Merseyside Custody Suite Time of Testing Report (October 2010 - March 2011)

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1.0 Introduction

DIP background:

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) is an initiative set up by the Home Office in 2003 with an overarching aim to break the cycle of drug misuse and crime and as a result reduce acquisitive crime in communities within England and Wales. The most recent drug strategy, Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting people to live a drug free life, embraces the concept of DIP in assisting with its aims to support drug using offenders and help encourage them to access treatment and recovery whilst in contact with the criminal justice system (CJS) (Home Office, 2010a). This is an important opportunity as many of the clients who are assessed for DIP can be some of the most difficult to reach problematic drug users (Home Office, 2010b). DIP itself is a multi agency initiative incorporating the police, criminal justice system, the Crown Prosecution Service, probation, the Prison service and treatment agencies who collaborate to direct class A drug misusing offenders towards treatment. These treatments and services incorporate a holistic support system and include harm reduction interventions, overdose management as well as other more generic services relating to housing, health, independent living, managing finances, developing new social support networks and rebuilding relationships with families (Home Office, 2009).

Drug Testing:

The police have an important role to play in the early stages of DIP by drug testing individuals who are arrested for either a trigger offence or for some non-trigger offences after inspector's authority has been granted (Home Office, 2009). If the individual tests positive for opiates, cocaine or both (cocaine and opiates), then the client has a legal obligation to attend and remain at an initial required assessment (RA) appointment with a DIP worker (Home Office, 2010c). This early intervention through the RA process is intended to help the individual to recognise the problems associated with their behaviour and drug use and if necessary encourage the individual to attend treatment. In England and Wales, drug testing on arrest by the police has been introduced across 22 police force areas, 97 Basic Command Units (BCUs) and includes 177 custody suites. Recently, new powers have been introduced by the Home Office which allows all of the 43 police forces across England and Wales to drug test any individuals who are arrested and where there is reasonable evidence to suspect that they have used particular Class A drugs (Home Office, 2011a).

Previous Research:

This report will focus on the Merseyside custody suites and the times at which drug tests were carried out. Previous research on this topic has been carried out by the Centre for Public Health (Howarth at al 2011; Cuddy et al, 2008; Regan et al, 2007) and this report aims to complement the findings from these reports in order to provide the Merseyside D(A)ATs with more up to date information regarding the times and outcomes of drug tests carried out in the eight Merseyside drug testing custody suites. This information should be used to assist D(A)ATs in targeting resources more effectively, particularly in the current climate of diminishing funding, and increasing levels of client engagement.

2.0 Methodology

The data used for this analysis were taken from drug testing data which had been provided to LJMU by Merseyside police. Analysis was initially carried out on data for all drug tests attempted from 1st October 2010 to 31st March 2011 inclusive.

This data were analysed as follows:

- Time of test times of drug tests split into two hour bands (00.00 01.59, 02.00 03.59 etc.)
- Week and weekend tests week includes tests carried out from 12.01am on Monday until
 midnight on Friday and weekend includes tests carried out from 12.01am on Saturday until
 midnight on Sunday
- Tests for trigger and non-trigger offences
- Test results split into positive and negative
- Test outcomes split into opiates, cocaine, and both (opiates and cocaine)

Data are presented for five custody suites (Knowsley, Copy Lane, Southport, St. Helens and Wirral) and also for Merseyside as a whole (which also includes Belle Vale, SAS and Wavertree custody suite data). Findings from this analysis are discussed, outlining the peak times of testing between suites as well as any trends across the county.

The times at which the eight custody suites should have been staffed by DIP workers include:

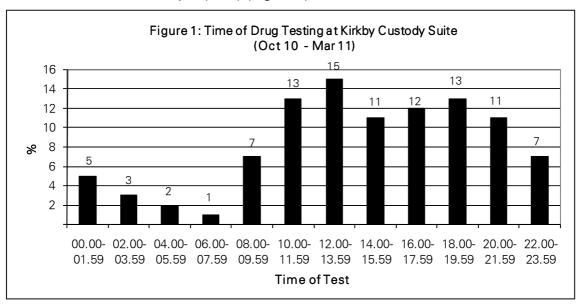
	Coverage Times			
Custody Suite	Monday – Friday	Saturday - Sunday		
Kirkby (1 st Oct – 31 st Nov)	8am – 10pm	10am – 6pm		
Kirkby (1 st Dec – 31 st Mar)	8am - 10pm	10am - 6pm (on call only)		
Belle Vale/SAS/Wavertree	8am - 10pm	Midday – 10pm		
Copy Lane	8am - 10pm	8am – 4pm		
Southport	9am – 5pm	No Cover		
St Helens (1 st – 24 th Oct)	8am – 8pm	8 – 3pm		
St Helens (25 th Oct – 31 st Mar)	8am - 7pm	No Cover		
Wirral	8am – 10pm	8am – 10pm		

