation focussed upon street level Class A drugs supply, this utilised a number of tactics which included covert and overt deployments. So far this has resulted in 66 arrests, 57 charged and 25 convictions, totalling 75 years. There has been £52, 893.11 cash seized as well as 442.6 grams of Crack Cocaine, 58.27 grams of heroin, and 59.73 grams of Ketamine. Approximately 20 Drug Lines have been disrupted and 2 mapped County Lines have been taken out.

#### **4.0 Community Safety Partnership Plans to address the issue and provide insight into any associated challenges**

- 4.1 The new Community Safety Partnership governance structure provides a clearer landscape to coordinate our partnership approach on the agreed joint priorities. These arrangements will enhance the Partnership's effectiveness in addressing complex community safety issues such as the harmful impacts of drug-taking and drug-related crime. Each of the priority groups seek to address drug dealing or crime at some level.
- 4.2 The 'Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs' Group, focuses on complex needs that surround long-term substance misuse. The 'Problem Solving Group' considers the anti-social behaviour impacts of drug dealing/crime; which is predominately focused on youth and early intervention and engagement. The 'Serious Violence Group' focusing more on the exploitation of people to draw them into drug taking/crime and the tactical enforcement of organised crime. Across each group, there is a common focus on community engagement, to enable the partnership to understand the full impact and scale of drug-related activity, providing communities with confidence regarding our approach to tackle the issues, and involve them in the process to build more resilient communities.
- 4.3 There are several significant pieces of work being taking forward under the priority areas and structure which are significant to the drug-taking and drug-related crime agenda:

#### **4.4 Problem Solving Group**

##### **4.4.1 OSARAs**

There are currently three OSARAs being progressed which look to address some low level drug taking/crime concerns; Tweedsmuir Road, Off-Road Bikes, and Burnham Avenue.

Tweedsmuir road is focusing on a historical issue regarding youths congregating around the shops located there which is leading to intimidation, littering, low level ASB and cannabis use. There are also concerns regarding drug dealing behaviours due to the gully links that exist through the neighbourhood which provides an attractive location for criminal behaviour and easy escape routes. Whilst work is underway to revise CCTV, alley gating options and increasing public reporting of issues, there is a keen focus on identifying the youth and ensuring they are referred to appropriate intervention or support services. This has inspired a review of the vulnerability assessment tool in the police Public Protection Notifications (PPN), to ensure we are referring youth at the earliest opportunity. The Youth Services Street Based Team is also working with the police on coordinating an effective patrol and engagement model.

Off-road bikes (ORB) has been an issue for a number of years and the focus of this OSARA is to look at two distinct issues, one of which being the use of ORB to carry out criminal activity which relates to the distribution of drugs. This OSARA will look to improve the intelligence picture through effective engagement with the public and use this to conduct targeted police operations.

In Burnham Avenue the issues are mainly due to the local youths loitering/targeting two local shops. The priority is to reduce anti-social behaviour issues that are impacting the

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community which has recently escalated to criminal charges including public order offences and racially aggravated public order. There is also intelligence to suggest that drug dealing/running is taking place within the area. In response the Youth Services Street Based Teams have put outreach provision in place at the boxing club in Llanrumney, and there is a Street Based Team in the area Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Whilst these OSARAs relate to specific local issues, good practice and learnt approaches will be replicated across other localities as emergent issues are considered by the Problem-Solving Group.

### **4.4.2 Safer Street Fund**

The Safer Streets Fund allows the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) and Local Authorities to bid for investment in evidence-based crime reduction initiatives, such as street lighting and home security, which have been proven effective in the prevention of neighbourhood crime. Cardiff Council has made an application for this funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner, who has endorsed the Cardiff-focused bid as their Primary bid to the Home Office. The outcome of this application will be communicated by the end of May 2021. The parameters of the fund require a focus on those areas most impacted by acquisitive crime (burglary, robbery, theft from the person, vehicle crime). Postcode areas of Butetown and Grangetown have been identified as priorities for the fund. In addition, the application responds to evidence that residents in these areas reported the lowest satisfaction rate in relation to confidence in the local response to crime and community safety (Ask Cardiff trend data).

