

Public Assurance Meeting



REPORT TITLE	DRUG DEALING AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE
REPORT BY	CHIEF CONSTABLE
DATE	24 MARCH 2026

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide assurance to the Police and Crime Commissioner that the Constabulary are making progress towards the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan Priority 5: Drug Dealing and Substance Misuse.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Case Studies on Multi-Agency Support for a Vulnerable Individual following Naloxone administration and Safeguarding a Young Person from Criminal Exploitation

RECOMMENDATIONS

To determine if the Commissioner can gain direct assurance that this area of business is being managed efficiently and effectively.

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1. **OVERVIEW**

- 1.1 Derbyshire Constabulary is a key member of the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership (DASP).
- 1.2 The force remains firmly committed to tackling drug and alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour, working proactively with partners to reduce harm within our communities. Through a combination of enforcement, problem solving, and early intervention, officers prioritise disrupting those who supply or exploit others, while ensuring that individuals affected by substance misuse are offered appropriate pathways into support. The force works closely with local treatment providers, health services, and safeguarding partners to identify vulnerability at the earliest opportunity, ensuring that those at risk, whether through exploitation, addiction, or wider wellbeing concerns are referred into the right services for help and protection. This balanced approach enables the force to both reduce offending and strengthen community resilience by addressing the root causes linked to drugs and alcohol.
- 1.3 In 2024, the DASP was required by the Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDCU) to develop both a Local Synthetic Opioid Preparedness Plan and an Incident Response Plan in response to the growing national threat posed by potent synthetic opioids, including nitazenes. These plans ensure the county has a prompt, coordinated, and proportionate response framework should a drugs-related outbreak occur. At present, there are no identified concerns relating to synthetic opioids in Derbyshire.
- 1.4 In October 2024, these plans were submissions to the Joint Combatting Drugs Unit (JCDCU) Taskforce Secretariat where they were reviewed nationally for common themes, challenges and identification of best practice.
- 1.5 A national review took place on the 9 May 2025 where the Minister for Policing published a report: 'Local Preparedness for Synthetic Opioids in England'. The report contains twelve recommendations for the DASP and for central government departments.
- 1.6 Derby and Derbyshire's Local Preparedness Plan was chosen as one of 25 to be individually reviewed and changes have been made based on feedback. The full national report can be found here: [Local preparedness for synthetic opioids in England - GOV.UK](#)

1.7 There are no changes since the previous report to the roles and responsibilities of the force and other partners/agencies.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 1: WORKING HOLISTICALLY TO REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY SUBSTANCE MISUSE, TO PREVENT CRIME AND MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER

	2023/24	2024/25	Nov-Oct 2023/24	Nov-Oct 2024/25	Volume Change	% Change
Drug Possession	1,431	1,936	1,649	2,187	538	32%
Drug Trafficking	909	1,032	1,010	1,059	49	4.9%

2.1 Drug possession offences have risen over the past three years, with the most recent data (to October 2025) showing a 32% increase compared with the previous twelve months.

2.2 Drug trafficking offences have increased at a slower rate, with the latest figures (to October 2025) indicating a 4.9% rise compared with the previous year.

2.3 Trends in drug-related offences are strongly influenced by police activity, including the execution of warrants at identified addresses and proactive work driven by locally developed intelligence. Recent training on recording standards and the effective use of stop and search powers has also contributed to the increase in recorded possession offences.

2.4 The Licensing Team have been delivering Ask for Angela training, which provides staff with the knowledge and confidence to safely support anyone who feels unsafe, uncomfortable, or at risk in licensed premises or similar venues. The training explains how customers can discreetly ask for help by using the code phrase “Ask for Angela,” prompting trained staff to take appropriate action, such as offering a safe space, arranging a taxi, or involving security or police if needed. It emphasises recognising signs of vulnerability, responding calmly and discreetly, maintaining confidentiality, and prioritising the safety and dignity of the individual. The programme also highlights the importance of good recordkeeping,

teamwork, and safeguarding awareness, ensuring that staff are prepared to intervene early, prevent potential harm, and create a safer environment for everyone.

2.5 During Spiking Intensification Week (commencing 14 September 2025), the force delivered a coordinated week of action in partnership with Change, Grow, Live (CGL). Activity was aligned with Freshers Week and structured around the 4P model—Pursue, Protect, Prevent and Prepare—to ensure a comprehensive response to spiking-related risks.

2.6 The campaign was jointly delivered with Crimestoppers, using a tailored package designed to reflect Derbyshire's priorities and the objectives of the national intensification week. The focus was on raising awareness of the harms associated with spiking, encouraging reporting of offenders, and promoting access to support services.

2.7 Elements of the campaign are: -

- Direct Mobile Messaging (in development). This feature is being developed to enable direct engagement with students and others who regularly use the Night-Time Economy (NTE). It will allow targeted messages to be sent to any device within a defined geographic area, covering key NTE zones and university locations, and directing users to a dedicated campaign landing page.
- Digital AdVan / Iwalkers - A digital AdVan is a van with a screen on the side and rear that displays all assets as requested. The van measures engagement with the public. The digital Iwalkers are two people that walk in a specified area with screens that are displayed with the required assets above their heads. The screens also measure engagement with the public. The content of both the AdVan and Iwalkers will be created collaboratively in partnership with 1625 (Change, Grow, Live) and will focus on NTE and University settings.
- Landing page - A new landing page will be developed to highlight the risks and consequences of ketamine use, provide information on how to report concerns about those supplying the drug, and signpost individuals to local support services.
- Press Release - Crimestoppers will produce a press release, to be approved by all partners, and issued to the media on the campaign launch day. Crimestoppers will manage all subsequent media enquiries.

