Cannabis and Parenting

Live and Learn Sports

Safeguarding Children

Partnership 2020

Things such as cannabis, alcohol and other associated depressant substances affect the brain and also have an impact on the individuals decision making. People need to be mindful that people who use cannabis may be really good parents but this still may have an affect on using these skills consistently. A number of local and national Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) have identified learning around the use of cannabis by parents.

2. Why it matters

Cannabis is the most used drug in the UK. The main active chemical in it is tetrahydrocannabinol otherwise known as THC. Some of the different forms of cannabis are hash, grass/weed and skunk and also cannabis oil. Tobacco and cannabis share some of the same chemicals which are linked to lung and other diseases. Cannabis can mess with your mind and mood and regular use can increase the risk of developing schizophrenia.

1. Background

A drawing of a cartoon character

Description automatically generated

There are pieces of evidence linking together cannabis and passive smoking to sudden infant death syndrome. Every parent must be aware of the potential consequences of not following the rules to the safe sleeping practice. Research shows that the presence of two parents who use cannabis are a particular risk to children.

3. Information

Make sure the focus is kept on the child.

Keep focusing on what needs to be changed for the benefit of the child.

Discuss the cases in supervision.

Be sure to use SMART planning.

7. What to do =

RSCB

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board –

7-minute Briefing

Where are the children when parents are using cannabis?

Do assessments address cannabis use?

How and when are parents sourcing cannabis and who are they getting it from? Is this causing a potential risk to the child?

Are other professionals needed to be involved in order to reduce the risks?

6. Questions

Some local and national services to contact for a turning point, advice and a treatment service.

Early Break Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service

Greater Manchester Fire Service Safe & Well Visits

NHS Advice on Stop Smoking Treatments

5. Information

Also some studies have found an increase in likelihood and frequency of illicit drug use. This also come with smoking cigarettes. Parents may minimise the effects and impact on the drug on their parenting.

4. Information