



## Warning – ‘drug sweets’ in circulation

Good morning. Over the last couple of months we have experienced two incidents involving young people concerning ‘sweets’ which contain cannabis or spice (a new psychoactive substance).

Last week a Lincolnshire school boy was hospitalised after consuming some of these. He believed that they contained cannabis but they actually contained spice which is a synthetic cannabinoid. Spice mimics the effects of cannabis but some experts say it can be up to 100 times as potent. The victim was placed on a drip to aid his recovery.

In the last week we have retrieved packets of these ‘sweets’ from a man who was taken into our custody. We believe the packets are sold for around £5 and may look like the attached – which look similar to a bag of Haribo and clearly producers are marketing these to young people. We also have information to suggest social media may be being used to advertise the drugs.

### Other information we know about these drugs

- These have been around for some considerable time and are not new products.
- They are generally manufactured abroad and purchased on the internet.
- These are illicit drugs so it is an offence to import, possess or sell the products.
- They are very dangerous. Generally they contain cannabis or synthetic cannabinoids but as they are unregulated they could contain another drug.

We are sharing this information with you to help prevent young people buying and taking these drugs, and we’d be very grateful if you could be on your guard to this issue within school premises.

We share with this warning with you directly instead of utilising social media or the mainstream media, as such publicity could inadvertently promote these products to young people. We do however understand that you may wish to brief parents but we would be grateful if they were encouraged not to post this warning on social media.

If you have any concerns at all, or spot these products on your premises, please call 101. Any reports will help to improve our intelligence picture.

We Are With You take referrals for young people and adults who are struggling with Substance Misuse and are seeking help. They can offer support on a one-to-one basis, which is free and confidential, appointments can be face-to-face, over the phone or video calling. Referrals can be made by telephoning 0800 304 7021 or emailing [youngpersonslincolnshire@wearewithyou.org.uk](mailto:youngpersonslincolnshire@wearewithyou.org.uk). Please make staff and students aware of this process.

Many thanks,

Detective Chief Inspector Steve Knubley

