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Hampshire
County Council



ISLE of
WIGHT
COUNCIL



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

DRUG ALERT

INCIDENCES OF SUSPECTED DRUG OVERDOSE & DRUG RELATED DEATHS

We have received reports of separate incidences in Fareham and Gosport of drug overdoses and drug related deaths amongst opiate users. The incidences relate to the use of heroin and crack. It is not known as this stage if this is as a result of a contaminated, adulterated or unusually strong drugs.

We are aware however of anecdotal reports locally that the impact of COVID-19 could be potentially affecting the purity of available substances or influencing the amount people are taking by either buying more due to fears of a drought or perceptions of reduced strength/purity.

Action to take

Circulate this information to relevant partners and service users along with the following key harm reduction advice and signposting information¹

Harm Reduction Advice: Practice Safer Drug Use

- You might need to buy more than usual but be mindful that using more than you usually do puts you at risk of overdose. Don't use drugs alone, make sure you have NALOXONE and somewhere to keep your drugs safe and out of reach of others, especially children.
- If you are alone, experiment with using less to lower your risk of overdosing and go slowly. If you are using with others, make an OD plan with them and stagger use if possible
- Prepare your drugs yourself and ensure that you don't handle or touch other people's equipment/ drugs and don't let them touch yours
- Further information on how to stay safer whilst using drugs during Covid-19 is available from: indd.adobe.com/view/42c433ba-f79e-4b1d-83ef-1b2dd757e954

Further support is available

Community substance misuse providers continue to offer support for those seeking help with alcohol or drug misuse problems. To find out more or make a referral please contact:

Hampshire & IOW	Website: www.inclusionhants.org/ or phone 0300 124 0103
Portsmouth	Website: https://ssj.org.uk/sub-service/recovery-hub/ or phone 023 9229 4573
Southampton	Website: www.changegrowlive.org/drug-alcohol-service-southampton/info or phone 02380 717171

¹ This alert can be displayed on staff and service user notice boards and circulated via appropriate communication channels. The notice should be **removed** from display by no later than the **29 May 2020**.