

SchoolBeat.org



The All Wales School Liaison Core Programme

Newsletter

Spring 2017



Dear Colleague,

We hope you had an enjoyable Spring Half Term?

This Spring edition is packed full of information, advice and news to help support you and your school. This term's Special Feature is:

Mandatory Reporting of FGM.

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Mandatory reporting of FGM

“ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime in the UK. FGM is the mutilation of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is sometimes known as female circumcision or ‘sunna’. ”

Home Office definition 2016

From 31st October 2015, all health and social care professionals and teachers are required to report known or disclosed cases of FGM directly to the Police.

The All-Wales child protection procedures, adopted by all safeguarding boards in Wales, includes a dedicated protocol on FGM.

Section 130 came into force in April 2016 and it requires ‘relevant partners’ of the Local Authority to inform the Local Authority where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a child at risk (i.e. is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and has needs for care and support). To comply with both duties, professionals in Wales who identify cases falling within the FGM mandatory reporting duty need to make a report to both the Police and the Local Authority.

How to report a suspected case of FGM

- Telephone '101', the non-emergency crime number
- Make a record of actions taken and write down the Police reference number you are given.
- Keep a comprehensive record of any discussions held and subsequent decisions made, in line with standard safeguarding practice. This will include the circumstances surrounding the initial identification or disclosure of FGM, details of any safeguarding actions which were taken, and when and how you reported the case to the Police.
- Discuss with Local Safeguarding Lead to identify if there are other safeguarding actions required, and how these will be taken forward.
- Make sure someone with access to all the information is available to discuss further with the Police lead investigator.

For a copy of the full Home Office document 'Mandatory Reporting of FGM – Procedural Information' visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>



The duty is a personal duty which requires the individual professional who becomes aware of a case to make a report; the responsibility cannot be transferred.

For more information contact the following organisations:

NSPCC FGM Helpline:

Tel. **0800 0283550**

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Childline:

Tel: **0800 1111**

Website: www.childline.org

In the SPOTLIGHT...

VSA

Volatile Substance Abuse is often called VSA or VSM, Volatile Substance Misuse.

Volatile substances cover a wide range of products, such as gases, glues and aerosols. The products that are abused all have a legitimate day to day use, which means they can be easily obtained.

When inhaled, volatile substances have a similar effect to Alcohol, making people feel uninhibited, euphoric and dizzy. But the effect they have on the heart can cause death, even if it's the user's first time. This is known as Sudden Sniffing Death. There are between 50 and 100 deaths annually from the use of solvents and other volatile substances. These are virtually all from the short term risks and the very large majority of these fatalities are teenagers.

Street names

Aerosols, Chroming, Dusting, Gas, Gases, Glue sniffing, Glues, Huffing, Inhalants, Laughing gas, Nitrous oxide, Petrol, Solvents, Tooting



Volatile substances can have the following effects:

- Dizziness, dreaminess, fits of giggles
- Difficulty thinking straight
- Senses dulled and body's reactions slowed down making the person feel drunk
- Mood swings, aggressive behavior and hallucinations
- Vomiting and blackouts
- Depending on the substance - a red rash around the mouth and damage to the lining of the nose and airways
- After use – a hangover, severe headache, feelings of depression and tiredness.

New Re-solv Hub for young people

There is a new information hub for young people at www.re-solv.org/healthy.

There's factual info here about solvents, nitrous oxide and New Psychoactive Substances as well as links to support and advice.

Risks associated with volatile substances:

- As volatile substances are easily available as household products, some people think they are safe to use, but they're not. They can kill the first time they are used.
- Substances affect judgment and there is a real danger of doing something dangerous.
- Squirted gas products down the throat is very dangerous as it makes the throat swell which can restrict or stop breathing.
- Substances cause the heart to slow down –and can cause a heart attack.
- Some users have died from passing out and choking on their own vomit.



- The risk of suffocation if you inhale from a plastic bag over your head.
- Regular use will damage your brain, muscles, liver and kidneys.
- Accidents are much more likely if you are using solvents.
- Many volatile substances are flammable so there is a risk of burns and explosions, especially when combined with smoking.
- Mixing volatile substances with Alcohol can have serious consequences as the effects and the risk of death are increased.

The Law

Class: Unclassified

It is illegal for retailers in England and Wales to sell volatile substances to anyone under the age of 18 whom they suspect may use them for sniffing/inhaling.

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AWSLCP lessons

- **LKS2: TASK - Tobacco, Alcohol and Solvents Knowledge**
- **UKS2: So, What's the problem?**

Visit the teacher and pupil sections on our website for more information.



