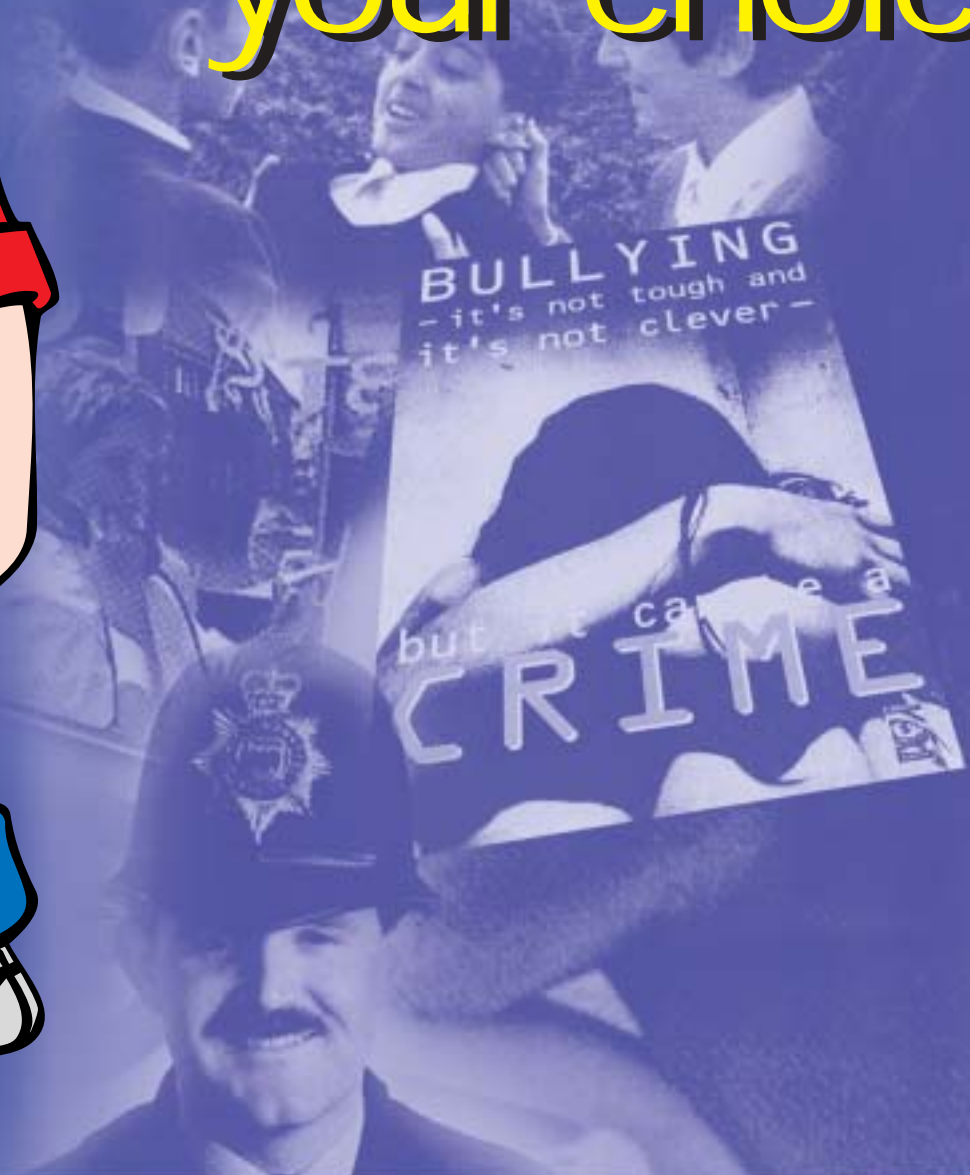
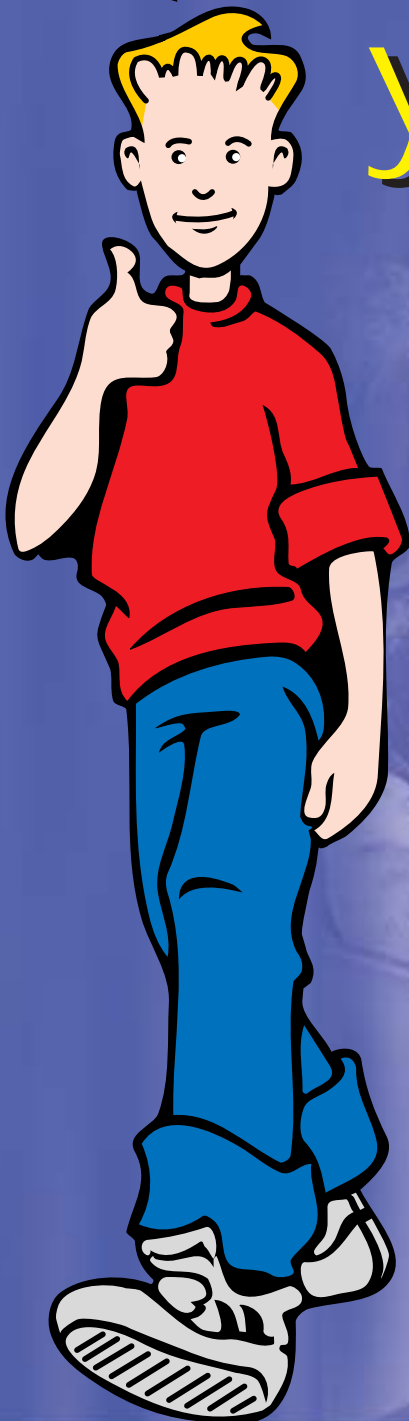


