



# SORTED

## Screening Tool

### Defining the terms

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 the young peoples drug service (see opposite page). This service will be able to provide appropriate information, leaflets and guidance.

This form 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

**Drug** The term 'drug' is used to refer to any psychotropic substance, including illegal substances, illicit prescription drugs and volatile substances (e.g. 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 risks 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 problem's.

**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 people involved in the sex industry
- Young offenders
- Looked after children
- Mental health problems
- Outside education, employment & training
- Familial substance use
- Conflict/disruption/abuse within the family
- Homeless

##### 2 Social & Cultural Factors

- High levels of neighbourhood crime
- High levels of poverty & deprivation
- 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 drug
- Early onset of drug or alcohol use

## SORTED

Services are delivered using the Health Advisory Service Four-tier model;

Tier 1 Universal drug education & information

Tier 2 Targeted drug related prevention & education and advice.

Tier 3 Young people's specialist drug services & other specialised services that work with complex needs

Tier 4 Very specialised and intensive forms of treatment

**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 (opposite).

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.

*If you wish to make a referral to Sorted please complete the back page completely and fax the whole document to number below.*

The aim of this universal screening and referral tool is to;

- 1 Ensure a consistent approach to screening and assessing young people's substance misuse needs across all services
- 2 Put in place a clear referral system, allowing integrated care pathways for young people coming into the system
- 3 Build a reliable database of young persons' substance misuse needs in Northumberland.

### SCORING TABLE

#### SECTION 1: Substance use

Score 0 – 4	Score 5 – 6	Score 7+
<b>Offer drugs information/advice</b>	<b>Consider seeking advice from the young persons drug service (see below).</b>	<b>Refer to the young persons drug service (see below)</b>

However please be aware that we cannot accept personal details without the young person's consent.

#### 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+
<b>LOW RISK</b>	<b>MEDIUM RISK Consider seeking advice from the young persons drug service</b>	<b>HIGH RISK Seek advice from the young persons drug service</b>

#### 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+
<b>LOW RISK</b>	<b>MEDIUM RISK Consider seeking advice from the young persons drug service</b>	<b>HIGH RISK Seek advice from the young persons drug service</b>

### Where to access confidential advice, consultancy and further information

Sorted  
Northumbria House  
Manor Walks  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 6UR  
Tel 01670 500 150

Free phone for young people: 0800 633 5872

[northumberlandadolescentservices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:northumberlandadolescentservices@northumberland.gov.uk)

[www.sortednorth.co.uk](http://www.sortednorth.co.uk)

For out of hours talk to FRANK 0800 77 66 00 or visit [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**SECTION 1**  
Substance use

Drug Type	
2	Alcohol
2	Amphetamine
2	Cannabis
4	Cocaine/crack
4	Poly drug use
4	Heroin
4	LSD/Magic Mushrooms
4	Benzodiazepines
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	Previously/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	Not in education, training or employment/excluded due to substances

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 (eg 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

**REFERRAL FORM**  
Please complete all sections

This form is a referral for assessment by a specialist service. Sorted will use this information to determine an appropriate course of action. This may result in the young person being offered some form of intervention/treatment or further advice and guidance being offered to the referrer. All information on completed forms sent to Sorted will be treated in accordance with their confidentiality policies – a copy of which is available on request.  
(Exceptions to confidentiality include following Child Protection procedures).

**NORTHUMBERLAND**

Sorted  
Northumbria House  
Manor Walks  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 6UR

Please return to  
[northumberlandadolescentservices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:northumberlandadolescentservices@northumberland.gov.uk)

Free phone for young people: 0800 633 5872

Young Person	
Does the young person consent to this referral? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Does the young person consent to the information on the screening tool being shared with the Young Persons' Service?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Signature	
Name & address of young person <input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female	
Postcode	
Contact Number	
Date of Birth	Age:
Ethnicity (tick one)	
<b>White</b> British <input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Black/Black British</b> Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> African <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Asian/Asian British</b> Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Mixed</b> White & Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> White & Black African <input type="checkbox"/> White & Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other Mixed <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other Ethnic Group</b> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish <input type="checkbox"/> Kurdish <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Have the young person's parents/carers been informed of the referral for assessment? (Gillick Competence)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does a parent/carer consent to the young person attending an appointment if offered? (consent is not essential for a referral to be made)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name & Contact number of parent/guardian	
GP (name & address)	
Young Person's Expectations	
Young Person's Availability for Appointments/ Best time to contact Young Person	

Other Agencies Involved		
Name	Agency	Address & Contact Number
	GP	
Child Protection concerns (including abusive, violent relationships) <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
If yes, please give details (including lead agency and name of worker)		
Would this young person pose any Significant risk to staff or others? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
If yes, please give details		
Reasons for referral		
Please add any additional background information that may be relevant to the assessment of this young person.		
Referrer		
Date of referral		
Referrer's name		
Referrer's Agency		

