Addressing the challenges of New Psychoactive Substance detection within frontline environments.

Dr. Oliver B. Sutcliffe
Director of MANDRAKE, Manchester Met. Uni.

email. o.sutcliffe@mmu.ac.uk; twitter: sutcliffeob
Synthetic Cannabinoids (SCRAs, Spice, Mamba)

- Identified as an emerging threat – **due to lack of methods for detection**.
- UK Psychoactive Subs Act (May 2016).
- UK Misuse of Drugs Act (Dec 2016).
- Mental health impact.
- Self-harm, violence & suicide.
- Homeless/Rough Sleeping Community (**MANDRAKE**).

60 – 90% of UK male prison population are using (or have used) Spice.
MANDRAKE\(^1\) (confirmation)  
Secure, traceable and compliant protocol.  
Chain of custody.

Forms of Spice

MR Scanner (in GMP)

CUSTODIAL SETTING

OUTCOMES?

\(^1\)MANchester DRug Analysis & Knowledge Exchange.
“Potency” trends (Greater Manchester)

- First permanent city-centre based facilities in UK. Turnaround 24-48h.
Policing & Policy Outcomes

Monitoring of local, national and international drug trends.

Emerging threats – fentanyl and Monkey Dust (MDPHP).

Fast and efficient response to incidents where drugs are a factor.

Feed into Drugs Early Warning System (GM Police & Crime Plan 2018).

Public Warnings

Inform other public services & partner agencies.

Develop Police, City Council & GMCA initiatives.

Work with night time economy.

Share best working practice with others.

Using experience to act on future threats.
**MANDRAKE**

(confirmation)

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OUTCOMES?

1MANchester DRug Analysis & Knowledge Exchange.
HMP Holme House

- Category C (Male)
- Capacity: 1210
- **Improve Safety & Security.**
  - **Physical** – Technology.
  - **Personal** – Interventions.
  - **Procedural** – Adjudications.

**Project Orpheus** (study parameters)

- 3 months (April – July 2018). Extended to 12 months.
- Training & implementation by non-technical staff.
- Screening of suspected contraband (interception analysis).
- Forensic cross-validation by MANDRAKE @ Manchester Metropolitan Uni.
Results of MRS detection study\(^2\) (n = 500)

- **Nothing Detected**: 36%
- **AMB-FUB**: 8%
- **5F-ADB**: 26%
- **5F-AKB-48**: 5%
- **STS-135**: 2%
- **MDMB-CHMCZCA**: 3%
- **MMB-CHMINACA**: 5%
- **Tramadol**: 3%
- **Steroids**: 5%
- **Other POMs**: 5%
- **Spice Paper**: 2%

\(^2\)All samples cross-validated/confirmed by GC-MS.
• Data gained from study potentially indicates multiple sources and supply streams. Data aligns with HMPPS intelligence (2018).
Outcomes of Study

• Identification and disruption of routes of supply.

• Reduction in specific supply methods and volume of contraband.

• Reduction in frequency of medical intervention.

• Increased perception of safety by staff and prisoners.

• Inform on prevalence of drugs within a custodial setting.

• Targeted harm reduction based on findings.

• Better understanding of the chemicals being trafficked and consumed in the prison.

• Increased intelligence-gathering and best practice-sharing.
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Food for thought…. 

“Scientists are often the first ones to notice new drug trends on the synthetic drug market. Link them up with health, demand reduction and drug control agencies and you have a powerful Early Warning System”

Martin Raithelhuber, International Coordinator @UNODC Global SMART Programme

….enjoy your lunch!