



# foreword

Drug addiction can seem far removed from our lives if we've never had any real life experience of the despair that it inflicts. There's a tendency to feel detached, to sweep it under the carpet because it doesn't immediately affect our lives. This, unfortunately, is denial. Drug abuse affects every one of us. If you have children, then they are growing up in a world where drugs are not only available they are plentiful and are being taken by people from all walks of life, not just those who've had a troubled start.

Drug addiction has no discrimination and no mercy. It affects the wealthy, the poor and the middle classes. It affects the educated, the non-educated, the loved and the un-loved. And when it takes a hold it doesn't want to let go. This was brought home to me quite graphically when I attended a recent performance of 'Mum Can You Lend Me Twenty Quid?' The play tells the tale of a teacher whose identical twin sons inadvertently fell into the path of drugs despite doing well at school, culminating with the devastating news that one of the twins had killed himself in despair at his heroin addiction. It was a sobering reminder of the arbitrary nature of addiction and presented in heart-wrenching clarity what kind of damage this can impose on normal, 'happy' families.

The repercussions of drug abuse are far-reaching and it is naïve to think that our families and indeed our offspring are too sensible, too perfect, and too hard-working to make a mistake that could send them on the road to destruction. This was the overwhelming emotion that remained with me after I visited the parents of a girl in Derbyshire who died of a drugs overdose in 2013. To hear how

a bright and healthy young girl had lost her life in this way was terribly upsetting. These kinds of devastating incidents have the power to bring about change and we all should care enough to want to help.

The war on drugs is as bloody today as it was 44 years ago, before all the investment and focus. In North Derbyshire alone, during December 2013 there were 45 arrests, two pubs shut down and resulting long custodial sentences. It was a really great policing operation, successful. But did it stop drugs being sold on the streets of Chesterfield and Buxton? NO. Why hasn't it worked long-term? In my opinion, we're treating the problem – not the people. Every addict is a person with a belief system, positive and negative experiences, feelings of failure, insecurity, depression, and the list goes on. How can we ever expect to heal a problem when we fail to address the seeds of destruction?

It is time for change. It is time to look beyond the statistics and see the people. How can we integrate our expertise to help people recover and offer them support not condemnation to break their addictive patterns?

Current policy is not working. Punishment is not working. There's no option but to change our way of thinking. Helping people to heal from their life experiences and showing them that they are capable of leading healthier, successful lives in the future will not just create safer streets it will deliver benefits to the economy, the health service, policing and education.

This conference will push for that change. The time has come to review current drugs policy in the UK, to ask questions of its effectiveness and to see how we might do things better. Drugs are as rife on our streets as they were all those years ago. For every day that addiction exists we will continue to suffer drug crime. What more evidence do we need that the current system is failing?



**Alan Charles**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

# agenda

- 10.00 **Welcome**  
**Drugs, Derbyshire and the reason for this event**  
Alan Charles, Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire
- 10.20 **Policy**  
**Current UK legislation and examples of alternative models**  
Dr Liz Austen, Principal Lecturer in Criminology,  
Sheffield Hallam University
- 10.55 **Policing**  
**The changing picture of drug misuse and how this has influenced drug related crime and current policing work in Derbyshire**  
Mick Creedon, Chief Constable, Derbyshire Constabulary

## 11.20 Refreshment break

- 11.40 **The future of drug policy**  
Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham
- 11.55 **Perceptions**  
**Considering ways to inform and educate communities in Derbyshire about issues relating to drugs, policing and crime?**  
Steve Holme, Crime and Intelligence, Derbyshire Constabulary  
(video recording) plus special guest Tim Allin from 'Stay True' Derby  
A short Q+A for delegates to participate will follow
- 12.25 **Health: From prevention to recovery**  
**National and local models of practice and the challenges that lie ahead?**  
Derek Ward, Professor of Public Health and Director of the Health & Social Care Research Centre, University of Derby  
A short Q+A for delegates to participate will follow

## 13.05 Lunch

- 13.55 **Debate: Is current UK Drugs Policy working?**  
**Considering Law enforcement, Criminal Justice, Health and Education.**  
Alan Charles (Chair) · Including a panel of experts & professionals:  
Martyn Bates, Assistant Chief Constable, Derbyshire Constabulary  
Suanne Lim, Head of Service, Derby Youth Offending Service  
Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham  
Liz Austen, Principal Lecturer in Criminology  
Derek Ward, Professor of Public Health  
Dot Inger, founder of 'SPODA' Derbyshire  
Danny Kushlick, Head of External Affairs Transform Drug Policy Foundation
- 15.15 **Closing remarks and thanks**  
Alan Charles
- 15.30 **Close**



