

Merton Young Person's Substance Misuse Integrated Model

Young person talks about using substances or concerns are raised about a young person's use of substances



Young person presents with substance misuse. Level of concern:

Occasional/infrequent use

- Occasional experimentation with substances (aged 15+).
- No family history of substance misuse.
- First time use of substances (14+).
- Has resilience factors e.g. supportive family environment, social support system, is in education, employment/training, has positive self esteem, has a caring relationship with at least one adult.

- Frequent, regular pattern of substance misuse e.g. using for parties, in trouble with the police.
- Experimentation with substances aged 13 to 14.
- At risk of exploitation due to substance misuse.
- Family history of substance misuse.

Frequent/regular use

- Has more risk factors, e.g. belongs to a vulnerable group, LAC, mental health problems, NEET, homeless, young offender, young sex worker, is pregnant.
- Parental substance misuse influencing young persons' use.

Harmful use

- Experiencing high level of harm through use of substances.
- Experimentation with substances aged under 13.
- Young person injecting.
- Substance misuse exacerbating existing complex needs.
- Uncontrolled use and/or physical psychological dependency on substances.
 - Involvement in drug dealing/exploitation by dealers.
- Has high level risk factors, e.g. belongs to a vulnerable group, LAC, mental health problems, NEET, homeless, young offender, young sex worker, is pregnant, homeless.
 - Parental substance misuse is preventing ability to parent.

Suggested appropriate response

Targeted response

As in universal response plus:

- Provide harm prevention messages relating to level of use.
- Undertake CASA or ascertain if one already exists.
- Refer to Catch22 for full assessment 020 3701 8641.
- Refer to CAMHS if additional mental health needs are identified.

- Where risky sexual behaviour is identified refer to Checkitout services www.gettingiton.org.uk
- Concerns regarding sexualised behaviour contact Barnardos 020 8688 1079 or young runaways – Jigsaw4u 020 8687 1384.
- Consider other targeted services e.g. Transforming families, My futures, Young Carers.

Specialist response

As in targeted response plus:

- Follow safeguarding procedures: MASH merton.gov.uk/mash
Tel: 020 8545 4227/
020 8770 5000 (out of hours)
Email: mash@merton.gov.uk

Universal response

- Provide harm prevention messages to provoke thought/pre-contemplation.
- Provide information and advice on substance misuse and related behaviours e.g. sexual health.
 - Talk through an information leaflet.
- Refer to FRANK 0800 776600 www.talktofrank.com or www.gettingiton.org.uk
- No need to refer on but contact Catch22 for advice if required 020 3701 8641.

Key questions to consider

