

WHAT IS SOLVENT ABUSE?

Solvent abuse is the deliberate inhalation of legal, volatile chemicals – usually butane gas from aerosols or cigarette lighter refills – for the purpose of getting ‘high’.



There are an estimated 164,000 solvent users in England, 107,000 of whom are children.

SOLVENT ABUSE KILLS 60 PEOPLE A YEAR IN THE UK

Responding to solvent abuse, local authorities can find themselves paying **£194 million** a year on housing, child protection and social care.

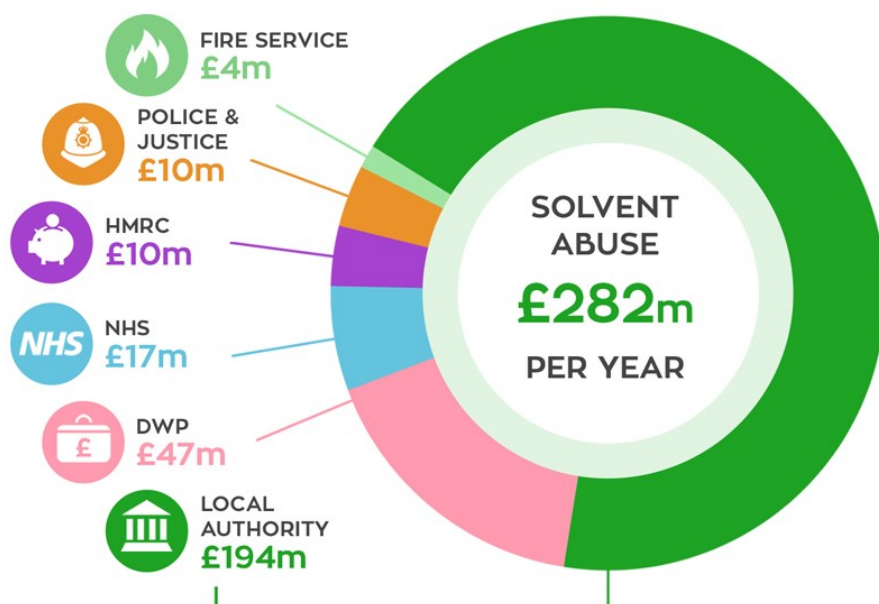
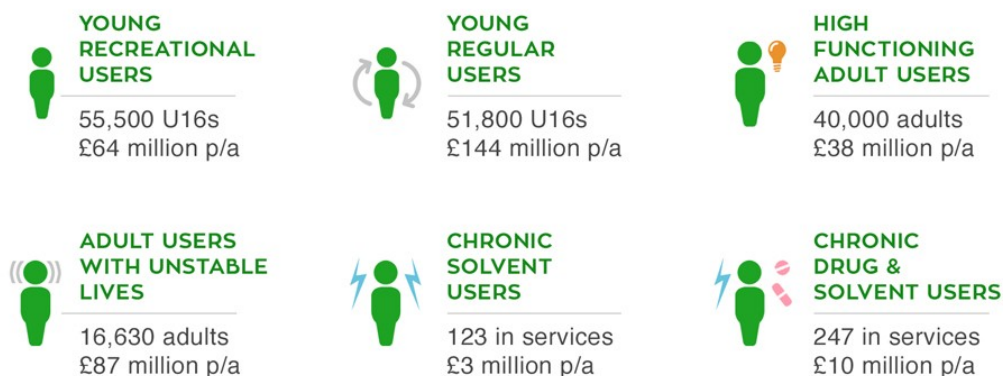


WHAT WE KNOW

Solvents are mistakenly thought to have a less harmful effect on people and wider society than so-called ‘hard drugs’. However, solvent users’ lives bear many of the same long-term hallmarks of chaos and loss. The stigma associated with solvent abuse also keeps use hidden and prevents access to support services.

THE COST TO SOCIETY:

The cost of solvent abuse to the public purse is **£346 million** every year – **£282 million** spent by government services.



CURRENT RELATIVE SPEND ON PREVENTION, EARLY RESPONSE & INTERVENTION:



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SOLUTION

Since 1984, Re-Solv has been the UK's expert charity on this issue, working in partnership to prevent solvent abuse and holistically support all those whose lives are affected by it.



THE CHALLENGE

There is no statutory prevention strategy. There are opportunities for early intervention and referral but they are often missed by services. Care pathways are designed without solvent users in mind and there is a lack of whole-systems approach. Solvent users go unnoticed and remain stuck in a cycle of use.

A 20% REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF ALL USERS COULD SAVE £69 MILLION EACH YEAR



PREVENTION & EFFECTIVE EARLY INTERVENTION CAN SAVE ANNUAL COSTS OF £25-£40K PER PERSON



READ THE FULL REPORT:

WWW.RE-SOLV.ORG/PDF/THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF SOLVENT ABUSE.PDF



RE-SOLV'S RESPONSE:

Immediate, effective steps can be taken to improve prevention, intervention and support – leading to a clear reduction in the human, social and economic cost of solvent abuse.

