

MPS Drugs Action Plan 2026-2028





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Message from the MPS Drugs Senior Lead Commander

From April 2026 the Met will be launching a refreshed iteration of the Drugs Action Plan taking that commitment to 2028, framed around the 4P areas of Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare. This is not a new plan but a step-by-step continuation of our determination to make the Met an outstanding local police service for London.

This Drugs Action Plan 2026-2028 is focused on reducing demand for drugs, saving lives and targeting criminals involved in the drugs trade and drugs trafficking. It aligns with the ambitions of New Met for London 2 (NMfL2¹), the London Race Action Plan², the Children's Strategy³, the VAWG Action Plan⁴, The Stop and Search Charter⁵ and the Anti-Social Behaviour Plan⁶. Given the wider impact of drugs, this Plan reflects the Met's continued transformation to achieve more trust, less crime, and higher standards.



Commander Paul Brogden

Head of Specialist Crime | NPCC Lead for
Gangs and County Lines



Introduction

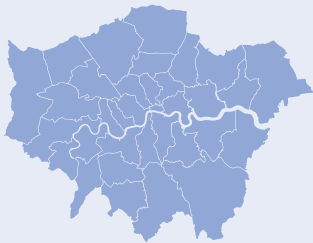
As an organisation, I'm proud of what's been achieved so far (Jan 2025 to Dec 2025)



Our officers have referred 1,606 people to drugs treatment providers utilising the Project ADDER Voluntary Referral App with a total of 2,681 since August 2024

1,300

Over 1,300 people were the subject of safeguarding referrals to our partners related to Drugs Supply and County Lines



We've closed 1,028 County Drugs Lines and 588 London Drugs Lines

Through the Drugs Testing on Arrest Programme in custody, the Met has drug tested 19,220 people for Cocaine and Opiates with 8,820 people referred to their local drug treatment provider for support

6,818

The Met has recorded 6,818 serious and organised crime disruptions for drugs

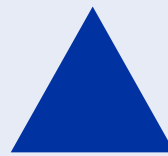


6.3%

5,490 people were arrested for drug trafficking offences. This represents a 6.3% increase compared to 2024

92.7%

1,671 people were charged for drug trafficking, representing a 92.7% increase compared to 2024



19.5%

82,591 Total Drug Seizures, an increase of 19.5% compared to 2024



7,671 Kg Total Weight of Drugs Seizures, an increase of 19% compared to 2024



14.5%

Across the Met, 63% of drugs possession offences are dealt with out of court and the number of out of court disposals for drugs possession increased by 14.5%

The Met has built new partnerships and improved existing ones to ensure enforcement activities that disrupt drugs supply can have a wider and more lasting impact, reducing substance use in an area in the longer term. This includes drugs education, awareness and engagement through Project ADDER.

- 333 engagement sessions with schools, colleges, universities with 33,370 attendees.
- 669 partnership/business engagement sessions with 10,010 attendees.
- 561 community and lived experience training sessions.
- We've piloted and pioneered projects focused on cuckooing, diversion programmes, improving health outcomes for those leaving police custody and improving referral pathways to safeguarding/health partners.

We acknowledge there is so much more to do.

Commissioning this refreshed plan until 2028 was essential to ensure the Met's approach remains current and appropriate for London, addressing the present-day threat of drugs in an evolving drugs market, and reflects our commitment to our core policing responsibilities, while maintaining our partnership arrangements through collaboration with local authorities, communities, and other agencies.

Only with the community and partners help can we truly address the harm caused by drugs –whether it is drug related anti-social behaviour, the exploitation of children and young people or supporting those who want to live drug-free lives to joint problem-solving addressing local crime priorities driven by drugs.

The Met is clear that where legislation exists, we have a responsibility to act. However, our actions must be considered, proportionate and necessary, mindful of their impact on communities – particularly those already disadvantaged or disproportionately impacted.

