Re-Solv

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



Responding to solvent abuse, local authorities can find themselves paying £194 million a year on

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.

YOUNG RECREATIONAL USERS

55,500 U16s £64 million p/a



YOUNG REGULAR USERS

51,800 U16s £144 million p/a



HIGH FUNCTIONING ADULT USERS

40,000 adults £38 million p/a

ADULT USERS WITH UNSTABLE LIVES

16,630 adults £87 million p/a



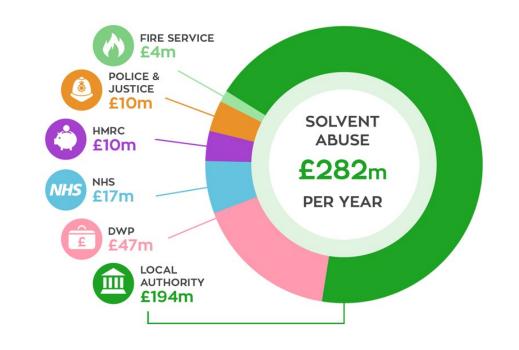
CHRONIC SOLVENT USERS

123 in services £3 million p/a

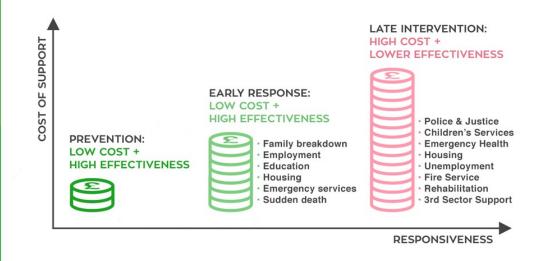


CHRONIC DRUG & SOLVENT USERS

247 in services £10 million p/a



CURRENT RELATIVE SPEND ON PREVENTION, EARLY RESPONSE & INTERVENTION:



Re-Solv

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:



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.



REDUCING DEMAND

- Build resilience at primary school age
- · Ensure access to meaningful support
- · Education for parents

KEY THEMES OF THE **GOVERNMENT'S 2017 DRUG STRAGTEGY**



RESTRICTING **SUPPLY**

- Monitor sales of solvents
- Place-based approaches to reducing supply
 - Partnership work with retailers/manufacturers



BUILDING **RECOVERY**

- Joint-working across services
- · Upskilling of service professionals
- · Peer support networks



NATIONAL /GLOBAL ACTION

- Improve data collation & dissemination on prevention and mortality
- · Evidence-based practice and policy development

PREVENTION



RESILIENCE

Work with schools, pupil referral units. one-to-one work with at-risk groups.

LOCAL CULTURE

Raise awareness/ educate parents, community, schools.

PROFESSIONAL UPSKILLING

Teachers, peer mentors, youth workers, health professionals, etc.

REDUCED EASE OF USE



Improve product safety features, limit availability to users, staff awareness training and CSR initiatives

PARENTS & PROFESSIONALS

Educate on abuseable household products, how to talk with children about risk-taking of access to products being abused.

PLACE-BASED CHANGE

Whole place approaches to awareness. prevention, reduction recovery.

RESTRICTING

SUPPLY

REDUCING **DEMAND**

HOLISTIC EARLY RESPONSE

USERS & FAMILIES

Phone, text, email and live-chat helpline, signposting, liaison and advocacy services, support for users and families, one-to-one and counselling support.

PROFESSIONAL UPSKILLING & CASE-BASED **SUPPORT**

For police, justice, health, substance misuse and social services, homeless/housing services, children's services, schools and higher education.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT



DATA

Produce and advocate for data and research to enable effective. evidence based practice and policy development, legislation and measurement of impact.

NATIONAL /GLOBAL **MANUFACTURERS** & RETAILERS

Work in partnership to enable global harm reduction, shared practice with international organisations and to support international academic research.

BUILDING RECOVERY NATIONAL /GLOBAL ACTION

WWW.RE-SOLV.ORG/ PDF/THESOCIAL **IMPACTOFSOLVENT** ABUSE.PDF

