



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Deputy Chief Constable defends force drugs record

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The deputy chief constable of North Wales Police has denied the force has eased its fight against drug dealers. **Mr Wolfendale** said there had been successes targetting networks

The number of hard drugs suppliers charged in the last year has dropped to **90 - down from 126** the previous year.

But Clive Wolfendale told the police authority's performance review committee the figures concealed an "incredible" success when it came to targetting bigger, organised networks.

Defending his force's record, Mr Wolfendale claimed the Crown Prosecution Service were now more careful about whether suspects were accused of supplying or simple possession of drugs.

Independent member Morag Webb told the meeting it was a **shame** so much emphasis was placed on the prosecution of traffickers.

She said the emphasis should be on how many schools hold multi-agency events to make youngsters aware of the harms of drug and alcohol abuse.

Last year, Richard Brunstrom said he would be "campaigning hard" for drugs such as heroin to be legalised. In the past, he has said drugs laws are out of date and that the police are **engaged in a battle which they cannot win.**

The PPP comments Brunstrom's statement above could be viewed as a deliberate self-fulfilling prophesy. The crucial comparative statistics are the number of registered addicts and users in North Wales NOW compared to 2001 when Brunstrom started to influence police priorities. Our studies show that coincident with Brunstrom's outbursts about legalisation there were major REDUCTIONS in the prosecutions of dealers. For instance the number of dealers prosecuted in 2002/3 was down by 53% on 2001/2. This statistic was published within the Police website performance figures. This culminated in the appearance of American style vigilantes in Colwyn Bay!. It is well known that Brunstrom will distort both statistics and policing priorities to suit his vision of reality and policing.

Ms Webb joined the Authority as an Independent Member in May 2002 and has slavishly supported Brunstrom's statements and turned a blind eye to his consistent failure to deal with the drugs problem. No doubt she is relatively isolated from any real issues of crime and drugs on her farm in Corwen