



Drugs, Smoking, Alcohol Subgroup Meeting
Sunday 1st March 2009
County Hall, Chelmsford

Present:

Arren (Colchester)	Amy-Jo (Braintree)
Fayaz (Castle Point)	Alix (Tendring)
Issy (Uttlesford)	Carey (Uttlesford)
Sally Hills (Essex DAAT)	Ruth Morton (Essex CC)

Apologies: None received

1. Introductions and Apologies

No apologies received.

2. Chair of the Meeting

Ruth acted as chair for this meeting. Amy-Jo will chair the next meeting.

3. Minutes of the Meeting

Alix will write the minutes of the next meeting with support from Ruth

4. Issues

The group agreed that issues around illegal drugs and drinking will be prioritised initially for their work and that issues around smoking will be looked at later. Drugs which the group said are the most “young person popular” are:

- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Ecstasy
- MDA
- LSD

and the group felt that any campaign or initiative should mainly focus on these ones. It was also decided that their work should underpin the existing ‘harm reduction’ advice and information on drugs or alcohol, with the aim to keep young people safe and healthy.

The group discussed the following possible issues:

- ‘Cool to say “no”’ campaign
- Cost of using drugs and/or alcohol
- Image of drugs and/or alcohol users
- New legislation
- Confidentiality
- Consequences of getting drunk
- Drinking at home
- Communication with teachers and other professionals

5. Priorities

The group decided that their priorities for their term of office will be:



- **Attend drugs awareness training.** This will give the group an information base as well as an opportunity to evaluate the training from a young person's point of view.
- **"How to give a good house party" project.** The group hope to produce a toolkit or guide for young people and parents with information and advice focussing on safety issues around drinking and/or drug use on private premises. The guide will also provide outline information on legal issues, such as noise levels; this will be explored with key partners such as police.
- **Partnership working.** The group will work with other agencies such as EYPDAS to enable them to produce resources and methods which are young people friendly. There is also concern around the transition age (19-25) and it is possible that this groups work could influence how services work with this age group.

6. Representing all Young People in Essex

All members of the group will liaise with their local youth councils/forums and update them on decisions and progress.

7. Action Points

- Drugs Awareness Training information – Sally
- Information regarding the calorific value of alcoholic drinks – Sally
- Invite Kevin to next meeting – Sally
- Design questionnaire around house parties – Alix
- Internet research re legal position of points of interest – all

All action points to be actioned by next meeting.

8. Publicity

The group decided that light, bright yellow will be their identity colour. In addition to the action points above, all members will design a logo and bring ideas to the next meeting for discussion and decision.

The group members' post-election mission statements are:

- Give knowledge to people of my age.
- Now I have been elected I am making sure that awareness of drugs, smoking and alcohol are being taken notice of by young people.
- Now that I have been elected, I plan to raise the awareness of S.A.D., working alongside EYPDAS and to help improve adult services.
- To get people more aware of the effects of drugs and to work on improving the safety of house parties.
- I would like to work on making young people's house parties safer and more legal.
- As I have been elected onto the YEA, I am going to make young people not seen as mentalists and improve their perception of drugs and alcohol.

**Next meeting: Saturday 28th March 2009 @ 1.30.pm.
Venue: County Hall, Chelmsford.**