



Outreach Service

Substance Misuse Awareness Programme

Mission Statement:

'Educating and Informing Young People of the Risks, the Law and Health Implications surrounding Substance Misuse'

The Substance Misuse Awareness Programme has been designed as a targeted support intervention aimed at educating young people of the risks associated with substance misuse through the use of planned intervention.

Our aim is to work in partnership with secondary schools and academies across the London Borough of Bexley to establish a programme which educates young people in school and supports referrals to external partners for those individual requiring more specialised support.

This objective of the programme is in keeping with the Outreach Service and New Horizons Federation key priority areas and the wider strategic vision of the local authority to safeguard all children and reduce permanent exclusion.

Programme Delivery

Each programme is delivered within the home school over 6 weeks and facilitated by a qualified Outreach and Reintegration staff member. The ratio of staff: student numbers provides opportunities for discussion, debate and reflection on key issues and questions arising throughout the workshop.

The programme is inclusive and appropriate for all mainstream students. Where a young person has special education needs or has a diagnosis of a specific disorder we ask a member of staff from the home school attends to ensure the student is supported throughout the programme.

Topics include but are not limited to the following;

- Facts, Effects and Symptoms of Substance Misuse;
- Drug Categories;
- The Law;
- Drug Schedules;
- Drugs, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Effects on the Wider Family, Friends and Future Opportunities.

Safeguarding of Children and Young People

It is expected that all students attending the programmes adhere to the expectations of behaviour made clear by the facilitator. Discussion and active participation is encouraged and low level behaviour will be addressed by staff to allow students to re-engage with the objective of the project.

Where students fail to re-engage or actively disrupt the learning of others, they will be removed from the workshop or session and returned to their usual academic timetable.

Where concerns are identified by staff or disclosures made by students, safeguarding procedures will be followed. All outreach staff carry yellow Cause for Concern forms which are completed and submitted to the designated safeguarding lead and will be followed up to ensure an outcome is achieved. *For full safeguarding processes and procedures, please refer to the Horizons Academy/ Home School Safeguarding Policy.*

Referral Process

Referrals are accepted from mainstream secondary schools and academies located in the London Borough of Bexley and neighbouring local authorities.

Referral forms and risk assessment must be completed for all students and acceptance on the programme will be at the discretion of the Substance Misuse Coordinator or Head of Service. Information regarding external agency or social care involvement must be disclosed to ensure individual suitability and to safeguard all participants.

Further Information:

Please contact the Outreach Service for further information or to request a Substance Misuse Programme.

Substance Misuse Coordinators:

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New Horizons Federation Website

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