

**“Changing Drug Markets”
Overdose Awareness &
Naloxone Training for Young
People**



“Drug markets have never been more dangerous, and understanding the people who are most at risk has never been more important.”



It's crucial to equip young people with the knowledge and tools to prevent overdose.

**TURNING
POINT**
inspired by possibility



Accessibility

Drugs are easily available & there is a broader network of distribution

Young People will come across drugs in one way or another and may be curious about trying them.

It's important to ensure that they have access to opportunities to find out more about the risks and how they can keep themselves safe.



**TURNING
POINT**
inspired by possibility



- **Social media**

Snapchat, Instagram, telegram etc make it easier to access dealers.
Dealers use hashtags and emoji's to indicate what they sell

- **Deliver to your door**

Means you don't need to be waiting on a street corner to buy them – however they can be tracked by the police.

- **Dark web**

You can buy in bulk, has a review system, cuts out potentially dangerous encounters with dealers
These transactions can be traced back to your home.

- **County lines**

Drugs are now being distributed to users outside city centres as a result of county lines.

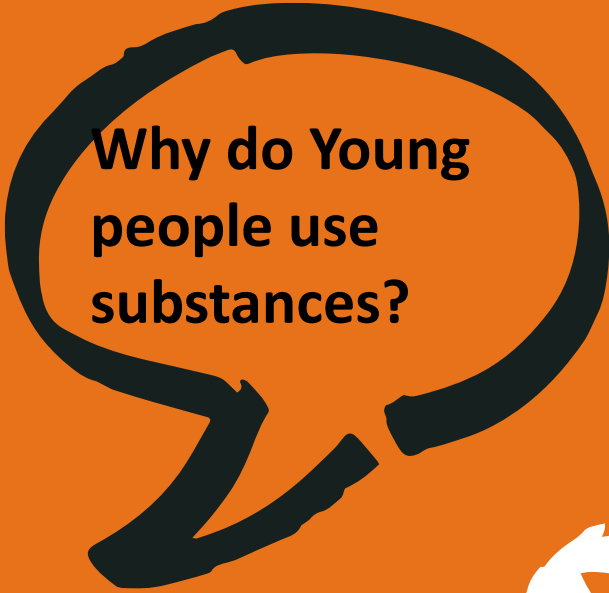




Do you recognise
these images?



Cannabis
Edibles
THC Vapes
Spice
Ketamine
2CB
Cocaine
Benzodiazepines
Lean
Oxycodone
Synthetic Opioids
Alcohol



**Why do Young
people use
substances?**

Sometimes it is a coping strategy for trauma, but sometimes it is simply that:

- They enjoy the short term effects
- Their friends use them
- They are curious about the effects
- The drugs are easily available
- As part of growing up they may just want to “Break the rules”

**TURNING
POINT**
inspired by possibility



Drug markets are changing...

- There are lower numbers of YPs using heroin accessing our CYP services.
- However YPs are buying opioids from online and off street dealers
- Growing trend of opioid tablet use, particularly oxycodone.
- This is often to self-medicate but also for recreational purposes.
- A risk of non-opiate based substances being contaminated.



Where are we seeing this?

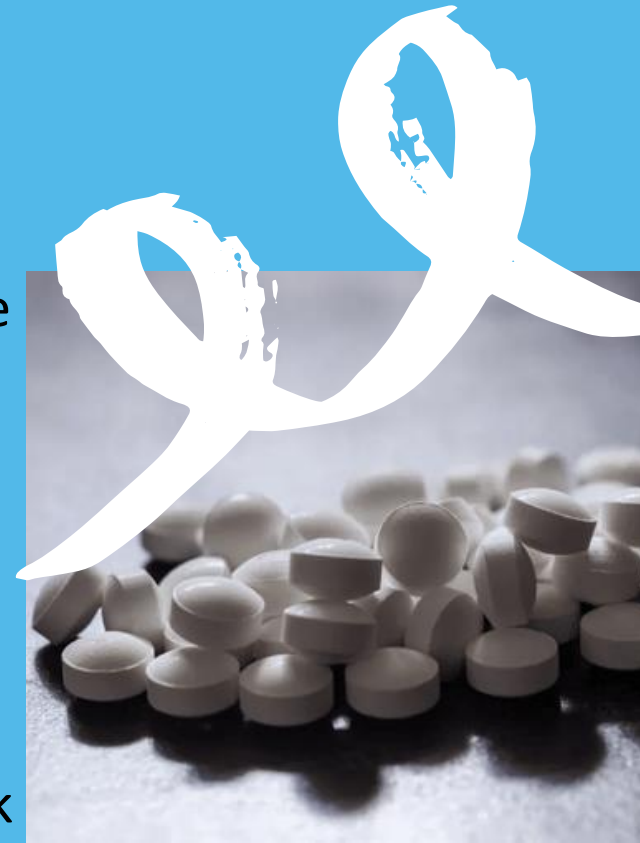
Wedinos, drug checking service for Public Health Wales, has reported nitazenes being found in benzodiazepines including Xanax (alprazolam) and oxycodone.

