



Cannabis Edibles in Southend

Within Southend we have recently had a small number of young people self-report the use and production of cannabis edibles within the city, this has also led to one known case of a child being admitted to hospital. We are therefore sharing the attached advice taken from the Essex Police website which should provide professionals with the relevant information about risks and appropriate reporting.

What are edibles?

- Laced with a mood-altering ingredient from cannabis, cannabis edibles are an illegal and really strong 'sweet' aimed at young people and teenagers.
- They come in the form of cakes, brownies, cookies, baked goods, sweets, chocolate and drinks. Although cannabis edibles contain an element of cannabis, they do not have the smell or appearance of cannabis.

They may look and smell home-baked or like a shop bought item. As a result of no immediate 'high', users, used to smoking cannabis, may overindulge expecting the same speed of 'hit'.

Can you identify cannabis edibles?

Cannabis edibles can be difficult to identify. Sometimes the packaging differs slightly from shop bought items. Differences are in the form of appearance, spelling or poor-quality packaging.

What to do if someone has taken cannabis edibles.

Stay calm and try not to panic, assess the situation and gather the facts.

It may not always be possible but there are pieces of information which would be beneficial to know if medical treatment is required.

1. Details of the child (age, name, medical history etc.)
2. What actually happened? Did the child digest cannabis edibles or is it believed to have happened?
3. What type of edible were they?
4. Retain any packaging.
5. When were the edibles consumed?
6. Has your child consumed any other substances/alcohol?

If the child is conscious and responsive but not themselves as a result of cannabis edibles, gather the facts and phone 111 for advice and additional information.

Call 999 if their speech is slurred, their pulse is elevated, they are disorientated, unresponsive or unconscious.

Support available.

Open Road is a free and confidential service that offers education and advice around substance misuse, the risks and how to minimise them. Open Road work directly with those affected by substance use, aged between 12-17 years and 18-29 years for those who are using drugs and / or alcohol. Open Road also offer support and guidance for family members affected by their loved one's substance use. The team are based in central Southend, however they are able to see young people at home, in the community or in a place where they feel comfortable to meet.

For further information please contact 01702 431889 option 1, or alternatively email Southend.YPreferral@openroad.org.uk.



We need your help

We know across the country that dealers are disguising these dangerous drugs as sweets or home baked items to target and exploit young people.

These people are not welcome in Essex and action will be taken against them.

But we also need the public to play a part by passing on information to us on anyone selling or indeed taking cannabis edibles and you can do that by calling us on 101 or submitting a report online.

Information can also be passed to independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

Information can also be given to 'Fearless' anonymously by going to their website:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/give-information-anonymously>