



Drug Information Bulletin

October 2010

Locals warned about the affects of SnowBlow

Local people have been warned about the serious damage that recently banned substances such as SnowBlow can have on their physical and mental health.

In a specially commissioned information booklet produced by the Health Service Executive, medical experts are warning members of the public about the side-effects of these drugs which until recently have been known as 'legal-highs'. Substances like SnowBlow or 'Bath-Salts' are reported to contain the drug mephedrone which has been shown to cause health issues such as nose bleeds, nose burns, hallucinations, blood circulation problems, rashes, anxiety, paranoia, fits and delusions.

Medics have appealed to users, or potential users, of the drug to be aware that there are substantial risks associated with its use. They say there has been an increase in the amount of physical complications and mental health issues associated with the drug which they have treated recently. It has also been reported that some people have increased the amount of the drug they are taking during use, and, by doing so, have multiplied their risk of developing health problems. In extreme cases, long-lasting severe psychotic episodes have resulted in emergency referrals to psychiatric hospitals.

The Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force is aware that this drug is for sale locally. Until recently these types of drugs were branded as 'legal highs' and this may lead some people to consider them safe to use. SnowBlow is one of several drugs banned recently by the Government for a good reason – they are unsafe for human consumption. We appeal to all local people to exercise a little common sense and think of the consequences that may follow the use of drugs made in unknown 'labs'; untested in clinical trials and sold from the boot of a car in unmarked containers?



Don't take it if you don't know what it is - Don't be a human guinea pig!

Even when purchased in headshops, people have no idea what they are buying. The headshop staff also don't have clue what they are selling. Even if you buy the same packet, it may contain a different drug. For example, "White Columbia" was found to contain Ethcathinone when tested in June. When tested in August, it contained no ethcathinone, but had Buphedrone in the packet instead. There is no quality control on these drugs. Users are human guinea pigs.

While there is no way of eliminating the serious risks to health associated with these drugs, people can reduce the risk by avoiding mixing drugs with other drugs or with alcohol and avoid using on your own. Some of these drugs are likely to be extremely toxic to unborn babies, causing brain damage and deformities, so women should avoid using them if there is any risk of becoming pregnant.



DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED SERVICES IN BALLYMUN

YAP - BALLYMUN YOUTH ACTION PROJECT

A community response to drug and alcohol addiction.
Horizons Centre, Balcurris Road. Tel: 8428071

CONTACT SERVICE

An evening and weekend service which provides drug and alcohol advice and support.
Tel: 086 2609382 / 086 2482861 / 086 2482858

REHABILITATION/INTEGRATION SERVICE, NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Axis Centre, Main Street, Ballymun. Tel: 8832107

DEPAUL IRELAND BALLYMUN CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Support for people with alcohol issues.
Tel: 8623128

YAP AFTERCARE

Support service for recovering drug users.
Tel: 8420871

THE STAR PROJECT

Education and training for female drug users who wish to stabilise.
Horizons Centre, Balcurris Road. Tel: 8467930

DOMVILLE HOUSE TREATMENT CENTRE

Health Services Executive, Northern Area, Addiction Centre, Main Street, Ballymun. Tel: 8620111

BALLYMUN LOCAL DRUGS TASK FORCE

A partnership between local community, voluntary, statutory agencies and public representatives.
Axis Centre, Main Street, Ballymun. Tel: 8832142

DIAL TO STOP DRUG DEALING

Is an anonymous and safe number to call to report drug dealing in the community.
Tel: 1800 220 220

OTHER LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES

BALLYMUN JOB CENTRE

One-to-one support, career advice and guidance. Tel: 8667000

BRYR - BALLYMUN REGIONAL YOUTH RESOURCE

A youth work organisation working for the welfare and development of 10-21 year-olds in Ballymun. Tel: 8667600

GERALDSTOWN HOUSE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Family and one-to-one support and groups for adults, teens and children living in the Ballymun area. Tel: 8422408

NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT SERVICES

NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE

Confidential advice on 1800 459 459

THE HSE INFORMATION LINE

Provides confidential information on over 110 topics from application forms to contact details for to contact details for services across the country. Callsave 1850 24 1850

THE NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMME (www.drugs.ie)

Provides information, support and counselling in relation to drugs, substance misuse or addiction.

DRINK AWARE (www.drinkaware.ie)

Is the national campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of drinking and drinking habits.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

The AA is a self help support group for those with a desire to stop drinking.