



# Vape liquid of unknown substance: Information for Parents & Guardians

June 2021

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## **What is the issue?**

Although it is clear that E-Cigarettes have health benefits over smoking cigarettes; this is only effective when using liquid that has been quality controlled. There are a number of vaping liquids available from unlicensed sources such as on the dark web or advertised on social media that are not controlled. A number of which contain illegal, harmful substances.

There have been cases reported of young people using liquids believed to contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is the psychoactive compound in cannabis and can make people feel a range of effects. Any amount or concentrate of THC is illegal in the UK.

Further concerns are raised after reported cases that young people had suffered adverse effects following vaping what was believed to be THC later identified as a far more potent substance.

## **What are we worried about?**

Vaping liquids may contain substances other than what they are labelled as. The effects of inhaling these unregulated products can be unpredictable and potentially very dangerous.

### **Displayed side effects may include**

- Paranoia
- Collapse
- Anxiety
- Urination
- Confusion

## **What can you do?**

- We recommend speaking with your child(ren) about these risks.
- The legal vaping age in the UK is 18 years plus and anyone under this age should not be using a vape product regardless of the liquid being used.
- It is advised you check the source of the product, assessing if you think it is safe. If you use – E-Cigarettes check your purchase are from a repeatable source and you are not at risk of harm. Adverse effect may impact younger people more obviously due to age, weight and lack of tolerance, some people may be suffering harmful effects which do not display obviously.
- Please be mindful of the medical needs should a child be present with symptoms, or if you suspect they have consumed a drug –infused substance. In a medical emergency call 999.
- If you have any local information or intelligence please share it with: Crimestoppers, Fearless.org, Staffordshire Police 101, via facebook or the website.

**Local support Services**

Stoke on Trent Community Drug & Alcohol service (CDAS)

**01782 221090**

**referrals@sotcdas.org.uk**

T3 stars (Covering all areas of Staffordshire; Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stafford & Stone, Rugeley, Cannock & Burntwood, East Staffordshire & South Staffordshire) Excluding Stoke-on-Trent

Suite 1, 7-8 Mill Street, Stafford ST162AJ

**01785 241393**

**t3stars.stafford@humankindcharity.org.uk**

**Websites:**

The following websites are really helpful sources of information for children, young people and their guardians: Talk to FRANK – the government’s drug advice

website/helpline and their specific page on cannabis –

<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis>

For friendly, confidential advice, Talk to FRANK on 0300 1236600.