

Young People's Basic Substance Awareness Course

Substances and the Law

e-Learning Handbook

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Introduction

Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) has developed this e-learning opportunity to enable people working with children/young people, their parents and carers increase knowledge and awareness of substance use and related issues. The e-learning course comprises of three modules allowing people to undertake study at their own pace. There are three separate modules, each with their own learning outcomes. Collectively they support individuals to explore attitudes and values, develop knowledge, increase awareness and identify and meet needs. The e-learning process consists of the following modules;

- 1. MODULE 1: Knowledge of substances - how they are used and their effects.**
- 2. MODULE 2: Substances and the Law.**
- 3. MODULE 3: Identifying substance related needs.**

Who is the course for?

These modules have been developed for front line staff working with young people in Hampshire from Children's Services, Education, Health, Community & Voluntary Sector, YOT, staff within social inclusion projects and foster carers.

Although the modules have been designed for staff working with children and young people, there will also be relevant learning for staff working with adults.

How to use the e-learning programme

To complete each module participants will need to prepare for a variety of study approaches. Individual exercises require participants to source information and provide answers before proceeding to the next exercise. Exercises for completion require a combination of the following;

- Researching information from different websites (links provided)
- Certain exercises require participants to consult colleagues and young people so time should be built in for undertaking this work
- Sourcing agency policies relating to a specific topics

To assist participants process through each module participants should have access to;

- Pen and paper to make notes
- The internet
- Policy documents
- Opportunities to consult with colleagues and young people

How the modules support continuous personal development and building portfolio evidence

The learning modules have been constructed so that individuals can gather information and evidence to complete the exercises. On completion, printed answers and scores to module exercises should be submitted to the Drug & Alcohol Action Team and where necessary feedback will be provided. Completion of all modules will involve learners being awarded a certificate.

The evidence gathered for the modules can be used to demonstrate learning against the outcomes. The completed modules can be used to develop a portfolio of learning which could be used as evidence for NVQ's.

Substances and the Law

Learning Aim:

To increase knowledge of the law in relation to both legal and illegal substances, and raise the importance of educating young people, their parents and carers about the law.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the module participants will have:

- Explored views and attitudes about substances and their usage.
- Identified the range of circumstances where people can break the law in relation to substance use.
- Clarified the classification of different substances within the Misuse of Drugs Act and sentencing.
- Identified staff legal obligations in law and linked to policy and practice.



Key Web Links

During your progression through these modules, you may require additional information. One source of this information may be the internet. All of the websites can be used to obtain further information to aid your development and for future reference:

Hampshire

Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

Hampshire Primary Care Trust

www.hampshirepct.nhs.uk

Hampshire Council Voluntary Youth Services

www.hcvys.info

Alcohol

Alcohol Concern

www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

Know Your Limits

www.knowyourlimits.gov.uk

Local Alcohol Profiles for England

www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape

Drug Treatment

National Treatment Agency

www.nta.nhs.uk

Drug Data

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

www.ndtms.net

Evidence Base

National Collaborating Centre for Drugs Prevention

www.drugpreventionevidence.info

Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study

www.dtors.org.uk

National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence

www.nice.org.uk

Key Web Links

Solvents

Re-Solvents

www.re-solv.org

Education

Drugs Education Forum

www.drugeducationforum.com

Wired for Health

www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk

Hampshire Healthy Schools

www3.hants.gov.uk/education/hias/healthyschools.htm

Educari Teaching Resources

www.educari.com

Children of drug using parents

ADFAM

www.adfam.org.uk

Drugs & The Law

Release

www.release.org.uk

Young Peoples Websites

Frank drugs website

www.talktofrank.com

RU thinking about it sexual health website

www.trashed.co.uk

Lifebytes health website

www.lifebytes.gov.uk

Key Web Links

Drug Policy & Resources

Drugscope

www.drugscope.org.uk

Home Office drugs website

www.drugs.gov.uk

HIT

www.hit.org.uk

Daily Dose Drugs News

www.dailydose.net

Turning Point

www.turning-point.co.uk

Drink & Drugs Net

www.drinkanddrugs.net

Definition of ‘substance’

The definition of ‘substance’ to be used in Hampshire, based on DAAT guidance, is as follows;

‘Substance’ is used to refer to any psychotropic substance (capable of affecting the mind – changing the way we feel, think and or behave) including alcohol, tobacco, drugs sold as ‘legal highs’, illegal drugs, illicit use of prescription drugs and volatile substances such as solvents (gases, lighter and other fuel) some plants and fungi (magic mushrooms); over-the-counter and prescribed medicines that are used for recreational rather than medical purposes.