May 2024 in Middlesbrough a child was treated with Naloxone after using a THC vape adulterated with Nitazines.



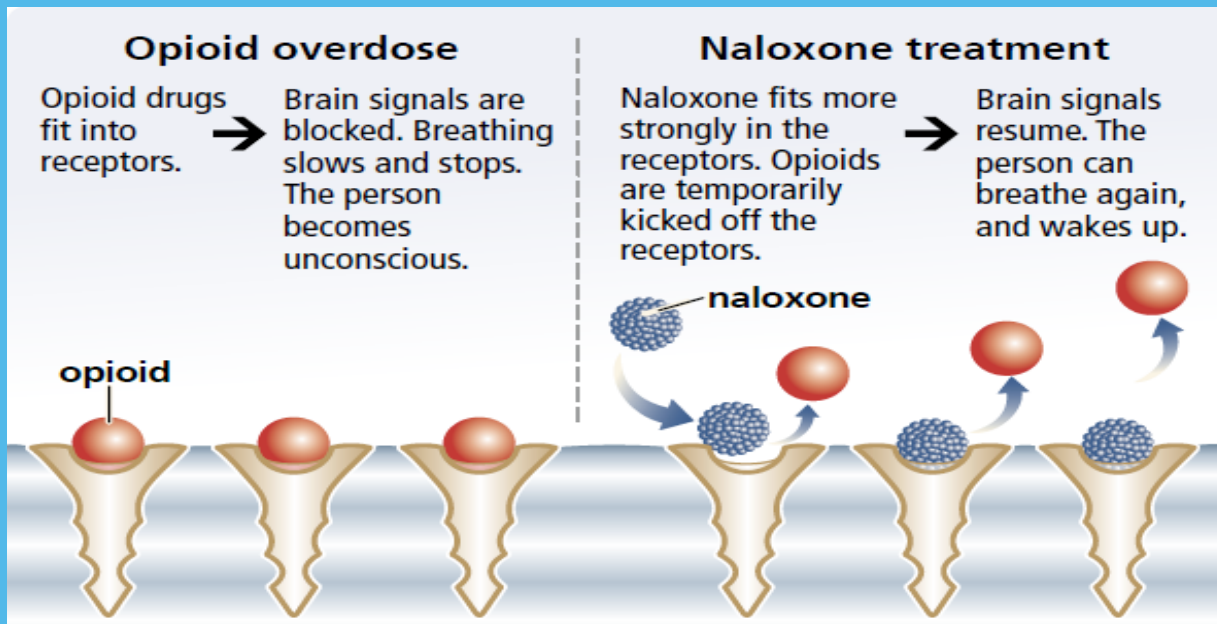
Nitazenes & Young People

- New opioids have arrived on the UK drug scene.
- Nitazenes are a group of synthetic opioids, laboratory-produced drugs which act on the same receptors in the brain as other opioids.
- Most people but especially young people, are not aware the drugs they are using may contain nitazenes.
- Young people are at risk of using these contaminated drugs. Teenage brains don't see risk in the same way as adult ones.
- Young people are more likely to try substances, even if they know there could be negative consequences.



