



In response to the current situation under Coronavirus (Covid-19), **Y-Smart drug and alcohol service for young people** remains open for new referrals and is continuing to support those who were already in service. If you are working with a young person who is in difficulty with drugs or alcohol, or is effected by family substance use, and needs support please contact us on (01271) 388162 or (01392) 385637 or look for more information on our website www.y-smart.org.uk

Our offices

- Are closed to the public currently, although are still being accessed by staff and appointments by arrangement. They are not currently manned during all office hours. Young people can be seen in their own communities by arrangement.
- Our telephone lines are manned during office hours Monday to Friday on the above numbers.

Risks

- During the pandemic traditional drug supplies have declined in accessibility. Public Health England report that this may lead service users to source alternative substances, which may result in behavioural changes.
- Costs of illicit drugs are increasing which will increase the risk of acquisitive crimes.
- Some of our more vulnerable young people may be at greater risk of exploitation and links with drug supply.
- Young people who are socially isolated, may be increasingly at risk of low mood and anxiety.

Our current service offer

We continue to;

- Accept new referrals, with initial screening provided over the phone, and assessments completed virtually wherever possible. Face to face appointments are still available where necessary, provided families and staff are able to be appropriately safeguarded.
- Carry out visits to young people and their families in the community and in schools, by arrangement, where a 'virtual visit' is not deemed suitable or there are increased concerns.
- Prioritise our most vulnerable clients for increased contact during this time.
- Assist with statutory appointments for both Youth Offending Service and Childrens Social Work.
- Provide advice and information to schools supporting vulnerable students and assist with the Early Help daily triage to ensure young people and their families get help where and when they most need it.
- Analyse emerging themes and risks and work with partners to respond.