

NEWS

Child porn and drugs defendant pleads guilty

By court reporter

A man who admitted 30 charges involving child abuse, child pornography and supplying drugs to teenage girls will face sentence next month.

James Frost, 29, of no fixed address, but originally from in the Lincoln area, was due to stand trial this week at Lincoln Crown Court.

He entered guilty pleas before a jury was sworn in.

Frost admitted seven charges of inciting child pornography and five charges of causing child pornography. He also admitted sexual activity with a child, causing a child to watch a sexual act, inciting a child to engage in a sexual act and possession of an indecent photograph of a child.

Frost also pleaded guilty to 13 charges of supplying drugs including cocaine, ketamine and cannabis, together with a charge of possession of cocaine with intent to supply.

30
The number of charges facing James Frost

The offences, which involve a number of different girls aged between 12 and 17, took place on dates between June 2011 and August 2013.

Frost was remanded in custody to appear back in court for sentence in December.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

New hope for

Lincoln is playing a crucial role in the development of a potentially revolutionary new stroke treatment. Niro Siriwardena, professor of primary and pre-hospital health care at the University of Lincoln, talks to Caroline Wilson about his part in a healthcare breakthrough.



Professor Niro Siriwardena

It is a patch that measures about two inches by one inch and costs just 46p.

But this small device could save the lives of victims of stroke – a condition that is currently one of the UK's biggest killers.

At the moment, when paramedics are called to a victim of a suspected stroke, assessment is carried out, but no treatment is actually administered until the patient gets to hospital.

But a new treatment that has been successfully trialled with members of ambulance staff in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire saw patients treated as soon as they were in the ambulance.

And the programme – which

suggested there might be an improvement in death rates – will now be followed up with a major three-year trial across large parts of the country.

Niro Siriwardena, from Lincoln's community and health research unit, is at the heart of the work.

He joined forces with Stroke Association Professor at Nottingham University, Philip Bath, his stroke team and the East Midlands Ambulance Service to carry out the world's first trial into what could be a revolutionary new stroke treatment.

"Once a stroke has happened, particularly if a few hours have passed, every second more damage can be caused to the

brain tissue," he said. "The earlier it can be treated the better."

As part of a trial in the region, between February 2010 and December 2011, a total of 41 stroke patients were either treated with a patch containing glyceryl trinitrate, or GTN, or a patch that did not – a placebo.

The results of the trial showed that the GTN patch significantly reduced the patient's blood pressure.

And at a three-month check after the patient's stroke, it showed those who had been given the patch were now less badly affected from the results of the stroke.

Of the stroke patients treated



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victims of stroke



A new treatment has been successfully trialled in Lincolnshire and Notts with stroke patients treated as soon as they were in the ambulance.



What happens when a stroke strikes?

Niro Siriwardena, who is also a practising GP in Lincoln, explains what happens when a stroke strikes and what symptoms to look out for.

"A stroke strikes when blood vessels to the brain become blocked."

"This can happen when a clot develops after a vessel is damaged and is often linked to high blood pressure."

"The blocked blood vessels then cause damage to the brain and, if enough time passes, that part of the brain can die. If damaged, it

can gradually recover over a period of time although sometimes it can never recover."

He explained that ambulance staff use the FAST test to diagnose a victim of stroke.

FAST stands for Face – Does one side of the face droop or is it numb?

Arm – Is one arm weak or numb?

Speech – Is the person's speech slurred or are they unable to get their words out?

Time – The earlier the patient can be treated, the better.

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'Whatever the results show, they will be extremely helpful'

Niro Siriwardena

Facts about stroke

- ▶ Every year there are approximately 152,000 strokes in the UK.
- ▶ Most stroke victims are over 65 years old, but anyone can have a stroke, including children and even babies.
- ▶ Stroke is the leading cause of adult disability in the UK.
- ▶ High blood pressure is the most important risk factor for stroke, contributing to about 50 per cent of all strokes.
- ▶ One in five strokes are fatal. Stroke causes about seven per cent of deaths in men and 10 per cent of deaths in women.

with the GTN patch, there was a 16 per cent death rate. But of the patients treated with the placebo, the death rate was 38 per cent.

As a result of this research, the British Heart Foundation has now agreed to fund a similar trial, but on a much bigger scale.

It will be conducted across five ambulance services next year.

If the three-year trial, which will cost more than £1m, proves to be a success, the treatment could then be made available to patients within two years of that work finishing.

The professor said: "It's not a very expensive treatment and so if it does show to have an effect, then it is likely to be widely used."

"I'm confident that whatever the results show, they will be extremely helpful in our research."

"If they show positive effects, it will make an impact all over the world."

How does it work?

- ▶ The GTN patch is offered to patients within four hours of them having a stroke.
- ▶ GTN is currently used to treat people who have heart disease such as angina.
- ▶ GTN lowers blood pressure and provides oxygen to the brain tissues that can improve recovery rates from a stroke.
- ▶ The GTN patch is placed



on the patient's back or shoulder and a new patch is then administered every day for the following six days.

▶ The cost of a pack of 28 patches is £12.77 – so each patch costs approximately 46p.

Treatment in the county

The pioneering patch has echoes of another treatment in Lincolnshire.

In 2002, the Echo reported that life-saving drugs would be given to heart attack victims by paramedics in Lincolnshire scheme.

At the time, officials said the £680,000 project was

launched in an attempt to cut the 1,700 deaths caused by coronary heart disease in Lincolnshire each year.

The scheme saw paramedics give "clot-busting" drugs to patients when they arrive on scene in a bid to improve survival rates.

Events

Be the difference...Adopt!

National Adoption Week, 3rd - 9th November

Come along for an informal chat at one of our drop-in sessions:

- Friday 31st October at Stamford Market
- Monday 3rd November at The Showroom in Lincoln
- Tuesday 4th November at Market Rasen Market

All events are 11.30am - 3pm.

To find out more about fostering or adoption, log on at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering or call **0800 093 3099**

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