

Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST)



- Screening tool for young people affected by drugs, alcohol and solvents
- Referral form to Str8 Up young person's drug and alcohol service

Although many young people will try drugs 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 use' to drug misuse', whilst some protective factors can reduce these risks. Unless you are a specialist drug worker it can be difficult to distinguish between use and misuse, and to accurately assess these risk factors. This tool should help.

DUST is designed for use with young people about whom there may be concerns regarding drug/alcohol use.

- It will not provide a comprehensive substance use 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 drugs and volatile substances (e.g., solvents).
Substance	Young people's drug use is often linked together with alcohol use. Drugs and alcohol together are collectively termed substances.
Drug use	The consumption of a drug by a young person. When the term use is contrasted with 'misuse', 'use' means the consumption of a drug that does not cause any perceptible immediate harm – even though it may carry some risk of harm.
Drug misuse	Use of a drug or combination of substances, 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 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 misuse problems.
Risk factors	Increase the likelihood that drug misuse will occur.

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

The under 18's drug and alcohol strategy in Solihull

Every Child Matters: Change for Children

Reducing drug use by young people, particularly the most vulnerable, is central to Solihull's drug strategy. Choosing not to take drugs is an aim within Every Child Matters Outcome, Be Healthy.

Within Solihull there are four themes to our strategy;

- 1. To ensure all young people receive effective drug education.**
- 2. To focus on prevention and early intervention for those most at risk.**
- 3. To provide effective and timely treatment services.**
- 4. To ensure parents and carers are involved and supported.**

Young person's screening form

This tool is designed for two main purposes:

- To help people who have to make decisions about how to respond to substance use by a young person.
- To allow a professional team to create a caseload profile and audit the prevalence of substance use within their caseload.

The form is divided into sections designed to assess risk factors regarding:

- Substance use
- Social situation/behaviour
- General and psychological health

Instructions

- Complete the form by ticking the most appropriate responses. If in doubt, do **NOT** tick.
- A scoring system is employed by 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 (top right).

Scoring table

Section 1: Substance use

Score 0-4	Score 5-6	Score 7+
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
Consider giving drugs information/ advice	Consider seeking advice from Str8 Up (see below) <i>However, please be aware that we cannot accept personal details without the young person's consent.</i>	Refer to Str8 Up (see below)

Section 2: Social situation/behaviour

A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing substance misuse problems and should increase your level of concern.

Score 0-1	Score 2-5	Score 6+
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
Consider giving drugs information/ advice	Consider seeking advice from Str8 Up	Consider seeking advice from Str8 Up or other relevant agency

Section 3: General and psychological health

A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing substance misuse problems and should increase your level of concern.

Score 0-1	Score 2-5	Score 6+
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
Consider giving drugs information/ advice	Consider seeking advice from Str8 Up	Consider seeking advice from Str8 Up or other relevant agency

Where to access confidential advice, consultancy and further information:

Str8 Up Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service

Keepers Lodge, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood B37 7RS
Telephone 0121 788 5390
Email: str8up@solihull.gov.uk

For out of hours talk to FRANK 0800 77 66 00
or visit www.talktofrank.com

Section 1: Substance use

Drug Type	
2	Alcohol
2	Amphetamine
2	Cannabis
4	Cocaine
4	Crack
4	Ecstasy
4	Heroin
4	LSD
4	Magic mushrooms
4	Solvents/Gas/Aerosols
2	Other(s) please list (include misuse of prescribed drugs). Score 2 each
Substance use - frequency	
1	Occasional drug/alcohol use
2	Regular drug/alcohol use
Injecting	
0	Non-injecting
5	Currently/recently injecting
Substance use - intoxication	
0	Substance use without loss of consciousness or aggression
0	Substance use with loss of consciousness or aggression
Contact with other substance users	
0	No drug/alcohol using friends
1	Some friends who use drugs/alcohol and some who don't
2	All friends use drugs/alcohol
Family Drug/Alcohol Use	
0	No known family drug/alcohol misuse
2	Known drug/alcohol misuse among close family member(s)/carers
5	Significantly affected by someone else's drug/alcohol misuse
Total Section 1	

Section 2: Social situation/behaviour

Living Situation	
0	No problems with accommodation
1	Problems with accommodation, insecure or inadequate housing
1	Looked after by local authority
6	Homeless
Adult Support	
0	Has supportive relationships with more than one adult
1	Has supporting relationship with one adult
2	Has no supportive relationships with adults
Occupation	
0	In education/employment/training
1	Truanted from school/at risk of school exclusion/drug or alcohol related absences from school
2	School excluded/unemployed
Criminal Involvement	
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
Sexual Behaviour	
0	Age appropriate/safe sexual behaviour
2	Inappropriate/unsafe sexual behaviour
6	Commercial sex/abusive sexual behaviour
Total Section 2	

Section 3: General and Psychological health

General Health	
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	Pregnant
10	Fitting
10	Accidental/planned overdose
Psychological Health	
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 (eg, loss of appetite/binging)
5	Frequent bouts of unhappiness/depression
5	Self harm
5	Severe anxiety/panic attacks
10	Suicide attempts
10	Severe paranoia
10	Hallucinations (when not under the influence of substances)
Total Section 3	

This tool is for guidance. It is intended to assist with decision making about how to respond to substance use by a young person. It does not remove the need for professional judgement which should take account of factors such as the age and maturity of the young person.



Working together for a safer Solihull

Str8 Up referral form

This form is a referral for specialist assessment by Str8 Up

Str8 Up will use this information to determine an appropriate course of action.

All information on completed DUST forms sent to Str8 Up 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:

Str8 Up Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service
Keepers Lodge, Chelmsley Road,
Chelmsley Wood B37 7RS

Tel: 0121 788 5390

Email: str8up@solihull.gov.uk

Young person

Does the young person consent to this referral? Yes No
(If no, contact Young Persons' Service for advice)

Name and address of young person Male Female

Name

Address

Postcode

Contact telephone number

Date of birth

Ethnicity (tick one)

White	Black/ Black British	Asian/ Asian British	Mixed	Other Ethnic Group
<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> Other Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian	

Have the young person's parents/carers been informed of the referral for assessment? Yes No

Does a parent/carer consent to the young person attending an appointment if offered? Yes No
(Consent is not essential for a referral to be made)

Name and contact number of Parent/Guardian

Name

Contact number

Young person's expectations

Young person's availability for appointments

Referrer

Date of referral

Referrer's name

Referrer's agency

Address

Contact number

Other agencies involved

Name	Agency	Address and contact number
	GP	

Child protection concerns Yes No

If yes, please give details (including lead agency and name of worker)

Would this young person pose any significant risk to staff or others? Yes No

If yes, please give details

Reasons for referral

Please add any additional background information that may be relevant to the assessment of this young person.