



Hasland Infant & Nursery School

Drug Management Policy

Reviewed By	Fiona Oliver
Version	2.0
Date Reviewed	September 2025
Next Review Date	September 2027

Drug Management Policy

Why do we need a drug incident management policy?

At our school we are committed to providing an environment, in which all who form our school can live, learn, work and grow in safety and security. As a school we recognise that there is always the possibility that the misuse of drugs by people connected either directly or indirectly with the school and its members, has the potential to create risk to others.

The purpose of this policy is to recognise our responsibility and respond appropriately to any drug-related incidents affecting the school or its individual members. This policy links with the School Drug Education Policy.

This policy has direct links to other policies:

- PSHE/Citizenship
- Drugs Education Policy
- Child Protection / Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- Administration of Medicines

Definitions and Terminology

When defining the word 'drug' this can also include: illegal substances (e.g. amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine) alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances (e.g. aerosols, solvents, petrol) new psychoactive substances or legal highs, caffeine and electronic cigarettes.

How is Drug Incident Management communicated in practice?

It is our policy that all children in the school will receive structured drugs teaching as part of their Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). Should any incident occur, we would link our response to our teaching to provide a visible link between 'theory' and the realities of life.

Partnerships

A key factor in our response framework is working in partnership with others. Important groups in this include:

Pupils

The welfare of the pupils would be prioritised. This may be through our PSHE teaching or more directly by:

- individual direct involvement as part of a specific incident
- specific educational projects
- target initiatives for vulnerable pupils or groups within the school, if required

Parents / Carers

Parents/carers are a vital part of our response network to drug related incidents. We believe it is important that we seek to work together to provide consistent messages and offer support.

The school will endeavour to include parents/carers in our response to all drug related incidents through direct contact, through the work of support agencies and general information sharing.

The only circumstances where we would not seek to involve parents /carers is when doing so would place a child at risk. In such circumstances advice would be sought from the relevant agencies under Child Protection procedures.

Governors

The Governors have the responsibility for the strategic direction of the school. Governors would be informed about any incident. They routinely review the school's Drug Education teaching programme and policy.

Cluster schools

Hasland Infant and Nursery School will work closely with other schools in the cluster in order to support a whole family including siblings at other schools, if drug or alcohol abuse is evident and work together to respond to community needs.

Outside agencies

The school would work in partnership with other relevant outside agencies if necessary to provide any specialist advice and support to staff and children.

Incident Management

The Law

The school will ensure that all responses to any drug related incidents are in compliance with the law and will seek advice from appropriate sources before taking any action.

For incidents involving evidence of drug use or supply, or finding drugs or drugs paraphernalia, without knowing who is involved.

The headteacher will ensure that:

- the school premises are checked regularly inline with advice taken form Derbyshire County Council.

In the event of any items being discovered advice will be sought regarding the handling and disposal of any items found. A record will be kept in the school incident book.

The school will refer to The Guidance for Schools Drug and Alcohol Policy (including section 3; Safeguarding Guidelines for Children and Young People who misuse substances).

Staff should report incidents to their Line Manager who should then discuss with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Headteacher) who will investigate and respond appropriately.

Incidents where staff are made aware of pupil indirect involvement with drugs.

The school will respond to all such incidents in a way that meets the full requirements of the law, and which puts the safety of the pupils as the key priority at all times. In developing our response to this type of drug related incident, the school will seek to balance the need for open consistency with a recognition that each situation will be unique as a number of factors will be operating in each case. In responding to any incident, the following points will always be taken into account:

- the nature of the incident
- basing our response on facts
- the history and circumstances of the pupil concerned
- confidentiality
- a partnership approach
- long term pastoral support
- the safety of the individual
- confiscation and disposal of any drugs
- the school's behaviour policy & other related policies

- the use of sanctions against or support for the pupil concerned

For incidents involving parents / carers or other family members.

Responding to incidents such as this requires sensitivity.

As in all drug related incidents the safety and welfare of the pupil is our paramount concern. That parents/carers or other family members are using drugs, does not necessarily mean that a child is going to be at risk. In all such cases it is the school's safeguarding policy that all concerns and incidents will be dealt with using the agreed child protection procedures.

People on the premises whose behaviour is being affected by drugs.

In these circumstances, the priority will be to put the safety and welfare of staff and children first.

