Local drug harm alert: February 2025

Increased drug harms in West Lothian

There has been an **increase in harms and deaths** after taking drugs in West Lothian.

Drug information:

The substance(s) involved are not confirmed but **smoked or injected heroin** has been associated with increased harm, with **some heroin reported to have a 'red tinge'**.

Effects:

People have experienced **sudden collapse**, **reduced breathing** and **rapid deterioration. Sadly in some cases people have died.**

Area and alert audience:

This alert is for people who use substances in **West Lothian**.

Action to take including harm reduction advice:

People who use drugs should **be extra vigilant** and can reduce the risks of harm by **continuing to engage with harm reduction services**; **dosing low; going slow; avoiding mixing drugs** (incl. medicines)**;** and **ensuring there are people around who can respond.** Ensure naloxone is to hand - **pick up an extra naloxone kit, the person may need more than usual** if a more harmful substance is involved. Use the standard dose and repeat as necessary but you may need to administer more doses than usual. **Naloxone should always be administered if the person is overdosing and is unresponsive** because many overdoses involve multiple drugs, including opioids.

Further resources and reporting of additional harms:

- **In an emergency, call 999 and ask for an ambulance**.
- Harms should be reported to local drug services. Get support at **West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service** - visit: **www.wldas.com** or call 01506 430225.
- Anonymous information can be shared to Crimestoppers at 0800 555 111 or **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**.
- Google '**PHS how to save a life**' and '**SDF stop the deaths**' for information on how to respond to an overdose.