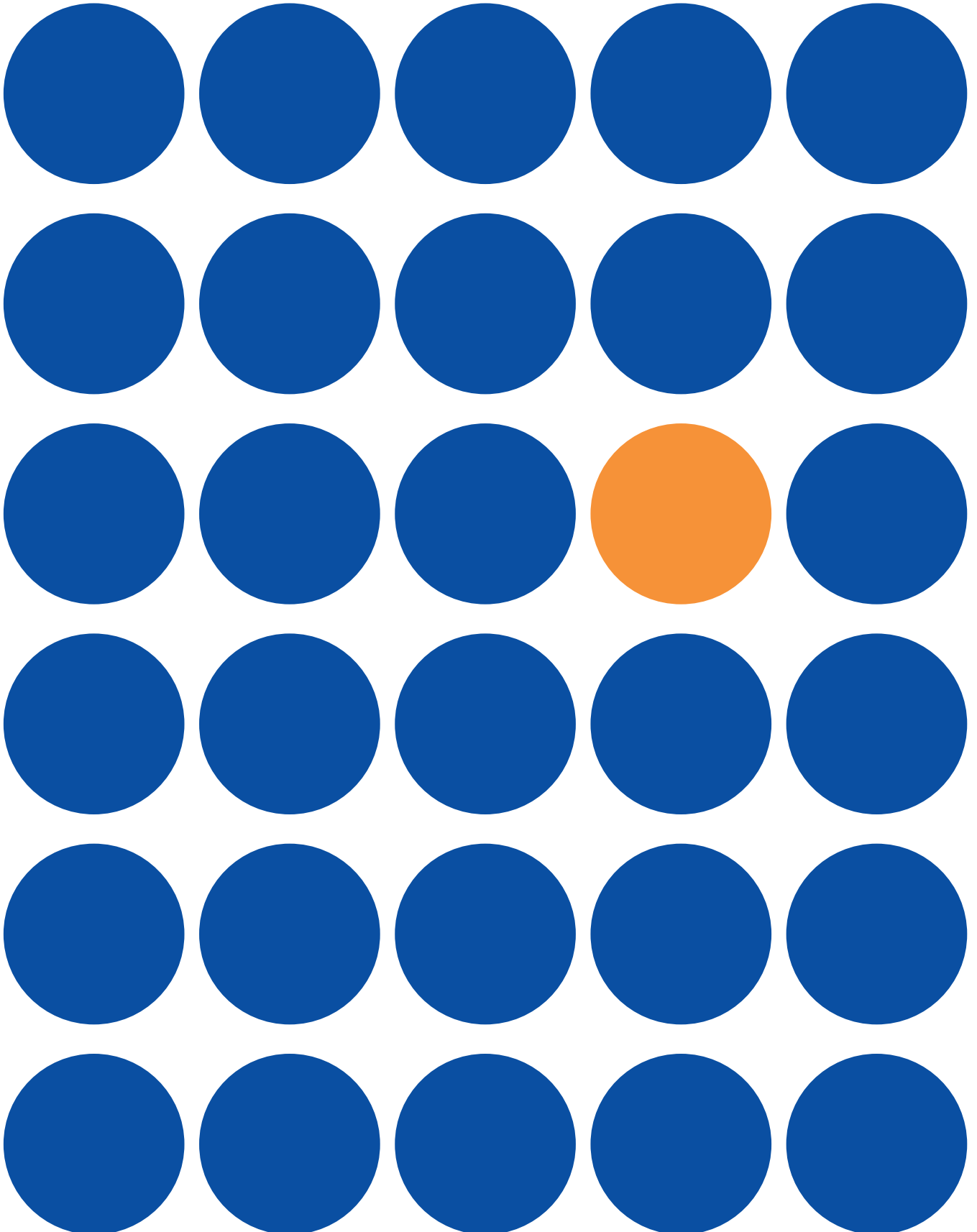


Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST)



ALTHOUGH many young people will try drugs at some time, most do not progress beyond experimentation. However, research indicates that many factors can increase the risk of a young person moving from 'drug use' to 'drug misuse', whilst some protective factors can reduce these risks. Unless you are a specialist drug worker it can be difficult to distinguish between use and misuse, and to accurately assess these risk factors. This tool should help.

To complete this form you do not need a comprehensive knowledge of drugs but you may need to know how to contact your nearest drugs service for young people (see opposite page). This service will be able to provide appropriate information, leaflets and guidance.

DUST is designed for use with young people about whom there may be concerns regarding drug/alcohol use.

- It will not provide a comprehensive substance use assessment.
- It will indicate when specialist advice should be sought.
- It will help identify risk factors.

Defining the terms

Drug The term 'drug' is used to refer to any psychotropic substance, including illegal substances, illicit prescription drugs and volatile substances (eg. Solvents).

Substance Young people's drug use is often linked together with alcohol use. Drugs and alcohol together are collectively termed 'substances'.

Drug use The consumption of a drug by a young person. When the term 'use' is contrasted with 'misuse', 'use' means the consumption of a drug that does not cause any perceptible immediate harm - even though it may carry some risk of harm.

Drug misuse Use of a drug or combination of substances, that harms health or social functioning - either dependent use (physical or psychological) or use that is part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

Vulnerable group Young people are at increased risk of drug misuse if they belong to certain groups and this risk increases if there is membership of more than one group.

Protective factors Increase a young person's resilience to the development of drug misuse problems.

Risk factors Increase the likelihood that drug misuse will occur.

