

## **Re: Alcohol and drugs support for young people and schools**

I am writing to all Norfolk high schools and Pupil Referral Units to remind them of the county-wide service, called **T2**, who are commissioned by Norfolk Drug and Alcohol Action Team, which is a partnership that includes Norfolk Children's Services, the NHS, Norfolk Constabulary and others. I also wish to remind high schools and Pupil Referral Units that **The Matthew Project** is commissioned to offer them an annual assembly/workshop. Both these are offered free of charge to schools.

### **T2 offer:**

- accurate information/advice/practical support in relation to drugs, alcohol and a range of associated issues
- one-to-one and group work with identified vulnerable young people with an alcohol/drug issue
- professional counselling for such young people
- support for young people excluded from school due to alcohol and/or drug issues
- support for parents/carers of such young people
- support for young people living with parents/carers who have alcohol and/or drug issues
- support to school should there be any drug-related incident

It is *not*, however, the role of **T2** deliver drug education to pupils in a classroom setting (e.g. as part of PSHE lessons etc) or Drug Awareness Evenings for Parents and they should not be requested to engage in such work. Should you wish to hold such an evening for parents, please contact me in the first instance ([barry.gibson@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:barry.gibson@norfolk.gov.uk)).

Each high school and Pupil Referral Unit has its own nominated youth worker and Derek Hewis, manager of **T2**, will be writing to you shortly to give you their name and contact details

### **The Matthew Project offer:**

- an annual assembly/workshop for each high school and Pupil Referral Unit
- access to a wide range of other education/information/advice related to alcohol and drugs

Graeme Stewart, manager of **The Matthew Project** youth team will be writing to all high schools soon with details of their work and contact details.

Over the past few years, both of these services have shown that they offer valuable support to young people as well as making a significant contribution to helping address the **Every Child Matters** outcomes, particularly **Staying Safe** and **Staying Healthy**.

If you have any queries related to these or any other issues related to drug education, school drug policies or training for staff, do not hesitate to contact Barry Gibson, Schools Drugs Adviser - (01603) 433276.