

As the Force Drugs Expert Witness SPOC in Durham Constabulary, I welcomed this pilot to our area for the safety testing of drugs in Durham City in the lead up to Christmas 2018.

The Loop and Durham University personnel who were present on both days were both friendly and very warm in the way they interacted with me and passed over their experiences and expertise. The volunteers who surrender drugs for testing were engaged and fully informed by the staff and provided with education and information on the identified drugs they presented for testing. All the staff at Durham University laboratories worked tirelessly to provide prompt testing results and were happy to engage with me throughout the two days of testing.

This type of initiative can clearly be a benefit in any harm reduction strategy to reduce drug related deaths by informing Durham Constabulary of new emerging drug trends that could cause imminent health issues, but also to the users themselves by informing them of the dangers that or any specific drug presents, so I welcome its continued use in our area and nationally. The information on current drug trends within Durham City was very informative and gave a perspective of new and emerging trends that Durham Constabulary were unaware of.


I was impressed with the operation, service, and information The Loop provided, which enabled them to share information swiftly with the attending users. I see the benefits in learning from continued working with Fiona and The Loop and to expand possible drugs safety testing at further events in the future.

Gus Miller


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