

Specialist Substance Misuse Service - Tier 3 Referral Criteria

Services should consider referral to the Hampshire Young People's Substance Misuse Service for children and young person under 19, who meets one or more of the following:

- There is a need for comprehensive assessment of substance misuse to ensure there is a co-ordinated and integrated package of care, which could include a range of services.
- Young people under 13 years of age and taking substances not usual for age or developmental age (except tobacco).
- Young person regularly presents as incoherent following use of substances (stoned, drunk, incoherent, slurred speech, uncoordinated at more than formal meeting or on more than 2 occasions in other circumstances e.g. parks, youth clubs).
- Young person has developed a physical or psychological tolerance to a substance i.e. stopping use would result in withdrawal symptoms.
- Young person perceives substance use affecting their daily life and requests specialist support e.g. use is causing physical, psychological, social functioning or legal problems.
- Young person has difficulty controlling use and has a compulsion to continue using
- Young person is in contact with the criminal justice system as a result of substance use.
- Substance use is dangerous, i.e. likely to lead to overdose (young person repeatedly putting self at risk; health, mental health; safety), child protection issues, is a danger to themselves or others, not responding to harm reduction work etc.
- Any heroin, crack, cocaine, amphetamine or volatile substance use on a daily basis.
- Any substance use taken in quantities or frequencies that increase risk to self or other e.g. weekend bingeing, mixing etc.
- Dependent cannabis use.
- Poly substance use e.g. daily cannabis use and alcohol, or opiates and alcohol, cocaine and alcohol.
- Pregnant young women and using substances.
- Substances are being injected.
- Young person is only receiving needle and syringes from a pharmacist
- Young person requests safer injecting advice.
- Substance use is causing or contributing to acute health problems (physical complications, persistent health problems, loss of weight, problems need medical treatment).
- Substance use is contributing to acute mental health problems- young people expresses changes in mood they need assessed and/or request wanting help manage better, anxiety, panic attacks, increasing sense of hopelessness, feelings they can only manage with substance use, substance induced psychosis, increases in paranoia.
- Young person requires advice, information, on pre and post test counselling on Hepatitis B and C and HIV.