

# Drug and Alcohol Screening Tool

**A**LTHOUGH many young people will try drugs and alcohol at some time, most do not progress beyond experimentation. However, research indicates that many factors can increase the risk of a young person moving from 'drug and alcohol use' to 'drug and alcohol misuse', whilst some protective factors can reduce these risks. Unless you are a specialist drug and alcohol worker it can be difficult to distinguish between use and misuse, and to accurately assess these risk factors. This tool should help.

To complete this form you do not need a comprehensive knowledge of drugs and alcohol but you may need to know how to contact your nearest drug and alcohol services for young people (see inside page). These services will be able to provide appropriate information, leaflets, guidance and support.

This tool is designed for use with young people aged under 19 years about whom there may be concerns regarding drug and/or alcohol use.

- It will not provide a comprehensive drug and alcohol misuse assessment
- It will indicate when specialist advice should be sought
- It will help identify risk factors.

## Defining the terms

**Drug** The term 'drug' is used to refer to any psychotropic substance, including illegal substances, illicit prescription and volatile substances (e.g. solvents)

**Drug and alcohol use** The consumption of a drug and/or alcohol by a young person. When the term 'use' is contrasted with 'misuse', 'use' means the consumption of a drug and/or alcohol that does not cause any perceptible immediate harm – even though it may carry some risk of harm

**Drug and alcohol misuse** Use of a drug or alcohol or combination of drugs and alcohol, that harms health or social functioning – either dependent use (physical or psychological) or use that is part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour

**Vulnerable group** Young people are at increased risk of drug and alcohol misuse if they belong to certain groups and this risk increases if there is membership of more than one group

**Protective factors** Increase a young person's resilience to the development of drug and/or alcohol misuse problems

**Risk factors** Increase the likelihood that drug and/or alcohol misuse will occur

Protective Factors	Risk Factors		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Positive temperament</li> <li>● Intellectual ability</li> <li>● Supportive family environment</li> <li>● Social support system</li> <li>● Caring relationship with at least one adult</li> <li>● In education/employment/training</li> </ul>	<b>1 Belonging to a 'Vulnerable' Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Young sex workers</li> <li>● Young offenders</li> <li>● Looked after children</li> <li>● Mental health problems</li> <li>● School non-attenders</li> <li>● Drug and alcohol misuse by parents</li> <li>● Abuse within the family</li> <li>● Homeless</li> </ul>	<b>2 Social &amp; Cultural Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● High levels of neighbourhood crime</li> <li>● High levels of poverty &amp; decay</li> <li>● Easy drug availability</li> <li>● Areas where there is widespread social acceptance of drug use</li> <li>● Lack of perception of the risks from drugs</li> </ul>	<b>3 Interpersonal &amp; Individual Risk Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Physiological &amp; psychological factors</li> <li>● Family dysfunction</li> <li>● Behavioural difficulties</li> <li>● Academic problems</li> <li>● Association with peers who use drugs</li> <li>● Early onset of drug and alcohol use</li> </ul>

## Every Child Matters - Change for Children

Reducing the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol amongst young people, especially those most vulnerable, is central to Stoke-on-Trent Safer City Partnership's drug and alcohol plans:

- Ensuring universal, quality drug and alcohol education and information is provided to all children and young people
- Ensuring targeted drug and alcohol early intervention, prevention, education, advice and support are provided to vulnerable young people
- Ensuring specialist drug and alcohol services are provided to young people with complex needs and their families

"Choosing not to take drugs is an aim within Every Child Matters Outcome – Be Healthy."

## This tool is designed for three main purposes:

- To help people make decisions about how to respond to drug and/or alcohol use by a young person
- To help people make decisions about how to respond to a young person affected by drug and/or alcohol misusing parents or siblings
- To allow a professional team to create a caseload profile and audit the prevalence of drug and/or alcohol use within their caseload

## Instructions

- Please complete a Common Assessment if you feel the young person has additional needs
- Complete the form by ticking the most appropriate responses. If in doubt, do **NOT** tick
- A scoring system is employed for each section. The scores should be added up and the total written below each section
- Once you have completed each section, refer to the scoring table (opposite)
- During the use of the screening tool – the practitioner may identify that a child is at risk of significant harm or has significant level of need that can only be met through the provision of statutory social care support

