

Council Meeting

26th September 2013

Council Motion

The Council notes that:

- A recent report, 'No Quick Fix', from the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) dated September 2013 reported a rise in the use of new drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), sometimes called 'legal highs'. They report that these are doing increasing harm to a growing number of people.
- The report highlights that that 52 people died from 'Legal Highs' in 2012, this being an increase from 28 the previous year. The report goes on to say the numbers of young people in the UK aged 15-24 who have taken a 'legal high' is estimated to be 670,000 (or 8.2 percent) – the highest in Europe.
- The report advises that these are sold in 'head shops' on the high street and over the internet, these new drugs are often chemically similar to banned drugs and have the same effects. The slight molecular differences mean they can be sold as bath salts or research chemicals, provided they carry a caution against consumption. The result of this slight chemical difference means that new drugs are not covered under the A, B, C system of the Misuse of Drugs Act and therefore legal to produce, supply and possess.
- The report states that there are 234 controlled substances that have a classification, but another 251 uncontrolled substances that don't.

The Council resolves that:

- The government should speedily draw up and implement legislation to make 'legal highs' and any similar derivatives illegal. Furthermore to give new or amended powers to The Police and Local Authorities to enforce the new or amended legislation.

Council further resolves to:

- Write to the Home Secretary
- Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, and
- Write to the two local MPs outlining the Council's position.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas (D)

Seconded by Councillor Excell