



Report of the Police and Crime Panel

Report title: October 2023 County lines intensification week update

Date: 26 January 2024

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Purpose of the report: As requested

Recommendations: Information only

Executive Summary

A request was made for additional information regarding the October 2023 County Lines Intensification Week, specifically seeking a detailed breakdown of the 98 arrests made by Thames Valley Police (TVP) during this period. The request sought information on the nature of the crimes committed and the roles of the arrested individuals on the criminal scale, distinguishing between young drug sellers and high-ranking members of criminal organisations. The data is referenced against a national summary conducted annually, broken down by local authority areas.

Summary of key findings

The National County Lines coordination conducts intensification periods biannually across the UK in response to County Lines issues. In October 2023, TVP carried out extensive 4P (Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare) activity during the Intensification Week. Collaborative efforts across the force led to numerous arrests and the disruption of various drug lines.

Below is a summary of arrests and a brief overview of offenses per Local Policing Area (LPA):

Aylesbury

Arrests: 11

Males over 18: 10

Males under 18: 1

8 listed as suspected line holder/ dealers and 3 runners

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including Possession with intent to supply (PWITS) Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis, Ketamine and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Breach of Crown court bail/ Possession of offensive weapons.

Bracknell & Wokingham

Arrests: 2

Males over 18: 2

1 listed as suspected line holder/ dealer and 1 runner



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Arrests include Possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and Possession of an imitation firearm

Cherwell & West

Arrests: 11

Males over 18: 9

Males under 18: 1

Females over 18: 1

5 listed as suspected line holder/ dealers, 1 facilitator, 3 runners, 1 gardener (Cannabis factory) and 1 TBC

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including Production of Cannabis/ PWITS Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Recall to prison/ Assault GBH

South Bucks

Arrests: 12

Males over 18: 11

Females over 18: 1

3 listed as suspected line holder/ dealers, 1 facilitator, 3 runners, others TBC

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including PWITS Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Dangerous driving/ Kidnap

Milton Keynes

Arrests: 5

Males over 18: 2

Males under 18: 2

Females over 18: 1

2 listed as suspected line holders/ dealers and 3 runners

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including PWITS Class A, Cocaine/ Cultivation of Cannabis/ Assault/ Recall to prison/ Drink and Drug driving

Oxford

Arrests: 14

Males over 18: 11

Males under 18: 2

Females over 18: 1

6 listed as suspected line holders/ dealers and 3 runners, others TBC

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including PWITS Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Proceeds of crime offences/ Assault/ Possession of offensive weapons/ Robbery/ Recall to prison/ Immigration offences

Reading

Arrests: 11



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Males over 18: 9

Males under 18: 2

Females over 18: 2

4 listed as suspected line holders/ dealers and 6 runners, 1 TBC

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including PWITS Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Breach of Crown Court bail/ Assault

Slough

Arrests: 9

Males over 18: 9

3 listed as suspected line holders/ dealers and 3 runners, others TBC

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including PWITS Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Breach of court bail/ Possession of offensive weapons/ Affray/ Recall to prison

South & Vale

Joint intensification activity across the local Policing area for County lines intensification week, resulting in the below-

Arrests: 16

Males over 18:13

Males under 18: 2

Females over 18: 1

3 suspected line holders/ dealers and 4 runners, others TBC

Arrests were made for a variety of offences including PWITS Cocaine, Heroin, Cannabis and Crack Cocaine/ Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs/ Cultivation of Cannabis/ Possession offensive weapons/ Kidnap/ Public order/ Assault

West Berkshire

Joint intensification activity across the local Policing area for County lines intensification week, resulting in the below-

1 Arrest

Listed as suspected dealer

Arrested for recall to prison

Windsor & Maidenhead

Arrests: 6

Males over 18: 5

Females over 18: 1

1 suspected line holders/ dealer and 3 runners, others TBC

Arrests for variety of offences including Theft/ Drug possession/ Possession offensive weapons/ Wanted on warrant/ Robbery/ PWITS Class A Cocaine, Crack and Heroin



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Various community engagement activities were conducted in partnership around County lines and Exploitation matters, including visits and awareness raising/engagement in partnership at numerous locations such as schools and colleges, taxi ranks, train stations, hotels and B & B's, shopping centres, community hubs, garages, fast food outlets, gyms & leisure centres.

Partnership activity included high visibility patrols, park sweeps, community engagement and crime prevention events, youth engagement work, contextual safeguarding activities and assessments, local authority joint working, proactive patrols, train station operations including police dogs and specialist units, work with police cadets, and extensive joint working with The Children's Society, raising awareness around Criminal exploitation through promotion of the #Lookcloser campaign.

Next Steps

Continuation of focused partnership activity addressing threat, risk, and harm with a key focus on tackling exploitation matters.

Conclusion

Extensive activity has been conducted, emphasising a blended and considered 4P approach to activity. Continued engagement with key partners and the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) is crucial to tackling County lines and exploitation matters collectively, disrupting criminality, and safeguarding the vulnerable. Ensuring activity is conducted at the appropriate level around the appropriate individuals is paramount, underlining the need for a balance between safeguarding and criminal justice activities.