We will adopt an approach that minimises criminalisation for the vulnerable, while addressing the negative local impact of anti-social behaviour linked to drug use and supply. Strengthening our response to child criminal exploitation through a proactive, child centred approach.

Our shift towards Prepare, Protect, and Prevent, alongside Pursue, reflects the influence of London's communities on our approach. This enhanced response strengthens our resolve to target those causing the greatest harm, including organised crime groups and gangs whose business models rely on child exploitation and drive serious violence.

We will continue to

Investigate with precision, focusing on high-harm offenders and perpetrators of violence.

Divert and support those impacted by drugs through referrals to drugs treatment and intervention.

Disrupt and dismantle organised crime networks, particularly those exploiting children and those causing the most harm to London.

Our partnerships remain critical to the plan. The Met will break down organisational barriers and create new opportunities for collaboration. We will work closely with health, education, local authorities and community organisations to deliver a joined-up response to tackling drugs. We will also adapt to emerging threats, including synthetic opioids such as Nitazenes or Orphines and other novel substances, ensuring London is resilient against these dangers.

Unlike conventional crime, drug-related demand is not isolated to drug offences alone; it intersects with violence, acquisitive crime, safeguarding and public health, along with local community concerns such as perception of safety, ASB and open space drug use. Underlying harm indicators also suggest significant growth in high-risk areas such as domestic abuse, violence against women and girls along with other predatory type offending.

The Met recognises that the drug threat will continue to grow in both volume and harm over the coming years. Global increases in drugs availability, the rise of synthetic substances and poly-drug use⁷ will drive demand and complexity. To meet this challenge, the Met has implemented a multi-layered whole system and adaptive approach under the Drugs Action Plan. A plan that commits to flexibility and adaptation in response to changing drug markets. An emphasis placed on improved intelligence capture, precise data led policing and stronger use of academic and research insight. In addition, a continued focus on County and London drug lines disruption, with recognition of online and digital supply environments.

At the heart of this plan is collaborating with communities, councils and agencies to address the root causes of drug crime, solve problems together, agree shared priorities and improve safety across London. This includes listening to our partners and trialing new ways to work closer with them, focusing on a smaller number of priorities by developing joint plans, improving information and data-sharing between stakeholders to provide insight for partnership forums, such as the London Drugs Forum.

Targeting drugs is a priority as an enabler of Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and serious violence, which is where the Met drives the greatest operational effect. The Met will target illegal drugs markets and those who control them, focusing on drugs as an enabler of violence and a public health issue, targeting organised crime groups and high harm gangs, reducing the impact from drugs and weapons supply, and dismantling SOC enablers.

I am proud to lead this plan. While a generational shift is needed to fully recognise the devastating impact of drugs, I believe that in partnership, the Met can deliver a trusted policing response, aligned with our key partners, complementary to other policing strategies, and ultimately delivering our shared vision for a safer London.

Purpose and Context

This Drugs Action Plan is a continuation of the published commitments to tackling drugs across London. Under each commitment, a clear 4P (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare) activity⁸ is set out, aligned to A New Met for London priorities (NMfL1 and 2), the Met Serious Organised Crime Strategy, National County Lines Strategic⁹ priorities and emerging drug threats such as synthetic opioids.



Commitments

Commitment 1

Minimise the impact of drugs on communities focusing both our local and specialist resource on those areas most affected by drugs and associated crime.

- Target visible street markets, ASB¹⁰ linked drugs use/supply locations and repeat hotspots using harm-based tasking. Support the development of local crime fighting plans to ensure focus and activity on those drug suppliers who pose the highest threat and harm to our communities.
- Work with local authorities, health and Combating Drugs Partnerships¹¹ to reduce demand for drugs through diversion, early intervention and education, increasing referrals to support agencies focused on reducing a user's reliance on drugs.
- Safeguard vulnerable residents affected by drug-related ASB, cuckooing¹² and exploitation, utilising new and existing legislation.
- Develop neighbourhood problem-solving/crime fighting plans informed by community insight and intelligence, working with Project ADDER¹³, Clear Hold Build¹⁴ and Combating Drugs Partnerships.

