

## **Police Welcome For Report On Combating Drug Dealing - 13.01.20**

Sussex Police have welcomed a new national report on work across the country to combat the menace posed by 'County Lines' drugs dealing.

The Report 'Both sides of the coin: The police and National Crime Agency's response to vulnerable people in County Lines drug offending' has been published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Police, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on Friday (10th January)

Chief Superintendent Jo Banks said: "We welcome this continued national focus on the problem, and are already working with law enforcement and local partners on many of the issues raised.

"Sussex was the first force in the country to use DDTROs (Drug Dealing Telephone Restriction Orders) referred to in the Report. Powers in the new Digital Economy Act enable police to seek restrictions on handsets that they believe are being used by drug dealers to operate 'deal-lines'.

These are the dedicated mobile phone line used to take orders from drug users.

"We continue every day to disrupt dealers who try to deal dangerous drugs across our communities. Our officers investigate and prosecute, working relentlessly and targeting those who would bring harm to local people, including often the most vulnerable. Local crime is often a direct result of major drug distribution via County Lines.

"Our new Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) which began operations just last month, is also helping target these gangs.

"Every day our activity sends a clear message to drug dealers that they cannot expect to go undetected in Sussex.

"We use the range of legal powers to tackle this problem, ranging from the Misuse of Drugs Act to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking legislation, and we can use technological advances such as DDTROs."

Members of the public can also help, and the best advice is to trust your instincts - if somebody shows signs of mistreatment, or a child seems to be travelling long distances or is unfamiliar with a locality, you can report suspicions to local police on 101.

You can also report online <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime> or to British Transport Police if you see something on the railway network.

### **Help Us Keep Sussex Safe**

Seen something suspicious or have information about a crime or incident? Please contact us at <http://www.sussex.police.uk/contact-us/>, email us at [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or call 101.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)