## Alan Charles

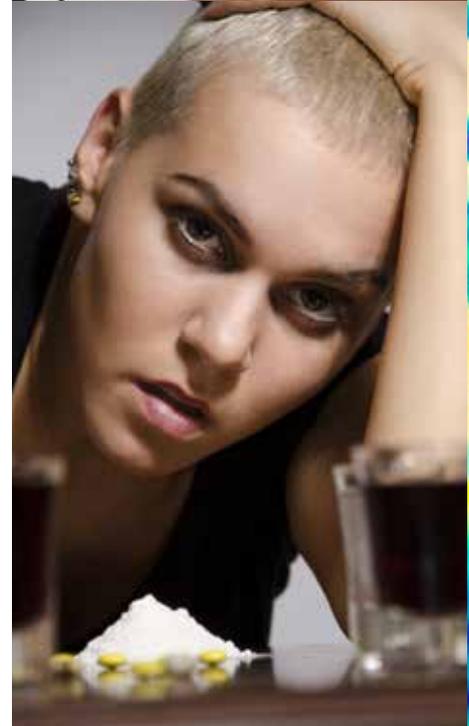
Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Alan Charles was elected as Derbyshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012. He had been the Vice-Chair of the outgoing Derbyshire Police Authority since 2010 and a member since 2009, providing him with an in-depth of knowledge and understanding of the policing and community safety landscape in the County.

His public life began with election as a Derbyshire County Councillor in 1993 for the Killamarsh district. In 1999 he was appointed as Chair of the Education Committee, a position he held, as a Cabinet Member, until 2009.

His recently refreshed Police and Crime Plan contains clear objectives focussing effort on key issues such as support to victims and witnesses; partnership working; keeping people, particularly vulnerable people, safe from harm; support for local policing; performance; drug and alcohol abuse.

He is firm believer in family values and is married with two daughters and four grandchildren all of whom live in Derbyshire.





## Dr Liz Austen

Principal Lecturer in Criminology  
Sheffield Hallam University

I have been a lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University for over 10 years, specialising in the teaching of research methodology and drug use/drug policy. I currently lead the criminology courses delivered at Sheffield Hallam. Our courses fall within the newly opened Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice which sits within the Department of Law and Criminology. This Centre provides a platform for promoting human rights and social justice.

My interests in drug use include the critique of drug policy, recreational drug taking and international perspectives. My background is in sociology and politics and this is how I approach the study of drug use. I have conducted research and published in the area of risk taking behaviour in young people, and I am currently writing an article on the link between 'legal highs' and anti-social behaviour.



## Mick Creedon

Chief Constable, Derbyshire Constabulary

Mick Creedon joined Leicestershire Constabulary in 1980, he served as detective in every rank, and, also, as head of specialist crime. Mr Creedon also served as Assistant Chief Constable (Operations).

He transferred to the Derbyshire Constabulary in 2003 as Assistant Chief Constable. He led the force and regional response to serious and organised crime and the development of the East Midlands Special Operations Unit, and in October 2006, he was promoted to Deputy Chief Constable

In 2007, he was promoted to Chief Constable of Derbyshire. He is the national lead for serious and organised crime, financial investigation, and for investigative interviewing. He is currently also leading a number of major enquiries, not least Operation Herne which looks at the deployment of undercover police officers by a specialist department in the Metropolitan police from 1968 to 2008.

## Steve Holme

Crime and Intelligence unit,  
Derbyshire Constabulary

Steve joined the then Derby County and Borough Constabulary as a cadet in 1969.

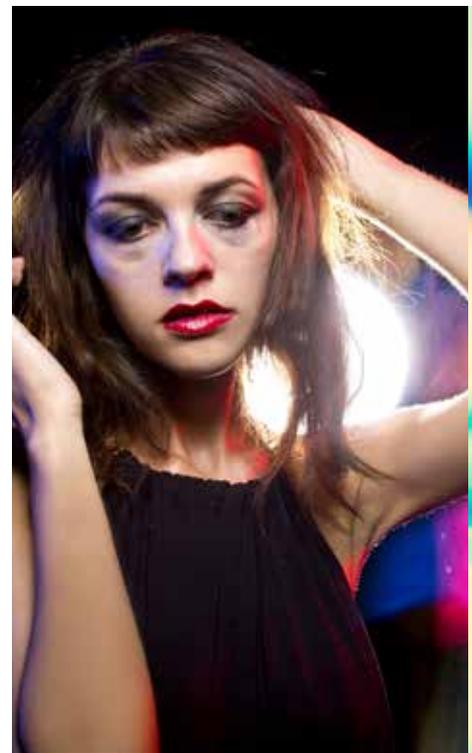
He has served in various uniform roles as well as on CID.

From 1984 until 1987 he served with the Force drug squad, returning as Detective Sergeant in 1993, in charge of the Derby drug squad.

He set up the Derbyshire Drug Market project in 2001, which was a Government funded project. It was the first full time project designed to see where the police and other agencies could work effectively together in tackling drug problems.

He retired as a police officer in 2002 but continued his role with the project. Although that has now ended he remained with the Force and now manages the central drug reception office, and the provision of expert drugs evidence to the courts.

In 2009 he won the national Drug Worker of the Year award.



## Tim Allin

'Stay True' Derby

Tim recently devised the 'Stay True' project with the Lauren's Link charity in Derby.