- Stakeholder Campaign Pack - A comprehensive campaign pack—including an overview of the campaign and links to all digital assets—will be circulated to stakeholders, with a request to share and display materials in communal and public-facing areas.
 - Leaflet delivery - 1,000 printed leaflets will be distributed to key locations, particularly student accommodation, to maximise reach among priority groups.
 - Home Office Training Package - The Home Office has developed a spiking prevention and response training package for licence holders and event managers.
 - Licensing Team Delivery - The Licensing team is promoting completion of the training throughout the summer and during Intensification Week. The training also includes information on the Ask for Angela initiative, aligning with wider vulnerability-related work.
 - Wider Distribution of Training - The training package will be shared with all Licensing Authorities and Community Safety Partners in Derbyshire to upload to their websites and social media channels to encourage take-up.
 - Pub Watch Engagement - Information has been issued to 875 Derbyshire Alert recipients registered as business interests (public houses).
 - Derbyshire Alert Distribution - Information has been issued to 875 Derbyshire Alert recipients registered as business interests (public houses).
 - Force social media - The training and campaign materials will also be promoted via the force's social media channels to coincide with Spiking Intensification Week.
- 2.8 A full update on the alcohol tagging scheme was provided in the previous report. We are still unable to obtain data in relation to alcohol tagging schemes.
- 2.9 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) continue to be used as one of a number of tools to tackle ASB across Derbyshire. Local Authorities have approved extensions to existing PSPOs and established new PSPOs to deal with emerging areas.
- 2.10 A PSPO Task and Finish Group has overseen the development of a new app that replaces on-the-spot Fixed Penalty Notices for PSPO breaches. The app records the details of offenders and automatically forwards them to the local authority for follow-up action. It has been piloted in Chesterfield, Bolsover, and North East Derbyshire. An evaluation of its effectiveness has been carried out

in Chesterfield and North East with positive results; however, Chesterfield have stated that they would like to see more usage. There are now plans to trial this within Derby City before a full roll out.

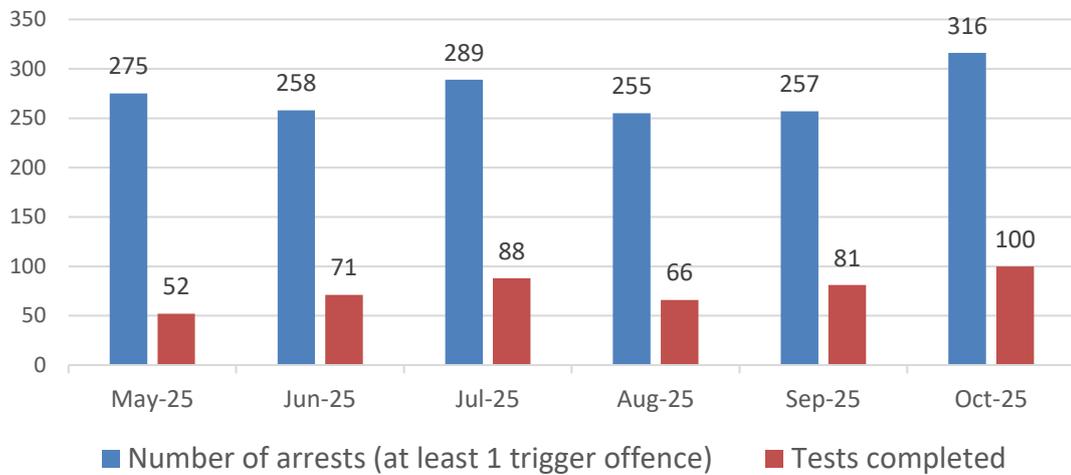
- 2.11 In 2024/25, eight new Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were implemented across Derbyshire, increasing the total number of active PSPOs to 36. During the same period, 164 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued for non-compliance, with Bolsover District Council accounting for 65% (106), largely due to car-cruising breaches under a nuisance vehicle PSPO. Several other teams issued five or more FPNs, including Bolsover Environmental Health, Chesterfield Community Safety, Derby Community Safety, North East Derbyshire Environmental Health, and South Derbyshire Environmental Health. This period also recorded the highest number of PSPO-related prosecutions in the past six years.
- 2.12 The force has administered Naloxone on 47 occasions across Derby and Derbyshire between May 2024 and November 2025, with each deployment preventing a potential fatality. Police carriage and use of Naloxone continues to demonstrate strong partnership working, ensuring that individuals receive follow-up support from specialist treatment, housing, and substance-misuse services.
- 2.13 The force has introduced Naloxone refresher training for officers to ensure they remain up to date with developments in the drugs market and current harm-reduction practices. The training aims to enhance officers' understanding of trauma and vulnerabilities linked to drug misuse, supporting more informed and compassionate frontline responses.
- 2.14 This work further demonstrates the commitment of both the force and DASP to addressing the risks posed by synthetic opioids and other emerging adulterants, ensuring preparedness and a consistent partnership approach to reducing drug-related harm.

