



**Chief Supt Jon House
Sheffield Commander**

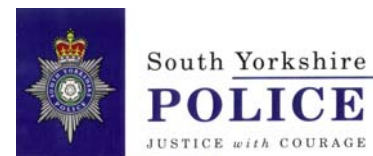
Cannabis - academic research and policing response



Presentation:

- The Policing Context of the City
- Motivation for the work in Burngreave
- Summary of Youth perception
- Summary of Professionals perception
- Summary of Community perception
- Policing context of Cannabis
- Eight Academic and policing recommendations

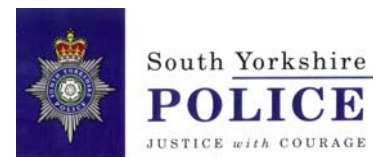
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The policing context of the City:

- 530,000+ population
- c 200 crimes a day
- Significant number of OCG's
- Crime perception is high
- BCU - 1400 staff
- Good Partnership links

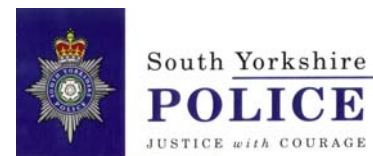
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Report commissioned in 2006 as a result of:

- Public perception - the anxious articulate
- Media Mayhem
- Increased reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Organised Crime
- Disorganised Crime

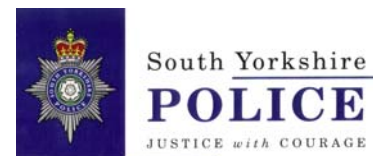
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Report Findings - young persons (Sample = 61):

- Cannabis very prevalent - Prevention ineffective
- Young do not connect their cannabis use with increased ASB. But 40% confirmed usage was problematic
- 25% of YOS clients commit crime to fund usage - less amongst non -YOS clientele
- 33% of YOS clients used skunk - similar to non -YOS
- Considerable confusion created by reclassification
- Little to suggest that regular use of cannabis had increased exposure to, or experimentation with other substances

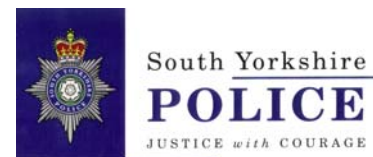
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Report Findings - professionals (sample = 19):

- Professionals perceive public cannabis abuse to be ASB aggravating factor and raise **fear of crime**
- Anxiety levels rise due to the presence of cannabis
- They see a risk of getting involved in other criminality as a result. 50% thought using cannabis amplified the risk
- Perceived ignorance by youth of the potency
- Reclassification was not helpful
- 40% perceive mediation / intervention as a solution

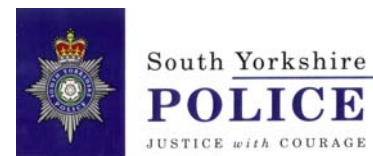
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Report Findings - community (sample = 80):

- Half the community sample considered that there was a cannabis smoking problem
- Half considered that public cannabis usage increased in last 2 years
- Half considered a link between cannabis and ASB – concerned re addiction / loss of control / wider crime
- 70% of Sheffield City Council survey in Burngreave think drug usage is big/fairly big problem.(City Avg.30%)

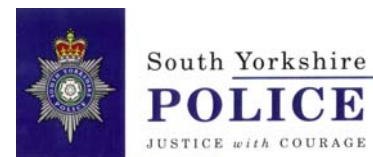
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Policing Context:

- Localised anxiety towards drug prevalence and usage
- Localised production – Social / commercial dealers
- Commercial dealers impact - trafficked victims
- Poly-drug distributors and associated criminality
- CJ production deterrent is weak and inconsistent
- Landlord loopholes
- DIP is successful but not for cannabis or youth
- Education resources – 1 drug youth outreach worker

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Eight Academic and Policing Recommendations:

- Cannabis USAGE in public – FEAR OF CRIME
- Production / Supply / Cultivation – CJ guidelines
- Landlords should be legally accountable
- Credible cannabis campaign - informed choices for the young. A less 'frank' Intensive Support Programme
- Drugs Intervention Programme – extend the success
- Retain element of discretion / flexibility in response – including mediation. To meet the needs of the locality
- Built into LAA's – engaging health and youth services
- Reclassification - distraction or part of the solution?