



# Dangerous Drugs Networks

## What is a DDN?

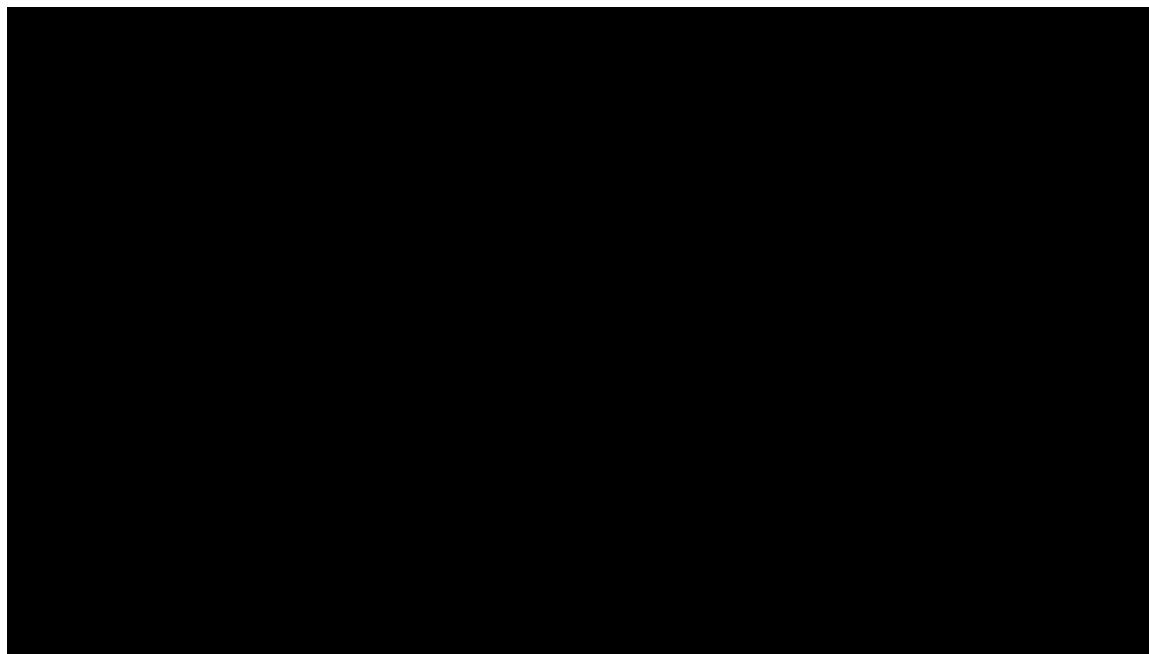
DDN's are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks.

These criminals are using extreme violence to establish a presence, displacing an existing drug supply chain and intimidating rivals, witnesses and victims, this has resulted in local murders.

DDN's exploit vulnerable teenagers to become drug runners for their network. A tactic can be an offer to star in a music video.....



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## Why Gloucestershire?

- The drugs markets in bigger cities are saturated, Gloucestershire is seen as affluent and has good transport links.
- Some drug dealers have made connections in prison with Gloucestershire criminals and recognise the potential to spread the network throughout the county.
- Recent successful police arrests for drug dealing has created a “Supplier Gap” enabling DDN’s to exploit this.
- DDN’s have become established in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud.



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## How do DDN's operate?

- Their hallmark is extreme, using sadistic violence, including torture to enforce drug debts and intimidate rival drug dealers, witnesses and victims.
- The dealer runs the operation from out of county, via mobile phones.
- DDN's will utilise local dealers and runners into their networks to use their local knowledge to build up a contact list of users, to either intimidate or supply to.



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## Who do DDN's target?

- DDN's exploit teenagers to act as runners.
- Boys aged 14-17 are most often targeted.
- Teenagers recruited for DDN activity are often missing in their own county and not local.
- DDN's target local drug users to act as runners to deliver their drugs.
- DDN's also exploit out of work single mothers and people with mental health issues.
- DDN's will look to identify vulnerable people with a property to establish their drug dealing from.



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## What tactics do DDN's use?

- DDN's will target individuals leaving probation offices or drug rehabilitation centres, approaching them to stay at their property for 2 or 3 days offering incentives such as rent money, gifts of cash or “free” drugs.
- Once inside the property the dealer will then take it over as a temporary base from which to deal drugs, this is called “cuckooing”.
- When DDN members have been in the property for longer than the agreed period “cuckooed” victims who have been living alongside them request the DDN member to leave. It is at this point that DDN's will resort to extreme violence and intimidation to force the individual into cooperating.

They are then significantly at risk...who can they tell?



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## Additional information

- DDN members usually have specific roles. One will stay in the property that they are operating from with another organising the runners to deliver to customers.
- Runners are unlikely to have the key to the premises or any other link to the property in order to limit Police search powers if they are arrested. Other locations may be used for rest or restocking of drugs.



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## What to look for...

- Be aware of how DDN's operate and listen to young people and the community....ask if there are regular visitors to a property, are there unfamiliar people around who they don't recognise who might be from out of town?
- Learn to read body language, do you suspect that someone is acting under duress? Are they being threatened or intimidated?
- If you visit a property are they reluctant to let you in?  
If you enter are they sleeping in the front room?  
Are there people there you don't recognise?
- DDN's are overwhelmingly males aged 17-35 years, the overwhelming majority in this county have been black or mixed race.
- Is something not quite right?? Think DDN!





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What do we need to do?

- Early intervention and intelligence are key to safeguard and protect the vulnerable.
- Share information between agencies at the earliest possibility.

# Think DDN!