3.0 Findings

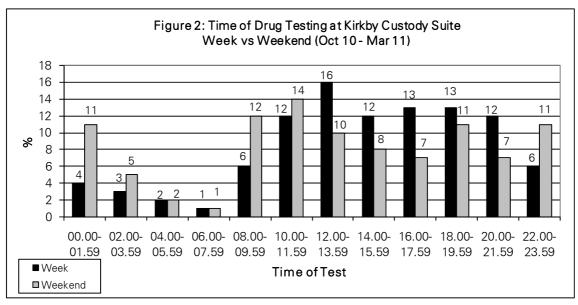
3.1 Knowsley

Kirkby Custody Suite

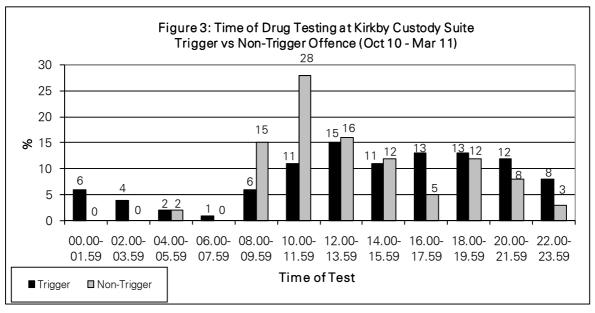
A total of 590 tests were attempted at Kirkby custody suite between October 2010 and March 2011. Of these tests, 578 (98%) were successfully completed. The majority of tests (82%) occurred between the main staffed hours of 8am and 10pm. Peak times for tests were between 10am and 2pm (28%) (Figure 1).



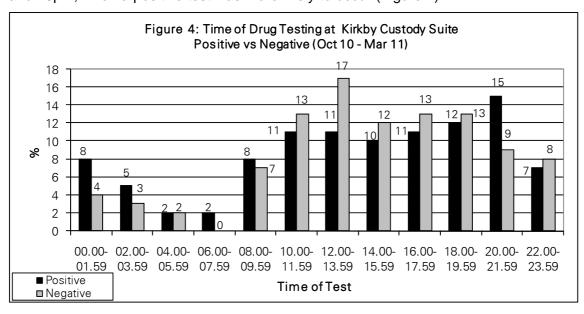
The majority of all tests attempted over the six month period occurred during the week (79%). Peak times of testing during weekdays were between midday and 2pm (16%). The peak times of testing for during the weekend were between 8am and midday (26%) and also between 10pm and 2am (22%). A higher proportion of tests occurred on the weekend between 10pm and 4am (27%) than on weekdays (13%) (Figure 2)



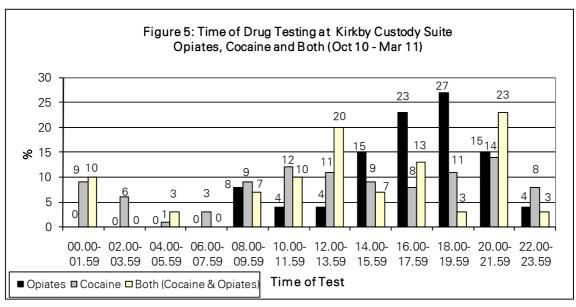
One in ten clients (10%) who had a drug test attempted, were arrested for a non-trigger offence within the six month period. A higher proportion of tests for non-trigger offences occurred between 10am and 2pm (44%) compared to the proportion of tests for trigger offences during the same time period (26%). In contrast to this, a greater proportion of tests for trigger offences occurred between 4pm and 6pm (13%) and also between 8pm and 4am (30%) compared to the proportion of tests for non-trigger offences (5% and 11% respectively) (Figure 3).



Of the 578 tests that were successfully completed, 196 (34%) were positive. The only marked differences in the patterns of test results when examined were those between midday and 2pm when a negative test was more likely to occur and also between 8pm and 10pm, when a positive test was more likely to occur (Figure 4).



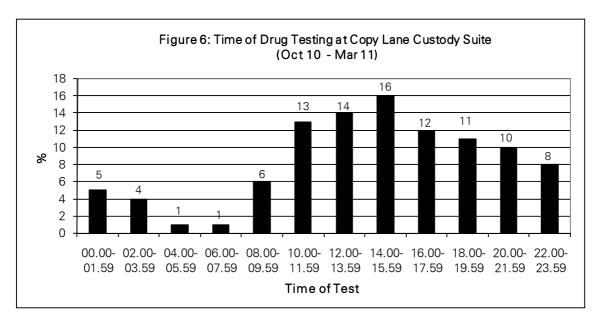
Just over seven in ten (71%) of those who tested positive did so for cocaine only, with almost a sixth (15%) testing positive for both cocaine and opiates and the remaining 13% testing positive for opiates only. Peak times of testing for cocaine only positive tests occurred between 10am and 2pm (23%) and between 6pm and 10pm (25%). There were two main peak times of testing for positive tests for both cocaine and opiates, between midday and 2pm (20%) and between 8pm and 10pm (23%). The peak times of testing for opiate only positive tests were between 4pm and 8pm (50%). Positive tests for both cocaine and opiates were more likely between midday and 2pm (20%) and between 8pm and 10pm (23%) than positive tests for cocaine only (11% and 14% respectively) or opiates only (4% and 15% respectively). Positive tests for opiates only were more likely to be occur between 2pm and 8pm (65%) than positive tests for cocaine only (28%) or both cocaine and opiates (23%) (Figure 5).



