

Parental Substance Misuse



Parental substance misuse refers to the abuse of drugs and/or alcohol by parents and carers of children and young people. Substance misuse refers to both illicit drugs, alcohol, prescription drugs and solvents. Whilst the treatments may be different, the consequences for the child/ren are quite similar.

Drug or alcohol misuse of a parent can have an impact on children in a number of ways, including: substance misuse in pregnancy impairing the development of an unborn child; the risk of physical injury to a child sleeping next to an adult, occurring as a result of the adult lying over or against the child (over lay); the risk from drugs and drug equipment being left lying around; a parent's practical caring skills being diminished by substance misuse; substance misusing parents may find it difficult to prioritise the needs of the children over their own; children maybe forced to take on a caring role.

There have been a number of cases in North Wales where the parental drug or alcohol misuse has impacted the care of the baby/child or young person.

<https://www.northwalessafeguardingboard.wales/>