



# AXIS Monthly Bulletin



axis@hillington.gov.uk

March 2024

## Welcome to the AXIS Monthly bulletin

AXIS has the ability to triangulate and interrogate multiple systems and sources of information across a range of platforms to better understand any trends and themes that need to be shared or addressed.

Whether that be on a case-by-case basis or with a more strategic lens and approach.

Information sharing with our partnership agencies is vital to the work AXIS does, to then help better inform the wider picture. Please continue to share information you may come across relating to Child Criminal Exploitation.

Please see below current information and trends and themes for last month.

## "Spice" being found in certain vapes and Cannabis

The Metropolitan Police reported to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that there were two incidents outside of Hillingdon involving young people who experienced serious health issues after using vapes containing Spice, a synthetic cannabinoid. Hillingdon has just recently been made aware of an incident in which spice was believed to be in a young person's vape.

"Spice" is a nickname for a substance containing one or more synthetic cannabinoids.

Synthetic cannabinoids were originally designed to mimic the effects of cannabis. However, they are much more harmful and unpredictable than cannabis. Reported side effects are paranoia, dizziness, vomiting and potential psychosis. They may be powdered chemicals, dissolved and sprayed onto paper or dried plant material. Please remember you can refer to SORTED if you have any concerns related to a child's substance misuse.

Please call **01895 277222**



**ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2019**  
**WINNERS** **MJ**

The Axis database should be used as a point of contact during any assessment process. Professionals are encouraged to contact Axis via the email address below. Furthermore, Axis has a wide range of resources which can be shared to support intervention and engagement with young people at risk.

For further enquires please contact Phil Skidmore on:

Email: axis@hillington.gov.uk Telephone: 01895 277177 Mobile: 07823 501585

### **AXIS interview with a professional – Kelly Johns, Adolescent Social Worker**

AXIS had the privilege of interviewing Kelly Johns. Kelly is a dedicated and hard working social worker working with our vulnerable adolescents. AXIS are going to use this opportunity to give a shout out to Kelly for winning Social Worker of the year 2023! We interviewed her on her experiences in her role

#### **Can you tell us a little bit about you and what got you into social care?**

I am currently working as an Advanced Practitioner in the Adolescent Team and have been in the team since the end of 2019. The Adolescent Team primarily works with vulnerable adolescents at risk of significant extra-familial harm and/or family breakdown. Many of the cases that we work with involve an exploitation component. A standout factor is that many of these children struggle to access education.

I fell into the realm of social care by default. I had always worked with people through organisations that worked with homelessness, drug addiction, and education. I was fortunately offered an opportunity as a minute taker for Child Protection Case Conferences. During this time, I started to understand the children's social care system much better, and it helped me to reflect on where I wanted to go with my career. I was a young person who had a social worker and had seen the benefits of the system but also the deficits. I started this chapter of my career as a family support worker before 'taking the plunge' and pursuing my Social Work degree.

#### **What do you find are some of the highlights and also challenges to your work?**

Working with children that have experienced exploitation can feel like quite a daunting task at times due to the level of trauma these children have experienced and the often-imminent risk that they face. As a practitioner, tackling this type of harm can evoke a lot of anxiety and fear within oneself and within professional networks which is tricky to manage. We are dealing with themes around drug dealing, sexual abuse, weapons offences, and some people unfortunately are subjected to life changing harm/threats to life.

In cases of ongoing exploitation where we are 'competing' with factors such as money, intimidation, and belonging. The impact of exploitation is devastating, and I often see children lose their self-esteem, sense of identity, positive relationships, and even their schooling, all of which just perpetuates the exploitation cycle resulting in criminalisation and a lack of legitimate training opportunities or employment. There are many procedures, policies, and tools in place to utilise when tackling exploitation and the disadvantage that it causes i.e. referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the use of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs). These responses are sometimes very useful; however, they are not always protecting young people as we would hope. It can feel very unfair to witness talented young people with significant attributes not meeting their full potential just because they were taken advantage of at a time of vulnerability. Tackling this level of disadvantage by promoting equity for children with a different lived experience is a crucial element of the role. In terms of highlights, in this line of work positive outcomes always make me ecstatic.

I also enjoy celebrating achievements with young people, not matter how 'small' the achievement may seem they are all building blocks to a better future.

### How do you feel Axis has helped you with your work?

Axis has been integral in supporting myself and team members to undertake work with children in a well-considered way by ensuring that contextual safeguarding is well considered within approaches. The Axis service regularly support with mapping exercises whereby we can learn about a young person's peer network and risk from exploitative individuals which the service is able to inform us of from information stored on their database.

The service keeps us informed about 'community politics' among cohorts of young people and gangs, information which is typically 'the unknown' to most social workers. In addition to this, the service reports on themes and trends which feed into extra-familial harm risks and supports us with safeguarding responses. The Youth Network Crime Practitioners are actively involved in safety plans devised within Strategy Meetings and risk panels. Given their strong multi-agency links with services within police and surveillance, they are often able to add another dynamic to disruption work for example liaising with the CCTV teams to request that they keep an eye out for vulnerable young people. Axis also has specialist caseworkers who typically take cases that do not fall within the statutory remit and implement preventative work with young people. In exceptional circumstances I have had the pleasure of working alongside the caseworkers and their specialist knowledge and intervention has been very positive. I had a young person significantly reduce shoplifting and engage in healthier relationships as a result of this intervention.