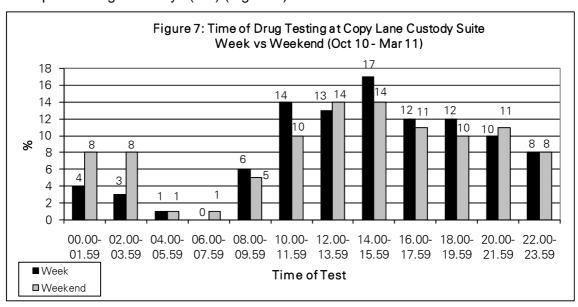
3.3 Sefton

Copy Lane Custody Suite

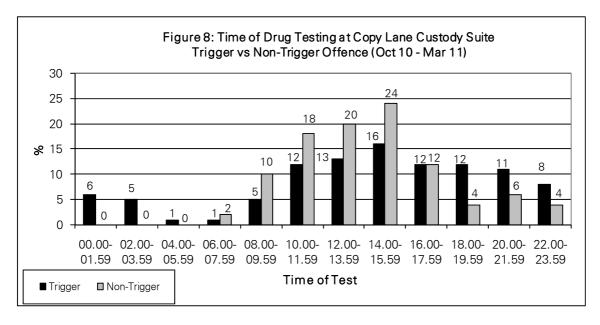
There were a total of 768 tests attempted in Copy Lane custody suite over the six month period. Of these tests, 754 were completed (98%). The majority of tests (82%) occurred between the main staffed hours of 8am to 10pm. Peak times for tests were between 10am and 4pm (43%) (Figure 6).



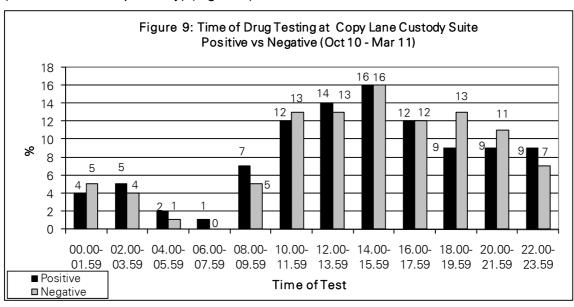
Of the total number of attempted tests, 69% occurred during the week, with 31% taking place on the weekend. Peak times of testing during the week were between 10am and midday (14%) and between 2pm and 4pm (17%), whilst peak times at weekends were between midday and 4pm (28%). There were a greater proportion of drug tests attempted during the weekend between midnight and 8am (18%) compared to the proportion of tests attempted during weekdays (8%) (Figure 7).



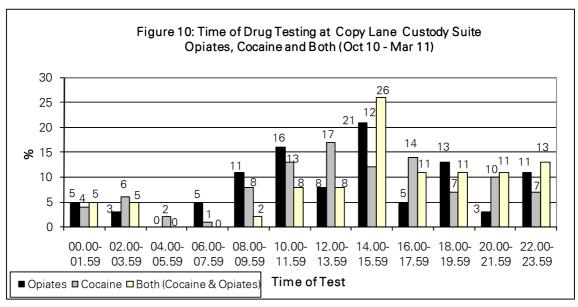
Of those who had a drug test attempted, 7% were arrested for a non-trigger offence within the six month period. A higher proportion of tests for non-trigger offences occurred between 10am and 4pm (62%) compared to the proportion of tests for trigger offences during the same time period (41%). In contrast to this, nearly a third of all tests for trigger offences occurred between 8pm and 6am (31%), three times the proportion of tests for non-trigger offences conducted within these times (10%) (Figure 8).



Of the 754 tests completed over the six month period, 274 returned a positive test result (36%). The trend in the time distribution of positive and negative tests was similar, with large proportions of both positive and negative tests occurring between 10am and 10pm (72% and 78% respectively) (Figure 9).

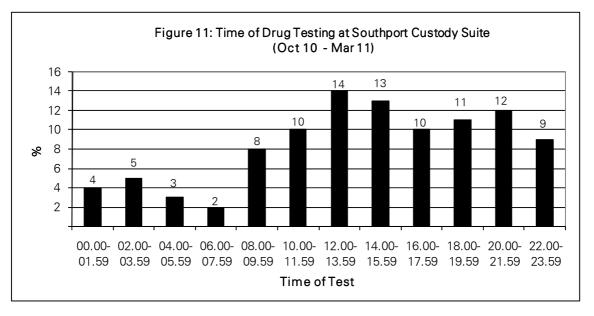


Of those who tested positive in Copy Lane over the 6 month period, nearly two thirds (64%) tested positive for cocaine only, with 23% testing positive for both cocaine and opiates. The remaining 14% tested positive for opiates only. Over half (56%) of all positive tests for cocaine only occurred between 10am and 6pm. Peak times for testing positive for opiates only were between 8am and midday (27%) and between 2pm and 4pm (21%). The peak times of testing for both cocaine and opiates were between 2pm and 4pm (26%). Positive tests for cocaine only were more likely to occur between midday and 2pm (17%) than positive tests for both cocaine and opiates (8%) or for opiates only (8%). Positive tests for both cocaine and opiates were more likely to occur between 2pm and 4pm (26%) than positive tests for cocaine only (12%) or for opiates only (21%). Positive tests for opiates only were more likely to occur between 8am and midday (27%) than positive tests for cocaine only (21%) or positive tests for both cocaine and opiates (10%) (Figure 10).