Attitudes about substance use

The first exercise gives you an opportunity to review your own views on substance use in terms of what you consider is appropriate and inappropriate. Having completed this exercise discuss with colleagues or family members. There is not right or wrong answer.

Appropriate use of substances?

Task 1 - Below are listed five statements. Read and consider each statement, and then decide if you think the use of the substance as described in the statement is appropriate or inappropriate.

		Appropriate	Inappropriate
1	Taking pain killers for a headache		
2	Drinking strong coffee to stay awake during a long drive.		
3	Taking amphetamines to slim		
4	Eating cannabis to relieve Glaucoma or MS symptoms.		
5	Showing young people who are already using substances how to use them more safely		
6	Giving children alcohol during family meals or celebrations		
7	Driving after three alcoholic drinks		
8	Smoking in the presence of children		
9	Drinking the recommended weekly intake of alcohol (21 units for men, 14 for women) at the weekend rather than spreading them out during the week.		
10	Taking substances to celebrate		

Attitudes about substance use

You have completed the first exercise

Discussing these statements with others adults and young people will have highlighted different views and opinions. It is important in working with young people that attitudes and values are debated to ensure both sides of the debate are heard.

Substance and the Law


In the last few years there have been a number of changes and updates to different forms of legislation like the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, therefore it is essential that people keep as up to date as possible. Not all substances are covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act, and it is also important to be aware of other legislation that addresses legal substances.

The following exercise contained in the next few pages will check your understanding of the law and how it effects people in the given scenarios. If you do not know the answer, have an educated guess.




Alcohol...

Daisy celebrated her 14th birthday at home with her family and friends. Her parents let her drink two glasses of champagne. Who was breaking the law? Tick the correct box.

Daisy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daisy's Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Both Daisy and her Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No-one	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Solvents...

Ben is 15; he uses solvents on a regular basis. He always buys the items from the local hardware shop. The shopkeeper is suspicious that Ben may be abusing the solvents, but turns a blind eye. Who is breaking the law? Tick the correct box

Ben	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The Shop Keeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Both Ben & The Shop Keeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neither Ben or The Shop Keeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	


GHB.....

Sam was given a small bottle of GHB at a party to look after for a friend last week. He still has it in his jacket pocket, is he breaking the law? Tick the correct box

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	


Valium.....

Liam was prescribed some Diazepam (valium) tablets by his GP. He sells some to Jack. Is either Liam or Jack breaking the law? Tick the correct box

Liam is breaking the law	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jack is breaking the law	<input type="checkbox"/>	
They are both breaking the law	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neither of them are breaking the law	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Ecstasy.....

Shahin offers to get some ecstasy tablets for a group of mates. She tries to find some but can't get any. Has she broken the law? Tick the correct box

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Cocaine

Keely decides to buy some cocaine for her boyfriend as a Christmas present. Could she be done for supplying drugs?

Yes

No



Tobacco

Paul is 13 and when walking through the town he has a cigarette. Is he breaking the law?

Yes

No



Poppers...

Charlie regularly takes poppers. Is he breaking the law?


Yes



No		
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Magic Mushrooms

James picks a load of magic mushrooms, takes them home, brews some into a tea and dries out the rest to store them. Is he breaking the law?

Yes		
No		

Cannabis

Karanvir has a party at his flat where people are smoking cannabis. Karanvir is not smoking cannabis, is he breaking the law?

Yes		
No		

Ketamine.

Alex took some ketamine at a party. Did he break the law?

Yes		
No		

LSD...

Siobhan's four friends each give her £3 to get them an acid tab each. She buys the tabs for herself and her friends; she makes no money for herself. Could she be done for supplying drugs?

Yes

No





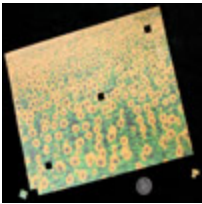

You have completed the second exercise which should have enabled you to identify a range of circumstances where someone is breaking the Law in relation to both legal and illegal substances







Classification of drugs

In this next exercise you will cover the following:

- **What classification do substances fall into within the Misuse of Drugs Act?**
- **What are the penalties associated with these different classes?**

The next section will check your understanding of how substances are classified by law. Below is a chart with the name and picture of a drug. Think how it is classified and tick the box for it's correct classification

		CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C
Heroin				
Crack				
LSD				
Amphetamine				

Cocaine				
Ketamine				
Magic Mushrooms				
Cannabis				
GHB				
Anabolic Steroids				

Supplying Class A...

