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Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/MD/5608/13

Assembly Members

Dear Colleague

11 December 2013

In my response to Williams Graham's question, (OAQ (4)0357(HSS) regarding new psychoactive substances (often known as Legal Highs) on November 20th, I gave a commitment to provide members with a note of the new WEDINOS (Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances) programme.

The WEDINOS programme has been developed by Public Health Wales, in conjunction with the Cardiff & Vale Toxicology Laboratory and Cardiff University Pharmacology in response to the changes in drug using trends. This national project is supported by Welsh Government and provides a framework for the collection and testing of samples of new psychoactive substances and combinations of drugs along with information regarding the symptoms users experienced, both expected and unexpected. Collation of these findings, along with identification of the chemical structure of the samples, will facilitate dissemination of evidence based harm reduction information for those using new psychoactive drugs or considering use. All relevant information will be available via the website: www.wedinos.org

A series of WEDINOS launch events were completed across Wales in September and October 2013 for all those using, or working with those using, New Psychoactive Substances including substance misuse service providers, police, ambulance, primary and secondary health care, youth and criminal justice leads, education and housing. Further events will be arranged focussing on developing mechanisms whereby other relevant health care providers, including pharmacy and emergency departments, may contribute to the WEDINOS project.

The WEDINOS project contributes to the wider UK and European Early Warning Systems in place to identify and monitor the changing trends in drug use. Wales is now leading the way in providing education and information and in reducing the harms associated with New Psychoactive Substances.

I will ensure that a copy of this letter is placed in the members' library.

Best wishes

Mark

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