Number of instance Naloxone has been used May 2024 – November 2025 – Section Breakdown	
Section	Total
North	10
South	37
Force	47

Section	Total
Derby North	26
Chesterfield	7
Derby West	5
Derby East	3
Erewash	2
Amber Valley	1
Dales	1
High Peak	1
Swadlincote	1
North East	0

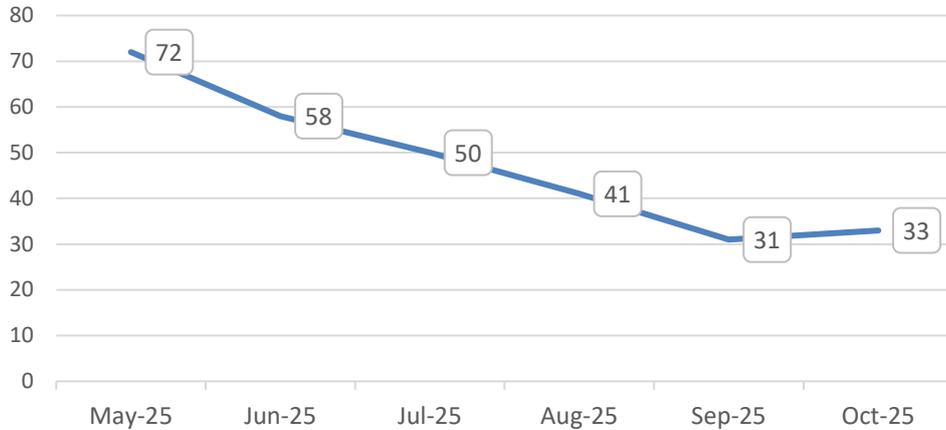
- 2.15 The force’s Drug Test on Arrest (DToA) capability declined earlier in the year following the end of Home Office funding, which led to the loss of the DToA Coordinator role—a key post that previously supported and drove this workstream.
- 2.16 This work was realigned within the force over the summer and is now managed by the Prevention and Partnership Department. Despite the earlier loss of funding and the Coordinator role, the data below demonstrates the positive progress achieved since the transition. The force has since secured three-year funding from DASP partners, enabling the recruitment of a new Coordinator, who is expected to take up the role in early 2026.
- 2.17 Between September 2024 and October 2025, a total of 953 tests were completed, of which 523 returned positive results (55%). Of these, 354 tested positive for cocaine, 19 for opiates, and 15 tested positive for both substances.

Number of arrests (trigger offences) and number of tests completed



2.18 The above tables show the number of arrests and the number of drugs tests completed.

Missed opportunities for testing



2.19 The Home Office is considering widening the range of trigger offences, which could allow police forces to use Drug Testing on Arrest for additional crimes, including knife-related offences, and to test for a broader range of substances.

3. SUB-OBJECTIVE 2: PROACTIVELY WORKING TO DISRUPT THE DRUGS SUPPLY AND COUNTY LINES WHICH OPERATE AT A NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL, RIGHT THROUGH TO A NATIONAL LEVEL

3.1 Details of drug trafficking offences for each of the past three years have been included within Sub-Objective 1 of this report.

Drug Related Stop Searches in the last three years and number of finds.						
	2023/24	2024/25	Nov- Oct 2023/24	Nov- Oct 2024/25	Volume Change	% Change
Stop search Drug Related	637	1,351	1,020	1,708	688	67%
Stop Search Drugs Find rate	41%	42%	43%	40%	N/A	-3%

3.2 Drug-related stop searches have increased markedly over the past year, rising by 67% alongside a broader uplift in overall stop-search activity. This growth reflects action taken in response to HMICFRS findings that the force needed to conduct more searches. Additional training has since been delivered to strengthen officers' confidence, capability, and consistency in the use of stop-search powers.

3.3 The positive find rate for drug related stop searches has remained stable and currently stands at 40%.

3.4 The Drugs Market Profile / Strategic Needs Assessment has been completed and was presented to DASP in November 2025. A further meeting will be held to agree the priorities and objectives that will shape the DASP objectives for 2026–2028.

3.5 The force continues to deliver a proactive and robust response to County Lines activity, using intelligence-led approaches to identify locations where lines are operating and exploitation is occurring. This work is undertaken in close partnership with key agencies to ensure immediate and long-term safeguarding

for those at risk, with a strong focus on preventing further harm and supporting recovery.

Month / Year	New Lines Identified	Lines Closed	No. persons charged CL	No of Persons Charged OCG	No. persons safeguarded CL	No. persons safeguarded OCG
Oct 24	0	2	5	5	0	1
Nov 24	6	3	0	1	3	0
Dec 24	4	4	12	1	11	0
Jan 25	0	1	1	0	6	0
Feb 25	1	3	1	1	0	3
Mar 25	0	0	1	2	4	0
Apr 25	4	3	0	6	1	0
May 25	2	0	1	0	3	0
Jun 25	6	4	2	0	7	0
Jul 25	3	2	7	0	14	0
Aug 25	2	0	0	1	3	1
Sep 25	1	10	4	1	6	0
Oct 25	0	0	4	4	3	0

3.6 The data indicates that Derbyshire continues to maintain a stable number of active, mapped County Lines. This reflects the force’s operating model, which focuses on the continual disruption and closure of lines in line with the evolving intelligence and risk picture. Over the past year, 29 new lines were identified and 32 were closed, and 56 individuals were safeguarded through the force’s County Lines response.

3.7 Cuckooing is a form of exploitation commonly associated with drugs supply, particularly County Lines activity. It involves offenders taking over the home of a vulnerable person—such as someone with substance-misuse issues, mental-health challenges, disabilities, or social isolation—and using the address as a base for drug dealing or related criminal activity. Victims are often coerced, threatened, or manipulated into allowing this, resulting in significant safeguarding risks and further vulnerability. The force changed its Op Trapped (cuckooing)

operating model at the start of 2024 to ensure that the root cause is targeted which is often substance misuse.

- 3.8 Under the refreshed approach, any address identified as being cuckooed now receives daily disruption visits for at least seven days. These visits are delivered jointly with treatment providers and housing associations to ensure individuals receive the appropriate safeguarding and support.

	2023/24	2024/25	Nov- Oct 2023/24	Nov- Oct 2024/25	Volume Change	%Change
Op Trapped (properties)	21	28	22	78	56	254%
People Safeguarded	15	16	12	43	31	258%

- 3.9 The changes have resulted in a significant increase in the number of vulnerable people identified and the number of people safeguarded.

