

Inspection Top Tips – Substance Misuse

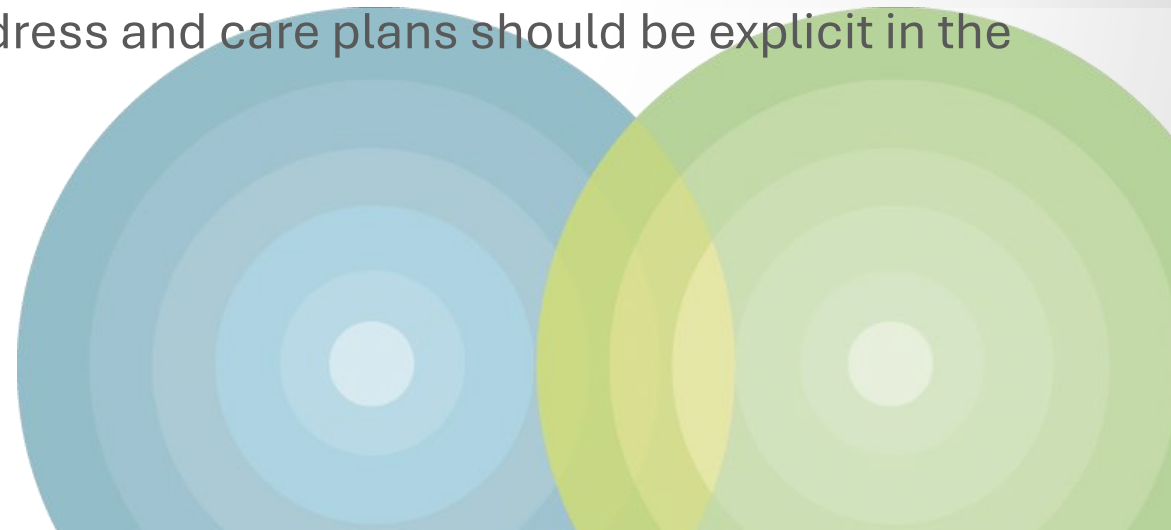
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Children's Homes SCIFF

“Risks associated with misusing drugs or alcohol are known and understood by the adults who look after them. Individual up-to-date risk assessments effectively address any known vulnerabilities for each child and set out what action staff should take to manage the risks. There are plans and help in place to reduce actual harm or the risk of harm and there is evidence that these risks are reducing or managed well, based on children’s individual circumstances.”

Within health and wellbeing there is an emphasis on promoting physical and emotional health where substance misuse is identified as an area to address and care plans should be explicit in the approach to managing this concern.



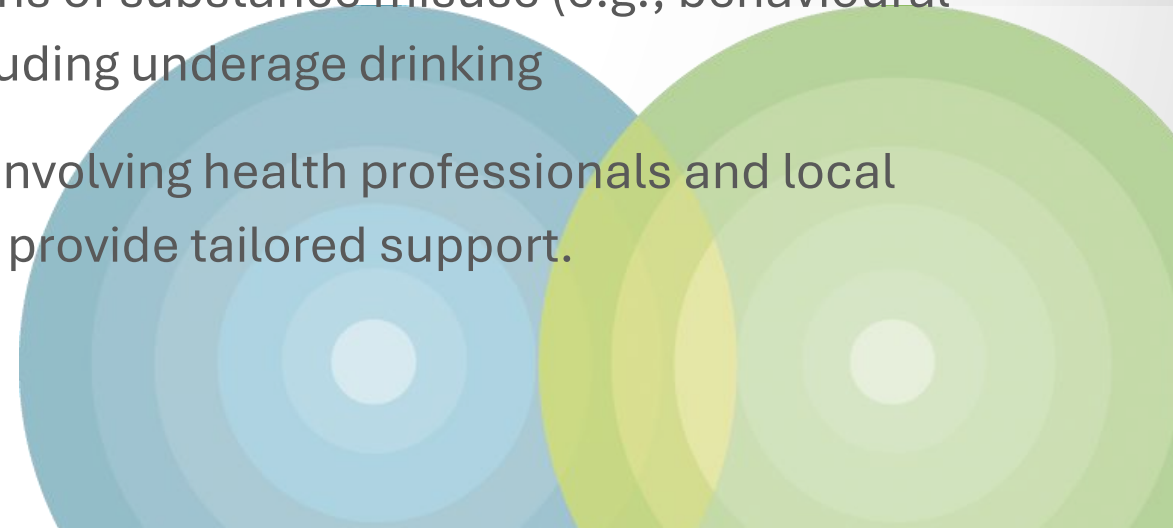
Exemplar inspection finding

"Staff are consistent in their approach to substance misuse and carry out one-to-one work with children. This has helped to educate children and to raise their awareness of the dangers associated with substance misuse."

Top tips...

- **Early Identification and Intervention**

- ❑ Recognise [research shows](#) 20% of young people will have been drinking and about 1 in 10 will have taken drugs in the last month. Prevalence for young people in residential care is likely to be higher, so your home addresses this proactively
- ❑ Identify the likelihood of substance abuse when young people are coming to your home and over time, and the potential for young people to encourage one another to drink or misuse substances
- ❑ Train staff to recognise and respond to early signs of substance misuse (e.g., behavioural changes, withdrawal, physical symptoms), including underage drinking
- ❑ Act swiftly by creating open conversations and involving health professionals and local substance misuse services where necessary to provide tailored support.



Top tips continued...

- **During inspections have information available to show;**
 - ❑ Evidence of staff training and competence in this area
 - ❑ A resource base and connections to substance misuse services available locally
 - ❑ How incidents of substance misuse are managed and documented.
 - ❑ The impact of the home's strategies on improving outcomes for children.
- **What's going on in your area;**
 - ❑ Foster a culture of openness and be able to talk about this subject with current information on what is happening in the local area and cross reference with the Locality Risk assessment document

