

NGAGE
with **aquarius**

Learning Objectives

- Increase awareness of drug use in Northamptonshire
- Explore impact on young people
- Understand the link between D&A misuse, county lines and gangs
- Learn about NGAGE and how to refer to them

Exploitation

Noun:

The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work e.g. the exploitation of children to sell or move drugs.

Synonyms:

taking advantage, making use, abuse of, misuse, ill treatment, unfair treatment, bleeding dry, wringing.

What is CDE?

Child Drug Exploitation (CDE) is a form of abuse that occurs when an individual or group takes advantages of an imbalance of power to pressurise, manipulate or deceive someone under the age of 18 to become involved in the manufacture, distribution or supply (dealing) of illegal or controlled substances.

Exploitation

It's still exploitation even if the activity appears consensual (someone has agreed to or wants to do it.)

Exploitation can involve promise based methods of compliance including money and clothing however this is often accompanied by violence or threat of violence.

It can be carried out by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; It is typified by some sort of power and risk imbalance in favour of those carrying out the exploitation.



No sick or holiday pay provided. 18 hours working days. Always on call. Handling hazardous materials.

Working in unsafe environments.

Need to provide own safety equipment.

Danger of injury or death.

NOW HIRING

PHARMACEUTICAL DISTRIBUTION AND SALES

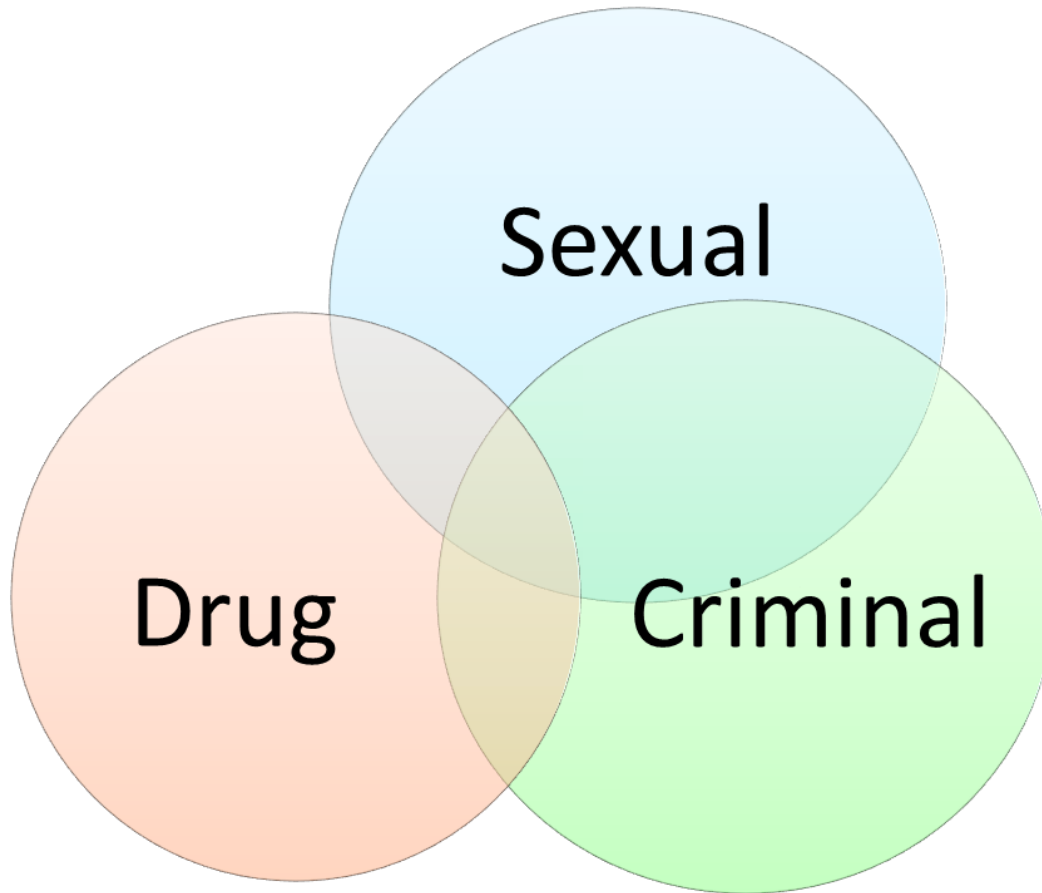
- £100 starting daily rate
- Earn up to £1000 per day with promotion
- On the job training provided
- No qualifications necessary
- Mobile phone included
- Potential to travel round the country (accommodation provided)
- Opportunity to network and meet new people
- Only under 18's need apply
- Applicants will need to attend a workshop.