- 3.10 Data for 2025 (January 2025-September 2025) school inputs is as follows:

- Primary school: 37 inputs delivered with 1,790 young people engaged.
- Secondary school: 50 inputs delivered with 3,418 young people engaged.
- Further education: 11 inputs delivered with 325 young people engaged.

- 3.11 This is in comparison to school inputs during the same time period during 2024 which shows that our inputs and numbers engaged with has increased.

- Primary school: 39 inputs with 1,366 young people engaged.
- Secondary school: 19 inputs with 2,778 young people engaged.
- Further education: 9 inputs delivered with 108 young people engaged.

- 3.12 It is not currently possible to provide data in relation to the number of children safeguarded in 2024 against County Lines; however, a dashboard is being created to provide this data in future.

4. **SUB-OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE MAXIMISES OPPORTUNITIES TO SEIZE DRUGS AND MORE ASSETS FROM CRIMINALS WHO ARE BENEFITING FROM CRIME**

4.1 In Derbyshire, most confiscation cases arise from drug-supply offences, with fraud and other crimes accounting for the remainder. ARIS (Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme) returns are unlikely to come from fraud cases, as any recovered funds are typically directed to compensate victims.

Confiscation Orders (Financial Year)						
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
TOTAL (Orders - number and value)	88 £528,664	76 £479,240	82 £568,888	72 £908,984	84 £2,022,314	108 £1,185,696
TOTAL (Benefit – number and value)	£3,149,382	£7,204,898	£4,672,022	£19,029,354	£14,557,787	£17,796,149
TOTAL ARIS returns	£86,821.28	£96,183.56	£52,995.90	£168,038.02	£134,599.02	£185,202

4.2 The rolling total from the start of the financial year shows 45 orders issued prior to submission to ARIS, with a combined value of £1.1 million, including £136,000 in compensation. All orders were supported by substantial benefit figures, reflecting the scale of criminal proceeds recovered.

4.3 For the 2025/26 financial year to date, 13 forfeiture orders have been secured, with a total value of £53,000. An additional £577,000 in seized cash remains under investigation and may be subject to confiscation or formal cash forfeiture pending the outcome of those enquiries.

Cash Seizures	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Orders obtained (Number and amount frozen which are under investigation)	14 £209,310	41 £318,528	20 £286,632	12 £181,979	10 £620,867	13 £182,321
Forfeiture Orders imposed (Completed orders from which the 50% figure is taken).	12 £111,520	12 £39,408	16 £103,791	15 £67,358	9 £328,615	11 £109,450

- 4.4 Since May 2024, the force no longer receives 100% of funds forfeited under Section 27 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. Following a directive from Crown Court Judge Straw, these proceeds are now directed to the Derbyshire Community Foundation charity.
- 4.5 Section 27(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 enables the court to order the forfeiture of property—such as cash, drugs, mobile phones, weapons, or vehicles—found in the possession of a convicted person and used in the commission of offences under the Act.
- 4.6 Most Section 27 forfeiture cases involve smaller sums where the circumstances do not meet the threshold for confiscation. These forfeitures are granted at court as part of the sentencing process.
- 4.7 The volume of orders received is directly linked to convictions and associated court rulings. Although the sums involved often relate to street-level criminality, the removal of these funds disrupts offenders’ ability to continue their activity.
- 4.8 For the 2025/26 financial year to date, Section 27 forfeiture orders total £26,000. Of this, approximately £17,000 has been directed to charity in line with Judge Straw’s ruling. The remaining £9,000 will be retained by the force as it relates to orders issued by other regional courts or cases concluded prior to the policy change.

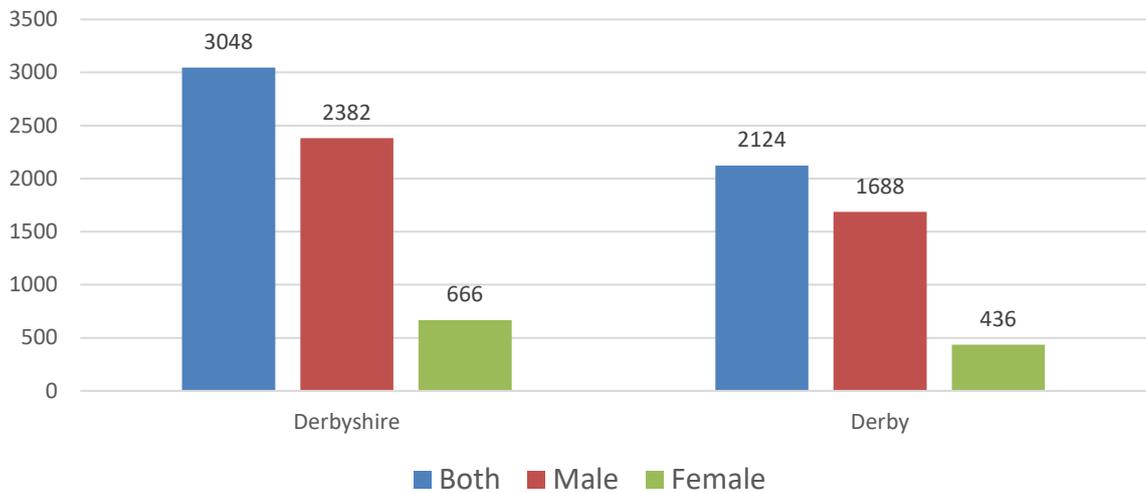
MDA Orders	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25**
TOTAL	77	75	72	29	45	57
(number and value)	£45,130	£44,930	£45,084	£31,114	£82,349	£85,480

