



**Buxton Area Forum**  
**Panel Questions and Answers**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Topic: 'DRUGS' –The Facts**

**Panel:**

<b>Cllr Jonathan Davey</b>	<b>High Peak Borough Council</b>
<b>Cllr Linda Baldry</b>	<b>High Peak Borough Council</b>
<b>Cllr Bill Morris</b>	<b>High Peak Borough Council</b>
<b>Chief Insp. Steve Wilson</b>	<b>Derbyshire Police</b>
<b>Inspector Tracy Lewis</b>	<b>Derbyshire Police</b>
<b>Steve Holme</b>	<b>Derbyshire Police</b>
<b>Ed Ronayne</b>	<b>DAAT (Drugs and Alcohol Action Team)</b>

**Question: (Resident):** I am able to get support from SPODA (Supporting Anyone Affected by Someone Else's Drug Use) and have done so. How do you convince an addict to stop taking drugs? Where is the aftercare in Buxton?

**Answer: Steve Holme (Derbyshire Police):** You will never convince any addict to stop if they don't want to. Then support can be given. They need to be taken out of the environment that they have been in for successful treatment and rehabilitation. Drugs will always be available if people are determined to use them. Aftercare is difficult to provide and financing can be an issue.

**Ed Ronayne (Derbyshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team- D.A.A.T.):** We are trying to work with agency partners on this, for example, Turning Point have been commissioned by DAAT to help get addicts back into work, housing etc. Job Centre Plus is also helping with this through the change of benefits for those in treatment.

**Steve Holme:** Often re-housing locally does not help the individual.

**Chief Inspector Steve Wilson.** Different triggers can lead to a person giving up treatment and going back on drugs. The Police also help when people make the decision to quit.

**Question: Resident :** After the success of operation Hartley undertaken by the Police to remove drug dealers, the drug users were desperate for drugs and had to go further away for their drugs. The resultant publicity about the success of the operation also highlighted the gap that now exists in the drugs market.

**Answer: Steve Holme:** Sometimes the help that is offered is not taken up eg treatment centres. It is difficult to attract users to help when we are successful with catching dealers. It is still a difficult issue for us. When we create a drought the users don't always come forward. Also treatment centres have to go through a process of assessment so they can't always offer methadone immediately.

**Question: Resident:** Is there merit in targeting users rather than dealers to make it more difficult for them?

**Answer: Steve Holme:** Users greatly outnumber dealers so its difficult to resource this.

**Question: Resident:** If you are a user with a close family then sometimes the family will be aware of crimes happening but don't know how best to approach the police and what might happen to them as a result of reporting the issue?

**Answer: Inspector Tracy Lewis:** This is a difficult issue. I know of a mother who has had to turn her back on her own son as he has not responded to offers of help & support from his family. Reporting members of your own family is a judgement call that individuals must make for themselves. The Police will work with you to deal with the information in a way that will best suit you, keeping the source of the information confidential if that is what you want.

**Steve Holme.** We can keep informants confidentiality, even in court. Crimestoppers also keep complete confidence. If you report to them you can avoid giving your details. For example, just give an address of a dealer, don't say they live next to you. We have however, had to accept that we have lost cases when we have refused to breach confidence.

**Ed Ronayne:** It also helps to talk to other agencies eg SPODA.

**Resident Comment:** I have had to lose contact with a family member due to drug use (Skunk). The family stress has affected my health. There is a hidden catastrophe due to drug use.

**Answer : Steve Holme:** Skunk is used. It is a different chemical mix that can cause associated psychotic effects.

**Question: Representative from 'Stand By Me' :** I am working with around 26 young people in Buxton, affected by drug use. How can we support these young people who have not yet been picked up by the services as it has not yet led to crime? Some young people may make an appointment a number of times

to attend for help but they don't turn up due to fear. Of the 26 there are only 2 that I have not known through working at the local school and the majority have some behavioural problems. These have not been properly addressed and have led to worse drug abuse. Out of the 26 young people I work with 10 are using heroin and only one is getting support.

**Answer: Ed Ronayne:** Your young people may be over 18 which mean they are eligible for adult treatment services only. Derbyshire County Council recognises the need for integrated youth support services for young people. Within the High Peak district. There are different managers covering different age ranges, the 11-19 manager is here tonight, to try and ensure that young people don't fall through the net. There are targeted alcohol and drug workers within the district. Use the DAAT leaflet to get their contact details. They also work with Base 3 treatment services, and Branching Out in Glossop.