

Sunderland Youth Drug and Alcohol Project

Screening Tool Guidance

GUIDANCE FOR INFORMING ASSESSMENT OF ADDITIONAL NEEDS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE USE

The screening tool is devised to help people make decisions about how to respond to a young person's substance use issues. The tool is divided into sections designed to assess risk factors regarding:

- Substance use/type
- Social situation
- Health
- Age of young person

Without a comprehensive knowledge of substances it is sometimes difficult to make a distinction between use or misuse. The following guidance will help in completing the tool. If further help is required, this can be obtained by contacting YDAP.

Definition of terms

- **DRUG:** Is used to refer to any psychotropic substance including illegal substances, illicit prescription drugs and volatile substances (e.g. solvents, gas and glue).
- **SUBSTANCES:** Young people's drug use is often linked together with alcohol use, drugs and alcohol together, are collectively termed 'substances'.
- **DRUG USE:** The consumption of a drug by a young person, when the term 'use' is contrasted with 'misuse', 'use' means the consumption of a drug that does not cause any perceptible immediate harm – even though it may carry some risk of harm.
- **DRUG MISUSE:** Use of a drug or combination of substances, that harms health or social functioning – either dependant use (physical or psychological) or use that is part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.
- **VULNERABLE GROUP:** Young people are at increased risk of drug misuse if they belong to certain groups and this risk increases if there is membership of more than one group.
- **PROTECTIVE FACTORS:** Are things that increase a young person's resilience to the development of drug misuse problems.
- **RISK FACTORS:** Are things that could/will increase the likelihood that drug misuse will occur.

Completing the Screening Tool

The Screening Tool should be completed when:

- There is/or has been, a substance related incident
- There is a disclosure or suspicion of substance use

When completing the form you should tick the most appropriate boxes, if in doubt do **NOT** tick. Once you have finished, write the total score in the final box and refer to the table at the back of the screening tool booklet.

A score of 10 or under should not automatically require a referral. Support and advice can be given by the person completing the Screening Tool, however further advice can be sought from YDAP.

General leaflets and information can be obtained from various sources that include:

www.talktofrank.com

<http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>

If you think that the answers the young person is giving do not reflect their true situation and scores lower than expected please do not hesitate to contact YDAP.

If required, a member of staff can contact you to advise on a course of appropriate action. If you are aware of someone who may need support from the YDAP service, their consent is required before you make any referral.

Things to Consider

Being excluded from school, or having a parent with problematic drug use are both known to increase the risk of a young person developing a drug problem. Other factors are also associated with increased risks of young people developing problems with drugs, while some factors are correlated with protection from risks of drug problems. The risk and protective factors are shown in the following table.

Vulnerable Groups	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
Homeless	Chaotic home environment	Strong family bonds
Looked after children	Parents who misuse drugs or suffer from mental ill-health	Experiences of strong parental monitoring with clear family rules
School truants	Behavioural disorders	Family involvement in the lives of children
Pupils excluded from school	Lack of parental nurturing	In education, employment or training
Abuse within the family	Inappropriate and/or aggressive behaviour	Strong bonds with the local community
Young sex workers	School failure	A caring relationship with at least one adult
In contact with mental health and/or criminal justice system	Poor coping skills	Social support systems
Parent/s and/or siblings with drug issues	Low commitment to learning	
	Friendship with deviant peers	
	Low socio-economic status	
	Early age of first drug use	
	Being labelled as a drug user	

Drinks and Units

<p>1.5 units</p>  <p>Small glass red/white/rosé wine (125ml, ABV 12%)</p>	<p>2.1 units</p>  <p>Standard glass red/white/rosé wine (175ml, ABV 12%)</p>
<p>3 units</p>  <p>Large glass red/white/rosé wine (250ml, ABV 12%)</p>	<p>2 units</p>  <p>Pint of lower-strength lager/beer/cider (ABV 3.6%)</p>
<p>3 units</p>  <p>Pint of higher-strength lager/beer/cider (ABV 5.2%)</p>	<p>1.7 units</p>  <p>Bottle of lager/beer/cider (330ml, ABV 5%)</p>
<p>2 units</p>  <p>Can of lager/beer/cider (440ml, ABV 4.5%)</p>	<p>1.5 units</p>  <p>Alcopop (275ml, ABV 5.5%)</p>
<p>1 unit</p>  <p>Single small shot of spirits* (25ml, ABV 40%)</p>	

Gin, Rum, Vodka, Whisky,
Tequila, Sambuca etc.
Large (35ml) single
measures of spirits are
1.4 units

putting
the child first