** 24/25 £50,243 to Police, £35,236 to Derbyshire Community Foundation

SUB-OBJECTIVE 4: ENSURING THERE ARE PREVENTATIVE SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

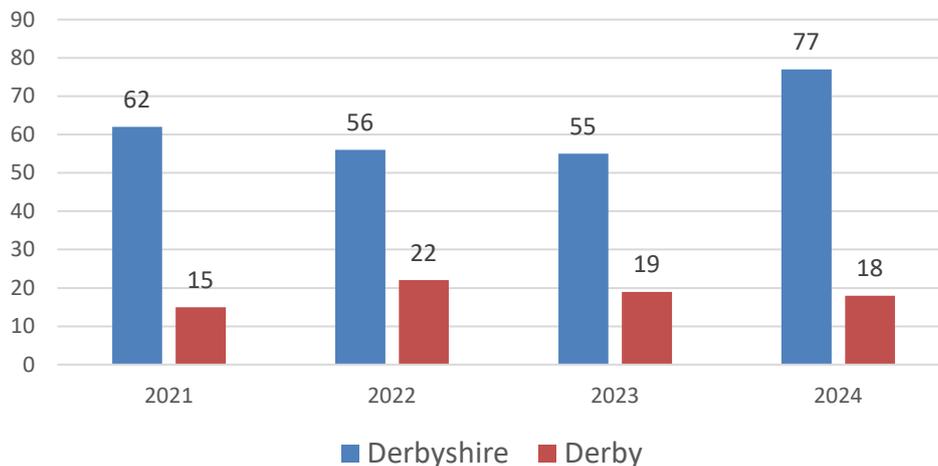
- 5.1 The graph below illustrates the estimated prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine users (all ages); these being the two most prevalent drugs. The most recent Government data available relates to 2019/20 and is based on historical modelling rather than actual recorded figures; therefore, the numbers should be interpreted as estimates.

2019/2020 Estimated total number of opiate and/or crack cocaine users by gender

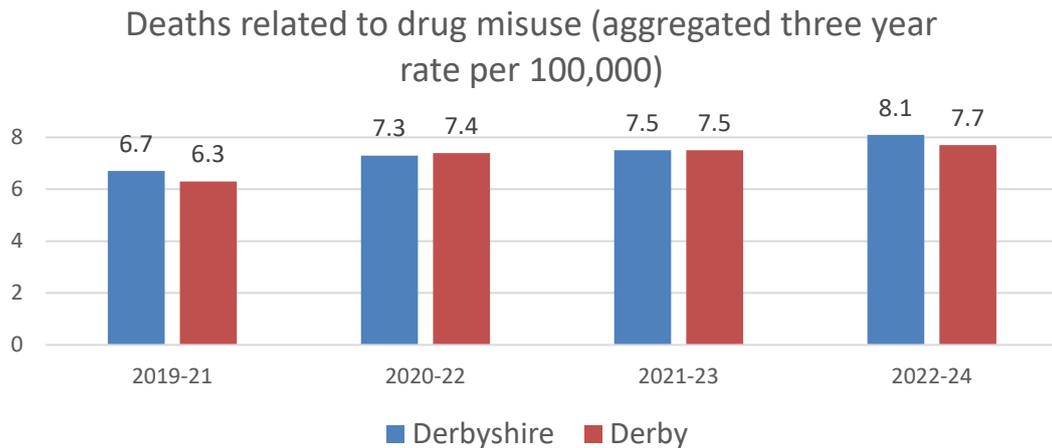


5.2 The graph below reports the number of deaths associated with drug misuse, based on the date the death is officially registered rather than the date it occurred. In England, the median delay between a drug-misuse death occurring and its registration is 208 days.

Deaths related to drug misuse



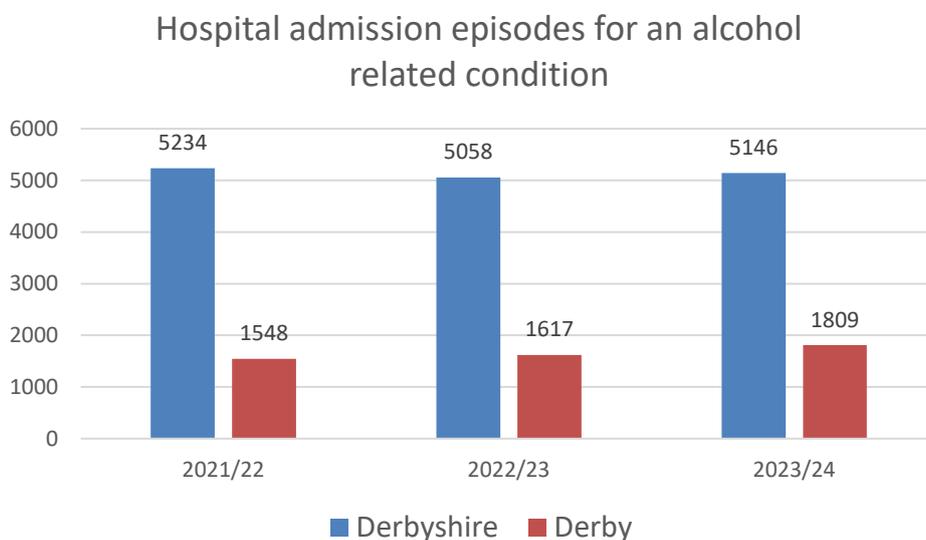
5.3 To compare areas and time periods fairly, drug-misuse deaths are assessed using a three-year aggregated, standardised rate per 100,000 population. Combining data over three years provides a more stable measure, and standardisation ensures meaningful comparison between different geographies.



