

This Council notes that:

- Substance abuse, including the use of drugs and alcohol, poses significant risks to the health, well-being, and educational outcomes of students.
- Since 2015, young people aged 14-17 increasingly believe it is “normal to get drunk” to where now 55% of young people believe it is normal.
- Liver disease is the only major cause of death where rates are rising. The number of people dying prematurely from liver disease and liver cancer has increased by almost two-thirds (64%) in the last 20 years, and 6 in 10 cases are related to alcohol consumption, according to the British Liver Trust.
- NHS figures for 2021 show that 9% of 11-15 year olds used e-cigarettes (vapes) and it is thought this figure has risen rapidly to an estimated 15%.
- Maintaining a safe and drug-free environment is crucial for providing a conducive learning environment, mitigating long term health issues and ensuring our duty of care for all students in our schools.
- Schools play a critical role in educating students about the dangers of substance abuse and promoting healthy behaviours, supported by the council and other agencies.

The Council acknowledges that:

- Our current zero-tolerance approach to drugs or illicit substances is recognised as an important deterrent and principle which sends a strong message that substance abuse in our schools will not be tolerated.
- Collaborative efforts between schools, parents, the Council, GMP; community organisations continue to be essential in addressing substance abuse issues effectively and they must be rigorously and consistently followed up and impact monitored.
- Recent studies have revealed that 37% of young people in Bury are not worried about the long-term health effects of alcohol, indicating a need for increased awareness and education on the risks associated with alcohol consumption and substance use.
- Sales of e-cigarettes and vaping liquids, including disposable vapes is illegal to anyone aged under 18 years yet usage has drastically increased in recent years.

Our schools are places that every student deserves and needs to feel safe in; students should not feel unsafe and feel pressurised due to peers bringing illicit substances into schools. Schools have a duty to educate their students on the dangers of social consumption of narcotic substances, alcohol and tobacco related products.

This Council resolves to:

- Reiterate our zero-tolerance approach to drugs and illicit substances in our Borough's schools,
DELETE
~~emphasising the need for the strictest disciplinary action for any violations.~~
ADD
as part of our Inclusion strategy to ensure consistency of approach to sanctioning young people.
- Write to all school Head Teachers in the borough, stating our resolve to support initiatives to highlight

- DELETE

~~the need to proactively address the weakening stance young people in Bury take on~~

- the long-term health effects of alcohol consumption,
- ADD
- drugs use and vaping, together with the environmental impact of the disposal of vaping materials and nitrous oxide paraphernalia.
- The Council works with public health to ensure schools have access to all relevant and effective materials and resources to support schools.
- Ask police and Council enforcement to work within communities to identify and prosecute retail outlets selling vaping materials and e cigarettes to young people under 18.
- DELETE
- ~~Provide digital resources to schools for regular awareness campaigns to engage students, parents, and the wider community in promoting a safe and drug-free environment~~
- Encourage the involvement of student groups, youth organisations, and student councils to actively participate in awareness campaigns and share their perspectives on substance abuse prevention.
- Council to write to Bury MPs to examine the case for an outright ban on disposable vapes.
- Review the impact of the actions outlined by no later than the end of 31 July 2024.