**Risk Factors**

- Early onset of drug or alcohol use
- Teacher/peer model of drug or alcohol use
- Early experimentation
- Association with peers who use drugs/alcohol
- Psychological vulnerability
- Lack of perception of the risks of drug/alcohol misuse
- High levels of poverty & decay
- Easy drug availability
- Areas where there is widespread social acceptance of drug use

**Protective Factors**

- Positive temperament
- Intellectual ability
- Supportive family environment
- Social support system
- Caring relationship with at least one adult
- In education/employment/training
- Belonging to a ‘vulnerable’ group
- Young sex workers
- Young offenders
- Looked after children
- Mental health problems
- School non-attenders
- Drug/alcohol misuse by parents
- Abuse within the family
- Homeless
- Social & Cultural Factors
- High levels of neighbourhood crime
- High levels of poverty & decay
- Easy drug availability
- Areas where there is widespread social acceptance of drug use
- Lack of perception of the risks from drugs/alcohol

**Defining the terms**

**Drug/alcohol use** The consumption of a drug/alcohol by a young person. When the term ‘use’ is contrasted with ‘misuse’, ‘use’ means the consumption of a drug/alcohol that does not cause any perceptible immediate harm - even though it may carry some risk of harm.

**Drug/alcohol misuse** Use of a drug/alcohol or combination of drugs and alcohol, that harms health or social functioning - either dependent use (physical or psychological) or use that is part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

**Vulnerable group** Young people are at increased risk of drug/alcohol misuse if they belong to certain groups and this risk increases if there is membership of more than one group.

**Protective factors** Increase a young person’s resilience to the development of drug/alcohol misuse problems.

**Risk factors** Increase the likelihood that drug/alcohol misuse will occur.

---

**The Kent Drug Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT)** aim to reduce drug and alcohol related harm for young people, their parents/carers and the community. This is achieved by robust and accountable multi-agency commissioning of services, ensuring integration within wider children's services in Kent. KDAAT partner agencies and service providers ensure:

- **Universal Services**: Drug and Alcohol education for all young people as part of a holistic approach, delivered through the PSHE element of Kent Healthy Schools Programme and Schools Drugs Education Advisers.
- **Early Intervention Services**: Targeted and prevention services for young people from vulnerable groups, support for parents and carers and training for professionals.
- **Specialist Treatment**: An accessible high quality range of treatment and support services for young people experiencing alcohol/drug misuse related problems.

Further information about KDAAT for professionals, parents and carers, please visit [www.kdaat.co.uk](http://www.kdaat.co.uk)

Alternatively contact us directly:

**KDAAT**
3rd Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX
**Tel** 01622 221676

Young people can access further information about drugs and alcohol through [www.foryoungpeople.co.uk](http://www.foryoungpeople.co.uk)

---

**DUST Training**

If you require training to explore drug and alcohol misuse and how to refer to services please contact KCA YPS on 01227 456744 or email yps@kca.org.uk

**DUST form** is available online at [www.kdaat.co.uk](http://www.kdaat.co.uk) which also has information about how to get DUST training, a PDF and excel version of the DUST form.

KCA provided early intervention and specialist drugs and alcohol services for young people across Kent. For further advice please contact them on 01227 456744 or yps@kca.org.uk

If you would like further information about Healthy Schools please go to:


and if you would like further information about Schools Drugs Education Advisers please go to:

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/drugs.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/drugs.cfm)
This form is a screen tool to indicate whether an assessment by a specialist service is needed. The Young Persons’ Drug and Alcohol Service will use this information to determine an appropriate course of action. This may result in the young person being offered some form of intervention/treatment or in further advice and guidance being offered to the referrer. All information on completed DUST forms sent to Drug and Alcohol Services will be treated in accordance with their confidentiality policies - a copy of which is available on request. (Exceptions to confidentiality include following Safeguarding procedures).

This tool is designed for two main purposes:

- To help people who have to make decisions about how to respond to drug/alcohol use by a young person.
- To allow a professional team to create a caseload profile and audit the prevalence of drug/alcohol use within their case load.

The form is divided into sections designed to assess risk factors regarding:

- Drug/alcohol use
- General and Psychological health
- Social situation/behaviour

Instructions:

- Complete the form by ticking the most appropriate responses. If in doubt, do NOT tick.
- A scoring system is employed for each section. The scores should be added up and the total written below each section. Please do not include past use in your scores.
- Once you have completed each section, refer to the scoring table (top right).
- If the young person does not meet the threshold for referral but you still have concerns, please contact KCA YPDAS for advice and information.

SCORING TABLE

SECTION 1: Drug/alcohol use

Score 0-4 | Score 5-6 | Score 7+
--- | --- | ---
Consider giving drugs information/advice. | Consider seeking advice from Young Persons’ Drug Service (see below). | Refer to Young Persons’ Drug Service (see below).

SECTION 2: Social situation/behaviour

A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing drug/alcohol misuse problems and should increase your level of concern.

Score 0-1 | Score 2-5 | Score 6+
--- | --- | ---
LOW RISK | MEDIUM RISK | HIGH RISK
Consider seeking advice from Young Persons’ Drug Service. | Consider seeking advice from Young Persons’ Drug Service. or other relevant agency. | Consider seeking advice from Young Persons’ Drug Service. or other relevant agency.

SECTION 3: General and Psychological health

A high score means that a young person is vulnerable to developing drug/alcohol misuse problems and should increase your level of concern.