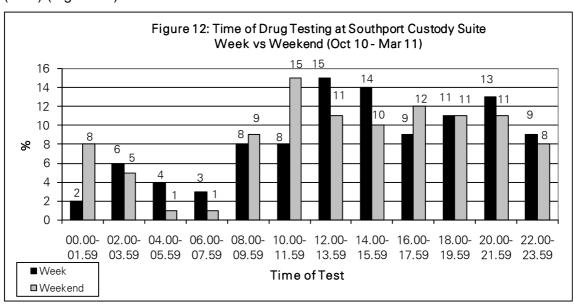


Southport Custody Suite

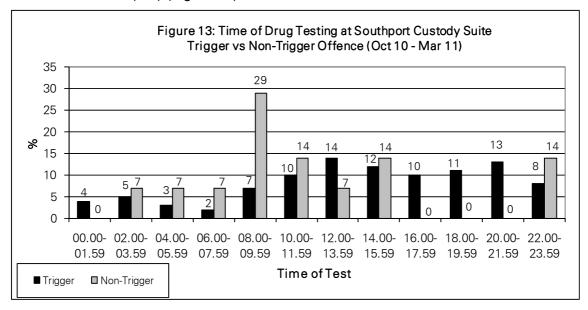
A total of 312 tests were attempted at Southport custody suite between October 2010 and March 2011, of which 306 (98%) were completed successfully. As the main staffed hours in the Southport custody suite were between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and there is no cover during the weekends, only a third of all attempted tests (33%) occurred between these hours. The peak times of testing were between midday and 4pm (27%) (Figure 11).



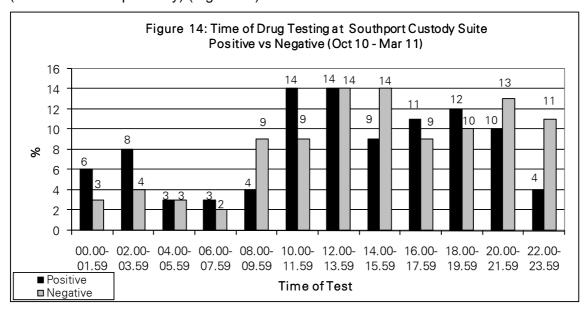
Of the 312 tests attempted, the majority (70%) took place during the week. The largest difference between times of testing on weekdays and at weekends was between midnight and 2am during which period a greater proportion of weekend tests occurred (8%) compared to weekday tests (2%). The peak time of testing at weekends was between 10am and midday (15%) and peak hours on weekdays were between midday and 4pm (29%) (Figure 12).



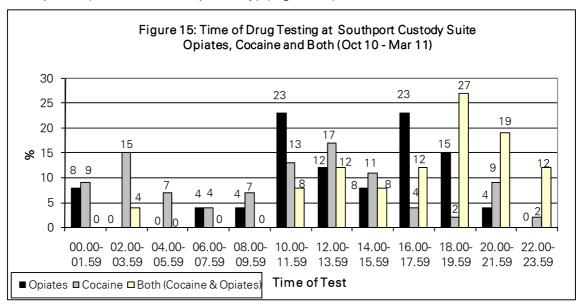
Of those who had a drug test attempted, 5% were arrested for a non-trigger offence within the six month period. A higher proportion of tests for non-trigger offences occurred between 8am and 10am (29%) than tests for trigger offences conducted during the same time period (7%). In contrast to this, more than a third of tests for trigger offences occurred between 4pm and 10pm (34%), compared to no tests carried out for non-trigger offences within these times (0%) (Figure 13).



Of the 306 successful tests, 32% were positive. A higher proportion of positive tests occurred between 10am and midday (14%) and between midnight and 4am (14%) than negative tests (9% and 7% respectively). A greater proportion of negative tests occurred between 2pm and 4pm (14%) and between 8pm and midnight (24%) than positive tests (9% and 14% respectively) (Figure 14).



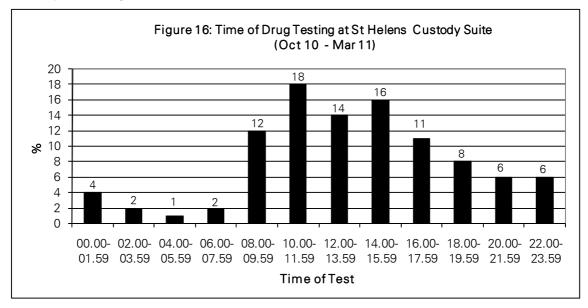
Of those who tested positive in Southport over the six month period, 47% tested positive for cocaine only, with 27% testing positive for opiates only and 27% testing positive for both cocaine and opiates. The peak times for cocaine only positive tests were between 2am and 4am (15%) and between 10am and 2pm (30%). The peak time for those testing positive for opiates only was between 10am and midday (23%) and between 4pm and 6pm (23%). The peak time for those testing positive for both cocaine and opiates was between 6pm and 10pm (46%). A third of all cocaine only positive tests occurred between 2am and 10am (33%) compared to positive tests for both cocaine and opiates (4%) or opiates only (8%) for the same time frame. Positive tests for both cocaine and opiates were more likely to occur between 6pm and midnight (58%) than positive tests for opiates only were more likely to occur between 10am and midday (23%) and between 4pm and 6pm (23%) than positive tests for cocaine only (13% and 4% respectively) or for both cocaine and opiates (8% and 12% respectively) (Figure 15).



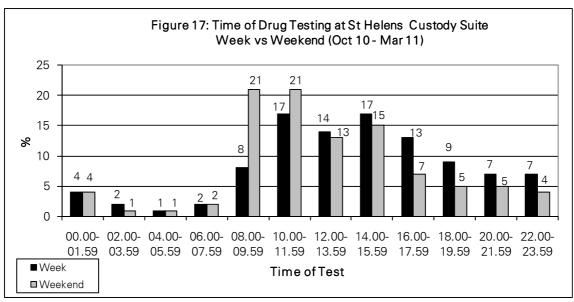
3.4 St Helens

St Helens Custody Suite

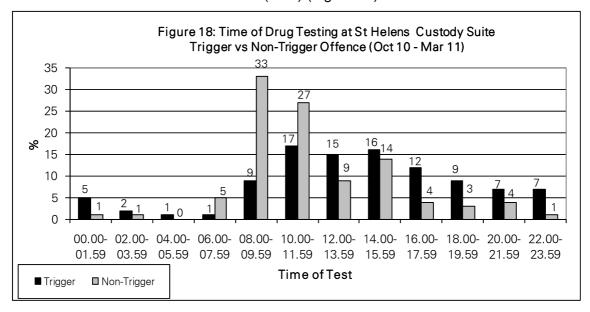
There were 1,127 tests attempted at St Helens custody suite between October 2010 and March 2011. Of these, 1,116 were successfully completed (99%). Almost eight in ten of these tests (79%) took place between 8am and 8pm, the main staffed hours of the custody suite (Figure 16).



