

Methedrone & Legal Highs

- The Essex Drug & Alcohol Partnership (EDAP) fully supports the government's commitment to tackle the emerging threat of legal highs by making a range of these substances including GBL, BZP, and Synthetic Cannaboids such as Spice illegal in December 2009.
- There is little or no regulation or control over the content of 'Legal Highs' subsequently, its difficult to predict what the exact effects, side effects and long term health harms would be, particularly if they were mixed with other substances.
- A forthcoming assessment on Methedrone from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs is expected shortly (29th March) and it is expected that the government will announce its illegal status along with related compounds.
- There have been several deaths in the UK reported by the media where Mephedrone has been implicated although it is not believed that the exact cause of death has not been determined.
- We are fully committed to providing good information, advice and education, to our communities on all drugs including 'Legal Highs' in order for them to make healthy and informed choices and we will continue to do so via public information campaigns, our website and through social networking sites.
- Just because something says its legal doesn't mean it's safe or harmless to use. We need to warn people of the dangers: legal does not mean safe.
- Prevalence of Methedrone is so recent there is very little hard evidence in Essex although we have heard of anecdotal information.
- As of April 2010 data reporting has been altered to capture the prevalence of these so call 'legal highs'.
- The use of Legal highs does not just affect young peoples. We are working with our commissioned services and partners including Essex Police to ensure that a coordinated response including education, prevention and enforcement is rolled to the communities of Essex.
- We have broadened our workforce training to include these legal highs.
- For under 18's we commission a specialist young people's service which is provided by 'EYPDAS'. For over 18's we commission 'Choices' which is provided by Open Road. For more information visit www.essexdrugaction.org