

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

The Police on Drugs (policy) 1.

Reference: 10/04 **Date:** January 28, 2004

ACPO COMMENT ON CANNABIS RECLASSIFICATION

Chief police officers **published guidelines in September 2003 on policing cannabis possession** following reclassification of cannabis from a Class B to a Class C drug. Speaking on the policing enforcement guidelines, **Andy Hayman, Chairman of the ACPO Drugs Sub-Committee and Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary, said:**

*"These guidelines have been developed to provide police officers with **straightforward** operational guidance for dealing with simple cases of possession by adult offenders.*

*The **guidance suggests** that arrest **will be considered** in circumstances such as the smoking of cannabis in public view, repeated possession of the drug, public disorder as a result of cannabis possession or possessing cannabis in the vicinity of premises frequented by young people, such as schools and youth clubs. **Young people (under 18s) who are found in possession of cannabis will receive a formal warning at a police station.***

"The reclassification of cannabis will allow police to focus more time and resources on Class A drugs. That said, despite reclassification, it remains illegal to possess cannabis."

The cannabis enforcement guidance will be operational as of **29th January 2004.**

"As the change in legislation will have an impact on police officers' powers, all police forces are being supported by an internal publicity campaign to prepare officers for the changes. ACPO has also been working closely with the Home Office and Centrex to develop and introduce a training package for all police officers. This will ensure that police officers are aware of their powers."

The PPP comments... We rang the ACPO press office and told them that **this statement MUST include the recommendation that the parents/guardians of the person **MUST** be involved as required by the policy to **make parents more aware and accountable for their children's activities and behaviour.....** the spokesperson agreed.**