

Cannabis Based Vape Products

If you are concerned about your child and vaping this guidance may help you to talk to them about it.



Things to think about

Whilst tricky, make sure the young person knows you are there for them and that your concerns come from caring and making sure they are OK. This provides the opportunity for a good discussion. It is always helpful to listen to what your son or daughter says, so they feel heard. This can often reassure you. If you remain concerned however, there are some people and organisations at the end of the information provided here that may be worth contacting.

Remember that most young people do not vape. Only a small number of young people who do vape use cannabis based vapes. **Your son or daughter may not be interested in cannabis-based vapes and not be inclined to try at all.**

When talking about alcohol / drugs, what we say can be influenced by our emotions and personal beliefs that do not always reflect what other people see or experience. This can mean that the young person you are speaking to may not find the views relevant to them. In some cases it can achieve the opposite effect to what you may have wanted.

Research tells us that when talking to young people about sensitive issues it is helpful to be as factual as possible so that the 'message' is credible to them and so makes sense to the young person. This does not mean you need to know everything about the subject, but it helps to know something. You will find some useful pieces of information in this leaflet.

These discussions are not easy for anyone and, in the end, particularly in families and with people you love, you must make the call on how you wish to address this issue. You can choose if you use all, any, or none of this advice.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Most young people do not vape.
- Most young people who have tried vaping don't go on to use regularly and those who do tend to use flavour only or nicotine based vape products.
- Selling restrictions mean that selling vape products to under 18s is illegal. The restriction is like alcohol in that whilst it is illegal to sell to an under 18, it is not illegal for an under 18, to use a vape.
- If you are aware of shops / outlets that sell vapes and vape products (for example, vape liquids) to under 18s, you could report it to Trading Standards using this email: tradingstandards@devon.gov.uk .
- If a young person is vaping with legal nicotine vapes to help them switch from smoking tobacco this is substantially less risky. Note that any young person aged 12 and above who believes that they are dependent on nicotine can seek support from Livewell South West Stop Smoking Service.

SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED UNDER THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

- A small proportion of young people who have ever vaped will have used cannabis-based products.
- In recent incidents young people believed they were using one of the cannabis-based products known as fact, it was not cannabis based. It was something like a drug called Spice. The technical name for these is sy



South Dartmoor Community College Safeguarding bulletin



cannabinoid receptor agonist (SCRA). An SCRA is not cannabis (the word cannabinoid does make this confusing) but a substance made by people.

- Both THC and SCRA's are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act and so are illegal.

LEGAL CANNABIS VAPING PRODUCTS

- Some cannabis vaping products can be legal, for example, a form of cannabis called CBD, sometimes referred to as medical cannabis. Because this is legal, there are regulations that must be met to ensure quality and safety.
- CBD is mainly associated with reducing anxiety, stress, reducing inflammation and pain.
- CBD is not a psychotropic substance, that is, it does not get you 'high / stoned'.
- If you are aware of shops / outlets that sell CBD to under 18s you could report it to Trading Standards using email: tradingstandards@devon.gov.uk.

THC / SCRA

- THC / SCRA substances are psychotropic substances, associated with getting high / stoned.
- THC / SCRA vaping products can come in several forms, for example, a disposable vape device or in a liquid form that can be used to add to some vaping devices.
- Because these are illegal, there is no regulation and quality control. Therefore, they hold a much higher and unpredictable risk if used.
- THC / SCRA vape products are only available from an illegal market. This can lead to unknown strengths and unknown ingredients in the liquid. There can be unexpected outcomes when using these substances; sometimes these could make someone feel worried, scared and / or unwell.
- Illegal supply can mean possible exposure to wider criminal behaviour.
- Illegal status of THC and SCRA means possession or supply is a crime under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- Given these factors and incidents where young people have become unwell, vape products claiming to be SCRA (e.g., spice) should be avoided.
- If someone you know is determined to use these substances, advice from SHARP (see below) is strongly advised.

The best way to reduce any risk of harm is not to use.

School Policy

The entire school premises are a designated no smoking area. Students are not permitted to smoke, possess cigarettes, tobacco products or e-cigarettes/vapes on site nor on the way to and from school.

- Students, who are found with tobacco, smoking in or around the site or seen in association with other students smoking, will be taken to student Reception.
- Parent/Carer will be informed.
- Any tobacco or smoking paraphernalia will be confiscated and destroyed.

Vaping on school site	1 day suspension
Found to be associating with students vaping/smoking	Internal suspension
Under the influence of substances	5-day Suspension

Contacts

Contacts	Why Contact	Tel:	Web Link	Email
School	Worry linked to school	01364 352230	South Dartmoor Community College - HOME	SWGfL Whisper - Report
SHARP: Young Peoples Specialist Substance Service	Advise for you – talking	01752 434343		THCPLTD.SHARP@nhs.net
Devon Early Help and SEND Advice Line	Support or advice about your family or situation		www.devonscp.org.uk/early-help/	
Young Devon			Young Devon Changing the odds in favour of young people	
Police	Concern about illegal issues	101	Contact us Devon & Cornwall Police (devon-cornwall.police.uk)	
FRANK	Information on substances		Vapes FRANK (talktofrank.com)	
Livewell South West	Help to stop smoking for anyone aged 12 and above		Livewell Southwest We support people to lead independent, healthy lives	