

## Resource availability

Is there easy access to the tools and drug and alcohol information leaflets for all staff carrying out drug and alcohol screening and assessment?

## Record keeping

Are staff clear about organisational procedures such as the confidentiality policy and how this relates to recording drug and alcohol screening and assessment?

## Policies and procedures

Do you need to write a policy or procedure on drug and alcohol screening and assessment or do you need to add a specific reference to drug and alcohol screening and assessment in existing intervention policies?

## Job descriptions

Now that staff deliver Tier 2 drug and alcohol screening, assessment and interventions – is this reflected in their job descriptions?

# Assessing and Responding to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Use Managers Briefing

## A guide for supporting the implementation of Somerset Young People's Drug and Alcohol Screening and Assessment Tools in your work setting

You are receiving this as you approved a member of your staff to attend the Assessing and Responding to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Use - using the Somerset Screening and Assessment Tools training recently. This guide aims to support you to help your staff incorporate the training into their routine practice.

### What is young people's drug and alcohol screening?

Screening is a relatively short and simple process that can be done by staff who are not drug and alcohol specialists. Doing this simple screening will help your staff:

- To be able to identify the early signs of drug and alcohol misuse in young people
- To be able to discuss drug and alcohol use with young people
- To be proactive and not wait for problems to escalate
- To know how to respond if a young person needs additional or specialist help

If the Screening Tool identifies a young person as medium risk they should be offered a Tier 2 intervention using the young people's Drug and Alcohol Assessment Tool.

### What is young people's drug and alcohol assessment?

The core Drug and Alcohol Assessment will help staff:

- Explore a young person's use or misuse of substances
- Inform young people how to reduce harm and help them make an action plan for change.

It is to be used alongside the Revised Complexity Index tool. This will help staff to match the best interventions for the young person against their needs.

The outcome of completing the core Drug and Alcohol Assessment Tool and the Revised Complexity Index tool will guide staff to other tools in a 'tool box' to help the young person achieve their goals and prevent young people's substance misuse from escalating and getting embedded in their lives.

Your agency's involvement in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use is vital

There is more information in '**Training Transfer - Making staff training work for your staff and service users - A guide for supervisors**'.

This has been developed by The Training Exchange who are commissioned to deliver training for SDAP. This can be found on the SDAP website [www.somersetdap.org.uk](http://www.somersetdap.org.uk)

For more information on any of the issues raised in this briefing contact: Somerset Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP)  
Tel: 01823 357 111  
Email: [sdap@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sdap@somerset.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.somersetdap.org.uk](http://www.somersetdap.org.uk)

For more information about drugs and alcohol and services for young people, adults, families and carers, and contact details, go to the SDAP website: [www.somersetdap.org.uk](http://www.somersetdap.org.uk)



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## The Training

All staff who have been trained will know:

- How to identify risk and resilience factors for young people's drug and alcohol misuse
- How to use the young people's drug and alcohol screening and assessment tools
- How to access a toolkit of resources for drug and alcohol interventions
- How and when to refer individuals to specialists

All staff will leave the training with a workbook which includes detailed information to increase knowledge and understanding of substances, their use and effects.

They will also receive a Guide to using the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Screening Tool, a Guide to using the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Assessment Tool and copies of all the relevant tools.

## The Tools

### Screening:

There are three key tools required to carry out screening for drug and alcohol use with young people:

- The Screening Tool (parts 1, 2 and 3)
- AUDIT C (to further explore alcohol risks)
- CRAFFT (to further explore alcohol and drugs risks)

### Assessment:

- The core Drug and Alcohol Assessment Tool
- The Revised Complexity Index tool
- A range of additional tools, which may be used:
  - for educational purposes,
  - to provide a more thorough assessment based on any concerns raised
  - and /or to support action planning and to enhance motivation.Some of the tools are particularly useful for visualisation.

Copies of the tools can be downloaded from the SDAP website [www.somersetdap.org.uk](http://www.somersetdap.org.uk)

Workers will also need to have on hand drug and alcohol information leaflets, e.g.

- Look out 4UR M8s 'z' card
- The Truth about Drugs - Know the Score

These are available from the Somerset Health Promotion Resources Service free of charge – see website: <http://www.hp.somerset.nhs.uk/>

## Some Suggestions for Supporting Staff

### As soon as possible after training

Make sure staff:

- read and become familiar with both the screening and assessment tool guides

- become familiar with the screening and assessment tools
- reflect on learning in the workbooks

## Putting drug and alcohol responses into practice – what does that mean?

National research indicates that the risk of problematic drug and alcohol use is particularly high for vulnerable young people. Workers will have been trained to identify risk/vulnerability as well as protective/resilience factors.

Since the Health Advisory Service review 2001, responses to young people's drug and alcohol use has been defined by four tiers.

Your staff member has been trained and equipped to offer drug and alcohol interventions at Tier 2. This means they are able to:

- use the Drug and Alcohol Screening or Assessment Tools
- offer advice and information on drugs and alcohol
- deliver brief interventions to support and help young people identify and make changes in their use of drugs/alcohol and find alternatives
- offer harm reduction advice
- refer to more specialist services such as Tier 3 drug and alcohol treatment to help a young person with their drug or alcohol use and give support to access those services

- continue to support the young person while they are seeing another worker about their drug/alcohol misuse
- undertake relapse prevention work to support a young person once in treatment or once they have been discharged from treatment

## Targets

SDAP are keen to understand how much drug and alcohol work with young people is taking place across Somerset, so as staff are trained to use the Screening and Assessment Tools we would welcome a conversation about reporting activity. The more we know about what is going on and the outcomes that are achieved from this work, the better.

## Supervision

During supervision, you might like to ask the following:

- What did staff learn on the training?
- How will it affect their practice?
- To what extent have staff had an opportunity to put the training into practice?
- How has this been?
- How could interventions be improved?
- What support might staff need to carry out drug and alcohol screening and assessment?

It may be helpful to attend the training yourself – to book a place go to the SDAP website: [www.somersetdap.org.uk](http://www.somersetdap.org.uk)