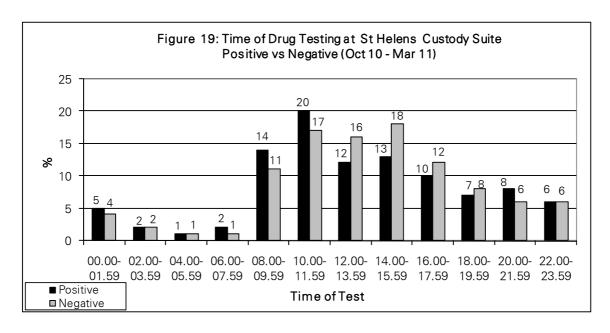
Of the 1,127 tests attempted, 796 of them (71%) took place during the week. The peak times for weekday tests were between 10am and 4pm (48%) and the peak times for weekend tests were between 8am and midday (42%). In addition, between 8am and midday was also when the largest difference between times of testing on weekdays and at weekends occurred, during which period a greater proportion of weekend tests occurred (42%) compared to weekday tests (25%). Furthermore a higher proportion of tests took place on weekdays between 2pm and midnight (53%) than on weekends during the same time period (36%) (Figure 17).



Of those who had a drug test attempted, 13% were arrested for a non-trigger offence within the six month period. A higher proportion of tests for non-trigger offences occurred between 8am and midday (60%) compared to the proportion of tests for trigger offences during the same time period (26%). In contrast to this, four in ten tests for trigger offences occurred between 4pm and 2am (40%), a far higher proportion than that for non-trigger offences conducted within these times (13%) (Figure 18).

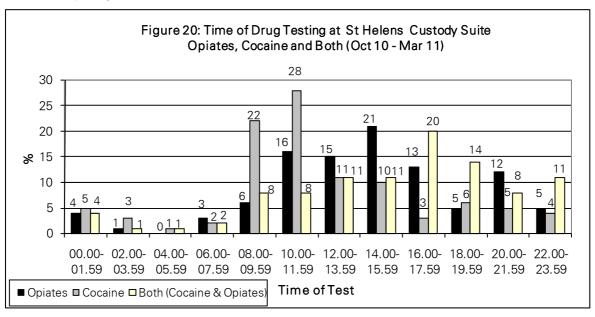


Of the 1,116 tests that were completed, more than a third were positive (37%). There was little difference in the time distribution of positive and negative tests. However the peak time for positive tests was between 8am and midday (34%) while the peak time for negative tests was between 10am and 4pm (51%) (Figure 19).



Of those testing positive, half did so for cocaine only (50%), with 30% testing positive for opiates only and the remaining 20% for both cocaine and opiates. The peak times for

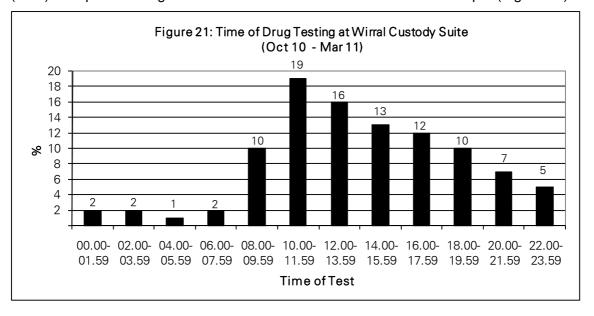
cocaine only positive tests were between 8am and midday (50%), for opiates only positive tests between 10am and 4pm (52%) and for both cocaine and opiates positive tests between 4pm and 8pm (34%). Positive tests for cocaine only were more likely to occur between 8am and midday (50%) than positive tests for both cocaine and opiates (16%) or opiates only (22%). Positive tests for opiates only were more likely to occur between midday and 4pm (36%) than positive tests for cocaine only (21%) or for both cocaine and opiates (22%). Positive tests for both cocaine and opiates were more likely to occur between 4pm and 8pm (34%) and between 10pm and midnight (11%) than positive tests for cocaine only (9% and 4% respectively) or opiates only (18% and 5% respectively)(Figure 20).



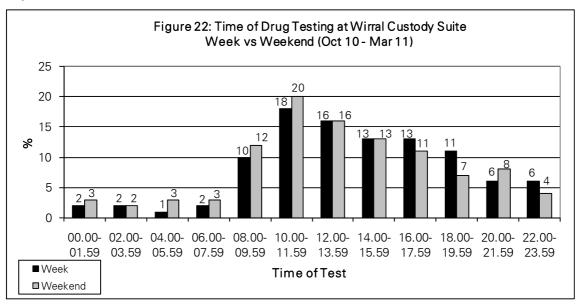
3.5 Wirral

Wirral Custody Suite

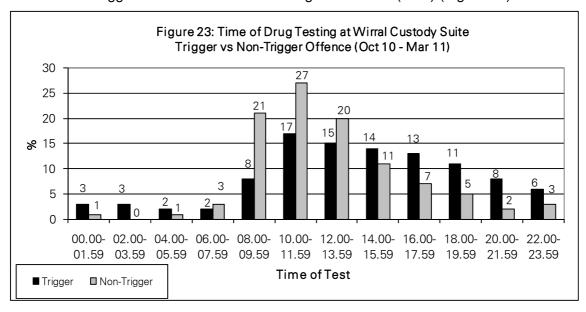
There were a total of 1,545 tests attempted at Wirral custody suite between October 2010 and March 2011, of which 1,537 (99%) were completed successfully. The majority of tests (87%) took place during the main staffed hours of between 8am and 10pm (Figure 21).



