



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Learning about the dangers of illegal drugs

This story from North Wales Police website at ... <http://www.north-wales.police.uk>

Learning about the dangers of illegal drugs and the work of the police and other agencies in the fight against illicit substances is just some of the information that will be presented to pupils in the counties of **Wrexham and Flintshire** this week. Inputs will be given by the **force's Schools Liaison Officers** at a variety of schools across the two counties as part of the activities arranged for **National Tackling Drugs Week** which is running from Monday, June 8 until Monday, June 15.

Some teenagers and younger pupils in primary schools will also get to see drug dogs at work as part of presentations on drugs awareness. **Solvent abuse and the use of other drugs such as alcohol and smoking will be featured** as part of some of the lessons given.

*"This is not an activity limited to this week alone," said **Inspector Paul Firth**. "The number of pupils who have direct contact with a police liaison officer in a school environment in any given year is around 20,000 and I believe that is a conservative estimate. This is a significant number of young people, many of whom will know the officer personally and can speak to him or her in confidence about any issues that may be worrying them."*

But it won't just be youngsters who will gain a greater insight into illegal drugs – parents and some school staff will have the opportunity to gain further information too! This is thanks to awareness events that have been specifically arranged. Activities surrounding the week kicked off on Saturday (June 6) when the risks associated with drugs and alcohol and lifestyle choices were highlighted at the **Wrexham's Councils Extravaganza event**.

*"The 'National Tackling Drugs Week' initiative is fully supported by all police officers working in Eastern division," said **Chief Superintendent Ruth Purdie**, the commander for the Eastern Division. "I personally feel that it is one of the most important events we are involved with each year. Its focus on education, harm reduction and enforcement clearly illustrates the wide range of action needed if we are to maintain our response to the concerns of the public of Wrexham and Flintshire."*

**Chief Supt Purdie** added: *"As the senior police officer in the area I am committed to keeping the pressure on those who would profit from dealing in controlled drugs and to working with my colleagues in local government, health and the voluntary organisations in supporting the crucial education and health programs we promote in relation to substance misuse in Wales."*

**The PPP comments ... The Schools liaison officer's role is crucial to the war against drugs and brings youngsters into working with Police Officers in an all round positive and supportive fashion. Our Policy statement over 4 years ago on drugs, *The next generation of vulnerable youngsters, We believe that the current drug problem has come about from a serious and long term lack of community policing. The reversal of this situation can begin with the influence of the CBM's and other agencies on the next generation of vulnerable youngsters.* still stands and is now happening. We congratulate all those officers in the program and CS Ruth Purdie.**