



## **Report to Halton Licensing Committee Creamfields 2015**

### **Planning**

Police planning for the 2015 event was undertaken within the Force Planning and Resilience Unit based at Cheshire Police Headquarters again with Inspector Stewart Sheer conducting the lead planning role for the third year, with support from the resource planning team.

The relationship with key stakeholders Livenation, Cream and Showsec, has continued to be positive and one of co-operation and active problem solving looking to achieve a safe festival for all concerned.

The core policing operation for the 2015 event was again based mostly on site with the continued development of the police deployment centre within the Event Control on site rather than at HQ Winsford.

Security this year worked with the police in the planning process to make improvements to the Staff search process to prevent drugs being brought into the event through this route. The Showsec lead search operation supported by the Cheshire police was intended to provide a robust selective search process that would face all staff as they entered the site.

Key changes to the event for 2015 were the introduction of the VIP ticket entrance at the south of the event and the introduction of the bridge over the A56 and the restructure of the traffic manage plan.

The police operation saw the introduction of slightly changed police village and the inclusion of a second police station within the newly introduced campsite village.

Improved use of social media with the introduction of the "Creamfieldscops" officer was also a key intention for the event.

The rationale as with the previous years for the event continues to be that the Police do not enter the arena unless it is absolutely necessary and was unchanged for 2015.

2015 would see the best conditions for quite a few years and so would not test the plans to deal with changing ground conditions but the event team from APL were well prepared.

The road infrastructure again caused some real concerns leading up to the event with the redesign of the M56 roundabout at Daresbury being required only days from the gates opening. There were a number of concerns around the impact of the Mersey Gateway construction project and this was to be monitored closely through the event.

## **Public Safety**

Lighting of the A56 thankfully caused no issues this year with a clear plan in place for spot checks through the event by key police and security personnel.

2015 again saw no Pedestrian Prohibition along the A56. With the introduction of the cycle path, the improvements in the traffic management plan and the introduction of the bridge over the A56 issues with pedestrian foot fall felt much improved as did the management of traffic as a whole. Livenation this year employed SEP to undertake the management of the new traffic plan which it is fair to say from the police observations was a clear improvement on previous years with much less extended disruption to the local network traffic infrastructure.

Police officers were again deployed at the request of Livenation on the campsites which, at full capacity, now contain 55,000 campers. The use of buggies to ensure prompt response to incidents on what is a vast site were again utilized, also doubling as serious incident vehicles with crime scene preservation kit. This year the regular officers were again supported by the Special Constabulary and this was very much a positive with over 100 specials working during the days of the event.

Police worked closely with the event organisers focusing on creating a safer environment within the campsites and festival footprint. Campsite hubs were in place again, following on from previous years' successes. Newly introduced for this year's event was the Campsite village. Included within this village was a new additional police station which hugely improved access to police resource and the ability for the campers to report and make us aware of crime activity. A secondary police station was also sighted at the newly located medical facility on site at the North Entrance. This police station was required as day ticket holders would not be able to access the campsite police station as their tickets restrict access to the Arena's.

Communication with festival goers in the case of emergency messages again had the provision of screens and the better utilisation of the social media networks. This year saw the introduction of a social media police post to manage the Creamfieldscops Twitter & Facebook site live-time. The post also ensured that there was very much a joined up approach to social media within the Event Control. Followers of the site are now in the thousands and it will be the aim of the 2016 team to ensure that this continues to increase.

Livenation continues to look to improve the site with the introduction of more permanent infrastructure such as access roads.

Fence improvements from previous years again proved successful. The joint working operation between the police and Showsec security again ensured that fence jumping issues did not escalate to unmanageable numbers through the 2015 Creamfields.

Watch towers were again built at strategic points along the event, and proved a useful and highly visible means of stewarding/Policing the event. There were no incidents of note involving any of the towers at this event.

Livenation took responsibility for the management of the sites ejection process supported by police at the North Entrance. This worked well this year and continued to follow the thoughtful and measured approach, taking into account any elements of vulnerability prior to ejection. This new approach will continue to be developed into the 2016 event.

A total of 78 ejections took place through the event and are much reduced from the 170 of 2014.

It is worthy of note that these ejections were only from within the venue and again do not include those turned away at the gates.

The ejections process maintained the ability for Police/organisers to allow the opportunity for festival goers deemed unsuitable for arena entry, to use the exterior welfare facilities but be excluded from the rest of the event until they were deemed to be fit to re-enter.

There was still a need for police resources again this year at the taxi ranks at the key egress times and, though much improved, this is still a problem area and will require further work at future events.