Commitment 2

Close County Drugs Lines and London Drugs Lines ensuring that we protect Londoners from exploitation and violence.

- Maintain our robust enforcement response against organised gangs and individuals who supply drugs into, from and within London.
- Disrupt drug line controllers, organisers and facilitators using Serious Organised Crime and Proceeds of Crime¹⁵ tactics. Increasing our use of legislation to financially disrupt supply of drugs, including the seizure of cash and other criminal assets.
- Early identification of at-risk children and young people through schools and partners. Proactively engaging with and educating children, young people, their families and adults at risk to provide support and divert from drug related offending and exploitation.
- Safeguard exploited and missing individuals, including victims of cuckooing. Increasing our use of criminal and civil orders to prevent and disrupt offending, including modern slavery laws.

- Enhance our child first¹⁶ approach that prioritises vulnerability, challenges adultification and ensures officers act decisively to protect those at risk utilising new child exploitation legislation.
- Maintain specialist capability and intelligence alignment with the National County Lines Coordination Centre¹⁷ to identify and disrupt County Drug lines¹⁸ and Organised Crime Groups¹⁹.

Commitment 3

Understand and disrupt the drugs-violence nexus to achieve the maximum impact on criminals and keep London safe.

- Target nominals and OCGs linked to drug-related violence and weapons to expedite the prosecution of those involved in the supply of illicit drugs, with specific focus on men of violence and perpetrators of violence against women and girls.
- Reduce violence retaliation cycles through early intervention and focused deterrence. Working with partners to develop trauma informed referral pathways to assist with harm reduction and the recovery from drugs dependency.
- Prioritise safeguarding for those at risk of serious violence, maximising opportunities to refer people into treatment within the Criminal Justice System and supporting prisons to reduce access to illicit drugs within their own estate.
- Use analytical products linking drugs, violence and locations to inform tasking. Utilising updated drugs market profiles and wider analysis at local and regional level to understand who is at risk, those causing harm, dependency and consumption to drive local activity.

Commitment 4

Deliver effective investigations and justice outcomes whilst ensuring appropriate convictions or out of court disposals are pursued.

- Build strong evidential cases against supply networks, including digital, forensic and financial evidence including expansion of evidential police testing of drugs, expert witnesses and specialist drugs officers.
- Use proportionate out-of-court disposals to reduce reoffending where appropriate, including supporting partners responsible for keeping children and young people safe, with relevant messaging about both the harm and exploitative nature of the drugs business, as well as the drugs themselves
- Enhance the Met's understanding of the opportunities that a data-led and precise de-personalised approach offers to our investigations, along with advances in technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- Maintain investigative standards, training and quality assurance including maintaining our utilisation of Expert Witnesses to enhance understanding of the drugs business model across the Criminal Justice System.

Commitment 5

Minimise harm caused by drugs through partnership working using Project ADDER and the principles of Clear, Hold, Build to achieve long term positive outcomes.

- Share information with partners to drive activity targeting high-harm supply and enable better coordination of the response to drug harms and crime prevention.
- Support drugs treatment, recovery, diversion and referral pathways through Combating Drugs Partnerships and other key partners to minimise the risk from drug related deaths, near misses, recidivism and drug use relapse, utilising partnership data to target interventions and engagement.
- Respond jointly with partners to overdose clusters and high-risk individuals, maintaining clear escalation routes with health and local authorities.
- Improve the understanding local policing teams have of their local illicit drugs picture and the risk from high potency substances such as synthetic opioids.
- Maintain support for wider Naloxone²⁰ use including carriage by officers for their own protection, Naloxone provision by custody healthcare professionals, officer safety and risk mitigation training.
- Continuing work with those who have primary responsibility for public healthcare to prevent opioid overdoses, including LDIS processes (London Drugs Information System²¹) and drug checking services such as The Loop²².