After spending nearly 20 years in a life dominated by drug use and crime Tim has now managed to take positive steps forward and bring together his experiences to help educate young people about the dangers such a lifestyle brings.

As a young child Tim was brought up in a safe and loving home but as he grew older he became very aware of the influence of his peers and the temptation to experiment with drugs.

He was not aware, however, just how destructive this pathway would be..

'Stay True' consists of workshops and mentoring that offer a comprehensive approach to recognising the signs that lead to the problems associated with drug use. The project offers guidance about understanding different coping mechanisms for those who are using. Stay True also helps younger people recognise the effects drugs can have on their families, friends and society whilst allowing individuals to realise their personal goals and dreams.



## Professor Derek Ward

Derek Ward, Professor of Public Health

Professor Derek Ward has a dual role with academia and the NHS. For 3 days a week he is co-Director of the newly established Centre for Health and Social Care at the University of Derby. During the other 2 days he provides professional public health advice into the 4 Clinical Commissioning Groups across Derbyshire. Prior to taking up this joint role, Derek was Director of Public Health for Derby City for 5 years, firstly as an Executive Director within Derby City PCT and then latterly as a Chief Officer of Derby City Council. Derek also has significant experience of national and regional policy work, having been a Consultant in Public Health and a Senior Civil Servant in the Department of Health. He is a Professor of Public Health, a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health and a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health.



## Dot Inger

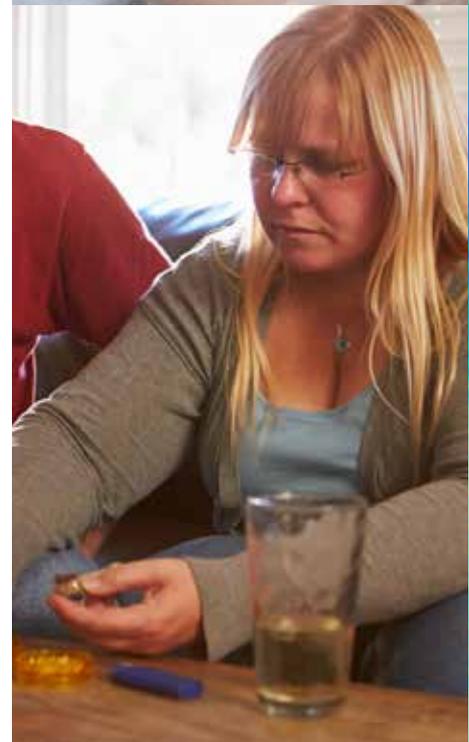
Spoda Project Manager

Dot Inger has worked within the drug sector for sixteen years. Her involvement occurred because of her being a concerned other and in 1998 she attended Spodas first ever self-help group, she has been proud to see the project thrive into the recognised established service that it is today.

Dot has represented families on many national advisory groups to ensure families are recognised. She has contributed to the content of The Orange Book (drug misuse and dependence guidelines on clinical management), numerous NTA documents/guidelines; she also worked closely with the UKDPC on many research initiatives as a voice for carers and families.

In 2006 Dot led the Spoda team with great pride to receive the Home Office regional award for the Drug Team of the Year - Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives.

Dot has worked closely with Professor John Strang from the national addiction centre to evidence and move into practice for the need for families and carers to be trained in overdose management and to administer Naloxone to reverse the effects of an opiate/methadone overdose.





## Ron Hogg

Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham

Ron Hogg lives in County Durham. He started working life as a teacher and most recently spent the last 4 years working in Children's Safeguarding in the City of Sunderland.

The intervening 30 years was spent working in 4 different police forces including Northumbria and Cleveland, but especially important was 5 years in Durham Constabulary as Assistant Chief Constable. In November 2012 he took up his post as Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham



## Suanne Lim

Head of Derby City  
Youth Offending Service

Suanne joined Derby City Council in 2009 as Head of Youth Offending and has responsibility for a range of services that prevent and reduce youth crime in the City. Suanne qualified as a social worker in 1995 at Nottingham Trent University and undertook post-graduate studies in Public Service Management in 2006 in Nottingham.

Suanne is member of both Derbyshire Criminal Justice Board and MAPPA Strategic Management Board and has been the Vice Chair of Derby Safeguarding Children Board. Suanne chaired the joint Training Development and Workforce Group and currently chairs the Vulnerable Young People's sub group.

Suanne is passionate about improving outcomes for young people and has 21 years of experience working within children's services in both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Suanne is currently leading on initiatives such as Multi Systemic Therapy.



## Danny Kushlick

Head of External Affairs  
Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Danny founded Transform Drug Policy Foundation in 1997, after working in a variety of jobs in the drugs field. It was his clients' experience that led him to the understanding that prohibition is a social policy catastrophe. He worked for Bristol Drugs Project, the Big Issue Foundation, Bath Area Drugs Advisory Service and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO). He is now an internationally recognised commentator on drugs and drug policy reform.

notes



If you require copies of today's presentation slides or further information about this event please contact the Derbyshire Office of the Police and Commissioner on the following details.



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