

The Illicit Diversion of Methadone and Benzodiazepines

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Luke: “Yer know, people use methadone as a way, as a back up, yer know. Like I said to you before, if I know I’m gonna be skint today and tomorrow, I would try and go and buy methadone because I can’t afford to buy heroin for 2 days. In my case, most people I know use methadone just as a back up really and they’ll still use heroin on top of it.”

Luke: “Crack isn’t really a problem for me anymore. In fact I do kinda refuse it lately because I get too greedy with it. So, at the moment I’m kinda depending just on heroin, that’s my addiction at the moment. Crack is not a problem and the tablets I very rarely take. In fact tablets I will take if I’ve used crack. Erm, erm, it’s just one way of comin’ down and gettin’ my head sorted out if I’ve used crack.”

Mary: “We just used to ‘ave our meth and our diazies...we didn’t touch it [heroin] ‘alf as much as we do now, but what I’m sayin’ is we didn’t ‘ave it unless it was payday, so yer know what I mean like, it’s like now near enough everyday we’re having the gear. Whereas, if we ‘ad the blues we wouldn’t do that, we’d just have our blues...we’d have the diazies instead of the gear. Prefer diazies rather than gear.”

John: “There’s a lot of strong gear about at the moment right but even if you get crap gear and you get benzos it still whacks yer anyway, you know what I mean, so when you’ve had benzos you don’t care about getting crap gear so you can score anywhere.”

John: *“There’s this old dear, right, she’s an alcoholic, she gets 60 20s. Saves 20 for herself in case she comes down off the beer, in case she’s rattling and got no money for the beer, right. She sells 40 to me.”*

Luke: *“The person who has the script gives them to his sister. I think he’s had depression and stuff. I don’t really know him, I know his sister, so, erm, and I think now it’s gone past his time of actually needing the tablets. I think he just gets them now because he can sell them... So it’s like an extra £30 in their pocket every week or whatever, people know to just go to this woman and just buy the tablets that are her brothers but she’s not a junkie or anything.”*

John: *“Like at the moment like, between me and you right, we’ve got a woman who’s getting 36 three times a week, right. We’ve got a guy who doesn’t know what he’s got. He gives us 112 diazepam and throws us 20 20ml temazies – for nought - for 20 quid. For that script he could get 50, 60 quid for that script. He just doesn’t know what he’s doing. He gets it for nothing and doesn’t take it or nothing. He’s not a drug addict, he’s just an alcie. So when he phones me, I fly down.”*

Matt: "They might use on top but they keep their meth. People might sell and then when they've got their giro buy it back. It's your safety net innit, a lot of users will have it for safety net reasons ... if yer working, a lot of people are working as well, it's when you get paid, you sort of work yourself out from there don't yer."

John: "They don't sell it every day of the week, they only sell it when they need money. So say like 5 days a week they'll take it their self, 2 days a week they might need money and they'll sell it. They won't sell it all on them 2 days, they'll take a bit so it's still in their system so they're not going to be roasting..."

Luke: *“But the whole point of like me buying methadone personally would be because I’ve not got much money at all and if I bought 100mls of methadone that would last me like 2 days or I’d buy a bag of heroin with that £10 and that’ll last me a few hours... They sell it to raise money to go and buy, yer know, heroin.”*

John: *“To tell you the truth there’s been one time when I couldn’t get gear and I’ve had to take more meth. I might have got shit gear but it’s sorted me out. There’s only been the one time when there’s been a bad drought on, yer know what I mean.”*

Matt: “You see ‘em [those in his social circle] all selling to each other and swapping, all the same heads usually...It’s just like putting it in a bank or converting it – getting it back at Cash Generator. With people you know, you help each other out, just sell it and buy it, sell it and buy it.”

Mary: “It’s sold between people that are known. If someone comes up to yer that yer don’t know and asks for methadone, yer know what I mean, yer like that ‘Fuck off, what yer on about?’ yer know what I mean?”

Peter: "You get the odd person comin' round sayin' can you do me 20mls or somethin' like that, just to take the monkey off me back and that like. I don't like to see nobody rattle...if it was only 20ml I'd just give it 'em, wouldn't expect nothin' back but I'd expect them to do me a favour one day if I need it."

Luke: "I've got about 3 or 4 people who are on scripts who will sell, yer know if I, yer know, offer them the money. If those 3 or 4 people didn't have it, they'd probably know someone who they knew and then obviously if they couldn't get it I'd have a bag of heroin."

*Luke “It’s not like if you need heroin you travel to ***** or ***** or wherever, it’s not like that, there’s not A [emphasis] place where you can go and say ‘can I have £5 worth of methadone?’, it’s just through friends really... If I were really desperate then I suppose I could go to these street people in town and ask them if they’ve got meth for sale, but I’ve never done, I’m just sayin’ for example, if I had to.”*

Rachel: “There were 2 or 3 lads all paying top whack, they were like desperate, really desperate for it. The one lad I know’s got on a script now. The other two I’ve not seen, they’re still floatin’ about apparently. Coz I know mates that sell their methadone they say ‘I sold it to him earlier on, blah, blah, blah.’ So they’re still about.”

John: "No you wouldn't notice it...it's not an open market. Someone who didn't take it couldn't get hold of it and take it and kill 'em selves. That wouldn't happen, that wouldn't happen you know what I mean? They'd have to look like a smack head, they'd have to look like they were on drugs."

Rachel: "They [benzodiazepine sellers] like to keep it quiet coz they think somebody'll get 'em busted, so they only have a couple of people [buyers] go there, they try to keep it very quiet, it's only a few of us who've got the number to go there... Most people don't sell them on. They have a few people they go or they go to them. But you never tell anyone your source because you want them yourself. It's greediness at the end of the day. And you won't tell anyone yer source."