Naloxone & Young People

When given to someone who has used an opioid it can temporarily reverse the effects. It kicks all the opioids off the receptor sites in the brain so the drug can no longer have the same effect on the person who took it



**TURNING
POINT**
inspired by possibility



Nasal Naloxone training - Who is this training for?

Allee

- Young people who are knowingly using Opioids.
- Young people who are part of friendship groups where there are opioids being used.
- Young people who don't use but are living in households where there is Opioid use.

However, due to the changing drug markets it became clear that this needed to be widened to include:

- Young people who use substances that may be contaminated with Opioids/synthetic opioids.
- Young people who are part of friendship groups where there is drug use.



Harm Reduction & Young People

- Harm reduction, born out of a response to the AIDS crisis.
- Prioritizes bodily autonomy.
- Meets people where they are without judgment.
- People can become nervous about Harm reduction for YPs
- Teaching adolescents how to use Naloxone, nitazine test strips VS encouraging them not to use drugs.
- They can choose not to use substances.

But both approaches can be part of the solution, we lose really important tools when we say it has to be one or the other.



Nasal Naloxone for CYPs

- Applied & won a grant from Turning Point's Community Innovation fund!
- Designed and tested the deck of cards.
- Created the Aftercare cards.
- Filmed a training video of how to administer Nasal Naloxone.
- Sourced carry cases for Nasal Naloxone
- Developed a train the trainer package.



What was the Aim of the Training?

This training aims to teach young people;

- how to respond to an overdose
- how to safely administer nasal naloxone
- how to keep themselves safe both during and after the incident.



The Training Package

- Unlike adults, young people are usually seen in locations outside of drug treatment services.
- By developing the training as a deck of cards, the session can be easily delivered anywhere.



The Aftercare Card

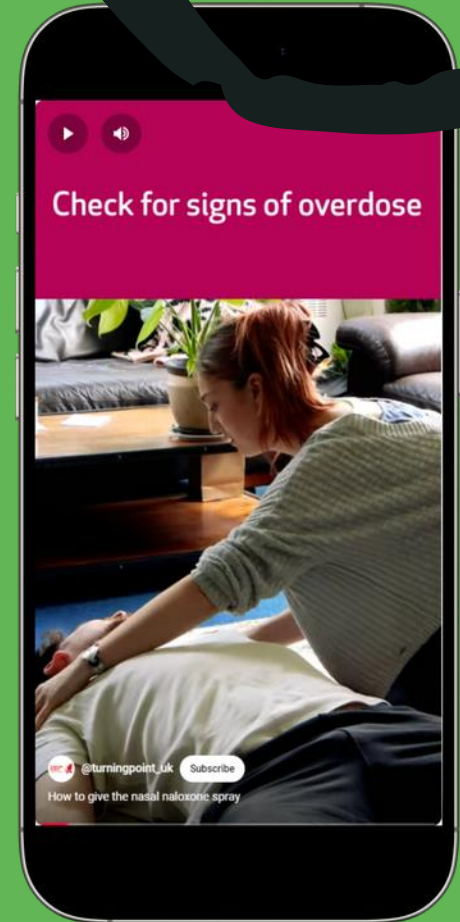


Who to Call e.g. keyworker, teacher, friend...	Number	My plan for next steps	
		Something I can do that makes me smile	

- We have developed a card that will be left with the young person.
- Aftercare was really important to us and the aftercare planning an essential part of the training.
- Dealing with an overdose can be scary and we want young people to have the right numbers to call if they need someone to talk to afterwards.

The Video

- We wanted a video that young people could watch to refresh themselves on the training.
- Somerset Council kindly offered to provide us with a videographer, the wonderful Simon - free of charge!
- We needed 2 young actors - Amber & Szymon from our Yeovil office kindly volunteered ... or were they volunteered ?



Our Service is Confidential

We are happy to have informal

conversations with both young people,
family members & professionals.

Please don't hesitate to contact us
if we can support in any way.



0300 303 8788 (24-hr helpline)

www.turning-point.co.uk/sdas

sdas@turning-point.co.uk

Dawn.holmes@turning-point.co.uk



**TURNING
POINT**
inspired by possibility

