**Novel Psychoactive Substances “Legal Highs”**

- The Psychoactive Substances Bill was proposed by the Conservative government’s election manifesto to create a blanket ban on all new psychoactive substances.
- The Bill had its 3rd reading at the House of Lords on the 20th of July, 2015 and was passed and sent to the House of Commons for consideration.
- Under this Bill the production and supply of any substance intended for human consumption and capable of having a psychoactive effect would be an offence, with a maximum sentence of 7 years imprisonment. However personal possession of psychoactive substances is not classified as a crime under this Bill.
- The introduction of this Bill is due to the inability of current legislation to keep up with the rapid development of so-called “legal highs”, which mimic the effects of substances such as Cocaine, Ecstasy and Cannabis.
- There has been a dramatic increase of new psychoactive substances being detected. Do you ask parents if they have tried any of these substances, are you aware of the risks of these substances? Why not consider attending some Legal Highs Training. There is a course running on the 10th of September - “The myths around legal highs (research chemicals) - The recent trends amongst drug users”. You can book onto this via TDP.

**Drug and Alcohol Testing**

- Wandsworth CSS have access to several different drug and alcohol testing options, such as saliva drug tests, hair strand tests and an alcohol breathalyser.
- However these testing options do come with limitations that workers need to be mindful of; for example, saliva drug test only detect drug use in the last 12 hours- 2 days of the test being completed. Therefore I would recommend random drug testing is completed when possible.
- Hair Strand Testing provides a historic test of drug use, and usually 1cm of hair length approximates to a one month window of detection. Usually 3cm is the length of hair analysed which gives a result of drug use in the last three months. If head hair is not available other body hair can be used, but this will give a different detection window as body hair grows more slowly. However these tests do not specify exactly how many units of alcohol the person has drank during this time period.
- Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of these testing options further.

I am currently accepting referrals to complete some specialist direct work with children who have a parent with drug and/or alcohol issues. This direct work will focus specifically on parental substance misuse to help support children with issues that may arise because of their parents’ substance misuse. If you know a child that may benefit from this, please contact me.

**COAP (Children of Addicted Parents)**

Is an online community resource for children aged 11+ that are affected by Parental Substance Misuse. This service includes online peer mentoring and counselling.

http://www.coap.org.uk/frontpage