



Drugs: protecting families and communities

How we are working to tackle drugs

**TACKLING
DRUGS
CHANGING
LIVES**

Drugs cause considerable harm to society. The Government, working with the police, enforcement agencies and prosecutors, treatment services, children's services and communities, is determined to tackle the problem. Our shared ambition is to see communities with drug-free streets and our young people and families making drug-free choices.

This leaflet sets out action the Government will take over the next ten years to tackle the harms caused by drugs. It explains what we will deliver for you, your family and your community and tells you where you can go for more information and help.

Why are we tackling drugs?

Illegal drugs ruin lives and damage communities. They cause crime and poor health – at a cost to the nation of around £15 billion a year for the most dangerous drugs, including crack cocaine and heroin.

The most vulnerable among us are often the hardest hit. The Government will continue to do everything it can, internationally, nationally and locally, to reduce the harm caused by drugs.

We will do this working closely with a vast range of people, including you – local residents in the community.

What is new in these plans?

Over the last ten years there has been unparalleled investment in tackling drugs; we have targeted action on the most problematic drug users and offenders



and seen a 130 per cent increase in the number of drug misusers getting into drug treatment.

We will now build on the successes we have had and our knowledge of what works to take on new challenges. Drug dealers will continue to feel the full force of the law. More of the cash and property paid for from the proceeds of drug dealing will be seized and its value re-invested in the community. Drug-misusing parents will receive prompt help, so that we can prevent harm coming to their children. Schools will be delivering more effective education on the dangers of substance misuse and from an earlier age, so that children can protect themselves against the dangers of drug misuse. Drug treatment inside prison will be overhauled so that it offers a real chance for offenders to break free from the cycle of drugs and crime. Outside prison, treatment will be more closely tailored to individual requirements and will address a whole range of needs, including support in accessing housing and employment opportunities.

What action are we taking?

Our ambition is to see drug-free streets and young people and families making drug-free choices. Together, over the next ten years we aim to:



CUT drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour

We will do this by:

- using better intelligence to disrupt drug markets at home and abroad;
- extending police powers to seize more of the cash and particularly high value assets that drug dealers get from selling drugs;
- targeting the drug-misusing offenders who cause the most crime and getting them into effective treatment, so that we can continue to see reductions in acquisitive crimes such as burglary and shoplifting;
- expanding our work with other countries to establish asset-sharing agreements and to prevent drugs reaching the UK, including drug screening at overseas airports;
- ensuring tough sanctions for drug dealers importing and supplying drugs, including issuing ASBOs after conviction to prevent them re-establishing their businesses;
- making you aware of the work being done to tackle drugs and enforce the law in your area;
- working with Neighbourhood Policing teams across the country to ensure that community concerns about drugs are reported and acted upon; and
- dismantling cannabis factories and taking tough action against the producers.



CUT harm caused to young people by substance misuse

We will do this by:

- improving the information and guidance available to all parents to help them prevent young people from misusing drugs, alcohol and volatile substances, including, for the first time, guidance on alcohol to parents of under-18s;
- offering credible and useful drug advice and information to young people – for example through FRANK;
- improving school-based education, so that more schools are seen to be delivering effective drugs education, looking specifically at the potential benefits of delivering this education in primary schools;
- reducing the supply of drugs to young people through effective law enforcement;
- reducing the availability of alcohol, cigarettes and volatile substances through tougher action on illegal and underage sales;
- better tailoring of the drug treatment system to meet young people's needs, for example through parental involvement in the treatment process, and ensuring a more seamless transition to adult services; and
- increasing access to sporting and other positive activities.



CUT the number of families devastated by drug use

We will do this by:

- ensuring problem drug users with children have ready access to treatment, and reducing the barriers to them accessing treatment;
- helping families at risk to improve parenting skills, supporting families to stay together and breaking the cycle of problems being transferred between generations or siblings, by drawing on learning from innovative programmes and providing intensive support where needed;
- supporting extended family members, such as grandparents, who take on caring responsibilities for the children of substance-misusing parents, by looking at the circumstances in which local authorities can make payments to those caring for children classified as 'in need', backed up by improved information for carers and guidance for local authorities; and
- supporting parents with substance misuse problems, so that children do not fall into excessive or inappropriate caring roles.



INCREASE the number of drug users making a positive contribution to society

We will do this by:

- increasing the support available to problem drug users to help them get housing and work, through a new role for treatment agencies, working with Jobcentres and housing advice services;
- using the benefits system to get more problem drug users off benefits and into work; and
- setting up trial projects to explore the potential of a more flexible use of funding to address individual needs.

EXPAND and improve drug treatment services

We will do this by:

- tailoring drug treatment more closely to individual needs, including those of people with complex needs, such as mental health problems;
- ensuring better access to treatment, in particular for crack users, black and minority ethnic misusers and women;
- providing family-friendly services for people with children;
- driving higher completion rates for clients on treatment programmes, with more people re-establishing their lives and moving into work;
- improving the standard of all treatment services, with a sharper focus on treatment outcomes and on more clients overcoming drug dependence;



- achieving better quality and more consistency of drug treatment across all prisons; and
- boosting our understanding of addiction and identifying opportunities for new forms of treatment and prevention. Addiction is to be one of the joint Medical Research Council (MRC)/ National Institute for Health Research priority areas for health research funding, led by MRC.

For further information on drugs and the Government's new ten-year drug strategy, *Drugs: protecting families and communities*, go to:

www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk

Find your local drug treatment service in the telephone directory under 'Addiction' and 'Drug abuse and advice' or go to www.talktofrank.com or phone FRANK on 0800 77 66 00.

(Monday to Friday 8:30 - 18:00)

If you are concerned about drug dealing or drug misuse in your community you should contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team.

Local contact details:

If you require further copies of this leaflet, please contact Prolog Home Office orderline and quote reference CDS10. Tel: 0870 241 4680
Email: dpas@prolog.uk.com