

NO DEAL WOLVERHAMPTON

A MAJOR operation today has seen police swoop on suspected drug dealers and gang members in Wolverhampton as part of a campaign to clean up the city's streets.

Nearly 300 officers gathered ahead of the operation in Birmingham before travelling to Wolverhampton and mounting dawn raids on 15 addresses in specific parts of the city. Today's activity has seen 10 people arrested and their homes extensively searched.

Nine men and one woman have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class A drugs and have been taken into custody to be interviewed by police.

The operation called 'Wolverhampton No Deal', which has been a result of almost 12 months planning, is based on significant and extensive information collated by a dedicated team of officers.

Following a series of shootings in the city last year by suspected rival gang members, police launched a huge intelligence gathering exercise and undercover policing targeting a number of people.

The aim of the Wolverhampton No Deal campaign is to continue to rid the area of street level drug dealing by not only targeting key individuals, but reducing the demand for drugs by providing treatment to users.

Wolverhampton Police Detective Chief Inspector Paul Drover, leading the operation, said: "Today's action is just the next step of our efforts together with key partners in Wolverhampton to tackle drugs and gangs in our neighbourhoods. We know how damaging drug use and gangs can have on communities.

"The issue of drug dealing and use comes up time and time again in a lot of community meetings and in discussions that local officers have with local people. We have spent a considerable amount of time collecting all the information available to us.

"Over the last 15 months we have continued to make arrests, obtained a gang injunction for one known gang member and diverted offenders from gang lifestyles through a variety of measures. We have also engaged with schools and youth services to get the message out to young people that taking drugs, dealing drugs and joining a gang is not the route to take.

"We are really committed to this operation and making sure it works on behalf of all the people in Wolverhampton that we serve. We want crime in our neighbourhoods to continue to fall and for our residents to feel safe. Communities working with us have told us they want this change and together we can continue to make it happen.

"We understand that tackling drugs is more complex than simply arresting drug dealers. That is why the Wolverhampton No Deal campaign involves working hand-in-hand with partner agencies to help drug users break free from addiction through gaining access to treatment programmes."

Police community support officers (PCSOs) have this morning been distributing leaflets to let residents know why the raids have taken place and encouraging them to come forward with any information that may help the police.

Specialist drug workers will be out in key locations in the city where known drug use occurs in a bid to give advice and talk about how they can begin to stop using.

Anyone who may have information relating to drug dealing in their area should contact their local officers on 101. Alternatively, anyone who does not wish to speak to police can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously 0800 555 111.

Link:

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/wolverhampton/news/newsitem.asp?id=14730>