


DRUG ALERT – CONCERNS ACTION NEEDED

Date:	19TH of April 2024	
Location of Incident:	Peterborough	
Drug of concern:	SPICE, SCRA, SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS,	
Identified risk:	High risk of overdose.	
Source of information:	Public Health/Cambridgeshire Police	
Alert instigated by:	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Public Health	

We have been made aware of 6 non-fatal overdoses in Peterborough between the 4th and 18th of April, 2024 linked to synthetic cannabinoids referred to as 'SPICE'. Three patients have required urgent medical treatment, two of which were hospitalised. There are credible reports of a higher number of linked overdoses.

This is **highly unusual** in Peterborough and of **significant** concern. Samples tested confirm a synthetic cannabinoid MDMB-4en-PINACA (Class B drug). Sample photo above shows the substance as a green dried plant material but there has also been reports of being blue in colour.

Overdose presentations have included seizures, inability to move (muscle locking), falling into unconsciousness state and general "Zombie like behaviours". Reports of aggressive presentation after individuals come round. Cases have so far been limited to the homeless and rough sleeping population.

Harm reduction advice:

- Due to their potency, there's no safe way to take synthetic cannabinoids. If someone decides to use, they should start low and go slow. Strength can be hugely variable, so it is advised to start with a very small dose. If using more, increase the dose very cautiously and give time (at least an hour) for the previous dose to wear off.
- Avoid using pipes, vaporisers, or bongs as they make it harder to regulate intake.
- People are urged not to use alone, have a 'safe' friend who can call for help if they get into difficulty.
- People are urged not to mix drugs including alcohol.
- Synthetic cannabinoids may make feelings of anxiety or paranoia worse. Users are urged to use in an environment in which they feel safe and with people they trust. Synthetic cannabinoids should be avoided in those prone to anxiety or have existing mental health problems.

We urge the sharing of information between services and peers and please report any drug concerns as soon as possible.

If users or their peers feel unwell after using drugs, please call an ambulance immediately. For support around drug and alcohol use please contact.

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