



Sid is a tool to support professionals in **identifying young people's substance misuse related needs** via **screening** and/or **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)** assessment and in **accessing appropriate substance misuse services**.

Part 1 - Identifying young peoples substance misuse needs

The questions below can be used:

- in **screening** for a young person's substance misuse related needs before decision on whether a **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)** assessment¹ will be completed; and/or
- in helping you to identify a young person's substance misuse related needs via the **CAF** assessment.

You may wish to use some or all of these questions and to change their wording according to specific situations.

Where a CAF assessment is completed, responses to these questions can be recorded in the appropriate 'CAF assessment summary – identify strengths and needs' sections of the CAF assessment form.

Knowledge about substances

- What do you know about drugs / alcohol?
- What drug/alcohol education have you received at school?
- Who do you talk to about drugs and alcohol?

Type of substance

- Do you use any drugs / alcohol?
- What type of drugs do you use?

Drugs that might be used by young people include cannabis, cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, solvents, heroin, ketamine, LSD, magic mushrooms, amphetamines and benzodiazepines.

Patterns of substance misuse

- How often do you use drugs / alcohol?
- How do you take drugs / alcohol?

Substances might be sniffed, snorted, swallowed, smoked or injected by young people. Where a young person is injecting, an immediate referral to The Matthew Project Under18 is recommended.

- When are you likely to use drugs / alcohol?
- Who are you with when you use drugs / alcohol?
- Where do you use drugs / alcohol?
- Have you had any help from drug and alcohol services before?
- How old were you when you first started using drugs / alcohol?

Impact of substance misuse

- Are you worried about your use of drugs / alcohol?
- Has anyone else said that they're worried about your use of drugs / alcohol?
- How do you think your drug / alcohol use affects your life?

Substance use might affect young people's work, education, relationships, health and well-being, money, housing and accommodation.

- What do you like about taking drugs / alcohol?
- What don't you like about taking drugs / alcohol?

Readiness for change

- What would make it difficult for you to stop using drugs at the moment?
- What might make you want to change your drug / alcohol use?
- What kind of help do you feel you need?
- What would you like to happen next?

Help for young people might include: further advice and information; help with managing substance use; help with stopping substance use; talking things through with someone who can help; help with setting and achieving goals; support with talking to parents / carers.

¹ Information about the Common Assessment Framework process in Norfolk can be accessed via the Information sharing and assessment pages of www.everynorfolkchildmatters.org

Part 2 - Accessing Appropriate Services

Sid outcome	Action
A) Screening and/or CAF indicate that no further substance misuse support is required	Give young person appropriate information (ideas in Sid kit bag)
B) Screening indicates a potential substance misuse need	Follow CAF process
C) CAF indicates that further substance misuse support may be required	Contact The Matthew Project Under18 on 01603 774360 for advice on how to proceed
D) CAF indicates low level substance misuse needs that can be met by your agency	You may contact The Matthew Project Under18 for consultancy and advice at any time
E) CAF identifies unmet needs that require a multi-agency response including substance misuse needs	Invite the Matthew Project Under18 to a multi-agency meeting with the intention of creating 'a team around the child' and send the completed CAF form to the Under18 office (see instructions below)
F) CAF identifies unmet substance misuse related needs that require a single agency response	Make a referral to the Matthew Project Under18 by sending the completed CAF form to the Under18 office (see instructions below)
G) Screening and/or CAF indicate unmet substance misuse needs, but further support is not consented to by the young person	Give young person appropriate information (ideas in kit bag). Contact The Matthew Project Under18 on 01603 774360 for advice.
H) Professional becomes concerned that the young person may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering, significant harm	Always share this information with Norfolk Children's Services immediately in line with Norfolk Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures ² . Consent to share this information is not required.

- CAF assessment forms can be sent by post to Under18, The Matthew Project @ OPEN, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich, NR2 4SF in an envelope marked 'Confidential - Addressee only'; or by fax to 01603 614953. Where the form is sent by fax, please call 01603 774360 to ensure that a member of The Matthew Project Under18 staff is waiting to receive it.
- Please record any responses to the questions in '**Part 1 - Identifying young people's substance misuse related needs**' in the '**CAF assessment summary – identify strengths and needs**' sections of the CAF assessment form. These are useful to The Matthew Project Under18 in a referral. However, where it is not possible to gather this information, substance misuse services can still be accessed. The Matthew Project Under18 will follow up referrals with specialist substance misuse assessments where appropriate.
- Please record information around any risks associated with the young person in the '**CAF assessment summary – identify strengths and needs**' sections of the CAF assessment form. These might include injecting, pregnancy, dependants, self harm or suicide.
- Please record the way in which the young person would like to be contacted by The Matthew Project Under18 in the '**What are you going to do?**' section of the CAF assessment form. This might be by letter, phone, text or email.
- Please record whether or not the young person's parents or carers are aware of the referral in the '**Parent/carers comment on the assessment and the actions identified**' section of the CAF assessment form.

Important

Please contact The Matthew Project Under18 on 01603 774360 with information about any **risks** associated with contacting the young person that cannot be recorded on the CAF assessment form. These might include violent behaviour or aggression. In this instance, you should use the 'What are you going to do?' section to record the fact that this referral will be followed up with a telephone call.

² For more information please see Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) procedures, **LSCB protocol 1** and **LSCB leaflet 5** which can be found at www.lscb.norfolk.gov.uk