Commitment 6

Listen to communities to fully understand the harm caused by drugs.

- Use community intelligence to inform enforcement priorities, including sharing messages with drug users who could be affected by contaminated drugs through the established MPS LDIS process.
- Co-produce local drug prevention activity with communities, young people and local charities, including working with licensed premises, festival and event organisers to reduce the risk of potential harm from illicit drugs.
- Work with organisations representing people with lived experience to understand their voices and experiences.
- Respond to community concerns about safety, ASB and vulnerability, including increasing the knowledge amongst our frontline teams to recognise and address drug harms and associated exploitation/safeguarding issues.
- Maintain regular engagement and feedback mechanisms at borough level along with continued collaboration with MOPAC²³, OHID²⁴ and local authorities to capture and respond to local concerns and public sentiment.

Commitment 7

Target the drugs and those criminals causing the greatest harm.

- Prioritise drugs markets linked to violence, exploitation, serious organised crime and VAWG²⁵ to ensure focus and activity on those drug suppliers who pose the highest threat and harm to our communities or directing resources towards those individuals in greatest need of intervention with partners.
- Reduce demand for high-harm substances and illicit drugs through education and diversion, identify harm prevention interventions, raise awareness of the harm caused by drug use and break cycles of offending.
- Safeguard those most at risk from high-harm and work with partners to mitigate the threat from Synthetic Opioids through Project Housebuilder²⁶, support early warning systems and improve information sharing with health, local authorities and Coroners.
- Enhance rapid assessment, forensic testing and response capability for emerging substances such as the synthetic drugs including Nitazene, Fentanyl and Orphines.
- Increase the use of criminal and civil orders to disrupt and prevent offending, including modern slavery laws and positive requirements.

Commitment 8

Address online and digital drug supply including prevention opportunities

to keep Londoners safe online, pursuing online offenders and identifying how online and in-person offending is linked.

- Disrupt online supply, social media dealing and encrypted communications, targeting illicit drugs that cause the most harm to individuals and communities, and generate the most financial benefits for organised crime.
- Work with partners to reduce online recruitment and exploitation, working with public protection teams to strengthen safeguarding practices of children and vulnerable adults in this arena.
- Safeguard young people vulnerable to online grooming into drug supply through early intervention, prevention and support pathways.
- Maintain digital skills, tools and intelligence capability to improve the policing response to online criminality linked to drugs supply offences.

Commitment 9

Support the New Met for London performance framework, the Met's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy and relevant national strategies.

- Monitor enforcement outcomes against high-harm offenders and how our policing response can be tailored to maximum effect, particularly in relation to organised crime groups and urban street gangs.
- Track diversion, treatment engagement and reoffending, increasing referrals to partners to improve our awareness of drug motivated crime and drug contributory crime, including the impact of specific drug types on offending.
- Monitor safeguarding outcomes and impact in collaboration with Combating Drugs Partnerships, using performance data to inform assurance, learning and prioritisation of drugs threats.
- Maintain our support for the work of the London Drugs Forum²⁷, with its dual health and criminal justice focus to increase understanding of how drugs impact London and its communities through a whole system response.
- Ensure ongoing alignment and synergy with the London Race Action Plan, Children's Strategy, VAWG Action Plan, Stop and Search Charter and ASB Action Plan, given the wide impact of drugs.

Commitment 10

Review any changes within the drugs market, tactics or methodologies used by organised criminal groups and new emerging threats impacting London.

