

Drugs

Drug dealing and drug use can have a huge impact on young people, families and wider communities – including addiction, violence, crime, and exploitation. Gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs. This has increased the violence in the drugs market.









If your child was at risk, would you spot the signs?

Young people are often unaware of the risks of drug dealing or using drugs.

Parents are unlikely to be aware of what is happening.



Possible signs a young person may be using or dealing drugs:

-  Problems with friends, or a new friendship group, including older young people and adults
-  Uncharacteristic changes in behaviour, including eating habits, change in appetite or mood
-  Having more than one mobile phone – or being edgy or anxious after receiving calls and texts
-  Change in spending habits or an increase in asking to borrow money
-  Finding drug related litter or missing prescription medication
-  Missing school or college
-  Withdrawing from family or friends, increased time away from home
-  Dizziness, sweating, dry mouth, hallucinations, nausea and vomiting, aggressive behaviour, trembling, twitching



Common drug trends are constantly changing.

Find out more and get support

 talktofrank.com



Created by Cambridge City Council

What to do if you're worried about your child or a child you know

Remember, **you're not to blame.**
And **your child may be vulnerable or scared.**



Talk to your child

Let them know they can talk to you about anything. Ask them questions about what's going on, tell them that you want to help them and keep them safe.

Try to get them to see the reality of their situation. Be open, honest and non-judgmental; remember they may be scared.

Try not to have this conversation with your child when they are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Gather evidence

There may be physical evidence of drug use, such as small bags, rolled up notes, scales, grinders, empty prescription boxes or bottles, and so on.

Get help and support

Talk to your child's school or another professional – see useful contacts below. Speaking to someone may help keep your child safe.

When to tell the Police

If you have any concerns that your child is being exploited, you should report this to the Police. They can help them end the situation. Remember, if your child is being exploited, they are a victim and should be treated as such.

If your child stays away from home, you should report them as missing to the Police immediately. If you are worried about your child's safety, report these fears to the Police or your child's school.

Useful contacts

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**
Missing People Safecall (call or text) **116 000**
Cambridgeshire Constabulary **101**
Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service*
01480 445 316 | cpft.nhs.uk/casus
Aspire** **01733 895 624** | changeGrowLive.org

*Cambridgeshire **Peterborough

If a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999

Children's Social Care

Peterborough **01733 864180**

Cambridgeshire **0345 045 5203**

Out of hours emergency team **01733 234724**