respect

your life,
your choice



- YOUTH ACTION GROUPS
- STAYING IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE
- ON GUARD
- ALCOHOL, DRUGS & SOLVENT MIS-USE
- CAR CRIME
- BULLYING
- SHOPLIFTING & OTHER FORMS OF THEFT

- RACIAL HARASSMENT
- STAYING SAFE
- TRESPASS & VANDALISM
- CRIME PREVENTION PANELS
- ANTI- SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- USEFUL CONTACTS


Victim Support
& Witness Service
Trafford

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Throughout the book there are a number of helpful ideas for your own crime prevention projects.

Drugs



Drugs and the Law

Do you understand the difference between possessing and supplying drugs? Supply does not have to involve large amounts of drugs, and the penalties for supplying are far more severe than for personal possession. For example, if a small group of people pool money and one of them goes off to buy a small amount of drugs for the group that person could be prosecuted for supplying drugs. It would also be supplying drugs where a person simply gives a share to a friend to use. If a person “looks after” drugs for another person and then hands them back, if that was a Class A drug such as Ecstasy they could face a prison sentence.

Offences under The Mis-use of Drugs Act and The Drugs Trafficking Offences Act include:

- Possession.
- Possessing with intent to supply.
- Production and cultivation.
- Supplying or offering to supply.
- Importing and exporting.
- Allowing your premises to be used for supplying or offering to supply.

Drugs are divided into classes

A, B and C according to how harmful they are considered. Class A, the most harmful, includes Cocaine, Ecstasy, LSD and Heroin. Class B includes Amphetamines and Barbiturates, and Class C includes Herbal Cannabis, Cannabis Resin, Benzodiazepine tranquillisers and Anabolic Steroids.

By injecting some substances, they can become Class A, and so you could become liable for more serious offences. It is important to note that you will never know exactly what you are getting for your money. Often Class B drugs will be mixed with Class A. The resulting effect could then put you in more danger.

A Conviction

Depending on the type of drug involved, a young person in particular may be given a Police warning or Formal Caution. This is a matter of discretion for the Police and would depend on all of the circumstances of the case... BUT, many people do not realise that if a person is sent to court for possession of a small amount of Cannabis (which many people consider to be a minor offence) and punished (even a small fine), this conviction for a drugs offence can bar them from many jobs, especially those involving work with children or young people.

Here are some examples of maximum penalties for drug offences:

| | POSSESSION | PRODUCTION | TRAFFICKING |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| class A drug | 7 years + unlimited Fines | Life + unlimited Fines | Life + unlimited Fines |
| class B drug | 5 years + unlimited Fines | Life + unlimited Fines | 14 years + unlimited Fines |
| class C drug | 2 years + unlimited Fines | 5 years + unlimited Fines | 5 years + unlimited Fines |

Drugs and your health

We have all read stories about first time users dying unexpectedly. We hear less stories about long term illnesses - both physical and mental, but they are more common than you think. Short and long-term drug taking can seriously damage your health and we do not yet know all the long term effects and often won't until it's too late. Besides the unpleasant immediate effects of headaches, nausea and vomiting, drugs can cause long-term organ damage and eventual death. There are also the added dangers of AIDS, HIV and Hepatitis. It is common knowledge that HIV can be transmitted through sharing syringes or needles with someone who already has the virus.