The funding will be used to conduct the following:

- Utilise 20 re-deployable CCTV cameras (these will have an anti-vandalism device to install cameras in places previously inaccessible)
- Upgrade the lighting at the underpasses on Bute Street/Lloyd George Avenue
- Improve street lighting to compliment/fill gaps in the planned works to upgrade surrounding streets with SMART street lighting.
- Crime/ASB covert prevention detectors which gathers information on times and numbers of people entering identified zones. This can provide real time alerts for an immediate response, and/or provide an analysis of data to inform a targeted review e.g. CCTV footage alongside informing key times/days to inform police patrols.
- Crime and Vulnerability Command Vehicle, which will provide a base for partner agencies to provide community reassurance / crime prevention advice, a safe space for anyone vulnerable and immediate CCTV capability.
- An enhanced crime prevention response to repeat victims of acquisitive crime including the provision of doorbell monitoring, security improvements, awareness of property marking and educational workshops.
- A targeted CrimeStoppers campaign.

## **4.5 Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs**

### **4.5.1 Data and Intelligence Dashboard**

In recent months the Community Safety Partnership have been working with Cardiff and Vale Area Planning Board to create a Data and Intelligence Dashboard which draws several aspects of intelligence together to provide a holistic picture of drug related activity

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via visual geographical mapping, so it can be analysed collectively with partners. Currently the information contained in the dashboard is as follows:

- Drug related crime offences
- Drug litter and discarded needles
- Needle and Syringe Services
- Aggressive Begging

### 4.5.2 Cardiff and Vale Health Needs Assessment (HNA)

A Health Needs Assessment for people who inject in public in Cardiff has been conducted by Cardiff and Vale Health Board with the specific aim to 'Provide information and recommendations to reduce the prevalence of harms related to public injecting in Cardiff'. The assessment has identified 9 recommendations to achieve this aim and the Community Safety Partnership have agreed to support the overall assessment and more specifically the following recommendations:

- **To evaluate options for reducing public injecting through increasing availability of spaces for safer injecting** - The Community Safety Partnership will bring together key partners to evaluate the options and pilot/implement where appropriate. This will be led by a strong evidence based approach drawing upon to the developed Data and Intelligence Dashboard.
- **Empower the local resident community** – The Community Safety Partnership will assist in the coordination of a platform for local residents to raise issues related to open access services in their area.

## 4.6 Violence Prevention Group

### 4.6.1 Strategic Review in Response to Youth Violence

The review will consider the existing referral process for youth involved in serious violence and provide recommendations on how to address any gaps identified in service provision. This will include an understanding of multi-agency risk assessments, improvements to information sharing, enhancing communication with partners, and ensuring appropriate support services are available.

### 4.6.2 Youth Endowment Fund

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is a charity which exists to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence through finding out what works and building a community of evidence-led practice. The Neighbourhood Fund is a key strand of YEF funding. The overall objective is to understand whether co-designing approaches with local communities to address specific challenges in relation to serious violence can work to reduce the number of children and young people becoming involved in violence.

The Neighbourhood Fund has granted Cardiff a £1 million award over five years for the implementation of a co-designed Local Action Plan and full evaluation. The focus is on youth violence but the action plan is likely to focus on diversionary provision which will be relevant to a range of vulnerabilities/behaviours. The Butetown and Grangetown

wards have been selected as the priority areas for the fund and this programme of work is due to commence in September 2021.

