Carrying of Naloxone by Police Officers – West Midlands Police

by Superintendent Jane Bailey

LJMU Public Health Institute - Drug Related Deaths Conference 2023

West Midlands POLICE

The case for Policing to carry Naloxone

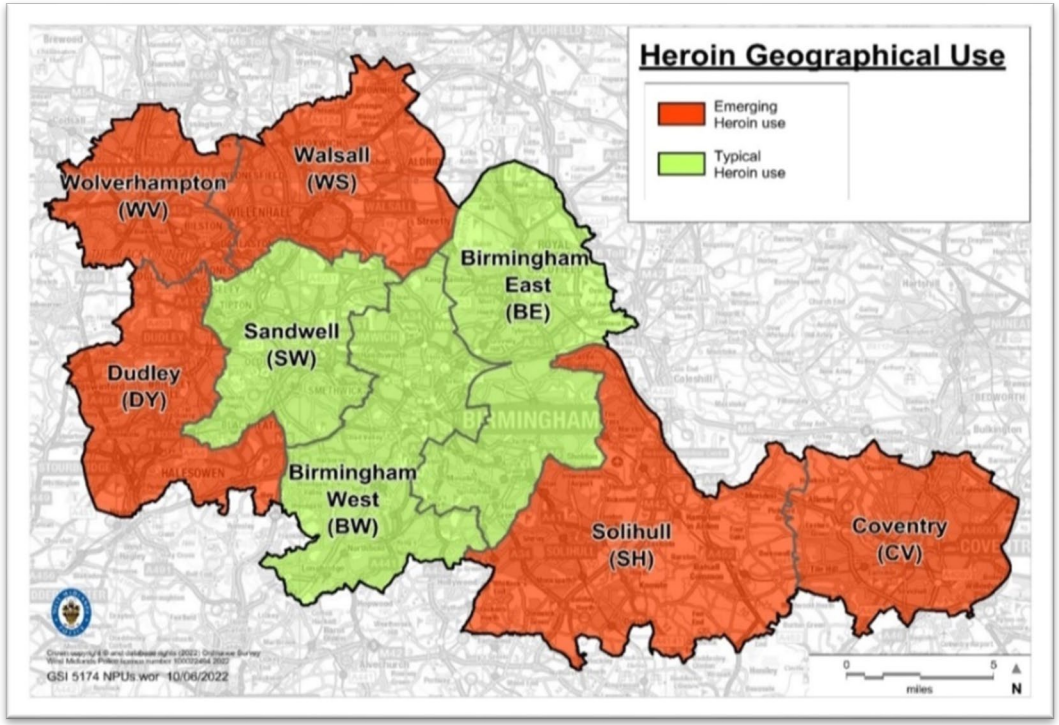
The Purpose

- 1 person dies every 3 days across West Midlands from heroin or opiate overdose.
- Included within West Midlands Drug Policy Recommendations 2018
- Capable of being administered by non medical personnel, supported by law
- Nasal administration, a game changer for law enforcement

Why important

- Preserves life as other emergency first aid equipment
- Reduces overall demand on police & acute medical services
- Demonstrates WMP commitment to reducing drug related deaths
- Academic research shows timely for WMP cultural change

Heroin Market



*Stable market

*Increased useage

*Purity levels

*16-32 yrs profile predominant

Barriers & Challenges

- Increased demand for WMP
- Police officers administering medicine
- Officer Health & Safety
- Federation concerns
- Legal position
- Concern of Increase in police contact deaths, result in PSD/IOPC Investigations of officers
- Concern of Increased assaults against officers
- First police force close to implementation, no prior learning to access
- Delivery of training, making it sustainable

Actions to mitigate the risks

- MOU with West Midlands Ambulance
- Rigorous training provision
- Share protocol with IOPC and include PSD/IOPC info in training
- Legal advice sought and pilot underwritten by Force insurers
- Use of Naloxone to be included in future training provision
- Informed the national evidence base via NPCC
- Clinical Governance Board to oversee administration of medicines
- Volunteer officers to pilot naloxone use

Where are we now……

- 270 officers trained to carry naloxone
- 10 plus uses, 1 life saved
- Blueprint shared with other forces
- 1 to 23 Police Forces now carrying naloxone
- Changing relationships, reducing harm, saving life

Thankyou for listening! Any questions?

janebailey@westmidlands.police.uk