If we believe there is a risk to a child and/or members of staff or anyone else present, the school will call the police and if necessary, adopt the child protection procedures.

Our immediate response should always be proportionate and consider the longer-term effect on the people concerned.

Drug Education

The school has a Drug Education Policy (available on our website) and a Programme of study which can be obtained from the PSHE Coordinator in school.

Personnel

- The Safeguarding governor will be kept informed of any incidents which occur.
- Any site issues will be dealt with by the School Business Manager, Amanda Daykin.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Charlotte Lavender
- PSHE coordinator is Jessica Markham
- Other agencies/staff who play a key role regarding drug and alcohol education, prevention and intervention are: Senior Leadership Team, Safer Neighborhood Police and the School Nurse.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to maintain effectiveness, this policy will be monitored by the headteacher and governors as part of planned school development. The Headteacher will also report any significant issues to the Chair of Governors that may have an impact on Safeguarding in school and use processes within the Local Authority to report these.

Local dissemination

This policy will be available via the school office and also on the school website.

Confidentiality/Information Sharing

Sensitive / confidential issues will be dealt with in accordance with our Confidentiality and Handling Sensitive Issues for Pupils & Parents Policy.

Dealing with the media

It is the Headteacher's responsibility to liaise with the media and to seek advice from DCC Public Relations team.

Appendices

- Derbyshire County Council Guidance for Schools Drug and Alcohol Policy

Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date.....

Signed

Headteacher

Date.....

Derbyshire County Council

Guidance for Schools Drug and Alcohol Policy

Introduction

This document provides schools with the necessary guidance to update or develop the School Drug and Alcohol Policy. There are 4 sections;

- 1 Drug Education
- 2 Incident Management
- 3 Safeguarding guidelines for children & young people who misuse substances

Mentor UK has produced a useful toolkit which alongside this guidance will support Derbyshire schools in developing or reviewing a school policy. It is available online at www.mentoruk.org.uk/resources/schools/toolkit

All the partner agencies across Derbyshire have agreed to fulfil the roles as set out within this document to ensure comprehensive, consistent and effective support is provided to the school enabling them to meet the needs of their students, the whole school team and the community they serve.

The guidance is underpinned by Derbyshire County Councils commitment to support schools in ensuring the first concern in managing drug issues in a school is the health and safety of the whole school community whilst meeting the pastoral needs of individuals. The guidance emphasises the belief that drugs have no place in a school environment and drug use by a pupil/student can be seen as a safeguarding concern.

It is important to remember most pupils/students in Derbyshire will NOT use drugs

This document is strengthened by several pieces of national guidance including;

DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools September 2012

DfE- Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for schools and colleges (September 2025)

DfE- Working Together (June 2025)

DfE- Information Sharing- Guidance for Practitioners (May 2024)

Mentor UK has produced a useful tool kit which alongside this guidance will support Derbyshire schools in developing or reviewing a school policy, it is online at www.mentor.org.uk/resources/schools/toolkit

Definition of the term 'Drug' – Many national documents adopt the definition of the term drug to include; illegal substances (e.g., amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine), alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances (e.g., aerosols, solvents, petrol) and new psychoactive substances or legal highs. However, schools may also wish to consider caffeine and electronic cigarettes. It is important schools define what they mean the term 'drug' in the policy and any consultation documents

The Drug Education Consultant located in Derbyshire County Council's, Education Improvement Service is available to offer support, advice and training to schools please contact ali.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk

Training Opportunities for the whole school team

Derbyshire County Council provide;

Drugs e-learning

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/BasicDrugAwareness>

Training programme

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/staff_educ_train/child_serv_train/default.asp

Safeguarding programme

http://www.derbyshirescb.org.uk/training_development/default.asp

The Learning in Derbyshire website- www.derbyshire.inthehive.net

SECTION 1; Drug Education

The DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools' states;

"School staff are best placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs within their school. This is most effective when;

- *It is supported by the whole school community;*
- *Drug education is part of a well- planned programme of PSHE education delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary;*
- *Staff have access to high quality training and support"*

Drug education will feature across the curriculum for example;

- Drug Education in PSHE
- Drug Education in Science
- Drug Education across the curriculum
- Drug Education for students assessed to be vulnerable

The school can express their commitment to investing in their pupil's health and well being and how this assists the process of raising the pupil's achievements. Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens.

