



Dangerous Drugs Networks

For professionals that work with young people

Have you noticed a change in the young person you are working with?

- New friends that have the potential to be a bad influence?
- Behaving differently or out of character?
- Developed a new attitude?
- Unexplained injuries?
- Continually late to school or forgetting to do homework?
- Continually tired?
- New expensive possessions such as trainers, jewellery, mobile phone or designer clothes.
- Become withdrawn?
- Changes at home that might make them more vulnerable?





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Dangerous Drugs Networks (DDNs)

DDNs are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drug distribution networks. These criminals, often from outside the county, use the vulnerability of a person to tempt them. They quickly become a part of this network and become indebted to the gang with no escape. DDNs are often violent or threatening so early intervention is vitally important to protect the individuals.

The signs

Initially the person might not be aware that they are being targeted as they will be lured in by the offer of free food, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, clothes, expensive items or accommodation.

It can be very difficult to identify a young person who is being targeted by DDNs. Professionals working with young people will know that individual and there may be some warning signs. The message is to use professional judgement to help flag this up early.

It maybe that they have changed over a period of time or that there has been a very rapid change in their behaviour and attitude that is completely out of character. There may be a very simple answer however do not ignore the fact that they might be being influenced by a third party which could potentially have very severe consequences.

Where do I go for help?

