



# Hertfordshire Drug Education Forum (DEF)

## Partnership Pledge

I will use evidence based approaches to deliver drug and alcohol sessions within the following criteria:

- **Aware of local and national drug & alcohol approaches and familiar with current evidence based strategies.**
- **Adopt and follow the DEF key principles when delivering drug and alcohol sessions.**
- **Use the DEF Visitors Request Form.**
- **Use needs based approaches to reduce the delivery of insubstantial or tokenistic drug education sessions.**
- **Refrain from using only shock-tactic based methods of delivery.**
- **Use up-to-date resources / information and promote local and national support services.**

Every 12 months DEF partners will be required to evidence that they are adhering to the pledge. This will consist of providing evaluation reports, attending regular training, membership of relevant professional bodies and DEF meetings.

Partners will receive the DEF Partnership logo to use on letterheads / promotional leaflets etc:

***“Working in partnership with the Hertfordshire Drug Education Forum”***

Signed ..... Date: .....

**1/ Local and national approaches & strategies:** As professionals we must all adhere to the principles and implementation of local and national approaches & strategies.

**2/ Key principles:** The Hertfordshire DEF Key Principles are adapted from government guidance and are consulted upon and agreed by DEF members. They underpin good practice of drug education across the county, ensuring that consistent and reliable information is imparted as effectively as possible.

**3/ Visitors Request Form:** A contract which determines the delivery, content and group agreement for the session. It ensures that a needs assessment has been conducted prior to delivering any drug education and effective methods of evaluation are employed afterwards.

**4/ Needs based approaches to reduce insubstantial or tokenistic drug education:** Drug education has to meet the complex needs of young people in an effective and meaningful way. External educators should not be used to deliver unrealistic ‘stand alone’ sessions which do not form part of a wider programme of drug education. The DEF supports its members in refusing to deliver such sessions.

**5/ Shock tactics:** Research shows that these approaches are ineffective and in some cases may inadvertently glamorise drug misuse and risk-taking behaviours. For further information see ‘DEF Position Statement on the use of Shock Tactics.

**6/ Up to date information & signposting:** It is important to impart the latest information to audiences, particularly given recent changes to drug legislation. Using tools such as *“What’s Hot & What’s Not”* can ensure that drug literature is current. Provision of support agency information is key to safeguarding young people and ensuring that early intervention is accessible.