Drug and Alcohol Education begins in Year 1 and the Policy should provide details of the cross phased planning around the drug education spiral in learning. The transition period from Primary to Secondary is often the time parents first become anxious about drug use. This part of the Policy should set out either what the Primary school will do to prepare their pupils or what the secondary school will do to extend and build upon the drug education so far.

The school Drug Education Programme will require regular review and revision in line with the changes in drug patterns and trends. Schools can access support and advice from the Drug Education Consultant located in Derbyshire County Council's, Education Improvement Service contact 07919112368 or ali.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk.

There are also online briefing papers provided by mento-adepis.org for example, E Cigarettes and Nicotine Containing Products.

It will be useful for the school to provide details of how pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of their school and communities.

Vulnerable Students

Some students are more vulnerable to drug use and other social problems. Schools play an important role in early identification of vulnerable children and young people and providing

or accessing early interventions through the curriculum, the pastoral system or through referral to other services.

The School Policy should show how it supports the following groups of young people who are identified through the latest findings as the groups of young people 'at risk' of substance misuse;

- Children In Care
- Excluded from School
- Truant on a regular basis
- Involved in the Youth Justice System, Anti-Social Behaviour
- Has a learning disability or developmental disorder
- Has a family member known to misuse substances
- Is homeless

“Practice Standards for young people with Substance Misuse”2012

In Derbyshire, schools can use their Pupil Premium to commission services such as “Talk Time” service which aims to help schools to improve attainment by improving Children and Young Peoples mental and emotional well being. Contact caroline.bradshaw@actionforchildren.org.uk 07702098766 for further details.

DfE guidance on ‘Mental Health and Behaviour In School’ (November 2018) states “ *Schools have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children by developing whole school approaches tailored to their particular needs, as well as considering the needs of individual pupils.*”

Role of External Contributors

Schools should have a separate policy covering this issue in which case cross reference and signpost.

The Drug Education forum has produced a set of principles for schools in partnership working it states “*Government guidance has been that schools should exercise caution with the use of visitors as there is some evidence that particular messages can have a detrimental impact on young people’s intentions to resist using drugs including alcohol. Particular caution should be given when visitors have had first hand experience of problematic drug use.*”
www.drugeducationforum.com

Therefore when involving external contributors, staff should always ensure that the external contribution is integrated into the school’s programme and is supported by staff to enrich and support the lesson. The pupils should be involved in preparatory and follow-up work and all content should be planned to meet the needs of the pupils and be consistent with the school ethos, curriculum and policy.

All external contributors must be aware of appropriate school policies and the school must be aware of the external agencies aims and objectives for delivering to the school.

All external contributors must be aware of their roles, responsibilities and boundaries, i.e. that they work to the professional boundaries of the teacher when taking part in the curriculum. The value of the external contribution should be assessed through appropriate feedback and evaluation. This information should be shared and used to inform future work.

Any visitor to the school who has unsupervised access to children or who works in the school on a regular basis must be subject to Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks. Given that most external contributors will come to the school infrequently and will not be left in sole charge of pupils, DBS checks will not normally be required. An external contributor who has not had a DBS check should not be left in sole charge of a pupil or pupils. In all instances, whether or not the external contributor is DBS-checked, the teacher should be present in the classroom for the whole of each lesson, so that they can maintain responsibility for class discipline and devise follow-up work to reinforce pupils' learning.

The role of Parents and Carers

The biggest impact on preventing children and young people becoming involved in problematic drug use is growing up where family bonds are strong, with clear family rules, strong parental monitoring and open discussions. Parents and carers are key to enabling young people transfer their drug education school experience in to the world they are growing up in. The school should encourage parents and carers to engage with their child's drug education where possible.

The Drug Education Forum have produced a briefing paper for schools on engaging with parents in drug education it is available on www.drugeducationforum.com

Further information

www.talktofrank.com

Wider drugs information plus videos.

www.doyouknowwhatsinit.org.uk

Information on NPS.

www.drugscope.org.uk

Useful e-bulletin.

www.drinkaware.co.uk

Information on alcohol and factsheets.

www.mentor-adepis.org

Support on delivering drug education, factsheets on different drugs, guidance and evidence of good practice.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-psychoactive-substancesnpsresource-pack

SECTION 2; Incident Management

The following guidance recognises the complex challenges involved in responding to a drug related incident where there are a number of variables involved such as the type of drug used, the levels ranging from a one off episode, dependency or supplying drugs to others. Therefore this guidance is not designed to suggest a fixed solution but aims to provide a

realistic approach for schools to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the learning community whilst responding to the needs of the individual.