MEET YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Catrin Brown, from North Wales Police, talks about her role as an SCPO.

“ Ours is one of the few roles in the police organisation which is ‘preventative’, with the focus being on safeguarding and educating children, and preventing young people from entering the criminal justice system. ”

“My time is spent delivering All Wales School Liaison Core Programme (AWSLCP) sessions. We also provide sessions for parents as requested. This could be about Internet Safety, or about New Psychoactive Substances which are causing concern.

The nature of the topics we discuss with children, will affect some pupils more than others, depending on their experiences or history. Children have made numerous disclosures to me following inputs, and it means a lot that they feel comfortable enough to discuss their issues with a Police Officer.



The nature of our role encourages children and young people to approach police officers and not be intimidated.

Following a disclosure, I always inform the head-teacher or Designated Senior Person (Safeguarding Officer) for the school, and make the necessary referral to our Force Protecting Vulnerable People Unit. My main aim will be to ensure that the young person gets the support he/she needs.

Supportive Policing is another important part of our role, and I allocate time to deal with any incidents or to discuss any concerns schools may have in relation to a pupil. Incidents vary, and can involve bullying, assault, theft, racist incidents to name a few. I am able to facilitate Restorative Practice meetings with pupils as a means of resolving conflict. I also welcome parental involvement in supporting their children.

I regularly meet with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams so that we can support each other. Local officers will make me aware of community incidents, and I will then deliver intervention work in the schools if necessary.

If there is a rise in certain types of crime involving young people, for example ‘sexting’ or shoplifting, I can arrange assemblies on that topic with the relevant year groups.

Another aspect of our role is multi-agency work, and it is reassuring to see many local and national agencies working together to help families.

There are also other departments within the Police organisation which I regularly work with, such as the Youth Justice Team, Arson Reduction Team or Cyber Safety Team. We work together to ensure that young people receive important intervention with the aim of preventing them from criminality in the future.

The Programme and our role is unique to Wales and it is one where we are fortunate enough to have an input in the lives of thousands of children, from nursery all the way through secondary school.

The continuity we provide from one year to the next helps children and young people to build their trust and confidence in the Police which will ultimately reap benefits and have a positive impact on their future life choices.”

On the MAES

2016 was a busy year for the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme. We attended the Urdd Eisteddfod at Flint in May and the National Eisteddfod at Abergavenny in August.



During the busiest week in years, the Urdd gave the staff an opportunity to truly engage with members of the public. Our SCPOs were on hand to explain about the lessons we deliver, and our friendly mascot Tarian also took a trip to North Wales to be present. Tarian was given the chance to get out and about on the Maes with his trusty friends, on a mission to explain

about the safety lessons the School Community Police Officers provide.

The National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny attracted over 130,000 visitors where one of Heddllu Gwent Police's mobile Police Stations was parked close to the main pavilion. Over the seven days young people and adults had the opportunity to have their fingerprints taken, dress up in a Police uniform, complete activity sheets and collect stickers, pens and pencils.

During both weeks School Programme staff were able to promote the AWSLCP and it was heartening how many young people were so enthusiastic about the visits they had received in school from their School Community Police Officer (SCPO). A number of teachers, parents and adults commented on the value of the Programme and the work of the SCPOs in schools.

WHAT'S NEW?

CASE STUDY:

Friars School, Bangor

Ysgol Friars has 190 pupils consisting of 8 classes in year 10. A team of 4 teachers deliver the Welsh Baccalaureate in KS4.



For the 10 hour challenge – teaching and learning – controlled section of the qualification, pupils focused on asking ‘What is a Community?’

The AWSLCP lesson ‘Save me’ was delivered by the PC Dylan Pritchard in conjunction with other agencies – to enable pupils to appreciate the needs and complexities of the wider community. Pupils then embarked on research building up essential skills with the pupils.

To raise the profile of the challenge PC Pritchard formally introduced the ‘brief’ for the first time from the WJEC website.

Pupils then decided on their challenge and developed their own interpretation of the brief.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Community Challenge:



Educating young people on the dangers of crime and disorder and the AWSLCP.

“ Through this community challenge pupils learn valuable life skills ”

Neil Worthington, Ysgol Friars

Pupils researched many sources of information including www.schoolbeat.org to identify issues that affect young people in the community.

Pupils carried out their challenge under the guidance and supervision of their teachers and PC Pritchard. For the 15 hour Community Challenge, pupils had the option to work in groups or individually with each pupil, then completing individual written reports. As the focus was on neighbourhood enhancement it encouraged links with the wider community and included working with local primary schools.