5.4 Derbyshire’s three-year aggregated drug-misuse mortality rate remains significantly higher than the England average. Chesterfield has the highest rate in the county and the second highest in England at 15.4 deaths per 100,000 population, second only to Blackpool. High Peak and Amber Valley also record markedly elevated rates, with High Peak ranking eighth highest nationally. Bolsover’s rate is close to the England average and may be confirmed as higher once final Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) classifications are published.

5.5 Derbyshire recorded a 40% increase in drug-misuse treatment registrations in 2024 compared with 2023, significantly higher than the national trend, with England reporting a 2.5% rise over the same period.

5.6 The following chart shows the number of hospital admissions where the primary reason for admission is an alcohol-related condition.

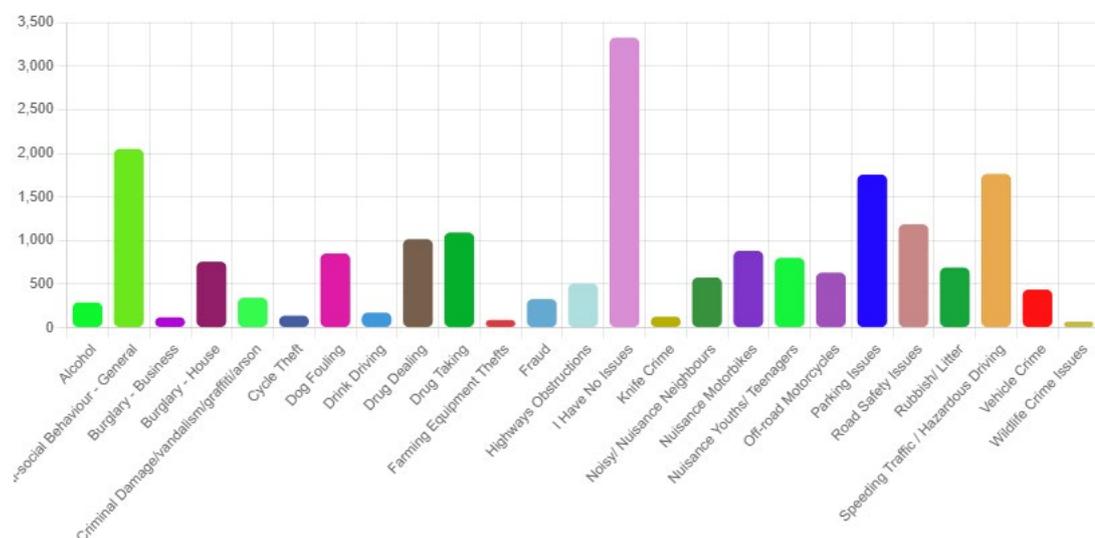


- 5.7 In 2023/24, Derby recorded a rate of 756 per 100,000 population, and Derbyshire recorded 603 per 100,000, both above the England average of 504 per 100,000.
- 5.8 Derby has the highest rate in the region and the second highest among its statistical neighbours. Derbyshire ranks third highest in the region and second highest within its statistical neighbour group. Within the county, Amber Valley has the highest rate—also the third highest regionally. All areas except North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Dales, and High Peak record rates significantly worse than the England average.
- 5.9 National social-media campaigns aimed at reducing drug-related deaths have recently launched, focusing on risks associated with ketamine, counterfeit medications, and illicit vapes. Work is underway to strengthen and promote these campaigns locally.
- 5.10 Local social-media activity continues to promote substance-use treatment and recovery. “Growing Recovery in Derbyshire (GRID)” and “Phoenix Futures – Derbyshire” provide strong examples of visible and accessible online support.
- 5.11 The GRID website offers comprehensive information on treatment and recovery services in Derbyshire, including access to take-home Naloxone.
- 5.12 Between May and November 2025, ten public-facing Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) events were hosted across all districts and boroughs. These brought together national experts, local residents with lived experience, and frontline professionals—including police—to co-produce recovery plans for Derbyshire. LEROs play a key role in harm reduction and recovery, with plans to expand their presence across the county.
- 5.13 The Multi-Agency Drug and Alcohol-Related Death Review Partnership, led by Public Health with key contributions from the force, continues to review local deaths to understand the complex factors involved. Emerging insights are informing strategies and actions to prevent future deaths.
- 5.14 Through the Local Drug Information System (LDIS) and the Drug Advisory Intelligence Group (DAIG), partners across Derby and Derbyshire have strengthened their ability to identify and respond to emerging drug-related threats. This enhanced approach has enabled early detection of risks not previously recognised elsewhere in the UK, leading to targeted alerts being issued to ambulance services, emergency departments, and frontline practitioners working with individuals at risk of drug-related harm.

- 5.15 This information provided in the previous report re 16-25 and The Coriell award remains the same and is still in place.
- 5.16 The Derby City Children and Young Persons Substance Use Prevention Steering Group has been established to provide strategic leadership and coordinate delivery of Derby’s Substance Use Prevention Plan for children and young people. To support a shared vision and strengthen partnership working, system mapping has been carried out to understand the existing universal, targeted, and indicative prevention activity across the city. Key workstreams have been created to identify gaps and drive system improvements, focusing on areas such as workforce development, pathways, education, and co-production amongst a range of partners chaired by Public Health.

6. SUB-OBJECTIVE 5: LISTENING TO CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC TO IDENTIFY DRUG DEALING IN AREAS TO PROACTIVELY TARGET AND SEEK TO IMPROVE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

- 6.1 In last year’s report, we outlined how the Derbyshire Talking Survey was used to engage communities, understand local concerns, and shape our response. This has now been replaced by the Community Voices Survey, which continues to ask the same core question.
- 6.2 The graph below summarises the issues raised by the public in relation to drugs and alcohol within their local area. We can analyse this information at a more granular level, and the concerns identified will inform our Neighbourhood Priorities.



