

EDAS REACH YP NEWSLETTER



DISPOSABLE AND COUNTERFEIT VAPES, AND SOLVENT ABUSE ALERT

Disposable vapes are small, low-cost flavoured e-cigarettes that can look appealing, with a variety of sweet flavours and colours. These devices are widely available in shops, online, and via social media.

They are becoming increasingly popular among secondary school children, despite the law restricting their sales to over 18's only.

Counterfeit vapes are also in circulation which often exceed legal nicotine levels and contain unknown substances.

They often contain 50mg of nicotine - that's 150% more than legally permitted for adults.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EFFECTS AND DANGERS...

Why are they Dangerous?

Some of the devices on sale:

- Exceed legal nicotine levels (over 2% or 20 mg)
- Contain too much liquid (over 2 ml)
- Are incorrectly labelled and have no traceability
- May contain banned substances
- Are associated with organised criminal gangs and fund other criminality
- Are easily accessible to under 18's
- May lead to undesirable contact between buyer and seller



The Law



Alarming, disposable vapes are becoming increasingly popular amongst secondary school children, despite the law restricting their sales to over 18's only.

These devices should **NOT** be:

- Sold to anyone under 18, or
- Bought for anyone under 18

It is a criminal offense to sell vapes to under 18's.

It is a criminal offense to purchase vapes on behalf of under 18's.

RISKS

Since vapes often contain excessive amounts of nicotine this can increase the risk of becoming dependent on it. **Nicotine is highly addictive** and can cause many negative health effects, especially in those under 18s, as the brain is still developing.



Environmental Issues To Be Aware Of



Vaping packaging, accessories, and equipment such as cardboard packaging, plastic vape wrappers, removable stoppers, batteries, and residual liquid are often found littered, which can be highly contaminating for the environment.

Report It!

If you have any information about the sale or supply of these devices to anyone under 18, you can anonymously contact **South West Illegal Tobacco** at: www.swillegaltobacco.info/report-it



Solvents Alert



There has also been an increase in solvent abuse amongst young people. Solvent abuse (or 'volatile substance abuse', 'VSA' for short) is the inhalation of volatile chemicals found in everyday products such as cigarette lighter refills and aerosols, for the purpose of getting 'high'. In the UK it's also known as sniffing, tooting, buzzing, and huffing.

Solvent abuse kills about 50 people a year in the UK. Inhaling these chemicals causes the heart to beat irregularly which can lead to a fatal heart attack called 'Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome'.

Some volatile substances are more dangerous than others and butane gas is currently the biggest killer.

▶ FOLLOW THIS HARM REDUCTION ADVICE

- Don't do it alone. There is always a risk of death and someone with you can call an ambulance
- Avoid spraying directly into the mouth
- Don't smoke or light cigarettes. All volatile substances are highly flammable
- Don't drink alcohol or use other drugs at the same time as using gases/solvents
- Make sure people know where you are. Stay in a safe environment - away from roads, heights, or anywhere you could have an accident
- Don't argue with, chase, or excite someone who is high on gases/solvents. Raising their adrenaline levels increases their risk of death

For further support and advice contact the EDAS/Reach Young Peoples team. We are here to help! Get in touch with us on 01202 741414 or 0800 0434656 - option 2.