- Adapt enforcement tactics in response to market changes, new legislation, capturing global research and commission where appropriate, furthering evidence-based policing research to improve the Met's response to the threat of and harms caused by drugs.
- Update prevention approaches based on learning and evidence, inviting peer review from other similar forces and visiting other policing areas, keeping under review potential best practices and opportunities seen elsewhere in the UK and internationally.
- Review safeguarding effectiveness and partner pathways to assist with harm reduction and the recovery from drugs dependency.
- Conduct quarterly strategic reviews and annual problem analysis to identify and tackle new trends, risks, methodologies and threats such as synthetic opioids in an ever-evolving drugs market.

Commitment 1	Minimise the impact of drugs on communities focusing both our local and specialist resource on those areas most affected by drugs and associated crime
Commitment 2	Close County Drugs Lines and London Drugs Lines ensuring that we protect Londoners from exploitation and violence
Commitment 3	Understand and disrupt the drugs–violence nexus to achieve the maximum impact on criminals and keep London safe
Commitment 4	Deliver effective investigations and justice outcomes whilst ensuring appropriate convictions or out of court disposals are pursued
Commitment 5	Minimise harm caused by drugs through partnership working using Project ADDER and the principles of Clear, Hold, Build to achieve long term positive outcomes
Commitment 6	Listen to communities to fully understand the harm caused by drugs
Commitment 7	Target the drugs and those criminals causing the greatest harm
Commitment 8	Address online and digital drug supply including prevention opportunities to keep Londoners safe online, pursuing online offenders and identifying how online and in-person offending is linked
Commitment 9	Support the New Met for London performance framework, the Met’s Serious and Organised Crime Strategy and relevant national strategies
Commitment 10	Review any changes within the drugs market, tactics or methodologies used by organised criminal groups and new emerging threats impacting London

Notes

- ¹ NMFL2 - [New Met for London Phase 2 | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ² LRAP [The London Race Action Plan | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ³ MPS Children's Strategy [The Met's Children Strategy | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ⁴ MPS VAWG Action Plan [Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) action plan | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ⁵ The Stop and Search Charter [The Stop and Search Charter | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ⁶ MPS Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan 2026 (in draft)
- ⁷ Poly Drugs Use - or polysubstance use, involves using two or more drugs together or in close succession, which can significantly increase health risks and unpredictability of effects
- ⁸ 4P (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare) activity [4P approach to dismantling serious organised crime | College of Policing](#)
- ⁹ National County Lines Strategic Assessment [National County Lines Coordination Centre](#)
- ¹⁰ ASB [Antisocial behaviour | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ¹¹ Combating Drugs Partnerships [Drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners - GOV.UK](#)
- ¹² Cuckooing [Cuckooing | Metropolitan Police](#)
- ¹³ Project ADDER - Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery
- ¹⁴ Clear Hold Build [Evaluation of Clear, Hold, Build - GOV.UK](#)
- ¹⁵ Proceeds of Crime - Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- ¹⁶ Officers must always see children as children first, recognising their distinct needs and vulnerabilities.
- ¹⁷ National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) [National County Lines Coordination Centre](#)
- ¹⁸ County Drug lines - County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries
- ¹⁹ Organised Crime Groups - A group of people working together on a continual basis to plan and co-ordinate criminal behaviour and conduct
- ²⁰ Naloxone - drug that reverses the effects of Opioid drugs
- ²¹ London Drugs Information System - LDIS is a model for local authorities to issue public health alerts about new and modified drugs
- ²² The Loop - harm reduction charity commissioned by local authorities to provide rapid chemical analysis of submitted substances of cunder an approved Home Office Licence
- ²³ MOPAC - Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- ²⁴ OHID - Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)
- ²⁵ VAWG - Violence Against Women and Girls
- ²⁶ Project Housebuilder - NCA-led Project HOUSEBUILDER, coordinates the operational law enforcement response to the threat of synthetic opioids
- ²⁷ London Drugs Forum - multi-agency partnership bringing together criminal justice and health agencies to develop an effective response to drug related harms and crimes across London





**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

**MORE
TRUST**

**LESS
CRIME**

**HIGH
STANDARDS**