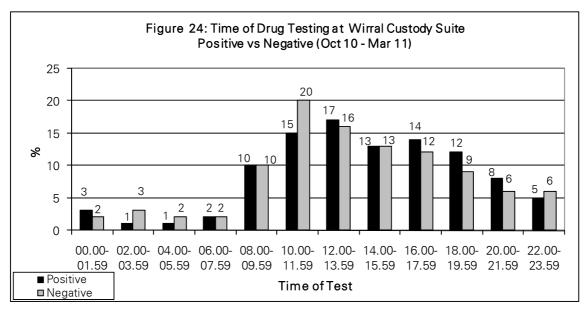
The majority of the 1,545 tests that were attempted (76%) took place during the week. There was little difference in the time distribution of weekday and weekend tests (Figure 22).



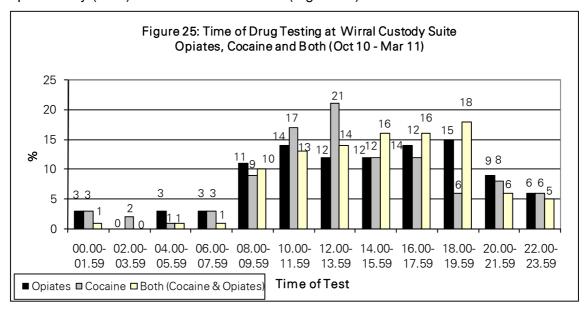
Of those who had a drug test attempted, 16% were arrested for a non-trigger offence within the six month period. A far higher proportion of tests for non-trigger offences occurred between 8am and 2pm (68%) than trigger offences completed during the same time period (40%). In contrast to this, nearly a third of all tests for trigger offences occurred between 6pm and 4am (30%) and this was nearly three times the proportion of tests for non-trigger offences conducted during these times (11%) (Figure 23).



Of the 1,537 tests completed over the six month period, just less than three in ten returned a positive test result (29%). The only marked difference in the patterns of test results was between 10 am and midday, when a negative test was more likely to occur (Figure 24).

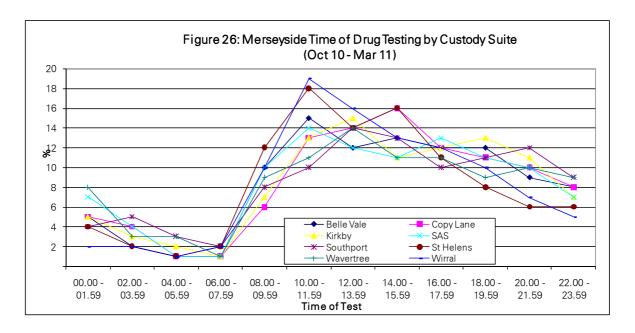


Of the 441 positive tests, 44% were for cocaine only with 36% for opiates only. The remainder of positive tests were for both cocaine and opiates (20%). Peak times for positive tests for cocaine only were between 10am and 2pm (38%), for opiates only were between 10am and 8pm (67%) and for both cocaine and opiates were between 2pm and 8pm (50%). Positive tests for cocaine only were more likely to occur between 10am and 2pm (38%) than positive tests for opiates only (26%) or for both cocaine and opiates (27%) for the same time frame. Positive tests for both cocaine and opiates were more likely to have occurred between 2pm and 8pm (50%) than positive tests for cocaine only (30%) or opiates only (41%) in the same time frame (Figure 25).

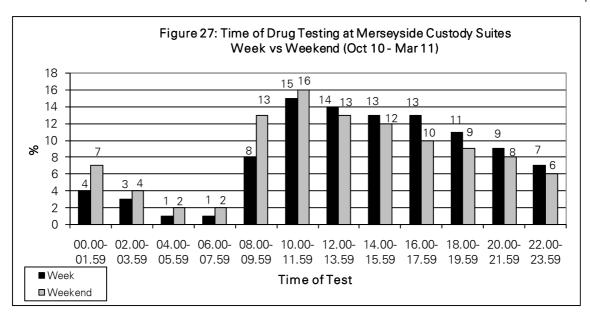


4.0 Trends across Merseyside

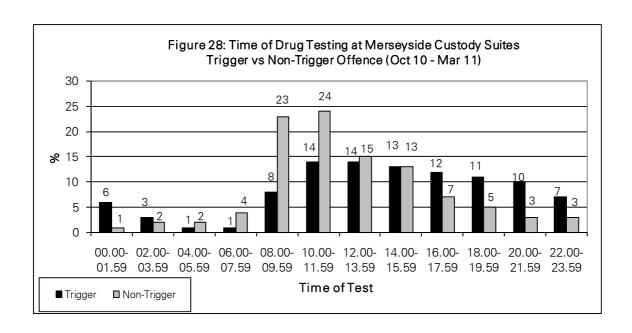
A total of 7,627 drug tests were attempted in Merseyside between October 2010 and March 2011 of which 7,501 were completed successfully (98%). Patterns for the time distribution of tests carried out in the eight suites were similar and tended to peak within staffed hours between 8am and 6pm with the lowest proportion of tests attempted between 6am and 8am. The main differences between the time distribution of drug tests included a higher proportion of tests having occurred between midnight and 2am at Wavertree and SAS custody suites than other suites and also a higher proportion of tests having occurred between 8am and midday at St Helens and Wirral custody suites. However all suites saw a steady decrease in the amount of tests carried out between 6pm and 8am (Figure 26).



