Wiltshire & Swindon Local Drug Information System Process

Background and purpose

The Local Drug Information System (LDIS) model is intended to reduce harm from dangerous, new and/or novel, potent adulterated or contaminated substances regardless of their legal status. This includes but is not limited to synthetic cannabinoids and includes all psychoactive or performance and image enhancing substances. This may overlap with Trading Standards in the case of alcohol and with the NHS National Patient Safety Alerting System (NPSAS) in cases where over the counter or prescribed medications are used for recreational purposes. For biological contamination issues, such as anthrax or botulism, the mandated health protection process will apply as outlined in this guidance: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-how-to-report-them. In these cases, the LDIS may also play a role in dissemination of any resulting alerts or relevant action.

The LDIS process is the same for both adults and young people under the age of 18 although actions required may vary between stakeholders. An LDIS panel and professional information network (PIN) has been identified for each local authority area and is managed by the respective public health teams. LDIS processes are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are in line with latest guidance.

The aims of this LDIS are to:
- Reduce the risk and incidents of drug related deaths, injury and harm caused by suspected contaminated drugs
- Gather and assess intelligence on new and/or novel, potent, adulterated, or contaminated drugs
- Inform professionals delivering care/support and where appropriate inform drug users of immediate risk
- Alert service providers and statutory agencies of suspected contaminated illicit drugs

- Identify a network of agencies/organisations that would be included in drug alerts to assist with local and national reporting.

The LDIS process involves:

1. Receiving intelligence

2. Assessing the intelligence

3. Responding to assessed intelligence appropriately

1. Receiving Intelligence

Any professional or member of the public can submit an LDIS report if any of the following LDIS criteria is met. An LDIS report should be submitted using the links below (also can be found in appendix 1) depending on the location of the incident.

Wiltshire LDIS reporting form
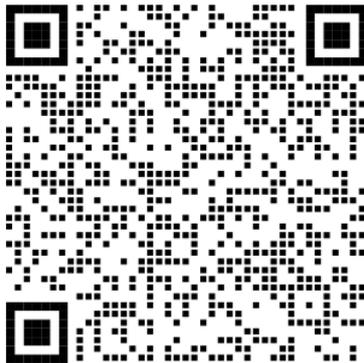
Scan QR code ⓘ

Swindon LDIS reporting form

Scan QR code ⓘ

LDIS criteria:

☐ Substances causing acute medical, social, or emotional harm

☐ New or novel substances causing harm

☐ Substances that are anecdotally reported to have uncommon side effects – not normally associated with the substance

☐ Substances with a spike in purity or strength of their active ingredient

☐ Contaminated and/or adulterated substances

☐ Substances that are branded to mislead the user of the ingredients

☐ Emerging methods of mixing or ingesting substances that could be particularly hazardous

> ⚠️ **Important note:** If an LDIS report is being submitted outside of usual working hours (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm), the report will automatically be diverted to the out of hours contacts listed in Appendices 2 and 3. **It is the responsibility of the reporting party to ensure that where required, out of hours organisations are notified of the report via telephone as outlined in Appendices 2 and 3.**

Any professional submitting an LDIS form should ensure the following:
- ✓ Relevant managers are informed, and internal service protocols are followed
- ✓ The context of individuals' circumstances are considered and all appropriate children and adult safeguarding referrals are completed alongside an LDIS report
- ✓ LDIS reports should be anonymised and any personally identifiable information removed

Stage 2: Assessing and verifying the intelligence

Once an LDIS form has been submitted, either Swindon Borough Council Public Health team or Wiltshire Council Public Health team will review the form and, if required, schedule an LDIS panel meeting to assess and verify the information and agree next steps. Reports will be rapidly assessed, usually within 24 hours (if received during normal working hours), using latest national LDIS grading guidance.

Stage 3: Responding to intelligence

Responses will be coordinated by the Public Health LDIS coordinators and panel members. Possible responses may include:

- No further action being taken if information is limited or anecdotal

- Share information with LDIS Professional Information Network "for information only" but not as a formal drug alert

- Issue a formal drug alert to LDIS Professional Information Network – actions for stakeholders will be outlined in any drug alerts

- Report to the regional and national Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) teams for intelligence sharing purposes which may lead to a regional alert, if deemed appropriate

Note: The LDIS Professional Information Network is an open, online network of local relevant professionals who are likely to encounter new and/ or novel, potent, adulterated or contaminated drugs and/or the people who use them. Being a member of the network ensures receipt of LDIS updates, information and drug alerts. To become a member of the network please contact the relevant team:

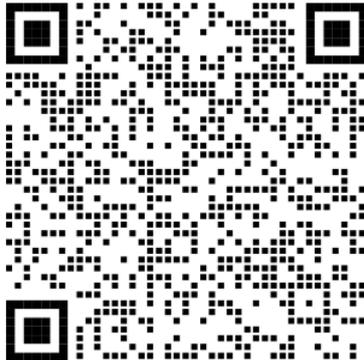**Wiltshire -** LocalDrugInformationSystem@wiltshire.gov.uk

Swindon – substancemisuseteam@swindon.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Drug Information System reporting forms

Wiltshire LDIS reporting form

Scan QR code   ⓘ

Swindon LDIS reporting form

Scan QR code   ⓘ

Appendix 2 – Out of Hours contacts (Wiltshire)

Organisation	Email address	Contact number ***Please call the below numbers to notify the out of hours teams that an alert has been sent via email**
Public Health	publichealth@wiltshire.gov.uk	01225 716 698
Integrated Care Board (ICB)	bswicb.oncall@nhs.net	0333 043 8663
Emergency Duty Service(CYP)	childrenooh@wiltshire.gov.uk	0300 456 0115
Emergency Duty Service (Adults)	EDSAdults@wiltshire.gov.uk	0300 456 0100
Wiltshire Police	247@wiltshire.police.uk	
Sout West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST)	swast.safeguarding@nhs.net	

Appendix 3 – Out of Hours contacts (Swindon)

Organisation	Email address	Contact number ***Please call the below numbers to notify the out of hours teams that an alert has been sent via email**
SBC Control Room	CCTVSecurity@swindon.gov.uk	01793 464701 07919 111520