Written evidence from Mr Steven Hansom

Possible New Drug policy
The war on drugs needs to end completely

The human condition, People enjoy Drugs. is this good or bad should not be the question the question should be is this safe to do so. The answer to this is yes as long as you get your drugs from a reliable source.

Policing drugs causes the users to suffer, this in turn causes their lives to spiral some can be destined for years of prison and petty crime or even prostitution

As we have discovered trying to police drugs is not possible, we have spent (the government) billions this number really is astronomical. This needs to end.

As all classes of people take drugs this is not an issue,
Alcohol has to remain legal but tighter guidelines to show who is purchasing, as alcoholics have to want to stop this needs careful planning. So anyone purchasing over the recommended allowance over a prolonged time should need to attend an AA program.

decriminalize opioids completely, give addicts the drugs they need. As these type of drugs will cause the user to spiral out of control they are at a greater risk of turning to crime. If you look at why the addict take the Drugs in the first place you could help them stop. If you set up a system requiring them to undergo a program to get them back to normality. What is normal? For the addict He/she is willing to sell their souls to get the drug of choice. This needs to end as at this point he/she will steal, harm others they are also willing to sell their bodies with little regard to their own and others safety. Persons that become addicts that have dependents are at a higher risk of harming there dependents so this is when social workers should be activated

Crack has to stop so it stays illegal, Cocaine make legal as long as the user can afford then they should be limited to an amount that is not detrimental to their health.

Methamphetamine should stay illegal but alternative amphetamines should be legal but controlled so users can only purchase as much that is not detrimental to health,
Cannabis I believe should be grown and distributed by Hospitals, As the evidence that can be provided shows Cannabis is medicinal. Limits to the amount purchased should be set to a limit that will last the user 1 week, if suspected of supplying persons under 21 then extremely high penalties should ensue.

Types of cannabis you supply to people, as THC and CBD work in unison they can lessen the effects of each other. Supplying a 3/1 ratio will give the user the high they desire with the health benefits of CBD. CBD should be given to anyone that wants it for free.

Other drugs of use should be distributed in the same way and with the same attitude.

Are drugs Good for society? They can be when used for a reward drugs will cause the user to perform tasks that most others would not. This is going to happen it does happen widely all over the country this is where the current drug policy fails we lock up users to protect us from them but if they no longer have to commit crime then the reduction in resources will be higher. As a lot of users of addictive drugs are at a greater risk of crime the resourcefulness is greatly
increased they manage to beg borrow and steal this costs us and the only people to gain anything are criminals, first they gain from selling the drugs then they gain by buying the items that the drug users sell to gain money.

Drugs such as ecstasy should be given to people who are attending night clubs but these nightclubs should not be serving alcohol, this would require a few doctors to be present sounds ludicrously stupid but in reality criminals are doing this already and gaining funds that they use to fund other crimes.

The biggest thing to get over is that humans enjoy drugs and they are going to take them no matter if they are illegal or not. So as a Health and Safety matter drugs should be supplied by people that have the drug users best interest at heart.

Honestly Everyone needs a little pick me up at the end of the week whether it be alcohol or something less dangerous such as cannabis. The fact of the matter is we have failed to curb drugs because some people want them and they are willing to be prosecuted for taking them this must make you see that fighting an unwinnable war is futile and costs to much of our cash.

At the moment only the criminals get rewarded for drug use, the users are put at risk because criminals do not need qualifications to make or supply there drugs.

Also clean drugs that could be administered by nurses would take less resources than dirty drugs mixed with any substance the dealer can get. This causes infections causing more cost. The reality is drug users are going to take the drugs they deem fun,

Drug dealers do not care if you send them to jail as they can make huge amounts of cash just because you cannot comprehend that it is not possible to stop free will.

If we looked at the drug problem in a way that made sure criminals do not profit then I think most behavior would stop over time. The problem with making a drug illegal is the user cannot easily get help without stigmatising them. This causes greater degradation to their self esteem making it more difficult to return to normality.

The fact is if you legalised drugs the same number of drug user would be taking drugs every week. Ask yourself if heroin was legal would you become an addict and 99% will say no the rest take it because there lives are so bad they need a drug that takes them away from their reality this is a public health problem how are we failing in society and it is the victims of crimes that suffer for the prolonged drug war. How many people are the subject of violence where a drug deal goes bad, or someone tries to sell in someone else's territory. This is all down to laws that are just causing this violence not preventing it.

I know this a radical solution, I have viewed it from the prospect of someone that has seen the figures and the reality is drug crime and prevention is strangling the country and we are all brunting the cost. By taking a proactive approach accepting human behaviour and moving forward with a health crisis that plagues the country.

So I believe that there has been a huge increase in Cannabis use across the UK as it is becoming a cultural drug. It is used widely by all age groups. Poorer areas it is often used openly. To stop this I believe would be detrimental, Cannabis can bring like minded persons together in a non threatening manner. There are groups on facebook that conduct all sorts of meeting including meals centered around cannabis.

I know the police would prefer to deal with cannabis users rather than drunken persons, this is because alcohol lowers the user's inhibitions this results in poor decision making. This is not
observed in Cannabis users as Cannabis has a calming effect the users are not often breaking into fights.
This whole system would be set up requiring the user to obtain a card that has to be swiped every time a drug is purchased, this would give real evidence as to who and where work in society needs to be done.
The biggest problem with drugs is they are fun, If before you take the drug they had to learn about the effects and the warning signs of harm and addiction then at least users could make more informed decisions on their drug taking. A system that does not recognise the cause of drug taking is not going to solve our health crises.
We need to look at our problem and be proactive and dynamic in dealing with both crime and drug abuse.
Britain's drugs are being supplied by both criminals and terrorist organisations, this funds more and more debortuary this solution ends the british public funding of organised crime.
Do I think this will be laughed at, probably.
Most drugs of abuse are prescribed medication this infers that they are safe to take when in fact many drug takers are left addicted to opioids after the prescriptions have ended. This leads them into a cycle that will inevitably lead to them committing crimes to fund the habit.
The reality is drug taking is not going away your current solution criminalises thousands of people when the number of users is in the millions.