

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001966  
Date            19 February 2018

### *Initiatives to educate young people about cannabis*

#### **Request:**

During the 2016/17, 2015/2016, 2014/2015, 2013/2014, 2012/2013, 2011/2012, 2010/ 2011, 2009/ 2010, 2008/ 2009, 2007/ 2008, 2006/ 2007 periods how many initiatives have you commissioned or been aware of in your locality that have educated young people about cannabis? If so, how were they assessed?

In November 2010, the resources of the Wolverhampton Drug Education Programme were made available to all schools in Wolverhampton. These resources consist of lesson plans from Year 1 to Year 11 together with resources, supporting notes, review and self-evaluation tools. These resources were initially developed in partnership with DECCA – the young persons' drug education and treatment agency in Sandwell. Since 2010, the teaching resources have been reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Wolverhampton Healthy Schools team (and then the Public Health team). Review has been based upon national guidance on drug education (for example via Mentor-ADEPIS guidance documents) and has also been informed by local data (for example the young persons' Health Related Behaviour Survey).

The teaching resources can be accessed from the DECCA website <http://www.ourguideto.co.uk/wolverhampton-resources>. Support is available to schools in the form of INSET teacher training on using these specific teaching resources and also through central training on basic substance awareness, dealing with drug related incidents and school drug policy review. Schools are encouraged to review their own drug education using the evaluation tools provided and additional support for this review is available to schools from Public Health colleagues purchased via a Service Level Agreement model.

The Wolverhampton Drug Education Programme has specific sessions on cannabis in Year 8 and Year 10 of the programme (see attached secondary overview). The programme as a whole is a spiral curriculum and aims to approach knowledge, attitudes and skills in relation to young peoples' awareness of drugs and drug related situations in an age appropriate way – with specific sessions on substances such as cannabis building upon young people's exploration of peer pressure, resilience skills and issues such as smoking in earlier years of the programme (see the primary overview, attached).

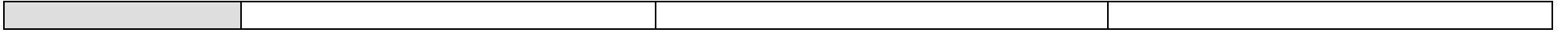
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Cannabis is not specifically included in the primary school phase of the Wolverhampton Drug Education Programme. However, the Public Health team has worked with primary schools who have requested specific sessions on cannabis for Year 6. In 2013-2014 we worked with schools in Bilston to develop lessons on cannabis for Year 6 pupils to support an initiative called 'Do the Write Thing', which had received funding from a Locality Board funding stream. 'Do the Write Thing' involved lessons on cannabis, writing on cannabis based upon the literacy curriculum and involvement of a local theatre company (Gazebo) who co-produced a performance with pupils which was shown to parents. Six primary schools in Bilston participated and the project was evaluated as part of the funding criteria. The three lesson plans on cannabis developed by Public Health, aimed at Year 6, are still available to Wolverhampton primary schools, if they decide that it is necessary to look at cannabis more specifically before the end of primary school.

**Wolverhampton Drug Education Programme**  
**Primary overview 2017 - 2018**

Available at <http://www.ourguideto.co.uk/wolverhampton-resources> Password: wo1verhampton

	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Lesson 3</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>‘Dog, Duck &amp; Cat’</b> ‘To know that friends don’t make each other do things they don’t want to do.’	<b>‘Being careful with things around the house’</b> ‘To know what is safe and what is dangerous to eat and drink at home.’	<b>‘Getting out of a bad situation’</b> ‘To know some ways to get out of a bad situation.’
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>‘Who’s your friend?’</b> ‘To see how being mean can affect other people.’	<b>‘Big Drinks Quiz’</b> ‘To know what alcohol is and what it can do to you.’	<b>‘What is a friend?’</b> ‘To understand what a friend should be and act like.’
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>‘Cat’s Nan’</b> ‘To understand some ways smoking can affect people’.	<b>‘Reasons not to smoke / give up smoking’</b> ‘To know some reasons why I should not smoke.’	<b>‘What makes you look or seem more grown up?’</b> ‘To know some ways to look and act more grown up <u>positively</u> ’
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>‘Use it properly or there’ll be trouble!’</b> ‘To know that if household products are not used properly they can be very dangerous’	<b>‘What’s the risk? It’s only a drink!’</b> ‘To understand what alcohol is and some of its effects and risks’	<b>‘Survival’</b> ‘To know some skills to get out of a difficult or dodgy situation’
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>‘Why do people choose to smoke or not to smoke?’</b> ‘To know reasons why people choose to smoke or not to smoke’	<b>‘What is tobacco and why is it harmful?’</b> ‘To find out facts about smoking and some of the dangers’	<b>‘I don’t want to smoke!’</b> ‘To practice ways of being assertive’
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>‘Why do people ever take drugs?’</b> ‘Why do people take drugs and what are the effects and risks?’	<b>‘What do YOU think?’</b> ‘To decide what risks there are in taking drugs and pass the information on to others.’	<b>‘Survival’</b> ‘To learn ways to cope and get out of a risky situation’



