

# Young people & New drugs what's new?

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- What's the Base and the Youth Health Programme
- Young people: who, how and where?
- A European perspective
- What can we do?



# The Base Youth Centre

The Base supports children and young people living in Ballyfermot and surrounding areas through

We provide various services and activities such as:

- Youth work programme, including a dedicated substance misuse youth worker
- Youth Health Programme
- Teen Parent Support programme
- Arts & Multi Media programme
- Community employment scheme
- Childcare facility

The Base operates from a newly constructed 12,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in Ballyfermot (financed by the EU, NDP and other Government funding).

[www.thebase.ie](http://www.thebase.ie)

# The Youth Health programme

- The Youth Health Programme is a programme funded by the HSE and managed by the Base Youth Centre.
- The Youth Health Programme provides a youth friendly health initiative as well as meeting the young people's health needs through the provision of specific and appropriate responses.
- The Youth Health Programme strives to play an active coordination role around young people accessing and linking in with health related services and programmes, as well as supporting these services in their efforts to provide a more youth friendly and accessible service

# Strategies

- Mental Health
- Sexual Health
- Substance misuse
- General well being
- Training & Development

# Case study

Group : 10 young people

Gender: Females

Age: 14 to 16 years old

Area: Ballyfermot/ Cherry Orchard

- 9 out of 10 tried new drugs
- 2 used only party pills
- 7 used both smoking material & party pills  
(Bonsai/ XXX)
- All consumed alcohol with new drugs

# What's the story with headshops?

- First things they said about the headshops: *You have to be over 18 to be served in them, It is easy to get served if you look over 18, They never ask you for ID, They use the shops in town or at the mill in Clondalkin*
- They were all aware of what these shops sold before the new drugs (in particular grinders and flavoured skins)
- They described what you find in the shops as: *Legal stuff, Safer stuff, Party pills, Stuff not to be taken by people*



# How was it?

## When using the smoke substances

*“Spinning after 1 joint”, “Felt sick”, “Vomited”*

*Two girls reported having to carry their friend home*

*“Not well the next day”, “Felt like we were drinking all night”,*

*“Did not get the munchies off it”, “Hallucinations”, “paranoia”*

*“It is worse than hash, smoking normal hash is like having a smoke (cigarette) compared to it”.*

## When using the party pills

*“It was hard to sleep”, “They made me hallucinate”*

*“I was out of it but I remembered everything the next day”*

## Where can you get it?

They can get them on the street from the local drug dealer, and that they're about an extra 10 euro in price compared to when they were sold in head shops.

They reported that they still got served even after the ban

They know who sells them but did not know where their dealers got the drugs.

1 girl said that she believed they got them sent in from Poland, but did not know the specifics.

They all said that they would not try them again because of the bad experiences they had on them.

They would rather use "NORMAL DRUGS"

# Young people

Spectrum of trends

Socio-economical factors

Gender

Accessibility:

- To the shops
- To the internet
- To substance
- To financial resources

What do we do?

## European perspective: monitoring new drugs

“New Psychoactive substance”: A new narcotic or psychotropic drug, in pure form or in preparation, that is not controlled by the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat comparable to that posed by substances listed in these conventions.

# A three step approach

- Step 1: Information exchange/ early warning
- Step 2: Risk assessment
- Step 3: Decision-making

# Suggested Bed time/ Holiday reading

- Understanding the "Spice" phenomenon
- Europol & EMCDDA joint report on Mephedrone

[www.emcdda.eu](http://www.emcdda.eu)



# Where does that leave us?

Proficiency in the use of new technology (the web, lab kits, adaptability)

VS

Institutions, authorities catching up

# we've done it before

- Awareness
- Education
- Harm reduction
- Campaigning
- Lobbying

Won't work without meaningful  
participation

Need help and support? [Play Advert](#) [Links](#)

Roll over/Click the people to learn more about the burden of Cocaine abuse

# COCAINE

YOU THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL



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This Cocaine Awareness Campaign was organised and produced in Ballyfermot by local Drug and Youth Services, involving local individuals to raise the public awareness on Cocaine and its damaging effects on the individual.

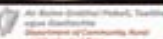
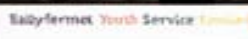
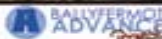
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# COCAINE

YOU THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL

" I lost everything, me girlfriend  
and me kid, over coke".

FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT  
BALLYFERMOT ADVANCE PROJECT 6238001  
BALLYFERMOT STAR 6238002  
DRUGSHIV HELPLINE 1800 459 459



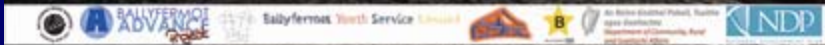
[www.cocaineyouthinkyouknowitall.com](http://www.cocaineyouthinkyouknowitall.com)

# COCAINE

YOU THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL

"Coke. Money in one hand  
and straight out the other".

FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT  
BALLYFERMOT ADVANCE PROJECT 6238001  
BALLYFERMOT STAR 6238002  
DRUGSHIV HELPLINE 1800 453 453



[www.cocaineyouthinkyouknowitall.com](http://www.cocaineyouthinkyouknowitall.com)

Campaigns might not work but  
the process does

# New Drugs

## Young people respond

Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS)

Civic link group

- 14 to 16 years old
- Organised and conducted focus groups
- Met their TD's
- Creating an educational resource

- Adapting adult leaflet for young people
- Creating workshops and activities that can be added to any substance awareness programme
- Using new technology and media



# We can ...

- Adapt the European three steps approach.
- Create a template for data collection
- Localise the interventions
- Be clear about the message we're sending i.e.: the unknown, public health issue

When asked “what should we do about the younger kids?”

One of the girls said:

“I’ll talk to them, I’ll tell them not to do it cause I did and it was *horrible*”

Given the chance young people will talk about it and young people will engage in anything they’re involved in.

# Thank you

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