



County Lines – Scouse Zane

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Setting the scene

- Recent enforcement against a West Midlands based line has created a gap in the drugs market in the Moray Firth basin area.
- The Police Service of Scotland are currently unsighted on who the main suppliers of Crack Cocaine and Heroin are.
- Work is ongoing to fill intelligence gaps.



Day 1

- On 10th of January 2024, Police in the Merkinch area of Inverness are informed that suspected drug dealing is taking place on Thornbush Road.
- A description of an individual is given who is believed to have purchased drugs.
- Attending officers find John, aged 45, who is known to suffer from Heroin addiction.
- During the search of John information is recovered that mobile 07123456789 is currently the number to contact for Heroin and Crack Cocaine.
- Officers begin the process of identifying the owner of this number.



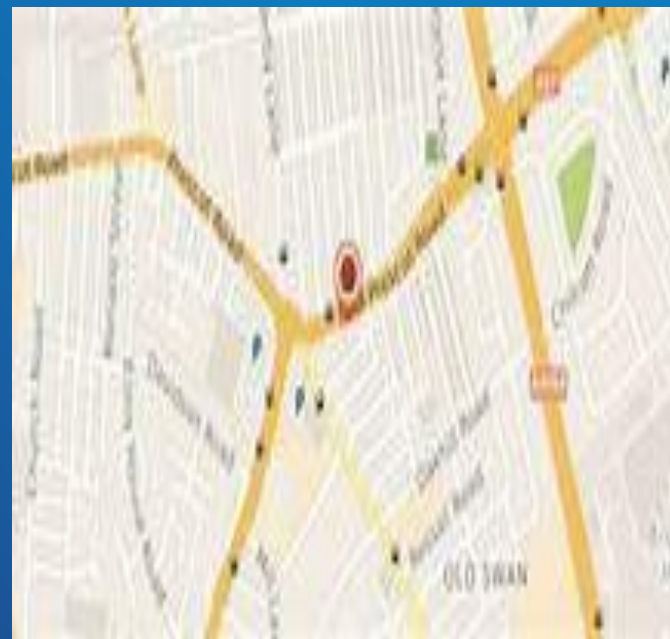
Day 4

- Intelligence is received from local partners involved in supporting substance addiction that several service users have mentioned the name 'Zane' and 'Scouse Zane' as being involved in the supply of drugs.
- No physical descriptions of 'Zane' are provided.
- 'Zane' is said to be able to supply drugs anywhere within the Moray Firth Basin area.
- Users are reporting that the drugs supplied are particularly potent with several stating that they have required the administration of Naloxone.



Day 8

- Information is received that mobile number 07123456789 is an unregistered pre-pay.
- It is apparent that the mobile number is based in the Old Swan area of Liverpool.
- The number has not located to the Highlands area at any point since it came in to use.
- Given the connection to Liverpool, liaison commences with Merseyside Police's Operation Toxic – dedicated to tackling County Line related crime in Liverpool area.



Day 10

- Operation Toxic confirm that on 3rd January 2024 a bulk text was sent from 07123456789 to a large number of recipients.
- Many recipients are identified as being substance users in the Inverness, Alness and Nairn area from intelligence checks.
- Further information is received to corroborate the fact that 07123456789 is the number to contact to buy Heroin and Crack Cocaine from Scouse Zane.
- One of the most frequent numbers to be contacted is known to be used by an Inverness nominal named Angela.



Angela

- Angela is 32 and currently lives in an HMO in the city centre.
- She has several previous convictions including for being Concerned in the Supply of Controlled drugs.
- Intelligence also indicates that she may be involved in the exploitation of older males within the community.
- Angela is documented as suffering from addiction since she was a teenager.
- Angela is known by services to have suffered significant past trauma including emotional and physical abuse in a number of relationships.



Day 14

- Ongoing enquiry into the mobile phone number used by Angela has provided that she is regularly in contact with 07987654321.
- This number is also frequently in contact with the Liverpool based mobile number linked to Zane.
- A further request is made for research on 07987654321.
- Initial information is that this mobile is located in the Inverness area.



Day 16

- Police in Inverness are informed of a suspected drugs related death in the Kinmylies area of the city.
- On arrival they are informed that a 32 year old male named James is deceased within the address.
- James' friend, who is present, informs officers that both had sourced Heroin from Scouse Zane.
- James had been administered with 2 doses of Naloxone when in overdose but failed to recover.
- A description is provided of the individual who handed over the drugs and would appear to match that of Angela.



Day 18

- Information is received that 07987654321 is frequently in contact with a mobile number registered to a female in Liverpool.
- From research this mobile number is identified as belonging to the mother of Anthony Green, a nominal known to be involved in County Line related activity who has previously travelled to the north of Scotland.
- An image of Green is obtained from Merseyside Police



Anthony Green

- Anthony Green is a 19 year old male from Liverpool
- He is known for a number of offences including serious assault, domestic abuse, possession of weapons and drug supply.
- He is described as around 6ft in height, athletic build with a scar to the right cheek.
- He is wanted by Merseyside Police in relation to an assault where the victim was stabbed in what is assessed to be a drugs related incident.



Day 23

- Local Policing in Inverness respond to a report of dirt bikes being driven dangerously at a local quarry.
- The motorbike is traced and stopped, and the male passenger is seen to run off.
- Officers identify the male from his physical description as Anthony Green.
- The rider is identified as a local 15 y/o named Colin.
- Colin states he has been paid £50 by the male on a number of occasions to take him from an address in Dalneigh to the quarry using the canal path.
- Colin states he only knows the male as 'Zane'



Day 26

- Local housing raise a concern regarding a service user in Dalenigh.
- They have been approached by a neighbour of Pawel, they suspect a young male is living in the address.
- They also describe several callers to the address at irregular times of the day and night.
- They also report that takeaways are regularly delivered to the address which is out of character.
- Re-examination of information regarding Angela's call history reveals that she is frequently using food delivery services, and enquiry is commenced to identify a delivery address.



