

W A S A

Re-Solv

To end volatile substance abuse particularly among children and young people.

www.re-solv.org

VS usage drops

Data from the NHS's Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2008 report

Re-Solv is very pleased to note the drop in misuse amongst pupils in England from 6.2% in 2007 to 5.0% in 2008.

This figure comes from the annual report released by the NHS Information Centre designed to monitor smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary school pupils aged 11 to 15.

Information for this report was obtained from 7,798 pupils in 264 schools throughout England in the autumn term of 2008.

Proportion of pupils who have ever been offered volatile substances¹:

13%

The figures in the report indicate that amongst boys usage rates have dropped from 5.6% of all boys to 4.8%. The drop in usage rates for girls is significantly higher, falling from 6.8% to 5.2%.

These rates are significantly down from 2003, the recent peak year for both boys and girls. In that year 8.2% of all girls and 7% of all boys aged 11-15 admitted to using volatile substances.

Proportion of pupils who remembered receiving lessons about drugs in the last year:

60%

In 2004 Re-Solv distributed our Hazard Crew VSA education pack to every secondary school in the UK. In 2008 we also launched

Toxic Agents, our first primary school resource which has since been distributed to over 500 schools in the UK.

The drop in statistics indicates the positive influence our distributed resources have had.

In this time we have also greatly

Proportion of 14 year old girls who have taken volatile substances¹ in the last year:

7.7%

increased our presence within schools through workshops and presentations.

Other interesting figures taken from the report show that 2% of girls and 2.9% of boys at just 11 years of age have admitted to using volatile substances in the last year.

The age for usage peaks at 13 where 7.1% of all boys and girls admit to using volatile substances,

Proportion of 11 year old pupils who have taken volatile substances¹ in the last year:

2.4%

compared to 4.9% using cannabis.

Of the young people reporting drug usage, 57% of 11-12 year olds who reported using only one type of drug said that the drug they used was volatile substances.

This is a clear indication that VSA is the most common entry level substance choice amongst young people who choose to take drugs.

See the full report at www.ic.nhs.uk

¹ Volatile Substances in this report is defined as "glue, gas, aerosols or solvents"

"Younger pupils were more likely to sniff volatile substances in the last year than to take cannabis; 2.4% of 11 year olds had sniffed volatile substances compared with 0.9% who had taken cannabis. But by the age of 14, pupils were more likely to have taken cannabis than to have sniffed volatile substances (11.8% compared with 6.9%)."

Data supplied by

NHS

The
Information
Centre

for health and social care

2 Scotland VSA deaths

Re-Solv is very saddened to report two recent deaths in Scotland.

Jamie Tate, a 17-year-old army cadet from Aberdeen, died on the 13th of September this year after inhaling from an aerosol.

Tate was attending a weekend camp at the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion the Highlanders Army Cadet Force at Boddam. He was found unconscious in his bed at the unit's barracks at the former RAF Buchan base near Peterhead.

Tragically, just a few weeks later on October 1st, Kirsty Wilson, an 18-year-old from

Gilmerton, Edinburgh, died after inhaling from an aerosol.

Kirsty was sniffing the aerosol with friends in a popular coastal car park called Longniddry Bents in East Lothian.

After she passed out, Kirsty's friends raced her to a 25 minutes' drive away, Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary Hospital, but she died despite medics battling to save her.

Re-Solv's Scotland office has been working with both families and with the authorities involved to provide support and information.

Despite strong support from the Scottish Government, Scotland remains a very problematic region for volatile substance abuse.



Jamie Tate

In 2007, the latest year for recorded figures, there were 10 VSA deaths in Scotland, the highest figure for any region in the UK.

Re-Solv is determined to bring these figures down, and with your support will continue to work toward preventing tragedies like these.



Longniddry Bents, East Lothian

Welcome to Kelly Hopper

Re-Solv is very pleased to introduce our new Workforce Development Officer, Kelly Hopper

Kelly writes: "I became aware of the problems with Volatile Substance Abuse at a really young age when some school mates started to use glue and gas to get high. This was in the early 1990's. VSA was a massive problem at school but no one really knew how to deal with it and they didn't understand how dangerous it was.

I have worked as a youth worker for the last 6 years for the local council and also as a housing support worker at the YMCA hostel in Mansfield.

In both my roles I came across volatile substance abuse

a lot but the young people do not seem to be educated on it and didn't see it as a problem as it was not an illegal drug.

In my role as Workforce Development Officer I am going to be meeting with agencies to see what provision they have got to deal with volatile substance abuse. With those organisations where we identify a need I will offer support and guidance."

Re-Solv is very pleased to have Kelly in post. We have identified professional training as a key area in the fight to prevent VSA, with a stress on agencies working with adult misusers. We are very keen to find new ways to reach this difficult group. Please contact Kelly to discuss any training issues. kelly.hopper@re-solv.org

Substance Alerts

Re-Solv has had reports from a Trading Standards Officer that certain brands of super



glue have been turning up in high street retailers with exceptionally high levels of chloroform. The products have been taken off of the shelves.

There have also been reports online of bicycle tyre repair kits available throughout the EU with toluene levels of up to 17%. The maximum permitted concentration is 0.1%. These products have also been withdrawn from shops.

If you are aware of any products that have been spotted, please let us know.

information@re-solv.org

*From the North Wales Pioneer
24 September 2009*

Dicing with death

A Councillor fears solvent abuse is becoming a "worrying" problem in Llandudno Junction.

