

Greater Manchester Police worked alongside The Loop for the first time at this year's Parklife Weekender music festival to reduce the danger of drug use at the festival. The event organisers, The Loop and Greater Manchester Police worked in partnership to develop an approach which included rapid turnaround testing of seized drugs at the event site.

Professor Fiona Measham and her team from The Loop were fantastic; they offered advice at the planning stages through to setting up their mobile laboratory and testing on the festival site. The Loop team identified substances of concern that we believed might be in circulation at the event, public safety messages were then issued to festival goers through the event organisers and their social media to warn of the dangers.

Often the police can solely focus on detection of drug offences and capturing offenders. Whilst that is important I also believe it is essential to include a prevention and public health element to our plans. The Loop charity was instrumental in providing this element to the overall public safety plan.

As Police Commander for such events, I am always interested in new ideas that can reduce the risk to the public, after all, we are all here to ultimately protect the public. I look forward to working with Fiona and her team at future festivals.

Chief Inspector Gary Simpson


Police Silver Commander, Parklife Festival 2014



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