## **5.0 Challenges, Barriers and Opportunities**

### **5.1 Evidence based approach**

- 5.1.1 Cardiff's drug dealing and crime landscape is multifaceted and careful consideration needs to be given to the following; the different types of drug use and users, the types of ASB and crime that can stem from drug use, the reasons why individuals are drawn into drug use and an understanding of the complex needs that are associated with users.
- 5.1.2 The challenge upon the Community Safety Partnership is to understand this complex landscape in order to effectively tackle the societal and community issues stemming from drug-use and drug supply. In order to achieve this a profile of Cardiff's drug related activity with partners is required. The Partnership are currently developing a Data and Intelligence Dashboard via the 'Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs' group. This product provides the opportunity to build an effective mechanism for encouraging and strengthening information sharing possibilities, along with identifying tailored approaches to local issues and providing a continual evaluation of successful interventions as a partnership.

### **5.2 Covid-19**

- 5.2.1 The Covid-19 pandemic introduced new challenges to the community safety landscape and brought a shift in criminal activity. The pandemic has both impacted partnership resources and our ability to engage with the community.
- 5.2.3 The Community Safety Partnership have trialled new methods of engagement such as online events and forums. The Community Safety Partnership have also been able to engage with seldom heard and vulnerable groups, such as homeless people and sex workers during the pandemic by working with key stakeholders to facilitate access. This has enabled a more responsive approach to the specific experiences and issues affecting these population groups. The Community Safety Partnership will continue to build upon these new approaches under the new governance structure.

### **5.3 Support Services for Drug Users**

- 5.3.1 Following the impact of Covid-19 there were concerns about accessibility to drug support services, along with the wider impacts on health.
- 5.3.2 The success of the Rapid Access Prescribing Service (RAPS) encouraged a significant number of heroin users to move to the new drug substitute known as Buprenorphine. The additional introduction of multi-disciplinary partnership support services into the hotels and hostels also provided the opportunity to address drug dependency and resulted in exceptional numbers of clients entering into treatment and reducing footfall into the Huggard Centre. As of the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 there are a total of 6 rough sleepers remaining on the street.

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5.3.3 The Community Safety Partnership will build upon this progress within the 'Street Based Lifestyle and Complex Needs' Group where we will monitor the transition from Covid-19 restrictions and substance misuse data. Further work will also be completed around understanding the complex needs of our deep-rooted drug users and how to reduce the impact of their addiction on ASB, crime and the wider community.

### **5.4 Support Services for Youth**

5.4.1 The impact of Covid-19 has limited our ability to provide a face-to-face engagement with young people.

5.4.2 As part of Covid-19 Recovery, a Strategic Review of referral mechanisms and accessibility to support services is currently being completed by the Community Safety Partnership to ensure the alignment of risk assessment criteria. A communication protocol will be developed to facilitate more effective case information sharing between partners in sharing at the earliest opportunity to strengthen the focus on prevention.

5.4.3 The review will evaluate barriers to support and inform the future activities of the Partnership and wider partners such as the Family Gateway and Youth Justice Service. A future priority emerging from the early learning of the review is building public awareness of support pathways such as the Family Gateway and wider engagement with young people on the harms of drug-related criminal activity. The Youth Endowment Fund will play a key role in evaluating our approaches and the interventions offered to young people presenting a range of vulnerabilities. This will ensure, in particular, a more evidence-based approach to tackling violence and ensuring our approach is tailored to each individual's needs.

## **6.0 'Preventing Young People's Involvement in Drug Dealing Inquiry**

6.1 In November 2018 the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee published 19 recommendations as part of the "Preventing Young People's Involvement in Drug Crime Task & Finish Inquiry", under the themes of; Impact on Communities, Safeguarding Young People (and their Families), The Role of Agencies, Education and Raising Awareness, and Crime and Enforcement. The following is a summary of the work and progress made to date to achieve these recommendations.

### **6.1.1 Impact on Communities**

The Area Based Working trial undertook community engagement workshops within the pilot area up until early 2020, with an aim of establishing the priority concerns of citizens and how they can co-produce solutions with the Community Safety Partnership.