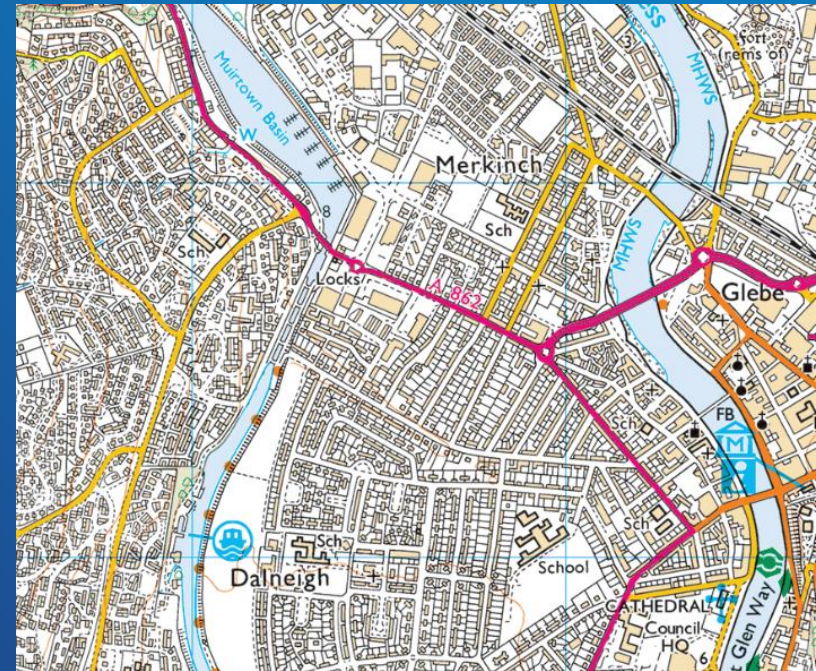
Day 28

- Over the previous two days several reports are received of increased instances of anti-social behaviour and violence.
- An individual known to have previously involved with County Line groups reports several smashed windows.
- 2 reports are also received of a masked individual entering the properties of known vulnerable drugs users and threatening them with a knife.
- Information suggests that this intimidation is linked to Scouse Zane ensuring that no other lines can operate in the city.



Day 29

- Police have gathered sufficient intelligence to carry out enforcement at the home address of Pawel. This is based on information that Anthony Green is dealing drugs from this address
- Enforcement team includes Harm Prevention officer to provide immediate support and information to Pawel
- Information is received that Angela will attend the address of a female associate, Rachel in South Kessock at 0700 hours.
- Information suggests that this address is being used to store drugs for Scouse Zane and Pawel's address will be used to sell the drugs.



Rachel

- Rachel is a 19 year old female who lives with her two young children aged 2 and 6 months in the South Kessock area of Inverness.
- Rachel is a survivor of abuse.
- Rachel has previous convictions for possession of controlled drugs.
- She has known to HCSW who are providing support in relation to her children.
- Rachel is known to have developed an association with Angela over the previous 18 months.



Day 30

- At 0700 hours, Angela is traced in South Kessock by Police. She states she has just come from Rachel's address. On being searched she is found in possession of 30 individual wraps of Heroin and 30 individual wraps of Crack Cocaine.
- Due to welfare concerns, Police gain entry to Rachel's address. A search is carried out and 200g of Heroin and 400g of suspected Crack Cocaine. Scales and clingfilm are also recovered.
- Enforcement is carried out simultaneously at Pawl's address. Anthony Green attempts to escape from a window and is apprehended. £3,000 in cash, weapons and a mobile phone are recovered.



Day 30 - continued

- Rachel is interviewed and states she was paid £500 by Green to allow her house to be used to store drugs. Safeguarding measures are put in place for Rachel and her children. It is proposed to COPFS that she has been the victim of exploitation in this case.
- Angela is treated as an accused in terms of being Concerned in the Supply of Controlled drugs. Whilst in custody she was offered support from addiction services. Angela states that Green provided her with money and other items in return for assisting his operations in Inverness.
- Anthony Green was charged with being Concerned in Controlled drugs. He appeared from custody and was given bail conditions not to enter Scotland and leave the country within 24 hours of release. Merseyside Police are alerted and he is arrested for o/s offences in Liverpool
- Colin was engaged with by support services to divert him from becoming involved in criminality.
- A search of a disused quarry near to where Colin was stopped uncovered evidence that controlled drugs were being stored at the location.
- Pawel stated that he had been the victim of exploitation on several occasions. Angela brought Anthony Green to his address, and he was forced to move out of his bedroom and sleep on the floor.
- Merseyside Police advised that they are working towards identifying the address in the Old Swan area of Liverpool where 07123456789 is based.



Association – Day 30

John - customer

07123457689 – Scouse Zane – Dealing line

Old Swan – Liverpool – Dealing line location

07987654321 – Graft line

James – Drug related death

Colin – Exploited child - Runner

Pawel – Victim of exploitation - Cuckooing

Rachel – Victim of exploitation - Cuckooing

Angela – Scouse Zane – Local Agent

Anthony Green – OCG member – Scouse Zane



Day 40

- Officers in Inverness are advised that 07123456789 has not been housed by Merseyside Police.
- Further information suggests the number is still active and has distributed a bulk text to users in Inverness.
- They confirm that Anthony Green remains in the Merseyside area.
- Intelligence from drug users and support agencies suggests Scouse Zane is still active and the representative may now be based in Alness.