The Head Teacher/Principal may access support and advice from the Drug Education Consultant located in Derbyshire County Council's, Education Improvement Service, please contact 07919112368 or ali.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk

If a pupil/student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary the situation should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk always follow the Safeguarding Procedures (Further details are provided in Section 3)

Local agreement has been made between Derbyshire Constabulary and other local partners in providing Schools with clear guidance in responding to drug related incidents. The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving alcohol or cigarettes, but schools may wish to inform trading standards or the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.

The Head Teacher's Investigation into an Incident

Schools will undertake an 'investigation' if a student/pupil is believed to be using substances. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence offers the following guidance when interviewing the young person aged 18 or under:

Identification should simply involve brief questioning about substance misuse including;

- what was taken,
- how often,
- and in what context

It is widely recognised that the involvement of parents/carers significantly increases the successful outcomes for children and young people misusing drugs. Therefore, the Head Teacher/Principal may wish to ensure parents/carers are informed, involved and supported throughout the process.

To enable the Head Teacher/Principal to manage an incident internally the Head Teacher will also need to consider:

- How has the pupil come in to possession of the substance?
- From whom?
- How long have they been using the substance?
- What do they believe the drug to be?
- What support does the pupil or family need from school and/or local agencies?

The Head Teacher/Principal may access support and advice from the Drug Education Consultant located in Derbyshire County Council's, Education Improvement Service contact 07919112368 or ali.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk

The Head Teacher/Principal may wish to contact the police for consultation purposes, the designated points of contact will be the named School Liaison Officer, i.e. Youth Involvement Officers, Beat Officer, Safer Neighbourhoods Officer on sections, or their supervisor in their

absence. Whilst the police may wish to gather information to inform their local intelligence, the Head Teacher/Principal will make the decision when managing a minor incident internally. Student/pupil names can be divulged to police in accordance with the provisions of the Human Rights Act and the Data Protection Act, when it is necessary and proportionate.

The Head Teacher/Principal may wish to access support and advice on whether the child is considered to be at risk by contacting Derbyshire's 24 hour all year round, first point of contact 'Starting Point' on 01629 533190

At all stages of the process discussions and decisions will be recorded.

The role of Parent or Carers

In any incident involving illegal or unauthorised drugs, the school should involve the child's parents/carers and explain how the school intends to respond to the incident and to the pupils needs. Where the school suspects that to do so might put the child's safety at risk, or there are other concerns, the school's Safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Taking temporary possession of suspected illegal drugs

If the Head Teacher is taking temporary possession of a suspected controlled drug or a substance, they believe to be harmful they are advised to;

- Adhere to Health and Safety guidelines in all cases
- Ensure a witness (a member of staff) is present through out
- Seal the substance in a plastic bag with the date and time of the seizure with the names of those present
- Store in a secure storage such as safe or a lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff
- Contact the police for collection. Whilst disposal or destruction by the school staff is legal it should always be policy to hand the items to the police to ensure correct identification.
- Involve the parents/carers unless this would put the pupil at risk or there are concerns that to do so would not be in the best interest of the young person.

The school should clearly record all decisions, counter signed by the Head Teacher/Principal and dated. The police incident reference number should also be recorded.

The Police are committed to making every effort to collecting the drugs within 24 hours however this may not always be possible, schools should store any substances in a locked cupboard within a secure room.

Arresting a pupil on school premises

There is local agreement in Derbyshire that the police will only consider arresting a pupil/student in school for serious offences and wherever possible will work in liaison with school staff. Whilst the police have the powers to arrest young people committing offences on the school premises this will be a last resort. It is recognised by all partners that the school must whenever possible remain a safe place for pupils to learn and achieve. The potential impact on the whole school of an onsite arrest can affect hundreds of pupils, raise

the anxieties of parents/carers and members of the wider community the school serves, therefore whenever possible arrests of pupils on school premises will be avoided.

Drugs operation conducted in schools

Any police operation within a school is likely to attract huge press interest and will affect hundreds of innocent pupils. No operation should be conducted without the authority of the operations Chief Inspector of the Division.

