

Substance Use Education

Stage: Senior	Lesson: Drug Laws
Resources Required for Lesson: Printed off scenarios	
Main Activities: Remind the group that drugs are classified via the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, into three categories; Class A, Class B, and Class C. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 covers any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect (excluding alcohol, tobacco and nicotine, caffeine, and some foods). A psychoactive effect will affect the central nervous system, resulting in mood altering properties. This legislation was made in response to 'legal highs'. (No longer 'legal'. Now referred to as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)). Now the group will have a chance to set the rules themselves. Divide into small groups and ask the young people to put the scenarios in order of most to least serious. Next, for the two most, and two least serious scenarios, what punishment / consequence would they give for the offence? Here are some options to help discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal consequence – this is no longer an offence • Caution / warning for under 18s. Offender admits guilt and the offence is recorded by the police but the case doesn't go to court • Fine – how much? • Community payback work – for how long? • Attendance at an education session • Attendance at drug/alcohol treatment services • Prison – for how long? • Any others? Possessions removed, house, car, etc. Restricted access to children? • Is this a first offence? Or is there a history of selling restricted substances, or selling illegal drugs? What informed their choices? If they could make one change, what would it be? How do their consequences compare to the current laws?	

<p>Barry is 19 and smokes cannabis at home</p>
<p>Laura is 30 and sells small amounts of heroin to fund her own use of the drug. She has two young children</p>
<p>Four friends are caught trying to bring a large quantity of cannabis into the country to sell it</p>
<p>Simon gives his 5 year old child half an alcopop to drink at a family house party</p>
<p>Gemma is 21, she gives her 15 year old sister Joanne some speed to snort at a party</p>
<p>An off licence sells alcohol and cigarettes to Sam and Rose who are 13 year olds</p>
<p>Alan is 52. He was stopped in his car by Police and breathalysed. Alan is three times over the legal limit for drinking and driving (which is 22 mcg of alcohol in 100 ml of breath / 50mg alcohol in 100ml of blood)</p>
<p>Mairi is 27 and uses cocaine daily. She is involved in prostitution to get money to buy drugs. She has been caught in possession of cocaine</p>
<p>A newsagent sells butane gas to Dave, who is 14</p>
<p>Robbie is 17. He gets some ecstasy for his friends, without making any profit</p>

Current consequences:
Barry: Cannabis possession can get you up to five years in prison, or an unlimited fine, or both.
Laura: Supplying heroin could lead to a life sentence or an unlimited fine or both
Four friends: Supplying cannabis can get you up to fourteen years in prison and/or an unlimited fine.
Simon: It is illegal to give alcohol to children under 5. If an adult was to persistently give alcohol to a child, and / or get a child intoxicated, this would be a child protection issue.
Gemma: Supplying amphetamines to someone else, can get you up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
An off licence: The shop assistant could get a fine up to £5,000, up to three months in prison, or both for selling alcohol to a child. And could get a fine up to £2,500 for selling tobacco to a child. It is also an offence for Sam and Rose to buy tobacco and alcohol. They could be fined up to £200 for buying alcohol, and up to £200 for buying tobacco.
Alan: Driving over the legal limit carries penalties of automatic 12 month ban, a criminal record, an unlimited fine, and the possibility of a prison sentence
Mairi: Possessing cocaine can lead to a prison sentence of up to 7 years or an unlimited fine or both.
A newsagent: supplying a cigarette lighter refill canister containing butane or a substance with butane as a constituent part to any person under the age of 18 can result in up to 6 months in prison, or a fine up to £5,000, or both.
Robbie: Supplying ecstasy (which includes giving it to a friend) could lead to a life sentence or an unlimited fine or both.