Score 0-4 | Score 5-6 | Score 7+
--- | --- | ---
LOW RISK | MEDIUM RISK | HIGH RISK
Consider giving Consider seeking advice Refer to Young Persons’ Drug Young Persons’ Drug Service. Young Persons’ Drug Service or other relevant agency. Service or other relevant agency.

TOTAL SECTION 1:

### Drug/Alcohol Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketamine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Mushrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solvents /Gas/ Aerosols</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other(s) please list (include misuse of prescribed drugs). Score 2 each</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug/Alcohol Use - Frequency</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occasional drug /alcohol use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular drug /alcohol use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injecting</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not injecting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently/recently injecting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug/Alcohol Use - Intoxication</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug/alcohol use without loss of consciousness or aggression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug/alcohol use with loss of consciousness or aggression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact with Other Drug/Alcohol Users</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No drug/alcohol using friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some friends who use drugs /alcohol and some who don’t</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All friends use drugs /alcohol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL SECTION 2:

### Social life circulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Situation</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No problems with accommodation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with accommodation, insecure or inadequate housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looked after by Local Authority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Support</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has supportive relationships with more than one adult</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has supportive relationship with one adult</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has no supportive relationships with adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problematic relationships (e.g. domestic violence at home)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In education / employment / training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truanting from school / at risk of school exclusion/ drug or alcohol related absences from work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School excluded / unemployed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criminal Involvement</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No criminal involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At risk of involvement in the Criminal Justice System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involved in Criminal Justice System or committing more serious crimes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Behaviour</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age appropriate / safe sexual behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inappropriate / unsafe sexual behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial sex / abusive sexual relations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug related debt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Drug / Alcohol Use</th>
<th>Score 0-4</th>
<th>Score 5-6</th>
<th>Score 7+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No known family drug / alcohol misuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known drug / alcohol misuse among close family members / carers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significantly affected by someone else’s drug / alcohol misuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL SECTION 3:

### General Health

- 0 Young person reports no significant health problems
- 1 Teeth problems
- 1 Stomach problems
- 1 Regular headaches
- 1 Difficulty sleeping
- 5 Chronic fatigue
- 5 Severe sleep problems
- 5 Self neglect
- 10 Extreme weight loss
- 10 Blackouts and/or memory loss
- 10 Pregnant
- 10 Fitting
- 10 Accidental / planned overdose

### Psychological Health

- 0 Young person reports no significant psychological problems
- 1 Low self esteem
- 1 Mid anxiety
- 1 Shyness
- 5 Eating disorder / marked change in eating pattern (e.g. loss of appetite / bingeing)
- 5 Frequent bouts of unhappiness / depression
- 5 Severe anxiety / panic attacks
- 10 Suicide attempts
- 10 Severe paranoia
- 10 Hallucinations (when not under the influence of drugs/alcohol)

This tool is for guidance. It is intended to assist with decision making about how to respond to drug/alcohol use by a young person. It does not remove the need for professional judgement which should take account of factors such as the age and maturity of the young person.

© Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team
### Young Person

Does the young person consent to this referral?  
(If no, contact Young Persons' Service for advice)  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

Does the young person consent to the information on the screening tool being shared with the Young Persons' Service?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

What does the young person want from the service?

Name & Address of Young Person  
[ ] Male  [ ] Female

Postcode

Contact Number

2nd Contact Number

Alternative contact

Date of Birth  
Age

Ethnicity (tick one)

- [ ] White British  
- [ ] White Asian  
- [ ] Other Asian/Asian British  
- [ ] Caribbean/Black British  
- [ ] White Irish  
- [ ] Other Mixed  
- [ ] African/Black British  
- [ ] Other White  
- [ ] Indian/Asian British  
- [ ] Pakistani/Asian British  
- [ ] Bangladeshi/Asian British  
- [ ] Chinese/Other Ethnic  
- [ ] Not Stated

Have the young person's parents/carers consented to this referral?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

Name & Contact Number of Parent/Guardian

Young Person's Availability for Appointments

What is the best way to contact the young person?  
[ ] Text  [ ] Letter  [ ] Phone

Young person's signature

### Referrer

Date of Referral

Referrer's Name

Referrer's Agency

Have you received DUST training?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

Address

Contact Number

---

### Other Agencies involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address &amp; Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMHS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other – please state</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does young person have a diagnosed medical condition?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

and is on Medication?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

If YES please give details

Has a CAF been completed with young person?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

If yes, please give details

Safeguarding concerns  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

If yes, please give details (including lead agency and name of worker)

Has the young person ever, or currently been subject to a child protection plan?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

If yes, please give details:

Would this young person pose any significant risk to staff or others?  
[ ] Yes  [ ] No

If yes, please give details

---

### Reasons for Referral

Please add any additional background information that may be relevant to the assessment of this young person.

---

**Please return to:**

**EAST KENT:**

KCA Young Persons' Service  
34 Simmonds Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 3RA

Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway, Swale, Thanet

Tel: 01227 456744  
Fax: 01227 457628  
yps@kca.org.uk

**WEST KENT AND MEDWAY:**

KCA Young Persons' Service  
205/217 New Road, Chatham, Kent. ME4 4QA

Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells

Tel: 01634 338640  
Fax: 01634 338649  
medway@kca.org.uk

For further copies of the DUST form please contact your local KCA Young Persons Service or visit [www.kdaat.co.uk](http://www.kdaat.co.uk)