As part of planning a police operation, the school must consider the wider implications and the needs of pupils directly and indirectly involved in the activity. Plans will need to be made to ensure the pupils' care and well-being is met such as accessing the Multi Agency Team's support or that of the county Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services.

The school will also need to consider the potential needs of parents/carers and siblings.

The school should consult with Derbyshire County Councils Media Desk to obtain advice and support in risk management

Using drug sniffer dogs in school

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) recommends that drug dogs and drug testing should not be used for searches where there is no evidence for the presence of drugs on school premises. However, schools may choose to make use of drug dogs or drug testing strategies if they wish. It is advisable that the school consults with the local police.

Schools considering the use of sniffer dogs for either educational demonstration purposes or as a detection activity should very carefully consider whether such action:

- is consistent with pastoral responsibilities of the school to create a supportive environment;
- is culturally sensitive, for example, dogs are considered unclean in Muslim and Buddhist cultures;
- will lead to labelling and be damaging to pupils most in need;
- will result in appropriate support for pupils most in need;
- is feasible and an effective use of school resources and those of the police, where involved

Involvement of sniffer dogs as an educational demonstration should never be used surreptitiously as a detection exercise. If sniffer dogs are to be used for demonstration or educational purposes schools will need to have procedures in place and have agreed in advance with the police what will happen should the sniffer dog indicate a trace on a pupil, member of staff or visitor to the school. Schools need to liaise with Education representatives at the LA level in order that actions taken can be co-ordinated within other on-going partnership-based initiatives to ensure consistency and proportionality.

Searches

The school should have a separate policy on searches. Under no circumstances may a school conduct an intimate search, only a person with more extensive powers such as a Police Officer may do so.

A personal search refers to the pupil's outer clothing, pockets and bag. Students believed to be in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs referred to in legislation as 'prohibited items', can be requested to turn out their pockets and bag. If they refuse whilst the Head Teacher or a member of staff authorised by the Head Teacher may search, the school may wish to consider proceeding under formal lines by contacting the police. If the school do decide to conduct a personal search without the pupils consent the staff must be the same sex as the pupil being searched and there must be a witness (also a member of staff) who is the same gender wherever possible.

Whilst there is no legal requirement for training for the Head Teacher or the staff authorised to search this is a complex area and serious consideration should be given to the following before undertaking a search without consent of the pupil,

- What constitutes 'reasonable grounds' for suspecting a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item
- The impact of the search on the child
- The pupil not being in possession of a prohibited item
- Recording requirements if the search is part of an evidence trail

The school may search School Property such as the pupil's desk and locker without consent if the school has made it explicit within the school policy and a condition of a student having a locker or desk. However it is important to consider the potential impact on the relationship between the student and the school. Wherever possible consent should be sort from the pupil to avoid infringement on the individuals privacy without just cause.

Responding to the needs of the student

The school will need to consider a range of responses and refer to their Behaviour Management Policy and their Exclusion Policy.

A permanent exclusion should always be the last resort the school will take and the Head Teacher/Principal should in all cases seek advice from a senior school advisor and the designated Governor before making that decision.

Support and advice is available from the Drug Education Consultant located in Derbyshire County Council's, Education Improvement Service contact 07919112368 or ali.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk

The school sanctions may include

- Counselling
- Behaviour support
- Interagency programme
- Pastoral support
- Targeted prevention
- Multi Element Plan via Education Psychology
- Screening Tool
- Brief Interventions
- Fixed term exclusion

Derbyshire T3 is a specialist outreach service for young people who are using drugs or alcohol, feel they have a problem and want some support to stop using or cut down phone 01773 522475 or email derbyshiret3@cri.org.uk.

Children affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use

If a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school premises the school may ask them to leave. This should be witnessed with all discussions leading to this action as well as the decision made thoroughly recorded. The school can contact the Police if the situation becomes difficult to manage. Where a parent or carer becomes abusive or places their child at risk Safe Guarding procedures should be followed and/or the involvement of the Police.

