



07/09/2023

Email: youthengagementevents@norfolk.police.uk

www.norfolk.police.uk

Non-Emergency Tel: 101

In an emergency, always call 999

Dear Parent/Carer,

A Safer Schools Support Worker from the Children and Young People Team at Norfolk Constabulary will be delivering a presentation called “Drugs and the Law” for all year 8 students at your child’s school on 26/09/2023.

The Safer Schools Support Worker will be talking about different drugs classifications, the law around purchasing things like alcohol and vapes and *why* these laws are necessary in terms of community safety and health. We will discuss possession and supply and will continue to raise awareness of County Lines and the criminal exploitation of children that this involves.

If anyone in your family wants to know more about the law around drugs and County Lines, go to www.talktofrank.com , www.norfolk.police.uk/news/campaigns/operation-gravity and www.fearless.org/

If you have any questions about this session, please email the address above.

Yours faithfully,

The Children and Young People Team

Local Policing Delivery Unit
Norfolk Constabulary

Drugs and the Law

2022/2023 Presentation.

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- explain why drugs are put into different categories.
- recall the age restrictions on legal drugs and alcohol.
- explain what is meant by “possession” and “supply”.
- recognise how gangs target young people for County Lines.
- explain the consequences of County Lines involvement.
- know where to go for help.



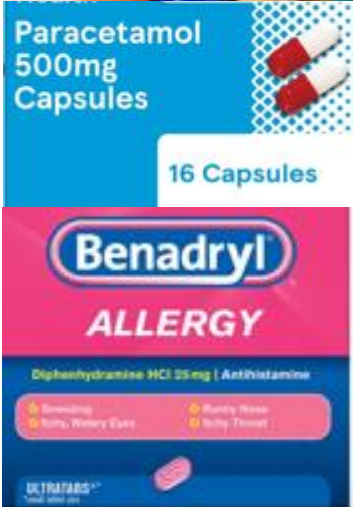
4 Themes.

The Law on **ILLEGAL** Drugs

Restrictions on **LEGAL** Drugs

The difference between
POSSESSION and **SUPPLY**

County Lines



What drugs have you heard of?



Illegal

Crack cocaine

Cocaine

Heroin

Ecstasy

LSD

Magic mushrooms

Cannabis

Ketamine

Anabolic steroids

GHB

Khat

Class A

Class B

Class C

Legal

Caffeine

Alcohol

Tobacco

Vapes

Ibuprofen (like Nurofen)

Paracetamol

Antihistamines (Hayfever tablets, like Benadryl)

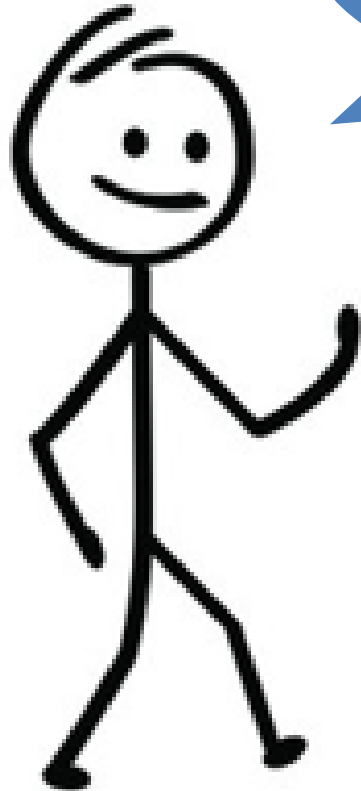
Decongestants (like Lemsip)

Prescription drugs (ones you get from your doctor)

Psychoactive Substances – “Psychoactive Substances Act, 2016.”

- Not illegal to possess but **illegal to produce and supply**. E.g. Laughing gas.

What do you already know about drugs?



**1) What is the most commonly
used ILLEGAL drug in the UK?**



Cannabis

FACTS: CANNABIS

Cannabis can make you feel sick and even causes hallucinations.

Of all young people seeking treatment for substance misuse problems, 87% had a problem with cannabis!

Cannabis can be detected in drugs tests for DAYS after use.

2) The younger you are when you start using drugs, the more likely it is you'll continue using.

TRUE or FALSE?



TRUE

**3) How old do you have to be to
legally purchase alcohol?**



18

FACTS: ALCOHOL

People who
buy alcohol for
U18s can be
dealt with by
the police.