6.3 The force uses a range of mechanisms to listen to, engage with, and provide feedback to communities regarding drug-dealing concerns. These include:

- Community meetings
- Social media channels
- Derbyshire Alert
- Crimestoppers
- Online reporting tools
- 999 and 101 calls for service
- Local engagement events

These platforms enable the public to share information, raise concerns, and receive updates on policing activity, supporting a responsive and community-focused approach to tackling drug-related issues.

6.4 The below table highlights the number of calls received during the past three years where a Drugs qualifier has been applied.

	2023	2024	2025
Total incidents with drugs qualifier	4,202	3,525	3,395
Total ROC (record of contact) with Drug Qualifier	267	221	270

6.5 The below table shows the number of calls graded as an emergency (please note this commenced in October 2023 hence the low numbers for that year).

	2023	2024	2025
Total Drugs incidents graded Emergency	167	894	825
Total drugs ROC graded Emergency	0	2	1

- 6.6 A ROC records all public contact made to the force control room; an incident is the conversion of a ROC where a policing response is required.
- 6.7 The below table highlights the number of intelligence items that have been submitted during the past three years. This includes intelligence which is received via Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers is an independent charity that enables the public to report information about crime anonymously. This includes intelligence relating to suspected drug dealing, drug supply networks, and associated criminality. The force uses this information to identify drug-related activity, support targeted enforcement, and safeguard vulnerable individuals. Acting on Crimestoppers intelligence also helps strengthen community confidence by demonstrating that concerns are heard and responded to.

Drugs Intelligence Year on Year Comparison			
Month	2023	2024	2025
January	1,536	1,582	1,588
February	1,338	1,552	1,506
March	1,486	1,600	1,628
April	1,412	1,596	1,391
May	1,565	1,648	1,573
June	1,599	1,344	1,610
July	1,641	1,414	1,551
August	1,355	1,311	1,233
September	1,489	1,394	1,192
October	1,559	1,749	1,484
November	1,445	1,495	1,394
December	1,152	1,188	*
Total	17,577	17,873	16,150

*data not available at time of producing report

7. SUB-OBJECTIVE 6: SUPPORT PREVENTATIVE SCHEMES WHICH AIM TO REDUCE THE CYCLE OF REOFFENDING LINKED TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- 7.1 Individuals experiencing substance misuse can be referred for support to the Derby City Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service or the Derbyshire Recovery Partnership, depending on where they live.
- 7.2 Referrals may be made through Arrest Referral pathways, via the courts through a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) or Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR), or through a Public Protection Notice (PPN) submitted by frontline officers.
- 7.3 Further referrals are made following a positive Drug Test on Arrest (DToA).
- 7.4 Information on wider peer-support options, including Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, is also provided.
- 7.5 Links to these services are accessible via the force's website. [Home | Derbyshire Constabulary](#)
- 7.6 The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme currently manages a cohort of 250 Serious Acquisitive Crime offenders. Substance-misuse services are key partners in this work, as many individuals within the cohort experience some level of dependency.
- 7.7 Operation Knightlow is underway, providing additional out-of-hours visits to offenders in the community. The initiative is jointly funded by Public Health, the Probation Service, and the force, with the aim of reducing serious-violence offending. To date, IOM officers have carried out 135 visits, 69 of which involved individuals with substance-misuse issues.
- 7.8 These visits are designed to offer support, gather intelligence, and strengthen engagement with treatment services, thereby reducing the risk of reoffending.
- 7.9 Last summer, the force experienced increased demand which placed pressure on resourcing; this was mitigated through a range of measures, and with demand returning to expected levels, the risk has now been fully resolved.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The previous PAM report noted slow progress within the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership (DASP) regarding data collection, the outcomes framework, the needs assessment, and the delivery plan. Since then, the force

has taken on the role of digital and data lead for DASP and has completed the needs assessment, the drugs market profile, and a performance pack to support the outcomes framework. The next phase will involve DASP reviewing the full dataset to inform development of the delivery plan.

- 8.2 Police carriage of Naloxone continues to be effective, with strong officer uptake and increasing numbers trained. Naloxone has been administered on 47 occasions, each contributing to the preservation of life. Work is now underway to secure funding to sustain police carriage beyond 2027, when the current stock is due to expire.
- 8.3 Despite challenges associated with Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA), progress has been made. Funding has been secured for a three-year period, and the force plans to recruit a DToA Coordinator in early 2026 to strengthen and optimise the process, with a focus on increasing referrals into treatment.
- 8.4 In early 2025, changes were made to the cuckooing process (Operation Trapped) to establish a more collaborative, partnership-led, problem-solving approach. Data shows significant improvements, including increased identification of addresses and individuals safeguarded. Of the 78 addresses identified, only two were repeats, indicating that the revised approach is effectively reducing repeat victimisation.
- 8.5 As the drugs market continues to evolve, the force has re-established the Drug Advisory Intelligence Group (DAIG) to enhance information-sharing across partners and stakeholders. The group's purpose is to identify emerging drug-related threats and harms and support efforts to reduce drug-related harm and deaths.
- 8.6 Synthetic opioids are among the fastest-growing groups of psychoactive substances globally and are becoming increasingly present within the UK's illegal drug supply. Their extreme potency poses a significant emerging threat, with experts warning that these substances—particularly nitazines—are contributing to a rising number of drug-related deaths.
- 8.7 In response, a local Synthetic Opioid Preparedness Plan and an Incident Response Plan have been developed in Derbyshire to ensure an effective and coordinated approach should a drug-related outbreak or incident involving potent synthetic opioids occurs.

