

Local Drug Information Newsletter

Recent trends till November 2025

Spice (Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists – SCRA)

- Spice is a herbal mix containing synthetic cannabinoids.
- Peterborough has seen increased Spice-related harm, all clusters of incidents are linked to the rough sleeper/homeless population.
- Common effects: muscle rigidity, chest pains, rolling of the eyes, disorientation and then becoming unresponsive/unconscious. Some individuals are requiring ambulance assistance and hospital attendance.

Ketamine Use

- Rising national and local concerns around increase in ketamine use and related harm, in particular 'ketamine bladder'.
- Typical symptoms: urinary tract symptoms (LUTs) including painful bladder, frequently needing to urinate, pain when urinating, blood in urine and painful stomach cramps.
- Some users experience the onset of symptoms quickly within a few weeks or months, while others have a history of long-term use and increasing dosage before symptoms.
- Bladder damage can be irreversible and may result in bladder removal.

Counterfeit medications are being contaminated with nitazenes (synthetic opioids that are often more potent than heroin). These counterfeit pills pose a significant risk of accidental overdose and death, particularly for individuals who believe they are taking legitimate prescription drugs.

Local data and other news

Local Drug Information System data from the last 28 days has reported the following intel across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:

Huntingdonshire (17 intel reports) has seen an increase in harms related to Ketamine use, cocaine use and alcohol related incidents.

Fenland (5 intel reports) drug related harm associated with Ketamine use and other drugs that haven't been identified.

South Cambridgeshire (2 intel reports) incidents related to primarily alcohol intoxication.

East Cambridgeshire (9 intel reports) has seen reports of harm linked to cocaine, cannabis and LSD.

Cambridge City received 18 intel reports related to harm connected to cocaine and crack/cocaine use. In particular, displays of associated unexpected aggression.

Peterborough

In total we have received 45 intel reports connected to drug use and related harm in Peterborough.

- 19 directly related to SPICE.
- On 17 October, a **Drug alert** was issued to key partners across the county due to a significant number of SPICE related incidents (primarily linked to the homeless community).
- We are monitoring information received relating to Heroin use and unusual side effects.
- Received information in relation to harms associated with Cannabis, Alcohol, Pregabalin and Cocaine in the city.

National Campaign to increase awareness of Ketamine, Synthetic Cannabinoids and Synthetic Opiates has been launched:

- Ketamine Resources [Ketamine | Effects of Ketamine | FRANK](#)
- Ketamine Short Film: [Ket: While each high lasts minutes. For some the damage to their bladder could last forever.](#)
- Synthetic cannabinoids: [Synthetic cannabinoids | Effects and Risks | FRANK](#)
- Synthetic opioids short film: [Synthetic cannabinoids | Effects and Risks | FRANK](#)
- ONS has released the latest Drug Death data showing a continued rise. [Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

Other news:

Harm reduction advice



Harm reduction advice

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough: Local Drug Information System

Please help us monitor and reduce local drug related harm

Has a client experienced a recent overdose or witnessed a recent overdose?

Has a client experienced a drug that was stronger than expected or looked, tasted or experienced different side effects to normal?

If the answer to either of the above is yes, please complete an LDIS form using the QR code provided or the link below.

Intel form link: <https://forms.office.com/e/EWAWTxCUkP>



Naloxone saves lives

Naloxone and needle and syringe provision can be sourced from CGL or participating local community pharmacies.

[Find a Change Grow Live service near you](#)

Local Drug Information Reporting Form