Cllr Mike Priestley said the underpass leading off the flyover, near Llandudno Junction's football ground, was littered with aerosol cans and broken alcohol bottles at the weekend.



Cllr Priestley said council environmental officers were concerned the aerosol cans may have been misused. He said: "I am really shocked. It is so much worse than drinking and the signs are harder to spot. It could lead to fatalities."

Insp. Andrew Broadhead of the West Conwy district said solvent abuse is not something

that has been flagged up in community action plans, suggesting that it has not been a problem in Llandudno Junction. He said police contact will be made with the council to investigate the matter further.

According to national solvent abuse prevention charity, Re-Solv, sudden death can occur as a result of solvent abuse. There are around 30 products in the average home which could be abused.

Signs of misuse range from blurred vision to slurred speech. Cllr Priestley said: "I am calling for more police patrols. We need to act before it is too late. It is a huge concern."

*From the Ballymoney & Moyle Times
9 September 2009*

Solvent abuse fears hit Ballymoney

The PSNI made a discovery of

items in a house in the centre of the town which concerned them in recent days.

Inspector Charlie Cassells of Ballymoney PSNI said that although the police did not wish to scare people they feel it is their duty to alert parents to the potential that young people are engaging in solvent abuse and glue-sniffing.

Said the inspector: "There has been some indication that a bit of solvent abuse or glue-sniffing is taking place in the town. We want people to be aware of the dangers and also advise shops to be careful who they are selling glue and the like to.

"As we all know this is a very dangerous practice and people can die. We want to stop this now. This could be an isolated incident but we feel we have a responsibility to bring to the attention of parents that this could be going on."

Radio awareness campaign

Grampian

Re-Solv was pleased to be part of the Northsound Radio campaign on solvent abuse that took place in Grampian, Scotland in August

and on the supporting adverts and on the supporting materials designed for the Northsound One website.

The web information includes an interactive activity to see how

worker based in Aberdeen and working across Scotland to educate about the dangers of VSA and other drugs.

Lorraine lost her own son to VSA in 1992 and has been campaigning about the issue ever since.

Please take a moment to read Lorraine's entry on the website.

www.northsound1.com

Re-Solv Scotland continues

to try to get the facts about VSA out in whatever way possible. We hope to be able to use this positive model across the UK.



and September of this year.

The campaign featured three radio adverts that were aimed at parents with messages about abusable products.

The campaign was run in association with the Grampian Drug and Alcohol Partnership and Northsound One radio.

Re-Solv was consulted on the

safe your house is, and a guide for how to talk to your children about VSA.

Also on the website is a blog written by

one of Re-Solv's longest serving members, Lorraine Morrice.

Lorraine is a drug education

"If you don't give your kids the right advice about solvents, they might get the wrong advice from someone else"

From the Northsound one VSA radio ads

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Resources

www.resolv.org/publications



Re-Solv's education, information and training resources are second to none in the field of VSA in the UK.

With 25 years experience working with young people in schools and other settings, Re-Solv has developed an unparalleled body of research into what works (and what doesn't) in VSA prevention education. This has been achieved through regular feedback sessions and discussions with young people, teachers and

“As a drug educator with Hope UK, I wanted to tell you that I have been using the Toxic Agents pack in schools now for the past five weeks. It is very, very good. The children LOVE it. From now on it will be for year 6 pupils in many schools in South Wales.”
Pat Hannigan, Hope UK

parents. The feedback has been used to adapt and strengthen the educational resources and material that we produce.

So whether you need some

leaflets for a parent's group, or a DVD for a presentation to a group of retailers, Re-Solv has the information that

you need.

Have a look at the resources section on our website, and let us help make your job easier in conveying the risks and hazards of volatile substance abuse.



Support Re-Solv

There are many ways that you can help support our work. Becoming a member and supporting us yearly is just one way of contributing to the continuing drop in volatile substance abuse here in the UK.

You could also donate toward a specific project, like distributing information packs to all the schools in your region (see right). Or help support us with sponsoring this newsletter.

A fundraising event is a great way to raise money for Re-Solv. One of our members recently ran The Cardiff Half Marathon and raised over £200!

Please get in touch with Victoria Leigh to discuss ways that you can help. marketing@re-solv.org



Without whose help...

In acknowledgment and appreciation of the following who have made donations since our last newsletter.

**Sandra Charitable Trust
The Scottish Government**



A special thanks goes to SC Johnson for funding a distribution of our primary school resource Toxic Agents. This distribution will go to 194 primary schools in the vicinity of SC Johnson's Head Office in Surrey.

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Letters Articles*
Send to: information@re-solv.org

Re-Solv is a non-profit making charitable company limited by guarantee. Company registration No. 1859082. Registered charity No. 326732

Your Donation CAN Make a Difference!

Like many charities in the current financial climate, Re-Solv's challenge to raise funds to continue with our vital work is great. ANY contribution that you or your organisation can make to support us goes a long way towards sustaining the decrease in numbers of young people dying from VSA. We want to make VSA a thing of the past.

Name _____
Address _____

YES! I would like to donate £ _____ toward eradicating VSA. Alternatively, you can donate through CAF online. Follow the 'donate online' link on our website.

Please tick this box if you wish to remain anonymous

Thank you so much for your contribution!