

USEFUL NUMBERS

Frank

0800 77 66 00

Free helpline for anyone concerned about drugs

Young Minds Parents Information Service

0808 8025544

Free helpline for parents concerned about mental health issues and their children (anxiety, depression, self harming, behaviour problems etc)

DHI South Gloucestershire

01454 868750

Harm reduction and structured treatment services for adults using drugs and alcohol, and for those affected by a family member or friend's use.

Monday - Friday

9:00am - 5:00pm

01454 866000

A message may be left out of hours on this number

Alternatively contact the 'Frank' Drugs helpline on

FRANK

0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com

This information can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audio tape.

Please phone 01454 868008 if you need any of these or any other help to access Council services.

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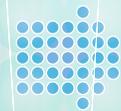
YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICE

Information
for Parents
and Carers

www.southglos.gov.uk

 South Gloucestershire
Council

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS



WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

YPDAS provides a range of services for young people under eighteen who are using drugs, alcohol or solvents. We support young people in stopping or making changes to their substance use and in becoming more aware of possible risks.

We work with young people who live or go to school in South Gloucestershire and will arrange to meet at a suitable venue as near as possible to them.

When we first meet your child, we will spend two or three sessions finding out about their substance use, what changes they may want to make and what support they need to do this. We can provide them with advice and information about the effects and risks of using substances.

If your child needs to continue seeing us over a longer period of time, this is known as drug treatment. This is where we provide your child with specific on-going support, advice and information to help them to make positive changes.

Depending on the drugs that your child may be using, treatment sessions can also involve medical support. If your child does require a medical intervention we will refer them to a specialist team and support them to access this service.

WHO KNOWS ABOUT MY CHILD'S SUBSTANCE USE?

It is important for your child to be able to talk to us about themselves and their substance use, knowing that we will not share their information with others (family, school, social workers etc), unless they have given their permission. When we first meet your child we explain that they have a say in how their information is shared. We will find out who they want their information to be shared with, and what information they want to be shared. We understand that this may be a difficult time for you and will offer you support and guidance where possible without breaking your child's confidence.

There are times however, when we would have to pass information on to others, whether or not a young person or parent has agreed to us doing this. (If such a situation did happen with your child, we would try to talk about this with them first).

These situations include;

- When there is a real risk of danger, severe harm or death to your child or others
- When immediate medical treatment is necessary.

We might need to share information with law enforcement agencies, if for example, a young person told us that drugs were being sold or taken in a specific location by themselves or others, or that a serious crime had been committed by themselves or another person.

We would also need to pass on information, if you told us that your child was missing from home, or was planning to run away from home.

The national and local system of sharing information will help us to provide services for your child that are coordinated and most suitable for their needs.

YOUR CHILD'S RECORDS

We keep records of our work with your child which are stored confidentially, where possible using their initials only. They have the right to see what information has been kept about them and all records are destroyed after 10 years or when they are 25.

The government is provided with some information about your child so that they can monitor the progress of the National Drug Strategy. The name and address of your child is not passed on - just initial, date of birth, and gender to make sure statistics are accurate.

We explain how and why we store information to your child when we first meet them, and also tell them about the process to enable them to see their case records, should they wish to do so. If your child does not understand this, or is under 12 years of age, we will need to contact you to discuss this.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate in contacting us (see back cover).