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For more details contact: **01604 633848**
or: ypnorthamptonshire@aquarius.org.uk

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Exploitation



Pros and Cons

- Money
- Glamour
- Status
- Respect
- Clothes/tech/phones etc
- Seems easy
- Free drugs
- Friendship
- Protection
- Excitement
- Being good at something



- Getting on the wrong side of the law
- Paranoia –looking over your shoulder
- Stress
- On call 24/7
- Leading a double life
- Never feeling safe
- Short lived
- Increased risk of violence, being jumped, jail, death, robbery, arrest
- Not being able to move freely around the town, being in the wrong area (slipping.)
- Family at risk
- Criminal record
- Issues at school
- Being asked to do things you feel uncomfortable with
- Family/friends finding out
- Being in disputes with others
- Debt bondage

Why do people take drugs?

- Enjoyment
- Relaxation
- Escapism
- Peer pressure
- Rebellion
- Instant gratification
- Boredom
- Self medication
- Celebration
- Commiseration
- Grief
- Shock
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Voices
- Sleep

Substance trends

Cannabis 51%

Alcohol 29%

Ecstasy 7%

Cocaine 6%

POMs 2.5% (prescription & over the counter medications)

Cannabis



Alcohol



Risks associated with underage drinking

Brain Development

During childhood and teenage years, the brain is still developing. Adding alcohol to that process can **affect memory function, reactions, learning ability and attention span** – all especially important during school years. Drinking could affect performance at school.



Alcohol Poisoning

Anyone who drinks a lot in a short space of time can suffer alcohol poisoning. The level of alcohol gets so high that **the brain's vital functions are blocked**. People who **slip into an alcohol coma** may die by **choking on their own vomit**. Nearly 4000 children were hospitalised with alcohol poisoning last year.



Accidents and Injuries

Alcohol can **reduce a young person's mental and physical abilities, affecting judgment and co-ordination**. Research shows adolescents who tested positive for alcohol were more likely to get injured or have accidents than non-drinkers. And they're more likely to be a passenger in a drink-driving incident.



Aggression and Violence

Children and teenagers who drink have **less self-control and their brains struggle to recognise 'warning signs'**. This can lead to aggression and fights. Evidence shows there's a **greater risk of being involved in violence and serious vandalism** when alcohol is consumed. This could lead to arrest and a criminal record.



Drug Use

Underage drinking is at times **linked to harmful behaviours like taking illicit drugs**. Compared to non-drinkers, underage drinkers are more likely to smoke tobacco, use cannabis or use other hard drugs. And this link has been found even if they get drunk on just one occasion.



Unprotected Sex

When young people drink their **decision-making skills are affected and they're more likely to take big risks** – like having unprotected sex. That can lead to **sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy**.



Liver Damage

Young people who drink regularly are **at risk of damaging their livers without realising**. The warning signs only show after a few years. In Britain, people have died with alcoholic liver disease in their twenties.



Appearance and Side Effects

Research shows that underage drinkers are more likely to **suffer from a range of health issues** including major weight gain or weight loss, bad skin, disturbed sleep and headaches.



Mental Health

Alcohol doesn't just affect young people physically. Evidence points to **alcohol misuse and mental disorders being closely related**. In other words, young people who drink excessively may be more likely to also have **disturbed mental health, even self-harm**.



Vulnerability

During puberty young people may have an **increased tendency to experiment and take risks**. Adding alcohol to the mix can put them in **vulnerable or dangerous situations**. For example, over a third of 16 and 17 year-olds have walked home alone at night whilst drunk.




Education and Truancy

The stats show **underage drinking makes performing well at school less likely**. Evidence reveals that children who start to drink by age 13 are more likely to go on to have worse grades, to skip school or be excluded from school.



Pyramid of gang involvement



Organised Criminal Groups

Groups where crime is for personal gain, and is probably their main occupation. These groups operate in the illegal market place.

'Urban Street' Gangs

Mostly comprised of young people for whom crime and violence is an essential part of the group's identity.

Peer Groups

Small unorganised groups who share the same space and a common history. Their involvement in crime will mostly be at a low level and will not be important to the identity of the group.

County Lines

A person or group from an urban area, crosses to rural/county areas to set up a base to deal. (usually Heroin & Crack)

Violence is used to establish and secure drug line and remove competition. Lines are underpinned by exploitation of vulnerable people.

Once established, younger gang members, associates (12-17) run county lines. Can earn £500+ per week if not in debt to the gang.

Evan's story



GROOMING – Spotting the signs

- Episodes of running away/going missing
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts or mobile phone calls
- Relationships with controlling, older people or gang association
- Leaving home or care without explanation
- Significant decline in school performance
- Significant changes in emotional wellbeing
- Physical injuries/ self-harming
- Parental concerns
- Excluded from school/ poor school attendance (Absent)
- Breakdown in relationships with family and friends

Questions?

NGAGE – support to make positive choices around your drug and alcohol use
01604 633 848

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Help, Support, Advice

- **Childline** 0800 1111
- **Gangline** 01375 483 239/07753 351 256
- **The Voice** 0300 303 1965 <http://voicenorthants.org/>
- **CIRV** - If you're in a gang and want to get out ring
07539 183975 24 hrs a day 7 days a week.

<http://aimonline.org.uk>