**In such cases the practitioner has a duty to follow their organisational child protection procedures.**

This form is divided into sections designed to assess risk factors regarding: drug and alcohol use, social situation/behaviour, general and psychological health

SECTION 1 Drug and Alcohol Use	
<b>Drug and Alcohol Use - Type</b>	
USE IN LAST 4 WEEKS	2 Alcohol
2	Amphetamine
2	Cannabis
4	Cocaine
4	Crack
4	Ecstasy
4	Heroin
4	Ketamine
4	LSD
4	Magic Mushrooms
6	Solvents/Gas/ Aerosols
4	Steroids
2	Other(s) please list (include misuse of prescribed drugs). Score 2 each
<b>Drug and Alcohol Use - Frequency</b>	
1	Occasional drug and alcohol use
2	Weekly drug and alcohol use
3	Daily drug and alcohol use
<b>Injecting</b>	
0	Not injecting
5	Currently/recently injecting
<b>Drug and Alcohol Use - Intoxication</b>	
0	Drug and alcohol use without loss of consciousness or aggression
2	Drug and alcohol use with loss of consciousness or aggression
2	Drug and alcohol use requiring attendance at A&E
<b>Contact with Other Drug and Alcohol Users</b>	
0	No drug and alcohol using friends
1	Some friends who use drugs and alcohol and some who don't
2	All friends use drugs and alcohol
<b>Family Drug and Alcohol Use</b>	
0	No known family drug and alcohol misuse
2	Known drug and alcohol misuse among close family member(s)/ carers
5	Significantly affected by someone else's drug and alcohol misuse

**TOTAL SECTION 1:**

Halo Client Identifier	
(for young people's drug and alcohol service use only)	

SECTION 2 Social Situation/Behaviour	
<b>Living Situation</b>	
0	No problems with accommodation
1	Problems with accommodation, insecure or inadequate housing
1	Looked after by Local Authority
6	Homeless
<b>Adult Support</b>	
0	Has supportive relationships with more than one adult
1	Has supportive relationship with one adult
2	Has no supportive relationships with adults
2	Problematic relationships (e.g. domestic violence at home)
<b>Occupation</b>	
0	In education /employment/ training
1	Truanted from school/at risk of school exclusion/ drug or alcohol related absences from work
2	School excluded /unemployed
<b>Criminal Involvement</b>	
0	No criminal involvement
1	At risk of involvement in the Criminal Justice System
2	Involved in Criminal Justice System or committing more serious crimes
<b>Sexual Behaviour</b>	
0	Age appropriate/safe sexual behaviour
2	Inappropriate/unsafe sexual behaviour
6	Commercial sex/abusive sexual relations
<b>Other</b>	
2	Debt as a result of drug and alcohol use

**TOTAL SECTION 2:**

SECTION 3 General and Psychological Health	
<b>General Health</b>	
0	Young person reports no significant health problems
1	Teeth problems
1	Stomach problems
1	Regular headaches
1	Difficulty sleeping
5	Chronic fatigue
5	Severe sleep problems
5	Self neglect
10	Extreme weight loss
10	Blackouts and /or memory loss
10	Fits/convulsions
10	Accidental/planned overdose
<b>Psychological Health</b>	
0	Young person reports no significant psychological problems
1	Low self esteem
1	Mild anxiety
1	Shyness
5	Eating disorder/ marked change in eating pattern (e.g. loss of appetite/ bingeing)
5	Frequent bouts of unhappiness/depression
5	Self harm
5	Severe anxiety/panic attacks
10	Suicide thoughts/attempts
10	Severe paranoia
10	Hallucinations (when not under the influence of drugs and alcohol)

