

## Information on Adulterated Vapes in Schools

There are concerns regarding the increasing availability of vapes in schools which contain cannabis compounds or synthetic cannabinoids.

In a recent case where several pupils were hospitalised the substance ingested was thought to be THC, the active component of cannabis. It is understood that the pupils believed they were using THC vape oil, but when samples were later tested, it was found to be the synthetic cannabinoid commonly known as Spice, the effects of which can be very unpleasant or dangerous. In this case the students became unwell and several required hospital treatment, with one pupil admitted in a critical condition.

### THC and Synthetic cannabinoids in vapes:



Vaping THC is a relatively new and is increasing in prevalence amongst young people under the age of 18. However, it often is not THC that you find inside these products, but instead Synthetic Cannabinoids referred to as 'Spice'. These vapes are colourful, with different flavours and use recognisable brands and logos to target young people. Police intelligence suggests that **BLUE** and **GREEN** vape juice could be THC, while **RED** and

**ORANGE** is likely to be Spice. They are often sold on social media such as Snapchat/Instagram/Telegram.

They are also less detectable and easier to use than smoking, increasing appeal to young people. The liquid may also be stored in small plastic bottles that look like eye drops or decongestant sprays making it harder to detect.



### Risks of using 'THC' Vapes

1. Unable to measure the dose or know the strength – presents a higher risk of overdosing.
2. Leave users in incapacitated vulnerable state where assaults/theft can occur.
3. Users can experience episodes of Anxiety/Paranoia.
4. Dependency – if not THC but Spice which is a very physically addictive substance with severe withdrawal effects.
5. Seizures – many young people have been hospitalised.
6. Death – there have been reported cases of deaths related to the use of miss sold 'THC' that actually contains Spice.

### If you find 'THC' vapes being used/distributed in schools

It is advisable to ensure police are notified of any incidents and that any products seized can be sent for testing. Please ensure that basic fact finding has been completed about who, when, where, and how any products were found. This will enable the police to assess.

Any young person known to have used or exhibiting signs of use should be taken to hospital if unwell or be kept safe until the effects pass. This can be several hours depending on the strength and quantity of the substance ingested.

## **Support for children and families affected by 'THC' vapes or other drugs.**

Support is available for anyone affected by substances. This can be brief advice through to structured interventions that aim to support an individual through their dependency and into recovery.

### **1. Children and Young people's Services in Lewisham**

- ✓ Website: <https://insightyoungpeople.org.uk/our-services/insight-lewisham-young-people/>
- ✓ Telephone: 0208 690 3020
- ✓ Email: [insightlewisham@humankindcharity.org.uk](mailto:insightlewisham@humankindcharity.org.uk)

### **2. Adult treatment and support services in Lewisham**

- ✓ Website: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/lewisham/info>
- ✓ Telephone: 020 8314 5566
- ✓ Email: [info.lewisham@cgl.org.uk](mailto:info.lewisham@cgl.org.uk)

### **3. Further advice and information can be found online at:**

- ✓ [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)
- ✓ [www.substancemisuseresources.co.uk](http://www.substancemisuseresources.co.uk)
- ✓ [Spice harm reduction information](#)