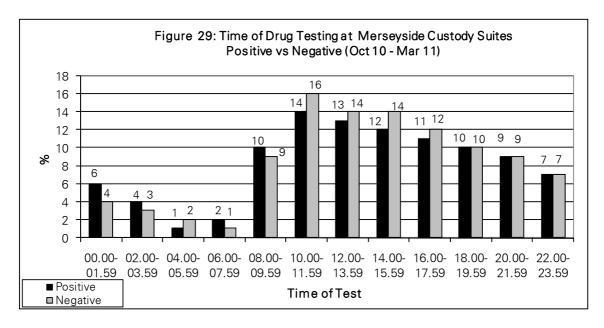
Of the 7,627 tests attempted throughout Merseyside in this period, 5,546 (73%) took place during weekdays. The pattern of the times when drug testing occurred was similar during the week and at weekends. However, a slightly greater proportion of weekend tests occurred between midnight and 2am (7%) and between 8am and 10am (13%) than on weekdays over this time period (4% and 8% respectively) (Figure 27).



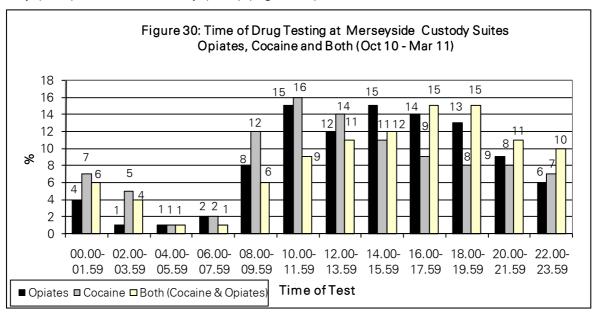
Overall just over one in ten clients (11%), who had a drug test attempted, were arrested for a non-trigger offence in Merseyside between October 2010 and March 2011. A higher proportion of tests for non-trigger offences occurred between 8am and midday (47%) compared to the proportion of tests for trigger offences during the same time period (22%). In contrast to this, a third of all tests for trigger offences occurred between 4pm and 10pm (33%) compared to just 15% of tests for non-trigger offences during these times (Figure 28).



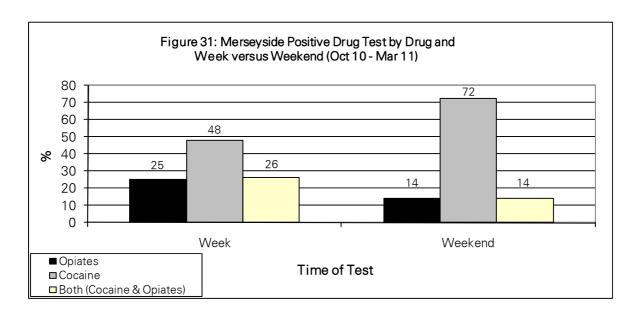
Over a third of the 7,501 tests completed throughout Merseyside produced a positive result (36%). The distributions of positive and negative tests were similar throughout the day (Figure 29).



More than half of the 2,705 positive tests in Merseyside were for cocaine only (56%). The proportions of positive tests for opiates only and for both cocaine and opiates were the same (22%). The peak times of testing positive for cocaine only were between 8am and 2pm (42%), for opiates only were between 10am and 4pm (42%) and for both cocaine and opiates were between 4pm and 8pm (30%). Positive tests for both cocaine and opiates were more likely to occur between 4pm and midnight (51%) than positive tests for opiates only (42%) or for cocaine only (32%) (Figure 30).



The proportion of positive tests for cocaine only was far higher at the weekend, making up just under three quarters of all weekend positive tests (72%). This was in contrast to the proportions of positive tests during weekdays when the proportion for cocaine only (48%) both cocaine and opiates (26%) and opiates only (25%) were similar (Figure 31).



