Children and young person’s substance misuse team

Volatile Substance Abuse
Workshop Content

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Introduction

• Working with children up to 19th birthday (and beyond if LAC or SEN)
• Voluntary service integrated into the FSS with one worker based at each centre.
• Structured interventions tailored to the YP’s needs.
• Focal and Hidden Harm Client.
What is VS

- VS – Volatile Substances, aka “solvents”
- Gases, certain glues and chemicals (over 2000 products can be abused)
- VS Abuse = “the deliberate inhalation of a volatile substance to achieve a change in mental state”.

Richmond Fellowship
Making Recovery Reality
Common Street Names

Buzzing  Sniffing  Huffing  Tooting
Buffing  Boffing  Blasting
Glading  Chroming  Poor man's Pot
Bagging  Schoosing  Sticky
Mooning  Dusting  Gaslight

“VSA is too dangerous – don't do it”  ACMD
Effects and Dangers

DESIRED EFFECTS
• Euphoria Exhilaration and Excitation
• Hallucinations
• Escapism

Short Term effects:
• Dizziness
• Drowsiness
• Bizarre Behaviour
• Confusion
• Disorientation
• Blurred vision
Effects and Dangers

RISKS

- Sudden Death Syndrome
- Cardiac Arrhythmia – this is when the heart becomes oversensitive to adrenaline and beats ineffectively.
- Anoxia/hypoxia - deprive the brain of oxygen
- Vagal Inhibition: rapid expansion of the gas (often misconceived as freezing of the throat)
- Respiratory Centre Depression.
- Explosion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqunSnxmr-I
Effects and Dangers

Car catches fire due to butane.....
Who

• Non-discriminatory, can effect anyone.
• Emerging prevalence amongst women.
• Popular with young people.....
• 60 people a year die from VS abuse.
Who

Kirsty Lennan

A WOMAN who died after turning herself into a human fireball in a coffee shop was named last night as mother-of-one Kirsty Jane Lennon.

The tragic 33-year-old set herself alight by accident inside the toilets of Costa coffee in Edinburgh's South Bridge on February 3.

She suffered 30 per cent burns to her body but passed away on Friday at St John's

Kerrie Louise Oxley, Aged 33
How

- Sprayed directly into the mouth
- Sprayed through a cloth
- Inhaled from a bag
- Inhaled straight from the container
- Material dipped in the solvent then held over nose and mouth
- Enclosed space – bag over head
- Inhaled from a balloon/mask

- Vapour phase taps....

- .....Bag on valve systems
Why

- Easy to conceal: Quick to recover from effects, Products are easy to hide within the home.
- Easy to access
- Risk is often misunderstood
- Cheap
Signs of Use

- Bleached clothing; particularly cuffs.
- Secretive behaviour
- Excessive use of household products/gases
- Lips, mouths cold burns, discoloured teeth (indicative of heavy use)
- User would appear drunk/high, passes quickly
You enter a room and witness that the individual is actively inhaling the butane gas from a deodorant aerosol. They are under the influence and incoherent.

Knowing what you know about the risks and dangers of inhaling, what are you going to do immediately and post incident?
How to Help

• Don’t panic; remain calm so as not to panic them.
• Open windows and ventilate the room.
• Monitor; ensure they are conscious and calm.

**Contact 999 in an emergency. 111 if unsure.**

• Discuss in a calm manner once they have sobered up (5mins +); what happened, why etc.
• Consider professional intervention from Aquarius – call us for advice.
Activity

• Quiz Time