

Decriminalisation Decriminalisation of drugs 'could of drugs 'could liberate our streets' liberate our streets'

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ABSTRACT

A MOTHER who tragically lost her son to heroin addiction has criticised a police and crime commissioner for calling for the decriminalisation of drugs.

FULL TEXT

A MOTHER who tragically lost her son to heroin addiction has criticised a police and crime commissioner for calling for the decriminalisation of drugs. Decriminalisation of drugs.

Alison Hill was left heartbroken when her son Lee Garrity, who had battled heroin addiction for years, was found dead in Who had battled heroin addiction for years, was found dead in Walker, Newcastle. The 28-year-old had managed to kick the drugs habit but, in a moment of weakness, Lee went in search of one final fix, which was to prove fatal.

Having watched her son's life ruined by addiction, Ms Hill thinks durham PCC Ron Hogg's comments on decriminalising thinks Durham PCC Ron Hogg's comments on decriminalising drugs are "ridiculous". She said: "There's absolutely no doubt drugs are "ridiculous". She said: "There's absolutely no doubt they should stay criminalised. A man in his position shouldn't be saying things like that. More help should be given to addicts to get off the drugs, not in making it easier for them to take to get off the drugs, not in making it easier for them to take them or giving them somewhere to take it.

"I think my son would still have died regardless if drugs were "I think my son would still have died regardless if drugs were decriminalised or not. It's ridiculous for a crime commissioner to come out and say what he has." Ron Hogg yesterday said decriminalising drugs such as heroRon Hogg yesterday said decriminalising drugs such as heroin could lead to a world without fatal overdoses, the streets free in could lead to a world without fatal overdoses, the streets free from needles and no theft to feed addictions.

The police and crime commissioner said the war on drugs has failed and that criminalising drug addicts has been a "destructive force in every conceivable arena". "destructive force in every conceivable arena".

He said that the UK's drug policy denies "overwhelming evidence" and that drug addicts should receive the same help that dence" and that drug addicts should receive the same help that those addicted to alcohol and gambling receive. The former assistant chief constable said: "Imagine a world with no heroin on our streets. No money for heroin being put in the hands of organised crime. No spread of HIV or hepatitis B/C through shared and dirty needles. No needles littering our streets. No fatal overdoses. No more pressure from organised criminals to remain addicted. No more theft or prostitution to feed drug habits. This is what decriminalisation could achieve."

" Durham Constabulary chief constable Mike Barton last year" Durham Constabulary chief constable Mike Barton last year said decriminalisation was the best way to wrestle power from criminal gangs.

Illustration

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