**TOTAL SECTION 3:**

SCORING TABLE		
<b>SECTION 1: Drug and Alcohol Use</b>		
<b>Score 0-4</b>	<b>Score 5-7</b>	<b>Score 8+</b>
Consider giving drug information/ advice.	Refer to Young People's Drug Project or Dreams.	Refer to T3 Stoke-on-Trent Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service
<i>Please be aware that we cannot accept personal details without the young person's consent.</i>		
<b>SECTION 2: Social Situation/Behaviour</b>		
A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing drug and alcohol problems and should increase your levels of concern.		
<b>Score 0-1</b>	<b>Score 2-5</b>	<b>Score 6+</b>
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK Consider seeking advice from the Young People's Drug Project.	HIGH RISK Refer to Young People's Drug Project, or other relevant agency.
<b>SECTION 3: General and Psychological Health</b>		
A high score should increase your levels of concern. Please note that general and psychological health issues alone should not generate a referral to drug and alcohol services.		
<b>Score 0-4</b>	<b>Score 5-9</b>	<b>Score 10+</b>
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK Consider seeking advice from T3 Stoke-on-Trent Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, the Young People's Drug Project, Dreams or other relevant agency.	HIGH RISK Consider seeking advice from T3 Stoke-on-Trent Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, the Young People's Drug Project, Dreams or other relevant agency.

**Where to access confidential advice, support and further information**

<b>T3 Stoke-on-Trent Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service</b> T3 is a confidential service for young people under 19, living in Stoke-on-Trent, with complex drug and alcohol problems.	<b>Tel: 01782 221090</b>	<b>Text: 07507 411733</b>
<b>Young People's Drug Project</b> The Young People's Drug Project is a confidential drug and alcohol prevention, education and support service for young people under 19, living in Stoke-on-Trent.	<b>Tel: 01782 234195</b>	<b>Dreams</b> Dreams offers confidential individual and group support for young people aged 5 – 19 who have drug and/or alcohol misusing parents or siblings.
		<b>Tel: 01782 234195</b>

**For out of hours talk to FRANK (National Drugs Helpline) 0800 77 66 00 or visit [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)**

# Young People's Service Referral Form

This form is a referral for assessment by a young people's drug and alcohol service. The service will use this information to determine an appropriate course of action. This may result in the young person being offered some form of intervention/treatment or further advice and guidance being offered to the referrer. All information on completed forms sent to drug and alcohol services will be treated in accordance with their confidentiality policies - a copy of which is available on request.

(Exceptions to confidentiality include following Child Protection procedures).

## Please return to:

### T3 Stoke-on-Trent Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service

46 Roundwell Street, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 5AN

Fax: 01782 221099 Secure e-mail: stoke.t3@cri.org.uk

or

### Young People's Drug Project / Dreams

Queensbury Centre, Queensbury Road, Normacot, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 1QZ

Fax: 01782 234195 Secure e-mail: drugs.project@stoke.gcsx.gov.uk

<b>Young Person</b>				
Does a young person have a common assessment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (if unknown please contact 01782 231967)				
If no, please undertake a Pre-Assessment Checklist				
If yes, please give details (including lead agency and name of worker)				
Does the young person consent to this referral? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If no, contact the relevant young people's service for advice)				
Does the young person consent to the information on the screening tool being shared with the young people's drug and alcohol service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Name & address of young person <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female				
Postcode				
Contact Number				
Date of Birth				
Ethnicity (tick one)				
<b>White</b>	<b>Black/ Black British</b>	<b>Asian/ Asian British</b>	<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Other Ethnic Group</b>
British <input type="checkbox"/>	Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	Indian <input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese <input type="checkbox"/>
Irish <input type="checkbox"/>	African <input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black African <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/>	White and Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	(please specify)
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Mixed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Have the young person's parents/carers been informed of the referral for assessment? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Does a parent/carer consent to the young person attending an appointment if offered? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Consent is not essential for a referral to be made)				
Name & contact number of parent/guardian				
Who does the young person live with?				
What does the young person want from this service?				
Young person's availability for appointments				
What is the best way to contact the young person?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Text <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Phone				
Young person's signature				

<b>Other Agencies Involved</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address &amp; Contact Number</b>
GP		
School		
Social care		
CAMHS		
YOS		
Connexions		
Other – please state		
Child protection concerns Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, please give details (including lead agency and name of worker) and action taken		
Would this young person pose any significant risk to themselves, staff or others? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, please give details		

<b>Reasons for Referral</b>
Please add any additional background information that may be relevant to the assessment of this young person, (eg: Is the young person living with a drug using parent/carer/sibling?).

<b>Referrer</b>
Date of referral
Referrer's name
Referrer's agency
Address
Contact number
Have you received drug and alcohol screening tool training? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>What happens next?</b>
On receipt of referral an initial assessment will be offered to the young person (within seven working days).