**Wolverhampton Drug Education Programme  
Secondary overview 2017-2018**

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	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Lesson 3</b>	<b>Lesson 4</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<p><b>‘What are you drinking, mate?’</b> ‘To develop an understanding of different types and strengths of alcohol.’</p>	<p><b>‘How much is too much?’</b> ‘To understand reasons why people drink alcohol and develop and understanding of units of alcohol’</p>	<p><b>‘The News of the Booze!’</b> ‘To highlight how alcohol is made attractive by advertisers. To point out that for every attractive effect of an alcoholic drink, there are a range of negative effects.’</p>	<p><b>(Optional)</b> <b>‘Under the Influence – Part 2’</b>  Short DVD piece around the issues. The story has an interactive element whereby pupils are required to answer and discuss questions raised in the performance.</p>
<b>Year 8</b>	<p><b>‘Staying Smoke Free’</b> To explore attitudes to smoking; To compare perceptions and reality about how many young people smoke; To identify ways to encourage young people to stay ‘smoke free’ <i>(Tip: Compare the video production in this lesson with ‘The Resistance’ assembly performance)</i></p>	<p><b>‘History of Drug Use &amp; Introduction to Cannabis’</b> ‘To briefly look at the history of drug use; To look at cannabis and its effects.’</p>	<p><b>‘The Law and Drugs’</b> ‘To understand the laws surrounding drugs To look at the links between drugs and crime.’ <i>(Good opportunity to invite in the police PCSO’s – see lesson plan for contact details)</i></p>	<p><b>‘Ways of coping / peer acceptance’</b> ‘To develop strategies for coping with risky situations and peer pressure.’</p>
<b>Year 9</b>	<p><b>‘What is alcohol?’</b> ‘To establish an understanding of the different types of alcohol and the danger that surrounds them.’</p>	<p><b>‘How much is too much?’</b> ‘To establish why people drink and why they drink to excess. To explore the consequences of drinking to excess.’</p>	<p><b>‘I don’t like you when you’re drunk’</b> ‘To discuss the consequences of alcohol consumption on those around us To explore the consequences of our actions’</p>	<p><b>‘Do you know what they are?’</b> ‘To research and identify the risks and effects of different drugs. To know some facts about different drugs.’</p>

<b>Year 10</b>	<p><b>‘Cannabis’</b>  ‘To explain why people use drugs. To equip young people with coping skills and to raise awareness of cannabis.’</p>	<p><b>‘Drug Refusal Skills’</b>  ‘To educate about the added danger of unknown substances. To highlight the peer pressure young people may be subjected to and to develop strategies to help them cope.’</p>	<p><b>‘The wider implications of drug use’</b>  ‘To educate young people on the wider implications of drug use. To inform young people of support services available in Wolverhampton.’  <i>(Good opportunity to invite in 360’ to talk about their services – see lesson plan or ‘Useful Contacts..’ for contact details)</i></p>	<p><b>‘You just don’t know...’</b>  <b>Introduction to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) / ‘Legal Highs’</b>  ‘To educate young people about the different types of NPS / ‘Legal Highs’ and to challenge some commonly held beliefs about the safety, legality and level of use of NPS among young people.</p>
<b>Year 11*</b>	<p><b>‘What’s the Norm?’</b>  ‘Understand, through consideration of national and local statistics, the proportion of young people who smoke, drink alcohol and use other drugs. Demonstrate by example how common perceptions often exaggerate the norm and the pressure this can put on young people to experiment.’</p>	<p><b>‘Accessing support’</b>  ‘Recognise potential factors and signs of developing problematic drug use. Identify when and where to access support in relation to drugs, alcohol and tobacco from national and local agencies, including school based support.’  <i>(Good opportunity to invite in Wolverhampton 360’ to talk about their services or SUIT for an ex-user’s perspective – see lesson plan or ‘Useful Contacts..’ for contact details)</i></p>	<p><b>‘Recognising and reducing the risk of harm’</b>  ‘Demonstrate understanding of factors which increase risk of harm to self or others when using drugs or alcohol. Demonstrate understanding of the risk associated with mixing drugs/alcohol/medications.’</p>	