

Supporting Parents with Drug and Alcohol Issues

Introduction

Whilst not condoning the use of drugs and / or alcohol, it is recognised that such use in itself may not affect a parent's capacity to look after their child well. Equally, parental drug and / or alcohol misuse can become the central focus of the adult's lives, feelings and social behaviour and therefore have a significant impact on their capacity to parent appropriately.

Early Help

- Information on drug support and specialist agencies is displayed in the public areas.
- Staff know how to access support for parents who identify that there is an issue with drugs and/or alcohol.
- Staff are familiar with protocols for reporting the issue, and obtaining support and advice from the multi-agency team and partners, and the designated safeguarding lead and other outside agencies.
- All staff should be familiar with systems and agencies that can provide early help.
- Any parent known to be misusing alcohol or drugs will be offered a service from the Children's Centre Family Support Worker or from outside agencies who provide early help.

Safeguarding

- **If staff in any of the settings notice that a parent or carer collecting a child is inebriated due to drug or alcohol use, they must not allow the parent or carer to collect the child.**
- It may be possible to call another parent or carer to collect the child
- If it is not possible to find another adult who is on the setting's records and can collect the child, the member of staff should call Children's Social Care. (See safeguarding Policy).