

Is current UK drugs policy working? (Presentation notes for PCC Alan Charles)

*So now, little man, you've grown tired of grass
LSD, goofballs, cocaine and hash,
and someone, pretending to be a true friend,
said, "I'll introduce you to Miss Heroin."*

*Well honey, before you start fooling with me,
just let me inform you of how it will be.*

*For I will seduce you and make you my slave,
I've sent men much stronger than you to their graves.
You think you could never become a disgrace,
and end up addicted to Poppy seed waste.*

*So you'll start inhaling me one afternoon,
you'll take me into your arms very soon.
And once I've entered deep down in your veins,
The craving will nearly drive you insane.*

*You'll swindle your mother and just for a buck.
You'll turn into something vile and corrupt.
You'll mug and you'll steal for my narcotic charm,
and feel contentment when I'm in your arms.*

*The day, when you realize the monster you've grown,
you'll solemnly swear to leave me alone.
If you think you've got that mystical knack,
then sweetie, just try getting me off your back.*

*The vomit, the cramps, your gut tied in knots.
The jangling nerves screaming for one more shot.
The hot chills and cold sweats, withdrawal pains,
can only be saved by my little white grains.*

*There's no other way, and there's no need to look,
for deep down inside you know you are hooked.
You'll desperately run to the pushers and then,
you'll welcome me back to your arms once again.*

*And you will return just as I foretold!
I know that you'll give me your body and soul.
You'll give up your morals, your conscience, your heart.
And you will be mine until, "Death Do Us Part"*

(Take me in your arms – Miss Heroin) Anonymous

- Many will know this poem
 - I came across it in book 'Can you lend me twenty quid Mum?' by Elizabeth Burton- Philips:
 - Twins – Nick & Simon
 - Middle class family – Drug addiction is indiscriminate
 - Second marriage
 - £90k remortgage
 - Death of Nick 2004
 - Impetus Simon – clean – 11 years
 - Elizabeth Burton- Philips – founded DrugFam in 2006
 - Works closely with Chesterfield based SPODA – Dot Inger
 - Very powerful drama production 1 June – Chesterfield promoted by SPODA
 - Privileged to be invited to speak to audience afterwards
 - Until I read book and saw play always thought of drug addict as insular – not about wider family, friends, impact on work.
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- Like Elizabeth Burton-Philips and husband Tony, the Winehouse family also lost a child to drug and alcohol addiction, albeit in a spotlight of publicity
 - Mitch Winehouse and family at New Mills on 12 June
 - Amy Winehouse Foundation with Addaction - Parents information evening at Spring Bank Arts Centre before delivering Resilience programme at New Mills School
 - Foundation staff and/or volunteers share life stories – moving story from Shona – very impressed how turned her life around against great difficulties
 - Debbie McGloin, Headteacher, congratulated – progressive thinking
 - Again privileged to speak to audience
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- On Boxing Day 2012 a young woman aged 22 died in Chapel en le Frith after dabbling with PMA. I met her parents at their home.
 - Between 2010 – 2012 – 93 drug related deaths in Derbyshire – 93 lives lost – 93 families affected like the Burton-Philips, Winehouse and the Chapel families.
 - Derbyshire seen many proactive positive Policing Operations.
 - December 2013, protracted covert operation, 45 arrested in Buxton and Chesterfield, 2 pubs shut down in Chesterfield town centre 3 days before Christmas
 - Long custodial sentences
 - Commercial pressure from pub owners
 - A great Policing operation – did it stop drugs being sold on streets of Buxton and Chesterfield – NO
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- LET'S TALK MONEY
 - Public drug related expenditure in UK approx. £7bn/year = 0.49% GDP
 - Key points
 - 64.9% spent on public order and safety
 - 22.5% Social protection
 - 11.7% Health
 - 0.1% Education
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- DO WE HAVE IT THE WRONG WAY AROUND?
- Should we be spending more on the dedicated individuals and third sector groups doing great work across Derbyshire; SPODA, Lauren's Link, Addaction, T3, the DAATs and many others – sorry if not mentioned your group
- 44 Years ago President Richard Nixon Declared War on Drugs
- Is the War on Drugs working?

- I see devastation of individual's lives, trauma and anguish for families and friends, anxiety for local communities and significant costs to police forces in the face of massive resource cuts.
- In fact the only people profiting from drugs are the criminals purveying their misery to those they have groomed into addiction.
- I think 'it's time to talk about drugs policy' title of today's summit – although our national leaders appear reticent to do so.
- I agree with Ron Hogg, PCC Durham and Mike Barton, Chief Constable Durham that we should have the debate.
- I suspect that Mick Creedon, our Chief Constable in Derbyshire also shares that view but we will have to wait and listen to what he has to say
- We are also going to hear from Steve Holme, CALLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT – VIDEO, and Tim Allin from 'Stay True' Derby on perceptions of drug related issues
- Professor Dereck Ward, Derby University talk about Public Health in relation to drugs
- This afternoon we are will discuss and debate whether we think UK drug policy is working and how we think the Government should move forward.
- To start the day, pleasure introducing Dr Liz Austen, Sheffield Hallam University, who is going to outline current UK policy and give examples of how other countries shifted their policies