Before you decide to say 'yes' to drugs, ask yourself if you are prepared to risk your life just so the person who is offering you the drugs won't think that you're a 'chicken'. Many dealers are only interested in money and your friends may only be interested in getting you involved with them. Your life comes a poor second.

Ask yourself what right you have to put your family through the pain and suffering of having a drug user in the family. We have all read stories about first-time drug users dying unexpectedly.

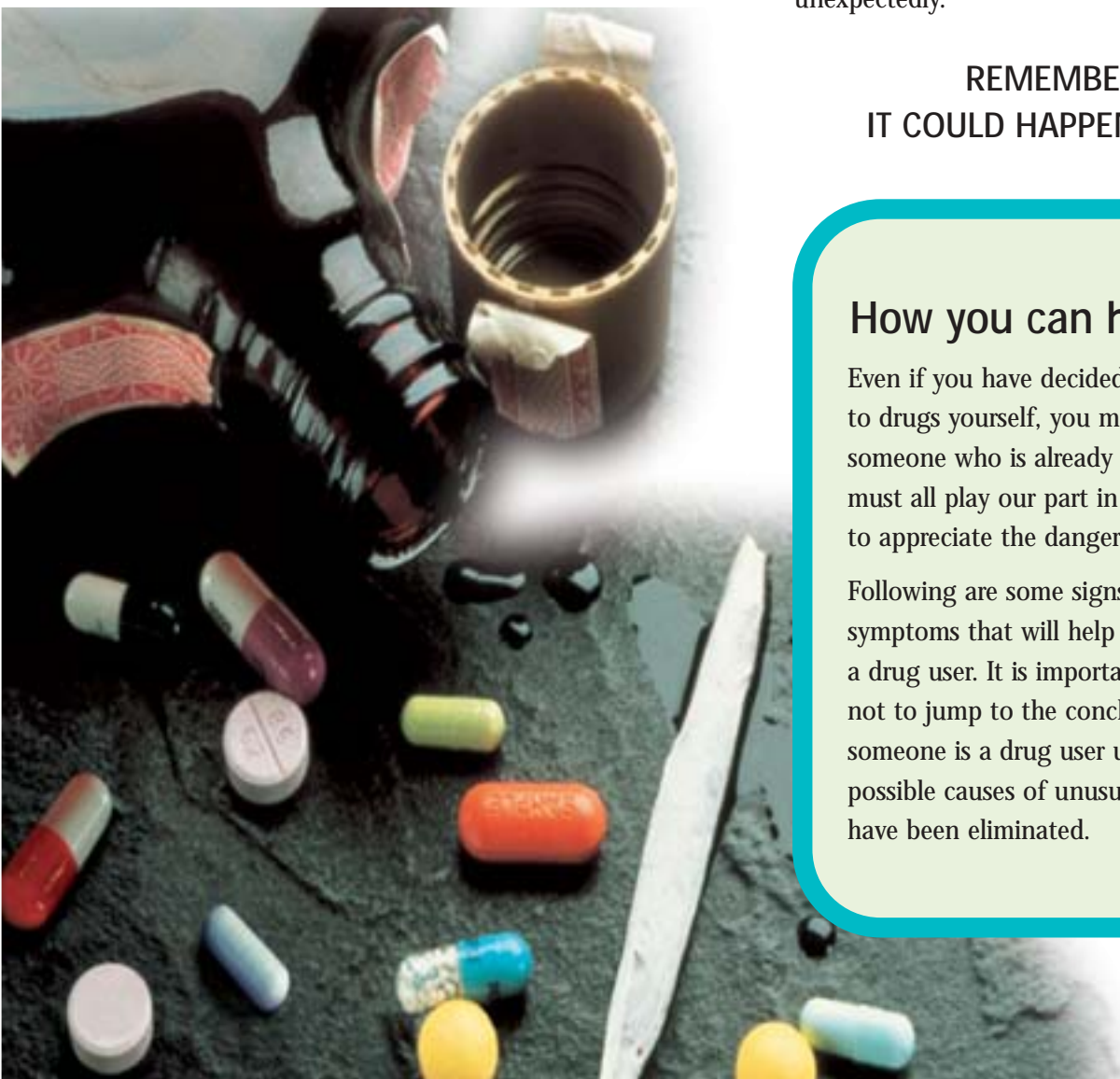


**REMEMBER –
IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!**

How you can help...

Even if you have decided to say 'NO' to drugs yourself, you may well know someone who is already a user. We must all play our part in helping others to appreciate the dangers of drugs.

Following are some signs and symptoms that will help you to detect a drug user. It is important, however, not to jump to the conclusion that someone is a drug user until all other possible causes of unusual behaviour have been eliminated.



