

Drug Education, incidents and Policy: Support for Schools

Adopting a Multi-Agency Approach

When an incident occurs it is important to follow the procedures laid down in your school drug policy. The DfES guidance stresses the importance of a calm and measured reaction to an incident. Make sure that you record the incident carefully and seek advice at the earliest opportunity from the **Compass School Link Worker** on 0115 9248232 or 07919 367640.

Many schools have multi-agency teams, bringing together a range of external and internal agencies/support with key school representatives such as those in charge of pastoral care, SMT, child protection officer, school nurse and sometimes governors. This approach is particularly effective if teams meet regularly and are involved to negotiate the best outcome for a pupil who has been involved in an incident or who may be vulnerable to drug misuse. The Compass School Link Worker is happy to sit on multi-agency teams or to assist in setting one up with your school.

If you do not have a policy the LEA can provide support to draft one

In Nottingham we have a range of specialist services and personnel whose role it is to support schools, staff and pupils in relation to drugs issues. Below are the '4 corners' of this bespoke support for schools.

Support for Teachers and Governors - Policy and Programme Support

LEA Drugs Policy and Education Officer:

Anna Power's role is to support Nottingham Schools to develop School Drugs Policy and to plan and develop Drug Education Programmes which build on good practice. Support available includes bespoke in-service training, information and advice on policy and programme, choosing and using external contributor to support your planned drugs education, developing a whole school response to drugs issues and much more. We have a range of financial and practical support packages available to enable schools to develop drugs policy and programmes.

0115 9476202 / anna.power@collegest.org.uk

Support for Incidents or for Those Giving Concern

- If there is an incident or you are concerned about a pupil:

Julie Odell - Nottingham City Education Link Worker for Drug Misuse issues

The Education Link Worker's role is to support schools and pupils within the school environment in relation to drug misuse issues or incidents.

- * First contact for the school in drug related incidents
- * Provide a response where a pupil may be considered at risk
- * Co-ordination for appropriate referrals
- * Screening
- * Pupil advocacy
- * Negotiation of supported alternatives to exclusion
- * Targeted interactive group work
- * Information, advice and support

The school should refer pupils to The Education Link Worker, who is based at Compass Young People's Drug Services. Individual parents or pupils should report their concerns to the school who will then assess how they may proceed. Young people with concerns about their own drug use can also phone Compass who will support on an individual basis.

She is the first contact when a drug related incident occurs. We recommend that you seek advice and support before action is taken to ensure the most effective support for both the school and the pupil is accessed.

Tel :0115 847 0445 Mob: 07919367640

Support for pupils who's family use drugs:

STARS Project (Children's Society Supported)

The STARS team provide a service to children and young people who have experienced, or are experiencing a parent or carer who is using drugs or alcohol. The team offers ongoing support in a therapeutic environment. STARS offer children and young people the opportunity to make sense of the substance use and to discuss the problem they have encountered.

STARS work with people from 3-21 years old where the need for such a service has been clearly identified and who are able to benefit from the service.

Referrals must take place with the knowledge and consent of the parents/carers involved if the pupil is under 14 yrs old.

Tel: 0115 9422974

Support for Parents/Carers and Professionals Concerned by Someone Else's Drug Use.

Regents House Project (The Carers Federation)

The Regents House project offers a range of services for families and carers of drug users through:

- * Confidential telephone support
- * Drop in and group support
- * Accurate, tailored information
- * Private and confidential one to one meetings
- * Links to other services

Jo Key is the Young Persons Education and Family Support Worker for Nottingham City. She can offer support, information and advice to families, carers, friend and professionals who are concerned about a young person using drugs.

Making a Referral:

If you wish to make a referral for a student consent must be obtained from the young person first. You can then contact the Regents House Project by 'phone or e-mail.

Jo is available to work with schools to develop links with parents and the local community in relation to drugs issues. She can also provide support when drug incidents affect students, their families and friends.

Jo is available to support schools through professional training to develop awareness of the impact that drug use can have on families and friends.

Tel: 0115 9128011 / 0115 9128035

Linked Police Officer for your School:

Nottinghamshire Police Safer School Partnership

The Safer Schools Partnership aims to reduce the number of young people who become the perpetrators or victims of crime. Within this larger document the role of the Nottinghamshire Police in supporting schools in relation to drug-related incidents is clarified and a clear protocol for police involvement is set out. This protocol was developed in partnership with the LEA and embeds the aims of both the LEA and Nottinghamshire Police to reduce and prevent drug misuse and criminal behaviour. Some schools already have community officers in residence at a secondary school within their family of schools. The force are in the process of recruiting further resident officers with a view to having a named officer for each family of schools in the City of Nottingham. If you do not have a resident officer in your family of schools but have an existing relationship with a local officer, we suggest you ask them to act as your police link for illegal drugs, and other, incidents. If you do not have an existing contact, contact the beat manager at your local Police Station and ask them to identify a liaison officer for your school.

Ali Jones, Youth Issues Coordinator, Nottinghamshire Police - 9762613