Face to face methods of engagement are not possible under current Covid-19 regulations to ensure the safety of staff and residents however links to community groups across the city been facilitated via the Anchor Organisation platform and via new ways of working with specific community groups in the pilot areas. The next steps for the Community Safety Partnership are to incorporate community engagement and participation across the of the Community Safety Governance structure, that will align partner work such as C3SC, the Ask Cardiff survey and Hub Community Inclusion Officers.

In addition, complaints of residents specifically concerning the location of drug support services led to the establishment of a 'Health Needs Assessment'. This was undertaken by Cardiff and Vale UHB as part of a wider review of substance misuse services commissioned by the Area Planning Board looking at new pathways, a new outcomes framework to monitor the impact of services and interventions and ways in which partners could work together to deliver holistic services.

### **6.1.2 Safeguarding Young People (and their Families)**

Cardiff Youth Service provision remains a key resource within the city. Work from the Youth Centres have been paused during the pandemic however youth engagement has continued via the Cardiff Youth Service Street Based Team which is an adaptable youth work initiative, aimed at working with young people who associate in open spaces. The Street-Based team are working responsively with the Problem Solving Group to provide out-of-hours and flexible provision in key ASB hotspot areas. In addition, a Task & Finish Group has been convened on a pilot to coordinate diversionary youth work and mentoring in East Cardiff.

Cardiff Council are one of ten UK Local Authorities who have been successful in securing grant funding from The Home Office to pilot local decision making around the National Referral Mechanism process for children and young people. This will ensure that exploitation in the form of trafficking in cases of drug dealing/running/County Lines is dovetailed with safeguarding/risk management processes around children and young people.

Children's Services are implementing a SAFE (Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation) model within their locality structure to look at issues in the community context. This will involve key stakeholders and look at issues such as 'environmental hotspots' for activity that is considered to be risky for young people. There is a governance structure within this model to escalate issues and capture themes and response evaluation. We are looking at the model of Contextualised safeguarding and understanding more about where the risk to young people is non familial and are developing responses around this across the Local Authority.

### **6.1.3 The Role of Agencies**

These recommendations will be captured via the Community Safety Partnership's priority area of 'Serious Violence' which will oversee Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime and in parallel with the PSG (Problem Solving Group) that will look at situational causes of crime using the OSARA model.

The Community Safety Partnership will work to understand the current landscape and lessons learnt, to identify the most effective levers to implement the changes we need. The Partnership benefits from representation of many voluntary and private sector organisations including: C3SC, St Giles Trust, Safer Wales and Victim Support who are invited to attend meetings and task and finish groups as appropriate. We anticipate this to increase as the work streams evolve.



In addition Cardiff will shortly benefit from work via the Race Equality Taskforce and the Violence Prevention Unit which has successfully bid against the Youth Endowment Fund which aims to prevent young people becoming involved in violence. The Community Safety Partnership will play an essential role to align work and therefore maximise benefit.

#### **6.1.4 Education and Raising Awareness**

Recently the Violence Prevention Unit commissioned the CrimeStoppers Youth Service "Fearless" to run a series of workshops across schools up until March 2021, which highlighted the dangers and long term implications for young people that involved in drug crime.

Going forward this scheme will be incorporated and enhanced by work undertaken via the Violence Prevention Group (Endowment Fund) and development of the National Referral Mechanism, by working with partners that have a clear role such as Cardiff Youth Services and St Giles Trust to implement awareness raising programmes.

#### **6.1.5 Crime and Enforcement**

During the first lockdown in 2020, PCSOs were temporarily granted additional powers to caution and a wider review of PCSOs is currently underway.

As part of the new governance structure the Community Safety Partnership have scoped out the possibility of a new PSPO. However, this is a lengthy process and resource intensive therefore more understanding is required regarding priorities as lockdown is lifted. South Wales Police are also working with FOR Cardiff with an aim of establishing an Exclusion Zones in the city, creating a joined up approach to banning named individuals across all retail and licensed premises.

A Strategic Review is being taken forwards following the youth violence incident in December 2020. This will make recommendations of the referral process, a communication protocol and an information-sharing arrangement to ensure that effective support services are available.