- 8.8 The force remains fully committed to tackling drug dealing and the wider harms associated with substance misuse across our communities. Through proactive enforcement, intelligence-led operations, and strong partnership working with local authorities, health services, and support agencies, we continue to target those who exploit vulnerable people while ensuring individuals affected by addiction are offered safeguarding and clear pathways into support. Our approach recognises that enforcement and rehabilitation must work together, and we will continue to work relentlessly to reduce drug-related harm, protect communities, and improve the safety and wellbeing of people across Derbyshire.

9. APPENDICES

Case Study: Multi-Agency Response to a High-Risk Individual Experiencing Substance Misuse and Homelessness

Background

In early October, an individual came to police attention following an incident requiring the administration of Naloxone. Checks highlighted significant vulnerabilities linked to substance misuse and mental health. The individual had been sleeping rough in Derby City Centre since mid-September after leaving their property in Ripley. Attempts to secure temporary accommodation had failed due to erratic behaviour, noise complaints, and conflict with landlords.

Whilst rough sleeping, the individual was subject to theft, assault, and sexual assault, and became involved with a local group of Mamba users, leading to daily Mamba use and occasional crack cocaine consumption. During this period, they were involved in multiple police interventions, including two further Naloxone administrations and three positive stop-searches for possession of Mamba.

Challenges Identified

- Persistent rough sleeping and exposure to serious harm.
- Substance misuse and mental health issues impacting engagement.
- Loss of phones, limiting communication and missed appointments.
- Breakdown in communication with Amber Valley Borough Council, resulting in closure of their housing application.
- High risk of further victimisation and significant health deterioration.

Actions Taken

Partnership Engagement

The force worked closely with Derby Homes' REST team and Derby Drug and Alcohol Service to coordinate support. A multi-agency meeting was arranged at Derby Council House to explore housing and recovery options directly with the individual.

Housing Intervention

Police re-engaged Amber Valley Borough Council to reopen the individual's housing application and personally transported them to Ripley for a homelessness assessment. Temporary accommodation was secured in Derby City Centre as an immediate safeguarding measure.

Continued Support

Regular contact was maintained to prevent disengagement. Officers advocated for longer-term housing solutions, leading to a placement in Heanor managed by Riverside Homes. Support was also provided with essential financial arrangements, including service-charge payments and bank-card replacement, reducing the risk of relapse into harmful environments.

Recovery Pathway

A replacement phone was provided through Derby Homes to improve communication. A new referral was made to county drug-treatment services, and structured, peer-led support was arranged through Rhubarb Farm (a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation).

Outcomes

- The individual successfully moved into supported accommodation in Derbyshire.
- Expressed optimism about the future and reconnected with family.
- Re-engaged with treatment and began positive self-care activities.
- Developed new community links, including local church engagement.
- Reported improved perception of police and appreciation for multi-agency support.

Key Learning Points

- Persistent, flexible engagement is essential when supporting individuals with complex and chaotic lifestyles.
- Strong multi-agency collaboration provides holistic support and shared responsibility.
- Immediate, practical interventions such as transport, accommodation support and financial assistance – can prevent disengagement and significantly reduce harm.
- Recovery-focused lived-experience-led services offer sustainable pathways for long-term change.

Case Study: Safeguarding a Young Person from Criminal Exploitation

Background

A 16-year-old male was identified as being at risk of criminal exploitation in Derbyshire, with concerns centred on emerging substance misuse and associations with known drug dealers. Initial engagement by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) found him reluctant to talk, though he listened to safeguarding advice. He admitted having tried cannabis but denied current drug use or involvement in supply. Before officers left, information was provided to both the young person and his mother about accessing support through Change Grow Live (CGL) 16–25 Outreach.

Shortly afterwards, the young person was reported missing and was later located in another part of the country, having been trafficked to deal Class A drugs. He was treated as a high-risk missing person. His substance misuse escalated during this period, including cannabis use, binge drinking, and occasional cocaine use, increasing his vulnerability to further exploitation.

Challenges Identified

- Minimal initial engagement and reluctance to disclose information.
- High-risk missing episode involving trafficking for drug supply.
- Emerging substance misuse contributing to vulnerability.
- Peer associations and lifestyle factors increasing susceptibility to exploitation.

Actions Taken

Immediate Safeguarding

SNT officers worked closely with missing-persons teams to secure the young person's safe return and maintained contact with his family to provide reassurance and support.

Partnership Approach

Officers proactively contacted CGL to request outreach engagement, despite this being outside routine practice. CGL agreed to participate following safety assurances.

Engagement and Referral

A joint visit with CGL was carried out, using informal conversation to build rapport. Risks and support options were clearly explained, resulting in the young person agreeing to a referral with his mother present. CGL has since re-engaged independently as his allocated key worker.

Ongoing Support

The young person began to open up about his interests, particularly fitness and outdoor activities. Positive alternatives, including gym sessions and fishing, were discussed with CRE team members. CGL is now providing harm-reduction support, trust-building, and structured routines aimed at reducing opportunities for further exploitation.

Outcomes

- The young person is now actively engaging with CGL.
- He has acknowledged the risks of the missing episode and demonstrated improved awareness.
- He has expressed interest in healthier routines focused on fitness and outdoor activities.
- His mother remains fully supportive and is working closely with CGL.
- The Child at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) team continues to monitor and investigate associated drug lines.

Key Learning Points

- Creative partnership working - such as encouraging CGL to undertake outreach—can overcome engagement barriers. (e.g., persuading CGL to conduct outreach) can break down engagement barriers.
- Building rapport through personal interests helps young people feel valued and increases commitment to support.
- Multi-agency collaboration ensures consistent safeguarding and reduces risk of re-exploitation.
- Early intervention and establishing positive, structured routines are essential for long-term resilience and safety.