5.0 Summary

- A total of 7,627 tests were attempted throughout the eight Merseyside custody suites between October 2010 and March 2011. Of the tests that occurred, 82% took place between 8am and 10pm, which were the staffed hours for six of the eight suites. The peak times of testing across all custody suites were 8am to 4pm with 51% of all tests being carried out during this time. Typically, the proportion of tests in all suites decreased steadily after 6pm through to 8am before increasing sharply between 8am and 10am.
- Nearly three-quarters of all tests (73%) occurred during weekdays and the patterns for times of tests were similar for weekdays and weekends throughout the Merseyside suites. However, during the weekend a greater proportion of tests occurred between midnight and 8am (15%) compared to tests conducted during the week (9%). This difference was particularly prominent between midnight and 2am, especially at Kirkby custody suite where 11% of all tests at the weekend occurred during this time period compared to 4% of tests that took place at this time during the week. Southport custody suite also peaked at weekends during this time period when 8% of tests occurred then compared to 2% during the week. The exceptions to this pattern were St Helens custody suite and Wirral custody suite, which both saw a similar proportion of tests between midnight and 6am on both weekends and weekdays and also the lowest proportion of tests in this time period at the weekend (6% and 7% respectively) compared to other suites.
- The majority of tests attempted in Merseyside were for trigger offences (89%) with the peak times being between 8am and 6pm. The patterns of times of testing of trigger offences were generally similar across each of the five custody suites. The patterns of times of testing of non-trigger offences differed slightly between the various custody suites but the peak times for testing for non-trigger offences was generally between 8am and 2pm. The differences in pattern were most evident in Kirkby and Southport custody suites. The peak time of testing for non-trigger offences at Kirkby custody suite was between 10am and midday (28%) but instead of a gradual decrease being recorded across the later time bands as for other custody suites, an almost consistent proportion was evident until 10pm (ranging from 8% to 16%) with a very low proportion of non-trigger offences being reported between midnight and 8am (ranging from 0% to 2%). In Southport the peak time of testing for non-trigger offences was between 8am and 10am (29%) but there were no drug tests for non-trigger offences reported between 4pm and 10pm. There was

- a peak after this time between 10pm and midnight (14%) but then a low proportion more or less remained consistent until 8am (ranging from 7% to 0%).
- Almost two thirds of all completed tests carried out in the county were negative (64%). Patterns of the times of both positive and negative tests were generally similar across Merseyside custody suites.
- Of the 2,705 positive tests throughout Merseyside, the highest proportion tested positive for cocaine only (56%). This was similar to data from the previous report on this topic which reported the proportion of positive tests for cocaine only to be 48% between April and September 2010 (Howarth et al, 2011). Other previous work around the impact of the Test on Arrest process (Dewa et al, 2007) and around DIP clients who used powder cocaine (Howarth and Duffy, 2010, 2009) highlights the high proportions of clients coming into contact with DIP who were using cocaine and this report supports such findings. The higher proportion of positive tests for cocaine only at weekends (72% compared to 48% during the week) also supports such research and suggests a link to the night-time economy. In addition to this it is worth noting that when comparing these figures to those of the previous report (67% during the weekend compared to 36% during the week between April and September 2010) there has been a marked increase in the proportion of both weekday and weekend positive tests for cocaine. Testing positive for cocaine only peaked in most areas between 10am and 2pm and there were also in general a higher proportion of positive tests for cocaine only between midnight and 6am when compared to positive tests for opiates alone or for both cocaine and opiates. This early morning peak was particularly prominent at Southport custody suite where, between 2am and 4am, nearly a third (31%) of all positive tests were for cocaine only. Overall these figures re-affirm a continued pattern of DIP coming into contact with a group of cocaine users from the night time economy especially as previous research has shown that the main offences this group is arrested for are Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (Howarth and Duffy, 2010, 2009). It should be noted, however, that drug tests fail to distinguish between powder cocaine and crack cocaine, and therefore it is impossible to draw definite conclusions.
- Numbers testing positive for opiates alone were at their lowest between midnight and 8am (9%) and this trend was evident across all custody suites. It may be important to note when interpreting figures relating to tests for opiates alone that this result only represented 23% of all positive tests.

 There were 602 positive tests for both opiates and cocaine over the 6 month time period examined, equating to 22% of all positive tests. Peak times of testing for both cocaine and opiates varied across custody suites but generally peaked between 2pm and 10pm.

Conclusion

The aim of this report was to outline the times of drug testing in all eight Merseyside custody suites in order to provide up to date information on the times and outcomes of the drug tests to help inform partnerships' resource allocation. Overall, all five Merseyside custody suites that were looked at in detail for this report, were staffed by a drugs worker during times when most drug tests occurred, this ranged between 79% and 87% coverage. This coverage also included the peak time for when positive tests for opiates and positive tests for both cocaine and opiates occurred. Such comprehensive coverage may not be necessary and teams could take the opportunity to review some of their coverage times and introduce shorter or alternative coverage options such as staff being on call during later times and/or during the weekend. This could be effective where a robust out of hour's system is in place which includes good communication between the police and the drug treatment agency after each positive drugs test. Such an alteration could assist in the more effective targeting of resources which may be required in the current climate of diminishing funding. This would also continue to allow the identification of clients who test positive for cocaine only between midnight and 6am to occur. Although clients who test positive for cocaine only may not be the traditional priority of DIP, such clients may be suitable for referral onto a low intensity stimulant pathway. This could help reduce the likelihood of such clients representing at a later date. Information on the pattern of drug tests can assist DIP teams to anticipate the types of drug use clients are likely to present with during the week or at weekends, in particular the peak in cocaine using clients after a weekend.

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7.0 Appendix

	Kirkby	Copy Lane	Southport	St Helens	Wirral	Merseyside Totals
Total Tests Attempted	590	768	312	1127	1545	7627
Total Tests Completed	578	754	306	1116	1537	7501
Offences						
Trigger	529	718	298	986	1301	6784
Non-Trigger	61	50	14	141	244	843
Test Result						
Positive	196	274	98	411	441	2705
Negative	382	480	208	705	1096	4796
Time of Attempted Tests						
Week	464	531	219	796	1181	5546
Weekend	126	237	93	331	364	2081
Positive Test Result						
Both Cocaine & Opiates	30	62	26	84	88	602
Cocaine only	140	174	46	205	194	1518
Opiates only	26	38	26	122	159	585

^{* (}Note: The "Merseyside Totals" column reports on the totals for the whole of Merseyside and not just those for the custody suites report on in the table.)