



**Illuminate** Care Group

# Drugs and Substance Misuse

## REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

[The Protection Standard](#)

[Welfare standard](#)

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

[FRANK - friendly, confidential drugs advice](#)

[New Psychoactive Substances \(NPS\) Resource Pack for Informal Educators and Practitioners \(Home Office\)](#)

## RELATED CHAPTER

[Smoking and Alcohol Policy](#)

## 1. Definition

Substances are defined as any substances, whether restricted or prohibited, which may have a harmful effect upon a young person, such as alcohol, cigarettes, tobacco, aerosols, ecstasy, khat, magic mushrooms, petrol, solvents, and all controlled substances such as amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, hashish and heroin.

It also includes psychoactive substances which can cause a very similar range of problems to the drugs which they mimic, including a risk of dependence developing



**Illuminate** Care Group

with repeated use. Some appear to be more dangerous even than the traditional drugs they mimic.

For procedures regarding smoking and alcohol, see **Smoking and Alcohol Policy**.

See: **Frank - New Psychoactive Substances** and **Frank - Drugs A-Z**.

See also: **Frank Drugs and the Law**.

## **2. Access/Use of Drugs and Substances**

### **2.1 Purchasing/Obtaining Drugs or Substances - General**

All reasonable measures must be used to reduce or prevent young people from obtaining drugs or substances which may harm them.

If it is known or suspected that young people are obtaining products, which may harm them, whether off the streets, from dealers or traders of any kind, the manager and social worker must be informed, and a strategy adopted to reduce or prevent it.

If the problem persists or is serious, relevant specialists or bodies, including Trading Standards or the Police, should be informed.

### **2.2 Controlled Drugs or Substances**

Under no circumstances may controlled drugs and substances, other than those prescribed by a medical practitioner, be permitted in the home. Please see local form on controlled drugs classification and storage requirements.

## **3. Prevention and Planning**





The manager at the Home must ensure that information, guidance, and advice on the risks associated with harmful drugs and substances are available to all young people in the home.

Additionally, any young person known or suspected to be misusing substances must be provided with the following:

- Targeted relevant information, guidance, and advice to help reduce or prevent such risks;
- A strategy for managing the risk, outlined in a Placement Plan.

The strategy should state whether, and in what circumstances, the Police will be notified.

Some possible indications of drug and substance misuse are:

- Sudden changes of mood;
- Irritability;
- Loss of appetite;
- Increased appetite - possibly want sweet things more;
- Drowsiness or sleepiness;
- Being evasive;
- Unexplained loss of money or belongings;
- Unusual smells, stains or marks on the body, clothes or around the house.

Adults at the Home should familiarise themselves with the effects of different drugs and its impact, so they are prepared to support the young people. As best practice this can be done in regular team meetings.

It is important not to jump to the wrong conclusion but speak to the young person's social worker if you are concerned. Any referrals to support or advice services should be made in conjunction with the young person's social worker. Often young people involved with substances are at higher risk of CSE/ CCE.



Young people will have access to a range of domestic products that can be harmful and even fatal when inhaled. Staff who support at the Home should advise young people around aerosol products, nail varnish, corrective fluid, glues etc.

### 4. Emergency

If it suspected that a young person is misusing drugs or substances and no strategy exists to reduce or prevent the behaviour, the manager of the home and relevant social worker(s) should be contacted, and an agreement reached on how to proceed; this will include whether the Police will be notified.

If there are immediate risks, which make it impractical to contact the manager or social worker, staff in the Home should take what actions are immediately necessary then inform the manager and social worker(s) at the first opportunity.

The actions that staff in the Home take will be dependent on the circumstances, but they must be mindful of the following:

- a. The overall responsibility of staff in the Home is to protect young people, themselves and others from injury and reduce or prevent the likelihood of criminal offences;
- b. If there is a risk of serious harm, injury or of a serious criminal offence and staff in the Home are unable to manage safely, the Police should be notified;
- c. If solvents are involved, allow air to circulate freely and extinguish naked lights;
- d. If any person is unconscious, in a fit or convulsing or otherwise seriously ill, emergency first aid should be given, and an ambulance requested. The emergency services should be informed that there are suspicions of drug or solvent misuse; The staff in the Home should follow the substance misuse procedure.
- e. The drugs/substances should be removed or confiscated, preferably with the co-operation of the young person, and preferably by two staff , who must record



their actions, describing what they have obtained and where it has been safely stored;

- f. If young people do not co-operate or there is a risk of injury or damage to property, it may be necessary to use Physical Intervention, conduct a search or call for Police assistance.

See the following additional chapters:

- **Use of Restraint and Physical Interventions Policy;**
- **Searching Bedrooms Policy;**
- **Offending and Anti-Social Behaviour – Guidance on when to Involve the Police Policy.**

No further action, beyond making the situation safe should be taken without a manager's authorisation, preferably in consultation with the relevant social worker.

However, the staff in the Home should undertake the following if a manager is not available within a reasonable timescale:

- Substances such as cigarettes, alcohol, aerosols, gas, glue, and petrol should then be put in a safe place out of the reach of children or disposed of safely;
- Controlled substances and any associated materials or paraphernalia must be placed in a clearly marked box or other strong container, sealed, and given to the manager who must arrange for it to be taken to a competent authority e.g. Pharmacist or Doctor; and a receipt obtained.

When safe to do so, the manager and relevant social workers should be notified and a decision reached on the actions/measures, which should be taken. This should include whether the Police should be notified.

## 5. Notifications, Recording and Review



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## **5.1 Notifications**

Any incidents must be notified immediately to the manager and the relevant social worker.

Serious incidents e.g. if the Police or other emergency services are called, must be notified to the home's manager and consideration given to whether the incident is a Notifiable Event, see **Notification of Serious Events Policy**.

## **5.2 Recording and Review**

See also: **Case Recording Policy**.

All incidents must be recorded on Clear Care and relevant young person's Daily diary Record. If young people are believed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol a serious incident of concern log is to be completed by the home.

The child's Placement Plan should be reviewed with a view to incorporating strategies to reduce or prevent future incidents.