The impact of parental drug or alcohol use upon a child can be wide ranging. If the child is at risk the school must follow the Safe Guarding procedures. Not all children of drug or alcohol users will fall in to this category and schools can refer children and young people affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use to Space 4 U who support children and young people aged 5-18 who are seriously affected by someone else's substance misuse. This could be a parent, sibling or close friend Tel: 01246 277 422 Space.4u2@actionforchildren.org.uk

Services offering support

T3 Derbyshire's young people's treatment service

Derbyshire T3 is a specialist outreach service for young people who are using drugs or alcohol, feel they have a problem and want some support to stop using or cut down. We can also offer specialist help to reduce the risks and harm associated with alcohol or drug misuse, or to help young people avoid relapsing if they have already made changes. Our team provides:

- Young person centred, care planned, one-to-one support for drug and alcohol use
- Assessment and treatment from specialist workers using a range of talking therapies
- Individual relapse prevention support
- Harm reduction and needle exchange services
- Access to specialist medical interventions, including detoxification
- Motivation and encouragement
- Close work with other agencies to provide an all round package of support

If you want to know more information, or would like to make an appointment, get in touch. Phone 01773 522475 or email derbyshiret3@cri.org.uk.

Space 4 U Derbyshire's service for supporting children affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use

Action for Children's SPACE 4 U service support children and young people aged 5-18 who are seriously affected by someone else's substance misuse. This could be a parent, sibling or close friend. We want to help young people develop their own ways of coping with their situation. Here's how we help:

- We Offer individual support and advice on issues that young people identify themselves, such as friendships, worries and about family life, information on drugs and alcohol and keeping safe

- We offer access to first aid training.
- We identify other support networks that can help too.
- We advocate on behalf of young people.

Action for Children Space 4 U works with children and young people to improve all areas of the young person's life at school, at home and in the community. Tel: 01246 277 422

Space.4u2@actionforchildren.org.uk

SPODA Derbyshire's service supporting the families of drug users

Spoda provide support, information and advice to family members aged 18yrs and over who live within the county of Derbyshire ,who are affected by a family members drug use. Tel 08456003320, website www.spoda.co.uk.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People

Safe and Sound Derby

Provides support to children and young people who are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited, along with their families.

www.safeandsoundderby.co.uk.

Barnados

www.barnados.org.uk

Childline

Provides support for children and young people on a range of issues and a dedicated Freephone number 0800 1111.

www.childline.org.uk

SECTION 3; Safeguarding guidelines for children & young people who misuse substances



SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MISUSE SUBSTANCES

DEVELOPED BY

DERBYSHIRE T3

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to assist workers across all agencies to identify cases where action is needed to safeguard a child or promote their welfare as a result of their alcohol and / or drug use. As such it should be read in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire SCB Procedures Manual (www.derbyshirescb.org.uk)

Some children and young people experiment with drugs and / or alcohol as they grow up. Most children and young people who experiment with drugs will never go beyond experimentation. Some will go on to use drugs and / or alcohol in a controlled way ('recreational use'). For some however their use of drugs and / or alcohol may become problematic and affect many aspects of their life.

Drug and / or alcohol misuse is known to contribute to a range of poor outcomes for children and young people, for example: poor health, poor mental health, educational attainment, family breakdown, economic wellbeing, offending behaviour.

Vulnerable groups

Research has shown that certain groups of children and young people have a higher incidence of drug and / or alcohol misuse than the average, and the potential to develop drug and / or alcohol problems as they grow up. These include children and young people who are:

- involved in criminal justice system
- looked after by the local authority
- leaving local authority care
- excluded from mainstream education or persistent truants
- homeless
- being sexually exploited
- affected by someone else's drug and / or alcohol problems, such as a parent or sibling.

This is not to say that all these young people will use substances or develop problems, but it makes it more important that they receive good education, information and advice about substances and substance use, as well as early support and specialist help where necessary.

DERBYSHIRE SUBSTANCE MISUSE SCREENING TOOLKIT

Derbyshire has a substance misuse screening toolkit that competent workers (such as Multi-Agency Team (MAT) workers, Youth Offending Service (YOS) Substance Misuse workers, and School Nurses) can use with children and young people. This is to help them:

- Identify and respond to a young person's alcohol and / or drug use
- Where need be, obtain specialist help for the young person.

If you are unsure who is able to provide screening for substance misuse, please contact the Specialist Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service, Derbyshire T3 on 01773 522475 or derbyshiret3@cri.org.uk and they will be able to advise.