The relationship with Showsec management and the police planning team has continued to be excellent with the approach being very much one of a joined up team effort. The relationship between Police officers and Security staff from Showsec during the event has again been excellent improving year on year.

Numbered vests on all of the security staff was in place again, allowing for all staff members, regardless of level, to be easily identifiable.

There were no significant issues this year in relation to public safety other than a male managing to climb onto some of the lighting framework. This was managed well with a joint security and police response and concluded with the male being safely detained.

## **Prevention of Harm to Children**

Challenge “21” was again enforced by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and his staff during the event. In total there were in excess of 19000 checks conducted through the whole of the event.

In addition to the Challenge 21 the previously agreed protocol for the safeguarding process for young person’s attempting to gain entry to the event was again in place. There were no instances where the protocol was required to be invoked.

## **Prevention of Public Nuisance**

Traffic plan was much improved this year, Friday opening being its usual challenge but with no significant traffic problems. This remained the case through the event, though clearly busy at key ingress and egress times this was in comparison to previous years managed much quicker and did not feel as though it impacted on the surrounding road network significantly. Closedown on the bank holiday Monday was also much improved with traffic flowing better and clearing much quicker than previous years.

Livenation’s introduction of a bridge over the A56 had a very positive impact on the management of the traffic flows and we would hope would be a retained feature for future events. Segregation of the specific traffic types entering and leaving the event from old and new car park areas again had a positive impact preventing extended nuisance to the local community and the public passing through the area.

Police motorcycle support was again in place and essential to support the SEP traffic management plan problem solving throughout the key periods.

Policing of the communities around the event was again conducted using locally based Neighbourhood Policing Unit officers to provide high profile reassurance to local residents and members of the public attending the event.

A Community Debrief set up by Livenation in co-operation with the community Inspectors has been repeated for a third year and now embedded as part of the process. The local community very much welcome the approach and the engagement of the promoters. On the whole, views were very positive, there were some minor but these were identified and dealt with quickly. The community response team was again welcomed by the community dealing with issues such as litter and continues to be recommended for the coming years.

The policing operation was not aware of any significant ticket tout activity throughout the event.

## Prevention of Crime & Disorder

This year the campsites for Creamfields 2015, again, opened on the Friday 22nd August at 12:00. This year's event capacity was for 55,000 camping with a day ticket capacity of 13,000 each day and an overall capacity of 69,999. The decrease in day tickets was as a direct consequence of continued heightened demand for camping tickets.

Recorded crime for Creamfields 2015 was as follows, showing a comparison with the previous year's event.

Crime Type (Home Office Group)	Creamfields 2014	Creamfields 2015
Drug Offences	99	118
Theft	76	125
Violence Against a Person	8	15
Criminal Damage	2	1
Robbery	1	1
Public Order	8	6
Sexual Offences	3	3
Possession Weapons	0	3
Burglary	2	0
Traffic Offence	0	1
Other	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>274</b>

As expected, drug offences continue to be high with a moderate increase on the previous year's events. It should be noted that there was an additional entrance to the event with the introduction of the VIP ticket entrance. The increase in possession with intent to supply drugs, arrest numbers, is continued evidence of the cooperation and the robust joint search operation essential for this event.

Also noted is the increase in recorded thefts at the site which are in part down to the introduction of a second police station centrally positioned in the middle of the campsites in the newly introduced campsite village. We are very satisfied that we are now achieving a much better picture of emerging trends live time through the event as opposed to post event which was the case last year.

One of the main trends was an increase in thefts from tents and we will along with the event partners be looking to opportunities to reduce this for 2016 including targeting some of the suspected offenders.

Also of note is the number of thefts by pickpockets which will continue to be focused on through the national picture leading to next year's event.

The statistics also show an increase in violence however these are in the main low level offences and also included assaults on police and security when detaining offenders.

Most other figures are similar to the previous year with only one robbery and an increase in the possession of weapons being something to focus on for 2016.

## Arrest Summary

Total Arrested Persons = 69

Total on site Cautions = 47 (all for drug possession)

BREAKDOWN OF Arrests/cautions	Total 2014	Total 2015
Possession with Intent to Supply	45	59
Possession of Controlled Drugs	54	59
Sec 5 Public order / BOP/Breach of s69 notice/D&D	8	6
Fraud/Deception/money laundering/counterfeit	3	1
Assault	2	4
Wanted / FTA Warrant	2	1
Driving Offences	1	1
Criminal Damage	1	0
Rape/sexual assault	0	1
Possess Offensive weapon/ammo	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>135</b>

## Drugs Summary:

Surrender bins were again in operation at the festival increased to include the VIP ticket entrance, as were passive drugs dogs. There were 118 recorded incidents of persons being found in possession of drugs: 59 for possession and 59 for Possession with Intent to Supply (PWIT).