Places that sell
alcohol to U18s
face heavy fines

—
Up to £5000!!

**64% of
violent crimes
between
strangers were
alcohol-related**

4) How old do you have to be to legally purchase cigarettes?



18

FACTS: CIGARETTES

The law
changed
in 2007

It is illegal to
smoke on
public
transport.

Cigarette
packaging
must contain
health
warnings!

5) How old do you have to be to legally purchase vaping materials?



18

FACTS: VAPING

Vaping is now more common than smoking in young people.

We don't yet know the long-term health risks.

1 in 5 young vapers said they did it because others were doing it.

CE or UKCA

Vapes should have a "CE" or "UKCA" mark to show that they are fit for use.

Example:

A dangerous, unsafe and *illegal* vape, seized locally.



An investigation found it contained...

- Nicotine (common in vapes)
- Salicylic acid (common in vapes)
- A range of synthetic cannabinoid precursors
Found in the preparation of synthetic cannabinoids

- Synthetic cannabinoids
Those found are class B controlled substances

- Xylazine
An analgesic veterinary medicine used on cattle similar to Ketamine. As Xylazine is a non-opioid analgesic, Narcan/Naloxone cannot be used to reverse the effect of an overdose.

Whilst the levels of toxicity are not known following examination, the levels of toxicity are also unknown to the user, making usage dangerous.

6) Are there laws about purchasing over-the-counter medicines like paracetamol or ibuprofen?

Yes!

Most shops won't sell to under 16s and will limit how many boxes you can buy.

7) Are there laws about prescription medicines?



Yes!

Prescription medications should only be taken by the person to whom they have been prescribed.

8) Why do we have these laws?

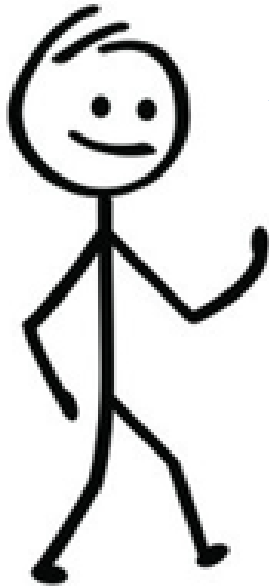
To prevent harm.

Physical Health

Mental Health

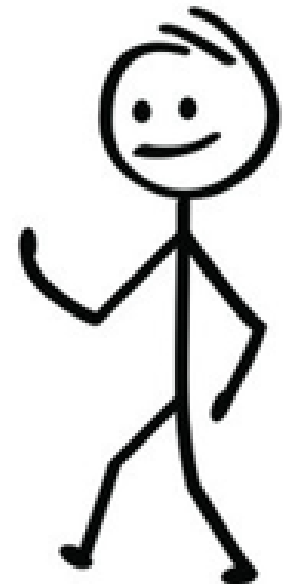
Communities

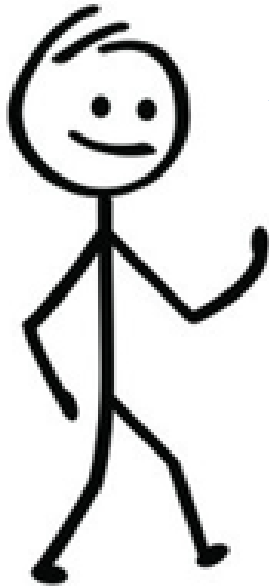
“Possession” and “Supply”



What is
“possession”?

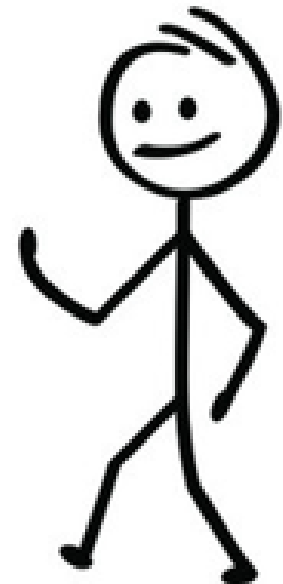
Possession is where
someone has a controlled
drug on their person.





What is
“supply”?

Supply is where an
individual, or group, **sells** or
deals a controlled drug to
others.



Possession and Supply

The Legal Consequences.