Protective Factors

- Positive temperament
- Intellectual ability
- Supportive family environment
- Social support system
- Caring relationship with at least one adult
- In education/employment/training

Risk Factors

1 Belonging to a 'vulnerable' group

- Young sex workers
- Young offenders
- Looked after children
- Mental health problems
- School non-attenders
- Substance misuse by parents
- Abuse within the family
- Homeless

2 Social & Cultural Factors

- High levels of neighbourhood crime
- High levels of poverty & decay
- Easy drug availability
- Areas where there is widespread social acceptance of drug use
- Lack of perception of the risks from drugs

3 Interpersonal & Individual Risk Factors

- Physiological & psychological factors
- Family dysfunction
- Behavioural difficulties
- Academic problems
- Association with peers who use drugs
- Early onset of drug or alcohol use

Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST)



This tool is designed for two main purposes:

- To help people who have to make decisions about how to respond to substance use by a young person.
- To allow a professional team to create a caseload profile and audit the prevalence of substance use within their case load.

The form is divided into sections designed to assess risk factors regarding:

- Substance use
- Social situation/behaviour
- General and Psychological health

Instructions

- Complete the form by ticking the most appropriate responses. If in doubt, do **NOT** tick.
- A scoring system is employed for each section. The scores should be added up and the total written below each section.
- Once you have completed each section, refer to the scoring table (top right).

Young person's details for Caseload Profile only	
Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Address	
Postcode	Date of Birth
Staff name	
Agency Completing Form	

SCORING TABLE

SECTION 1: Substance use

Score 0-4	Score 5-6	Score 7+
Consider giving drugs information/ advice.	Consider seeking advice from Young Persons' Drug Service. <i>However please be aware that we cannot accept personal details without the young person's consent.</i>	Refer to Young Persons' Drug Service.

SECTION 2: Social situation/behaviour

A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing substance misuse problems and should increase your level of concern.

Score 0-1	Score 2-5	Score 6+
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK Consider seeking advice from Young Persons' Drug Service.	HIGH RISK Consider seeking advice from Young Persons' Drug Service or other relevant agency.

SECTION 3: General and Psychological health

A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing substance misuse problems and should increase your level of concern.

Score 0-4	Score 5-9	Score 10+
LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK Consider seeking advice from Young Persons' Drug Service.	HIGH RISK Consider seeking advice from Young Persons' Drug Service or other relevant agency.

This tool is for guidance. It is intended to assist with decision making about how to respond to substance use by a young person. It does not remove the need for professional judgement which should take account of factors such as the age and maturity of the young person. © Kent & Medway Drug Action Teams

For out of hours talk to FRANK 0800 77 66 00 or visit www.talktofrank.com

**SECTION 1
Substance use**

Drug Type	
2	Alcohol
2	Amphetamine
2	Cannabis
4	Cocaine
4	Crack
4	Ecstasy
4	Heroin
4	LSD
4	Magic Mushrooms
4	Solvents/Gas/ Aerosols
2	Other(s) please list (include misuse of prescribed drugs). Score 2 each

Substance Use - Frequency	
1	Occasional drug /alcohol use
2	Regular drug /alcohol use

Injecting	
0	Not injecting
5	Currently/recently injecting

Substance Use - Intoxication	
0	Substance use without loss of consciousness or aggression
2	Substance use with loss of consciousness or aggression

Contact with Other Substance Users	
0	No drug /alcohol using friends
1	Some friends who use drugs/alcohol and some who don't
2	All friends use drugs/alcohol

Family Drug /Alcohol Use	
0	No known family drug/alcohol misuse
2	Known drug/alcohol misuse among close family member(s)/ carers
5	Significantly affected by someone else's drug/alcohol misuse

TOTAL SECTION 1:

**SECTION 2
Social situation/behaviour**

Living Situation	
0	No problems with accommodation
1	Problems with accommodation, insecure or inadequate housing
1	Looked after by Local Authority
6	Homeless

Adult Support	
0	Has supportive relationships with more than one adult
1	Has supportive relationship with one adult
2	Has no supportive relationships with adults

Occupation	
0	In education /employment / training
1	Truanted from school /at risk of school exclusion/ drug or alcohol related absences from work
2	School excluded / unemployed

Criminal Involvement	
0	No criminal involvement
1	At risk of involvement in the Criminal Justice System
2	Involved in Criminal Justice System or committing more serious crimes

Sexual Behaviour	
0	Age appropriate/safe sexual behaviour
2	Inappropriate/unsafe sexual behaviour
6	Commercial sex/abusive sexual relations

TOTAL SECTION 2:

**SECTION 3
General and Psychological health**

General Health	
0	Young person reports no significant health problems
1	Teeth problems
1	Stomach problems
1	Regular headaches
1	Difficulty sleeping
5	Chronic fatigue
5	Severe sleep problems
5	Self neglect
10	Extreme weight loss
10	Blackouts and /or memory loss
10	Pregnant
10	Fitting
10	Accidental /planned overdose

Psychological Health	
0	Young person reports no significant psychological problems
1	Low self esteem
1	Mild anxiety
1	Shyness
5	Eating disorder/ marked change in eating pattern (e.g. loss of appetite/ bingeing)
5	Frequent bouts of unhappiness/ depression
5	Self harm
5	Severe anxiety/panic attacks
10	Suicide attempts
10	Severe paranoia
10	Hallucinations (when not under the influence of substances)

TOTAL SECTION 3:



