

# Teachers Pack

## Aim:

The aim of the Think Before You Buy campaign is to tackle the underlying cause of the drugs issue.

This may be achieved by raising awareness of the consequences of recreational drug use through kick starting a conversation that includes the issues stemming from recreational drug use.

These issues include anti-social behaviour, burglary, phone & handbag snatching, mugging, drug dependence, drug dealing, drug related crime, serious violence and murder.

## Objectives:

- Ascertain and record students/youths attitude to recreational drug use
- Consider, discuss and record the personal consequences of recreational drug use
- Consider, discuss and record the wider personal, family, community and societal implications of recreational drug use.
- Show presentation
- Show long video
- Show short video
- Ascertain and record students/youths attitude to recreational drug use noting in particular any change, positive, negative or if there is no change.

## Materials needed:

- 1) Access to the internet and ability to play and project video's and presentation on to suitable surface e.g. whiteboard or projector screen.
- 2) Markers, flipchart or whiteboard to record students responses

### **Teacher/Youth leaders briefing note:**

As stated above the aim of the campaign is to kick start a conversation and this pack has been designed to facilitate that conversation taking place in the class room or youth group.

The resource file has been put together to provide added information for teachers/youth leaders to better respond to possible questions raised by young people or pupils. So it would be useful for group leaders and teachers to briefly read through the resource file which is not exhaustive and can be added to over time.

In addition there is a voice recorded presentation (6 mins), long video (4 minutes) and short video (1 minute) also to be used in conjunction with this pack. In our pilot schools it was stated by TY students, who were shown the video first followed by the discussion, " it would have been better to have had the discussion followed by the video". This would have allowed for students to come to their own conclusions during discussion 1 without prompts from video. Students also stated that it may be better if younger students e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year, watched the four-minute video first followed by discussion 1.

All materials are available for download at [www.thinkbeforeyoubuy.ie](http://www.thinkbeforeyoubuy.ie)

Further information can be had and feedback left at [philip@bldtf.ie](mailto:philip@bldtf.ie)

You can also contact Think Before You Buy on 01- 8249590

## Module: Think Before You Buy

**Initially briefly ascertain students/youths attitude to recreational drug use by asking them to answer a simple question: Is recreational drug use harmful or harmless?**

### Record answers

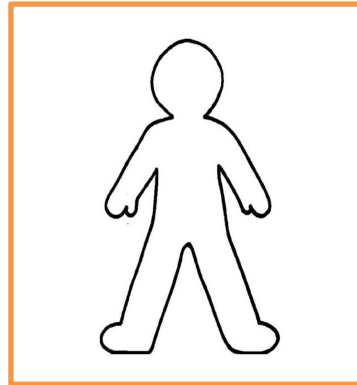
A scaling activity could be used to allow students explore their answer and see the answers of others in their class. E.g. ask the class to stand at one end of the room and pose the same questions. If they totally agree that it is harmless stay where they are, if they totally disagree, walk to the opposite side of the room, or they might be somewhere in the middle. This type of scaling activity is useful to consider attitudes and opinions and is more engaging for the students. It may also create the opportunity to open up the discussion further and explore nuances.

### Discussion: 1

Darw a simple outline of a person and consider/discuss the ripple effect an individuals recreational drug use has on:

- The individual
- Their close and extended family
- Their neighbours
- On their community
- On wider society

Add these effects on to your outline with personal effects closest to the outline and family and community further out.



### Discussion: 2 What affect does spending money on recreational drugs have? (relate answers to outline)

**NB. A durg user is anyone who uses drugs (expiramental, recreational, problematic or addictive)**

- Question: If a person spends €10 on drugs where does the money go?  
**Info = As profit to drug gangs and cartels. Where do drug gangs reinvest this money?**
- Question: can you estimate how many people in your area use drugs and work out how much money this would generate in a week, month or year???  
**Don't identify people just make an estimate and give a number. How much money at €10 per week would this add up to in one year?**
- Question: How would not having the money to pay for drugs used affect a drug user ?  
**Info = Carry out some criminal act, hold on to drugs/guns, gardai to the house, criminal record, serious beating, etc..**
- Question: How would this affect a recreational drug users family?  
**Family intimidated to pay debt, family stress, parents worry, family arguments, family forced to pay etc.**
- Question: How would this affect a recreational drug users community?  
**Info = bring anti-social element into community, drug dealing in community, burglary etc to pay for drug habit or to pay off debt, increased fear in the community etc.**
- Question: Do drug gangs lodge their money in the bank to gain interest:  
**Info = No they reinvest the money collected from recreational drug users in other illegal activities e.g. people trafficking, prostitution, bribery, extortion, buy more drugs, guns etc.**

### Discussion: 3

Play 4 minute Video:

Play 1 minute Video:

Discuss and record comments on both and note any change in students/youths attitude to recreational drug use.

### Discussion: 4

Play presentation: and discuss issues raised: Repeat scaling activity above and ask if people have changed their position.

Time: 30 minutes approximately

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Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



REMEMBER  
IT ALWAYS  
HARMS SOMEONE  
**"THINK BEFORE YOU BUY"**