A young person should definitely be referred in for screening under the following situations:

- If a young person asks for some advice or information about drugs, alcohol, glues, gases or aerosols
- If a young person tells you they are using substances
- After a substance misuse related incident occurs, for example finding a young person in possession of drugs, or a young person being intoxicated
- When substance misuse has been identified in the young person's household
- Where the practitioner's professional judgement leads them to have other concerns that the young person might be involved in substance misuse
- Where an Early Help Assessment (EHA) is being completed on a young person and concerns are raised that the young person might be using substances
- If a young person receives a fixed term or permanent exclusion from school for a drug or alcohol related incident.

The result of the screening will determine the level of support appropriate for the young person. If there is a need for targeted, non-specialist work to be done (such as information, basic harm reduction, motivational work), this will likely be undertaken by the MAT or YOS Substance Misuse workers. If more specialist work is required the worker undertaking the screening will refer the young person into Derbyshire T3.

IDENTIFYING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Drug and / or alcohol use by a young person does not on its own constitute significant harm. However there may be circumstances where the young person's drug and / or alcohol misuse raises safeguarding children concerns, for example:

- The identified substance use is unusual for a person of this age.
- The substance misuse is becoming increasingly chaotic or dangerous.
- The substance use / misuse is leading to crime or exploitation by others, including sexual exploitation.
- The substance use / misuse is life threatening or seriously detrimental to health.
- The young person is caring for another child while under the influence of substances
- An adult is involved with the substance use / misuse (e.g. the young person is being injected by an adult)

- The parent or sibling is using drugs and / or misusing alcohol (refer to the Guidelines for Gathering Information about the Needs of Children whose Parents have Drug/Alcohol Problems (in Section 1.6.18 – Derby and Derbyshire SCB Procedures Manual)
- During contact with the young person non-substance related safeguarding children concerns are identified

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY STAFF WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD (Safeguarding Concerns)

Where safeguarding concerns are identified due to substance misuse safeguarding procedures should be followed. A telephone referral should be made to Starting Point. This is Derbyshire's first point of contact for children and younger adults for advice, support and next steps; early help and intervention; MAT; referral into Children's Social Care. This is a 24 hour service all year, 01629 533190 and you will be advised to follow your referral with an electronic form made available on www.derbyshire.gov.uk/startingpoint. If the child has been the subject of an Early Help Assessment then a copy, together with a copy of the multidisciplinary plan, should be attached to the written confirmation. If the professional does not have a copy, reference to the completed EHA detailing who undertook it and their contact details, if known, should be made in the written confirmation.

In addition a referral to the Specialist Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service should be considered. This service is Derbyshire T3 and can be contacted on 01773 522475.

Contacting Derbyshire Police

In an emergency, ring 999 to contact Derbyshire Police.

The Child Protection Unit can be contacted on by ringing 101 to report child abuse concerns.

Children with additional needs, but not at risk of significant harm

If a professional believes a child has needs that are not being met by the services currently in place, they should contact the child's health visitor, when the child is aged 0-4yrs or the school, if they are already attending. If the child is 5+yrs, the professional should contact the school or other key professionals known to be involved with the child, and discuss the need to undertake an EHA and establish a multi agency plan. This discussion will need to include an agreement on who is best placed to undertake the EHA.

Escalation of concerns

If the worker feels they are not happy with the response they receive from Starting Point, they should raise their concerns with their line manager in order that the concerns can be escalated to Safeguarding Service District Managers.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Starting Point - 01629 533190

Derbyshire's contact and referral service to report concerns about a child as well as request early help, advice, support and safeguarding services for Derbyshire children and young people.

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/startingpoint>

Derbyshire T3 - 01773 522475

Derbyshire T3 is a specialist outreach service for young people who are using drugs or alcohol, feel they have a problem and want some support to stop using or cut down. Derbyshire T3 can also offer specialist help to reduce the risks and harm associated with alcohol or drug misuse, or to help young people avoid relapsing if they have already made changes.

derbyshiret3@cri.org.uk

Safer Derbyshire

Safer Derbyshire aim to reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime in Derbyshire by providing support, advice and leadership to partners and communities. Safer Derbyshire are committed to working together to reduce crime and maintain quality of life for people who live, work and visit Derbyshire.

<https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk>

Space 4 U - 01246 277422

Space 4 U support children and young people aged 5-18 who are seriously affected by someone else's substance misuse. This could be a parent, sibling or close friend

Space.4u2@actionforchildren.org.uk

Safe and Sound – 01332 362120

Safe and Sound provides support to children and young people who are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited, along with their families.

www.safeandsoundderby.co.uk