Cannabis (Class B)

Possession – 5 years in prison and an unlimited fine.

Supply – 14 years in prison and an unlimited fine.



Cocaine (Class A)

Possession – 7 years in prison and an unlimited fine.

Supply – Life in prison and an unlimited fine.

Case Study:

Jo's mate asks him to look after a few bags of cocaine for him. Jo doesn't use drugs himself but agrees to keep it in his pocket to give back later.

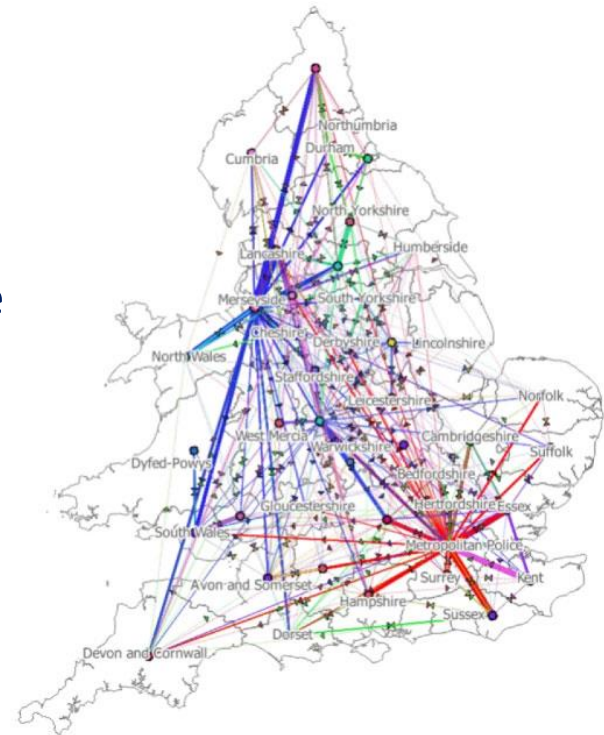
Question:

If Jo gets caught by the police, will he get into trouble?



County Lines

- Trafficking (transporting) illegal drugs across counties.
- The “Line” is the phone line used to advertise and arrange deals.
- Gangs use young people to carry drugs from one place to another (often big cities to rural areas, e.g. London => Great Yarmouth).



County Lines is...

“EXPLOITATION”

Noun:

The action of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.

Gangs may use a ...

Befriending

Opportunistic

... approach to get
young people involved.

Befriending.

- Build relationship/trust.
- Give gifts – Clothing, phones, drugs, alcohol.
- Ask for favours – Trafficking drugs.
- **In person** - Parks, outside school, town centre.
- **Online** – Social media - Snapchat, Discord, Instagram.
- Gang member will continue to ask the young person for favours once they've hooked them in.
- If they refuse, there may be threats.



Opportunistic.

- Gang member goes to a place they know young people will be - Parks, outside school, the train/bus station, etc.
- Find a "clean skin".
- Ask them to take a package for them in exchange for money.



The Consequences of County Lines.

What you're sold...



...What you get.



Legal Consequences.

- **Arrested**
- **Court**
- **Sentenced –**
Community/Custody
- **Criminal record**



Social Consequences.

- Relationships problems
- Lose friends/family
- School exclusion
- Long-term impact on employability



Emotional Consequences.

- **Fear**
- **Helplessness**
- **Anxiety**
- **Depression**



Physical Consequences.

- Injuries
- Cuts/bruises
- Stab wounds
- Life at risk



People who carry knives are
3 TIMES more likely to be
stabbed than those who don't.

Source: www.healthforteens.co.uk

Remember...

Drugs and Alcohol

- There are laws and restrictions around both *legal* and *illegal* drugs.
- Laws and restrictions are there to *prevent harm*!
- *Don't be pressured* to try something just because your friends say they've tried it.

County Lines

- Remember how County Lines gangs target young people – *Sounds too good to be true? It probably is!*
- Keep in mind the *consequences of County Lines*.

Where to go for Help and Information.

- Talk to a **trusted adult** (parent/carer, teacher, school Safeguarding Team).
- Go to www.talktofrank.com
- Go to www.matthewproject.org
- Go to www.nhs.uk
- Ring **101** in a non-emergency.
- **999** in an emergency.



0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com
Friendly, confidential drugs advice



nhs.uk