Once again there was a search process with passive search dog on the production entrance where members of staff and concession vehicles entered the site. These searches resulted in 15 arrests with 11 being for possession with intent to supply. These figures confirm the importance of continuing to search at the Staff Entrance. It should be noted that this is fully supported by the promoters Livenation and that the operation is led by the security operator Showsec supported by the police.

The focus of the operation at the entrances is to prevent drugs from getting into the event and ultimately make the event safer. The effectiveness of the various entrance Police / Security searches is further evidenced by the amount of drugs surrendered and also the quantities discarded in the entrance lanes leading to the searches themselves.

The Event itself has probably one of the most robust search regimes in the country for such an event, to restrict volumes of drugs getting onto site and minimize the likelihood of a drugs death.

## **Public Order / Violence**

There were 15 reports of assault throughout the event resulting in 4 arrests, 2 received cautions and 2 were charged and bailed to court. The latter 2 were assaults on Police Officers during arrest.

Two of the assaults were of a more serious nature, though not life threatening believed linked and involve both males being stabbed by an unknown offender. One of the injured males was found to have a large lock knife and was arrested for possession of offensive weapon.

Two further separate serious assaults unlinked to the above involved a male being stabbed in the stomach and another slashed on the back of head and ear again neither being life threatening. Both incidents are believed to be drug related.

Clearly these types of offences are a concern going forward to the 2016 event and are further evidence to support the requirement for a robust police & security search operation at every entrance point to the event.

There was an increase in the number of drug offences for the 2015 Creamfields when compared with 2014 with the focus of the policing operation remaining towards those individuals that are attending the festival in possession of drugs with the intention of dealing.

Again, the approach for this year's event was similar to that of 2014 to place items in the Surrender bins situated at each of the entrances. Once again, this was a successful approach, targeting the right people and maintaining the levels from 2014.

Key to the success of the operation each year is the excellent working relationship with Livenation, Showsec security management, Showsec staff and the sharing of vetted information assisting them in knowledge of potential methods of concealment when searching individuals.

The robust search operation presented to attendees continues to have a significant influence when deciding whether to make use of the surrender bins. The use of the surrender bins has reduced the need to caution people attending the event and thus freed time of security and police to focus on those individuals involved in organised criminality and attempting to get significant quantities of prohibited substances into the event.

## Conclusion

Creamfields 2015 saw a 38% increase in overall recorded crime when compared against 2014 figures. Whilst there have been some identified trend increases such as theft from tents and pickpockets it is my assessment that much of the increase has been the provision of much better police facilities on site. The new police station sited within the campsite village gave a much more visible presence and encouraged people who may not have bothered in previous years to report the theft of their property. Though it has given the event an increased crime picture I see this as a positive as this is now more of a true picture allowing us to deploy resources through the event more appropriately.

In addition to the increase in thefts there was the increase in drugs PWIT offences which again shows to increase the overall crime picture. Again this is in my opinion a positive as it shows that the police/ security search operation is achieving its aim in preventing dealers from getting into the event.

The repeated success of the staff search operation for 2015 made it even more difficult to get illegal substances into the event and therefore make the event even safer. There is a continued case to maintain this process in 2016 and discussions will be held early to establish new parameters for times, dates and areas for improvement.

The general atmosphere on the campsites was, in the main, was again perceived to be a safer environment than previous years, benefiting from increased visibility of police and security. The inclusion of the campsite village was a positive for this giving central location to the campsite environment.

This on-going positive relationship is something that we will continue to build on through any planning process in 2016 to further reduce the potential for violent crime, the presence of weapons, illegal drugs, and impact on any national trends that may come to Creamfields.

The relationship between the police planning team, event organisers and multi-agency group has continued to be good and we will continue to work together towards making Creamfields an even safer event, with the organisers, Livenation.

In conclusion, the 2015 event had no major issues other than the exceptions raised above and with the dry conditions was probably the best event so far.

The key improvements working together into 2016 will need to be:-

- The continued review of the traffic management plan in light of the 2015 changes.
- Further development of the concessions and staff search.
- Review and development of the VIP ticket holders entrance structure.
- Re focus on the increase in theft offences and mitigating actions

**Inspector Stewart Sheer**  
**Cheshire Constabulary**