**Kiss**  
Keep it safe 'n' sorted

**SEXUAL HEALTH  
& WELLBEING**

**SEXUAL HEALTH  
& WELLBEING**

**DROP-IN**

For 13-19 year-olds in Hillingdon

For 13-19 year-olds in Hillingdon

KISS is a confidential Sexual Health and Well-Being service that provides advice and information to young people aged 13-19 who go to school or live in London Borough of Hillingdon. See link below

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/sexual-health>

**ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2019**  
**WINNERS MJ**

The Axis database should be used as a point of contact during any assessment process. Professionals are encouraged to contact Axis via the email address below. Furthermore, Axis has a wide range of resources which can be shared to support intervention and engagement with young people at risk.

For further enquires please contact Phil Skidmore on:

Email: axis@hillington.gov.uk Telephone: 01895 277177 Mobile: 07823 501585

### VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls

Hillingdon have launched a Violence Against Women and Girls Practice Network (VAWG-PN). Please see attached briefing with an overview of the aims of the network. The network is relevant to any professional working within Hillingdon including those working within the community and voluntary sector. AXIS are paying particular attention to the CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour) piece.

Please see first newsletter of the VAWG-PN which is also attached. Initially this is being shared with a broad range of partners. Please note that **if you would like to receive this in the future (on a monthly basis) you will need to join the VAWG-PN mailing list by clicking here**. We would encourage you to share this with any colleagues you think may benefit from regular information relating to VAWG, including domestic abuse. As the VAWG-PN develops we will begin to offer learning and networking opportunities through events, so hopefully this will be a valuable space for us to all strengthen the response to these issues for our communities.

Harmful sexual behaviour has been mentioned more frequently these past few months across multiple platforms and panels. Although AXIS have observed a slight increase in HSB, it is important professionals are aware of some of the signs or examples. Please see below:



#### Examples of Harmful Sexual Behaviour:

- Sexual assault
- Non-consensual touching
- Sexist name-calling
- Rumours about a person's sexual activity
- Sending sexualised images or videos
- Pressurising others to provide sexual images of themselves
- Circulating sexualised videos or images without consent or knowledge

ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2019  
WINNERS **MJ**

The Axis database should be used as a point of contact during any assessment process. Professionals are encouraged to contact Axis via the email address below. Furthermore, Axis has a wide range of resources which can be shared to support intervention and engagement with young people at risk.

For further enquires please contact Phil Skidmore on:

Email: axis@hillington.gov.uk Telephone: 01895 277177 Mobile: 07823 501585

### AXIS Glossary and Street term meanings

AXIS regularly come across language used by children and young people known as “Street Slang, Road Talk and Road Chat”. These terminologies change frequently and are forever evolving. Terms AXIS come across or look out for generally reference drugs, Serious Youth Violence or general chat between children.

It is important for professionals to have a better understanding and also a professional curiosity when referring to this language. In most cases it could be deemed harmless, however please be mindful as some of the below have been referenced recently and used by children working with LBH professionals.

Please see the link below for a useful guide AXIS sometimes refer to:

<https://uk-drill.com/slang-cheatsheet/>

<i>Street term</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Squirt</i>	<i>Spray acid</i>
<i>Breeze off</i>	<i>To leave / disappear</i>
<i>Birded off</i>	<i>Imprisoned</i>
<i>Dasheen</i>	<i>Running away / fleeing</i>
<i>Drawn out</i>	<i>Under pressure / lured / rendered vulnerable</i>
<i>Iron</i>	<i>Gun</i>
<i>Spinner</i>	<i>Revolver</i>
<i>Teeth</i>	<i>Bullet</i>
<i>Juice</i>	<i>Blood</i>
<i>Khala</i>	<i>Black person</i>
<i>Khalas</i>	<i>Stop / that's enough</i>

**\*\*The information in this email has been shared with the recipient only. Information contained in this email should not be shared without express consent of the AXIS project\*\***

**ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2019  
WINNERS MJ**

The Axis database should be used as a point of contact during any assessment process. Professionals are encouraged to contact Axis via the email address below. Furthermore, Axis has a wide range of resources which can be shared to support intervention and engagement with young people at risk.

For further enquires please contact Phil Skidmore on:

Email: axis@hillington.gov.uk Telephone: 01895 277177 Mobile: 07823 501585

### AXIS "Roadshow" feedback

AXIS have spent these last couple of months focusing on meeting and presenting to your teams across the borough both internally and externally. Aiming to solidify the joint partnership piece and working together to contextually safeguard our children. Please let us know if you would like your team or agency to have AXIS deliver a presentation to help better understand how we can best work together and help to identify signs of children being exploited.

Please see some feedback so far from our Health and Education partners

*"I wanted to take a moment to express my positive feedback on the recent presentation you carried out to our team. The content was informative, and the delivery was engaging.*

*Your ability to weave relatable experiences into the discussion not only made the content more engaging but also showcased a genuine passion for the work you do.*

*It's clear that your commitment to the topic resonated with the audience, and I believe it adds a valuable dimension to our team's expertise.*

*I look forward to future presentations from you."*

*"Just to say a big thank you for coming to our School Nurse Education forum this week. The feedback from the school nurses was that the presenter and the presentation was really informative and they all really enjoyed the session, they liked the fact that you made it interactive and they were all able to get involved with your quiz etc. They also said that they would be keen to arrange some more training with you going forward on some of the topics you covered in your presentation"*

**ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2019  
WINNERS MJ**

The Axis database should be used as a point of contact during any assessment process. Professionals are encouraged to contact Axis via the email address below. Furthermore, Axis has a wide range of resources which can be shared to support intervention and engagement with young people at risk.

For further enquires please contact Phil Skidmore on:

Email: axis@hillington.gov.uk Telephone: 01895 277177 Mobile: 07823 501585