

# Understanding and Addressing Sheffield City Centre's Problem Street Culture

## A View From the Frontline

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Sheffield Central Neighbourhoods Team



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# What do we mean by the term 'Problem Street Culture'



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- **Begging**
- **Rough Sleeping/Homeless**
- **'Spice' Consumption and dealing**
- **Street Drinking**
- **Associated Anti-Social Behaviour**



Broadly viewed/perceived as actions/activities that:

**'cause or are likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to other members of the public' (Home Office 2003).**

# Why Does Addressing Street Culture Matter ?



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## Impact on the Community

- Local Businesses/Economy
- Public Safety (Signals)
- Reputational risk to Sheffield
- Demand Generator

## Impact on the individual

- Most Vulnerable members of our community
- Complex Issues and Needs
- Vulnerable Victims of Crime/Violence
- Educational and employment challenges

**'Spice zombie' filmed lying face-down in Sheffield city centre as shoppers pass by**



Spice users in Sheffield

**Rough sleeper numbers in England rise for seventh year running**

An estimated 4,751 people bedded down outside overnight in 2017, up 15% on previous year



▲ Rough sleepers are defined for the purposes of official counts as people sleeping, about to bed down or bedded down on the street, in doorways, parks, tents, bus shelters, cars, barns, sheds and other places not designed for habitation. Photograph: Graeme Robertson for the Guardian

**Street beggars make Sheffield city centre a 'third world country' with 'professionals' raking in '£100 a day'**



A man on West Street in Sheffield city centre

# = Neighbourhood Priority



# The Work of PCSO Steve Hart



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- **Patrols**
- **Engagements**
- **Individuals**
- **Interventions**
- **Arrests**



## 2018 The Story So Far

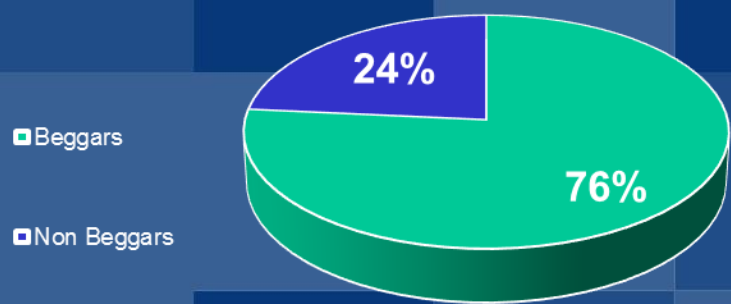
- 102 roused during 1322 Engagements
- 92 Males and 10 Females
- 43 Persons detained for various offences



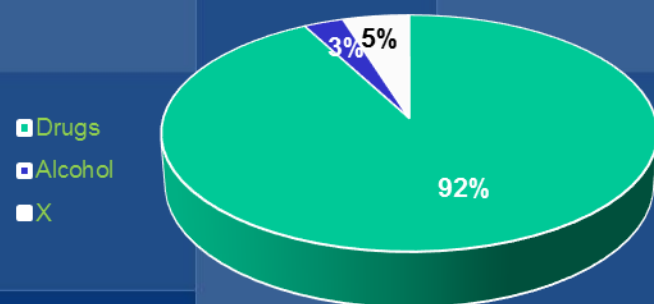
# Trends/Data 2018 around Begging/Rough Sleeping in Sheffield City Centre through Steve's Work



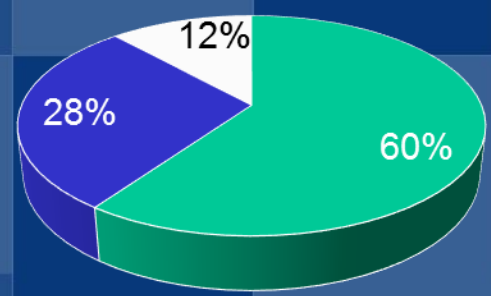
BEGGARS



SUBSTANCE USE



OCCASSIONS FOUND ROUGH SLEEPING



- 76% engaged active beggars
- 92% engaged have a drug misuse problem
- 28% engaged seen on up to 30 separate occasions

- 12% engaged prolific-seen on more then 30 occasions history of non-compliance with multiple

# An Enforcement Perspective : Interventionist Approach



## Low Level/Touch Enforcement

- High Visibility Patrols (Move them on)
- Place Managers
- Dispersal Notices
- Cautions
- Community Protection Notices
- Engagement

## Structural Enforcement

- Targeting Dealers (Spice)
- Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Operation Duxford
- Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)
- 'Designing Out/Defensive Architecture

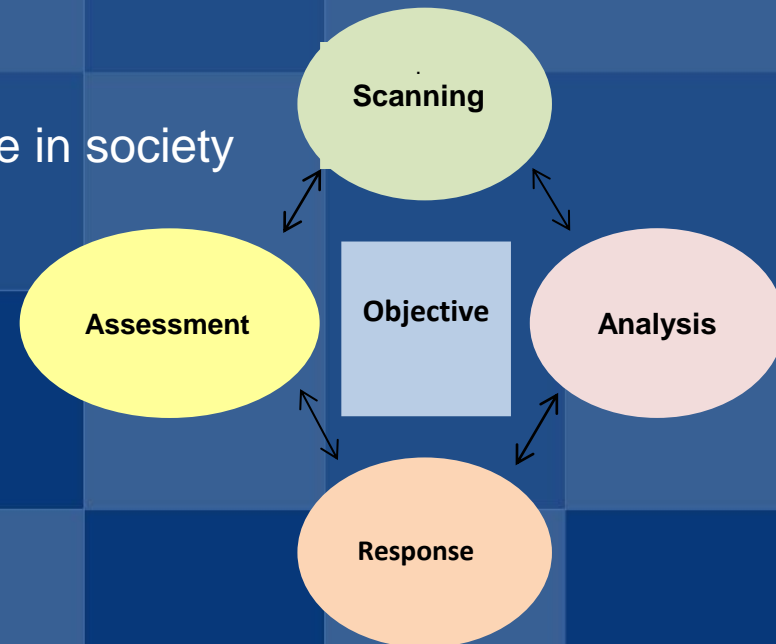


# We Can't Enforce our Way Out Of The Problem !!



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- High Risk Strategy
- Geographical/Activity Displacement
- Complex Needs/Criminalising most vulnerable in society
- Identify and address root cause(s) through problem solving approach (POP) with partners
- POP Plan for Sheffield Cathedral



**‘THINK THE UNTHINKABLE’**

A POP approach using models like OSARA



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**Thankyou For Your Audience**

**Any Questions ?**