

East Area Violence Suppression Unit [VSU]

- Formed May 2020.
- Pan-BCU resource, principally tasked via the TTCG.
- Composed of 20 officers, led by Detective Inspector Dean Grafton.
- Key activities are patrols of violence hotspots across the BCU, weapons sweeps in response to intelligence, and pursuing the arrest of suspects for violence related offences.
- Performance to date – **478** arrests (includes arrests for murder, kidnap and firearms possession) **2245** stop & searches.
- Key operations –
 - **Op Alamosa** – A joint week of action with NE VSU. 6 x search warrants executed, 159 stop & searches, 13 arrests, large quantities of class A drugs seized. 7 knives and offensive weapons seized.
 - **Op Brancaster** – Operation to target cannabis factories in the BCU. 5 x search warrants executed, 300 cannabis plants and £10k in cash seized.

East Area BCU Drugs Focus Desk – Police Approach to Tackling Drugs

- Well-established link between drugs supply / drugs trafficking and street-based violence. Two-pronged approach: 1. Enforcement approach targeting drugs dealers across the BCU. 2. Drugs Focus Desk approach – MPS best practice - to ensure enforcement leads to prosecutions.
- The DFD is a specialist team to ensure drugs supply offences are dealt with robustly. This involves leading, advising and supporting drugs supply investigations.
- EA Drugs Focus Desk [DFD] formed in June 2020.
- DFD comprised of 5 x dedicated investigators, led by Detective Sergeant Jim Mitchell.
- The DFD also conducts fast-track forensic drugs submissions, expert witness statements to the CPS and analysis of drugs offence trends in the BCU.
- Performance: Since the DFD's inception, **57** drugs supply investigations where suspects have been charged to court. This represents a **158%** increase in prosecutions in comparison to the same period in 2019.
- Key operation – Op Renewal. Pan-BCU operation in late June 2020. 26 x search warrants, 25 arrests, 3 x firearms recovered, £60k of Class A and B drugs seized. £40k in cash seized.