**SESSION SIX: WORKSHEET ONE: TOO MUCH TOO SOON**

**FACILITATOR INFORMATION – THE LAW ANSWERS TO CARD MATCH**

**Alcohol:**

**Legal Status:** Under 5 – It’s illegal to give an alcoholic drink to a child under 5 except in certain circumstances (e.g. under medical supervision)

Over 5 – can drink alcohol at home under adult supervision

Age 14 – allowed anywhere in a pub at Licensees discretion cannot buy or drink alcohol on premises

Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult in a pub.

Age 18 – can legally buy and drink alcohol from any outlet. It is against the law for anyone under 18 to buy alcohol in a pub, off-licence or supermarket or on-line.

**Other information**: It is recommended that you don’t drink at all if under 15, as this can be especially harmful. The best advice is not to drink alcohol until you’re 18.

The problems caused by alcohol include cancers, heart problems, high blood pressure, stroke, liver disease, and falls and other accidents. Too much alcohol in a single session could put you in a coma or even kill you.

**Cannabis:**

**Legal Status**: Cannabis is a Class B drug – it’s illegal to have for yourself, give away or sell. For possession the penalty is up to five years in jail. For supplying someone else you can get fourteen years and an unlimited fine.

Allowing other people to use cannabis in your house or any other premises is illegal.

**Other information** : A conviction for a drug-related offence could have a pretty serious impact. It can stop you visiting certain countries – for example the United States – and limit the types of jobs you can apply for. Driving when high is illegal – and you can still be unfit to drive the day after smoking cannabis. You can get a heavy fine, be disqualified from driving or even go to prison.

**Bubble/mephedrone**:

**Legal Status:** Class B drug – so it’s illegal to have for yourself, give away or sell. Possession can get you up to five years in jail and/or an unlimited fine. Supply to someone else, even your friends, can get you fourteen years in jail and/or an unlimited fine.

**Other information**: Users have reported blue or cold fingers – this is probably because it affects the heart and the circulation. Some users have also had severe nosebleeds after snorting. There were six deaths reported in 2011 in England and Wales.

**Legal highs – Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)**

**Legal Status:** These are substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs (such as [cocaine](http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cocaine), [cannabis](http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis) and [ecstasy](http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/ecstasy)) but that are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act therefore you cannot be prosecuted for possession. However they cannot be sold for human consumption so they are often sold as bath salts or plant food to get round the law. These new substances are not yet controlled because there is not enough research about them to base a decision on. However, more and more are being researched to see what the dangers are and if they should be made illegal.

**Other information:** Just the fact that a substance is sold as legal to possess, doesn’t mean that it’s safe - you can’t really be sure what’s in a ‘legal high’ that you’ve bought, or been given, or what effect it’s likely to have on you.

Like drinking and driving, driving while under the influence of drugs, including ‘legal highs’ is illegal – with some ‘legal highs’ you could still be unfit to drive the day after using. You can get a heavy fine, be disqualified from driving or even go to prison

**Consent (covered by the Sexual Offences Act)**

**Legal Status:** The age of consent to any form of sexual activity for males and females is 16 years. Children under 13 years cannot legally give their consent to any form of sexual activity.

Young people between the ages of 13-15 years may be deemed as 'competent to consent' by professionals using the Fraser Guidelines for contraceptive services. Young people of any age can access information and advice from sexual health services.

**Other information**: There is no defence of mistaken belief about the age of a child for under 13's. There is a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Young people over 13 will be assessed by professionals using the Fraser Guidelines to determine if they are competent to consent to sexual activity.

The law is not intended to prosecute mutually agreed teenage sexual activity between young people of a similar age unless it involves abuse or exploitation.

**Rohypnol**:

**Legal Status**: Controlled under Class C of the Misuse of Drugs Act. Unauthorised possession (i.e. without a prescription) could result in a prison sentence of up to 2 years and an unlimited fine. Supplying, which includes giving some to your friends, could mean up to 14 years in prison and an unlimited fine.

**Other information**

It is a tranquilliser and can impair judgement and reaction time. It is recommended that people do not drive or operate heavy machinery were they are taking them. Often referred to as the 'Date Rape' drug. It is an offence to administer to someone without their knowledge.

A conviction for a drug-related offence could have a serious impact. It can stop you visiting certain countries – for example the United States – and limit the types of jobs you can apply for. Like drinking and driving, driving while impaired by drugs is illegal. You can get a heavy fine, be disqualified from driving or even go to prison.

**Steroids**

**Legal Status**: Class C drugs to be sold only by pharmacists with a doctor's prescription. It's legal to possess or import steroids as long as they're for personal use. Importation or exportation of steroids for personal use can only be carried out in person. Importation or exportation of steroids for personal use using postal, courier or freight services is now illegal. Possession or importing with intent to supply (which includes giving them to friends) is illegal and could lead to 14 years in prison and an unlimited fine.

**Other information**: Many sporting organisations have banned the use of certain steroids. These organisations carry out tests for the banned steroids. If someone tests positive they can be disqualified from competing for certain periods of time, or even banned for life.

A conviction for a drug-related offence could have a serious impact. It can stop you visiting certain countries – for example the United States – and limit the types of jobs you can apply for.