Over the next few pages, you can test yourself to see how well you know the penalties associated with substance supply and possession.

Complete the sentence:

The maximum penalty for supplying Class A drugs is....	
	up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 7 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 14 years imprisonment and a unlimited fine
	up to life imprisonment and an unlimited fine

Supplying Class B

Complete the sentence:

The maximum penalty for supplying Class B drugs is....	
	up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 7 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 14 years imprisonment and a unlimited fine
	up to life imprisonment and an unlimited fine

Possessing Class A

Complete the sentence:

The maximum penalty for possessing Class A drugs is....	
	up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 7 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 14 years imprisonment and a unlimited fine
	up to life imprisonment and an unlimited fine

Possessing Class C

Complete the sentence:

The maximum penalty for possessing Class C drugs is....	
	up to 2 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	up to 7 years imprisonment, a fine or both
	it is not illegal to possess class C drugs.

Supplying Class C costs

What is the maximum you can be fined for supplying Class C drugs?	
	£100
	£1,000
	£10,000
	there is no maximum

The last exercise should have highlighted that;

- Cannabis is still illegal as it is a Class C drug.
- In addition some substances like amphetamine can become a Class A drug if prepared for injection.
- Penalties for possession and supply vary and act as a guide for sentencing



Module 2 - Classification

Module 2 - Staff Legal Obligations

In the fourth section of this module you will cover the staff legal obligations as stated within the Law. This exercise has been taken from "The New Primary School Drugs Education Pack' Julian Cohen, Healthwise'(2004).

Staff Legal Obligations

Below are listed a number of scenarios. Read each scenario, one by one, then decide if you think it is 'true' or 'false'.

		TRUE	FALSE
1.	If a member of staff knows a child has used illegal drugs, they have to inform the police?		
2.	If a member of staff knows a parent/carer is injecting heroin they have to inform the police?		
3.	If a member of staff knew that illegal drug dealing was occurring on school or other premises and did nothing about it, they could be prosecuted?		
4.	Staff have legal duties to prevent the use of cannabis on work premises?		
5.	If a child tells a member of staff that they have used illegal drugs the staff member is legally bound to inform the parents/carers?		
6.	If a member of staff knows a child has used illegal drugs they are legally bound to inform their line manager?		
7.	If a member of staff finds illegal drugs on the premises the only option is to hand them over to the police?		
8.	The police may enter school or other premises and make a search without a warrant?		
9.	The police may stop and search a minibus for drugs without a search warrant?		

Agency Policy

The answers in the previous exercise may have not have been in line with your agency's policy and practice. Some agencies may be working over and above the Law. If this is the case policies should explain/justify purposes and actions. Child protection is an obvious and valid explanation of this, but have all your agencies policies taken account of the Law?

To undertake the next exercise you should look up your agencies policies and procedures relating to substance use.

Agency Policy - Question 1

What should you do if someone brings substances onto your work premises (if applicable)?

Agency Policy - Question 2

What should you do if you visit people in their own homes and they use substances? (if applicable)

Agency Policy - Question 3

Is your agency policy clear how you should act in all the above scenarios in exercise 4 (where applicable)? If yes, give examples from the procedures If no, state what the gaps are, and how these could be addressed

Agency Policy

You have completed the fifth exercise which should have enabled you to understand your agency's policy and practice and how it impacts on you and your role.

Module 2 - Substances and the Law

You have now completed module 2

The key learning points should include:

- **It is important to discuss and debate opinions, and to consider how attitudes may impact on our work with young people**
- **There is a need for professionals to keep up to date regards legislation changes**
- **There is need to raise awareness and educate young people, parents and carers about the Law related to all substances**
- **Policies and procedures should be informed by the Law and working practice different to the Law should be explained and understood by young people parents and carers.**

Well Done!

Thank you for completing Module 2 of the Young People's Basic Substance Awareness Course. You should now have an understanding of the importance of substance knowledge -

We hope that you have enjoyed this module and that it has achieved its aims. We would appreciate it if you would spend a few minutes to provide us with some feedback to help us improve our services:

[Feedback Form](#)

Please send answers (pages 12 - 22) along with your name, job title and address to the address below and we will forward you a certificate:

Hampshire DAAT, Capitol House, 12-13 Bridge Street, Winchester, SO23 OHL