When asked about the desired outcome for the challenge pupils noted:

“ We hope young people become aware of the dangers and learn of the consequences of risky behaviour. ”

Example 1: One group of visited a primary school to discuss ‘community safety’ with pupils. Through interactive games and quizzes, they focused on:

- Internet safety
- Healthy relationships

Example 2: Another group decided to look at the issues facing young people today.

The turnout to their peer led presentations for year 7 and 8 pupils on the effects and consequences of drug use during lunchtimes was very good with many of the younger pupils saying how much they had gained from the session.

For more information, visit the **Teacher section** on our website:

www.schoolbeat.org

or contact our North Wales **Regional Coordinator:**

mannon.williams@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Lesson Updates for 2017

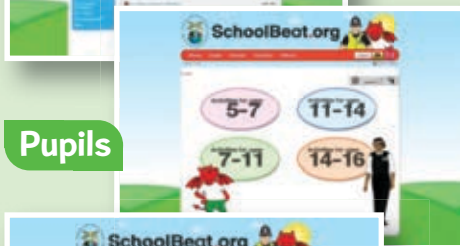
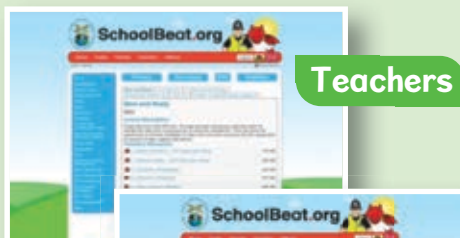
- **FP: Who? What? Where?**
- **UKS2: It's Your Choice**
- **KS3: Thinking About Drinking**
- **KS3: Double Trouble**
- **KS3: New and Nasty**

Five of our substance misuse lessons have been updated recently to reflect current legislation.

The lesson resources have also been refreshed to incorporate new learning opportunities and activities.

Double Trouble (a lesson previously part of KS4) has moved to KS3 to accommodate recent changes in the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme.

Remember also that we have follow-up resources on our website for:



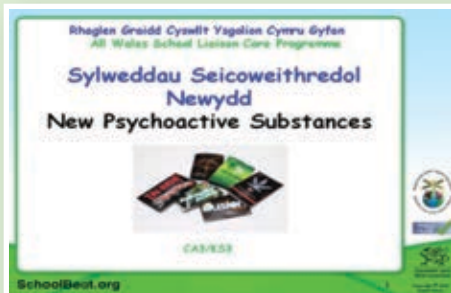
For more information ask your **School Community Police Officer (SCPO)** or visit www.schoolbeat.org

PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT 2016

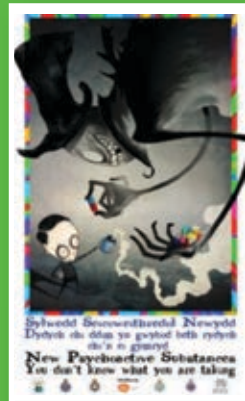
The Psychoactive Substances Act came into force on May the 26th 2016 and provides a blanket ban on the production, supply and importation of new psychoactive substances. This legislation makes new drugs that appear on the market illegal.

Head shop owners and other suppliers have had to adapt to the new law and now cannot sell potentially dangerous drugs. The Police have been working with local authorities to educate users and potential users about the new law and the risks of taking unknown substances.

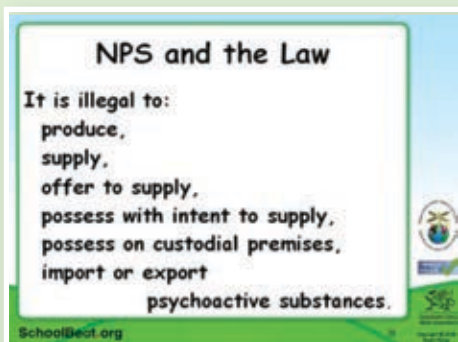
Officers have powers to stop and search people, vehicles and vessels, enter and search premises in accordance with a warrant, and to seize and destroy psychoactive substances.



The AWSLPC has recently updated its lesson on the harmful effects of New Psychoactive Substances which was launched back in



September 2015. Pupils learn what NPS are, the law around them, are empowered to resist peer pressure and know where to go for help and advice if they need it.



“ Forces are committed to reducing the harm caused by all drugs but we cannot do this alone; prevention, education and health service all have a crucial role to play ”

Commander Simon Bray (National Police Chief's Council Lead for New Psychoactive Substances)