Anti-Social Behaviour

What's it all about?

Anti-social behaviour is something that disturbs others and destroys the peace and quiet of a neighbourhood.

It can be caused by a noisy party, groups of people shouting or graffiti. Even pets and animals can cause a nuisance continually barking or running around into neighbours' gardens, parks and playgrounds.

'Young people and students are most likely to tell others that they have suffered from anti-social behaviour.'

Neighbours from hell

When the new neighbours moved in we were really pleased, but this was not to last. After a few days they started playing their radios and stereos really loud late at night. Their dog started coming into our garden through a hole in the fence and making a mess all over the lawn.

My mum went round to complain but they just shouted at her and slammed the door in her face. The last straw was on Saturday night when they had a party which went on until 5 am in the morning together with their car alarm going off throughout the night.

My dad said he's going to get the Environmental Health Department or the Police to come round and speak to them.

What a noise!

Noise can be a big problem. People may play their radios too loud, hold parties late into the night and use their vacuum cleaners into the early hours. They may also leave their car alarms going all night. Noise can be worse on estates, in blocks of flats, and where people live close together.

Remember if you go and talk to the person about the level of noise

- Stay calm and quietly spoken
- Listen to the other person's point of view
- Don't shout at them. Stay in control
- Explain the problem
- Don't interrupt the other person when they are speaking
- If they cannot be reasoned with, calmly leave and inform the local Environmental Health Department or the Police.



A Personal Story...

'I was fed up with school. It was just so boring. I never seemed to be any good at anything and the others in my class always got more marks than I did. That was when I started 'bunking off.'

It began with one afternoon a week, but as time went on it increased to twice or three times every week. It was dead easy as I used to write my own notes and then give them to the teacher the following day.

Instead of going to school I would go down to the arcade in the high street for a couple of hours. It was here that I meet Jeff who introduced me to the gang on the estate.

Most days I would go down to the estate with the gang. We would then hang around the garages or the play areas. We used to shout abuse at the old people as they walked across the park or we might go and taunt the young mothers who went to the swings with their children. But it didn't stop there, we liked making a noise as well and used to play our stereos really loud. Then if we were really bored we would go and cause trouble in one of the local shops or mess about with an abandoned car.

People used to say we were being anti-social but we didn't know what that meant and we didn't care.

That's all stopped now. I was caught by the Police spraying graffiti on a wall and also stealing from a local shop. I was sent back to school and my parents got into serious trouble.

I have now joined a Youth Inclusion Programme which is run locally. A lot of my mates belong. We do all sorts of things on this programme and have a great time. I haven't been in trouble for several months now and people say I am a changed person.'



Forms of Abuse

We tend to think of abuse as physical violence or assault. In reality abuse is the summary of physical, sexual and psychological abusive behaviours directed by one person to another. Abusers often use these behaviours to control other people and get their way.



Financial Abuse

Money and responsibility become tools by which the abuser can further control the victim, it can include the following:

- preventing them from getting or keeping a job
- having to account for every penny they spend
- demanding their money
- forcing them to beg or commit crimes for money



Marion's Story...

Marion found it difficult to make ends meet. Gary always demanded her pay packet at the end of the week and then went out and spent it all on drink and gambling. He did not allow her to have a credit card or cheque book.

Physical Abuse

Physical assault is the most obvious form of domestic violence, the most visible and ultimately the most lethal.

Physical abuse is any act of violence on a victim.

- slapping
- kicking
- shoving
- choking
- pinching
- forced feeding
- pulling hair
- punching
- throwing things
- burning
- beating
- use of objects
- physical restraint - pinning against a wall, floor, bed etc.



Emotional Abuse

Many forms of abuse are cruel. Emotional abuse is more subtle. Quite often such abuse goes unseen, as even the victim does not recognise that they are being abused. Although emotional abuse does not leave physical marks, it is often more seriously damaging to their self esteem. Emotional abuse often follows physical or sexual abuse.

Isolation

- checking up on you
- moving to an isolated area
- ensuring you lack transport or a telephone
- making your friends feel uncomfortable when they visit so they stop coming
- demanding a report on your actions and conversations
- not allowing any activity which excludes the abuser
- finding fault with your friends/family

Verbal Abuse

- yelling or shouting at you
- making threats
- insulting you
- being sarcastic or critical of your interests, opinions or beliefs
- humiliating you in private or in company
- refusing to discuss issues which are important to you
- laughing or making fun of you
- leaving nasty messages

