# **HANDOUT - INTRODUCTION**

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Following this course, as a participant you will have had the opportunity to:

- Update your knowledge about the range of substances that may be misused and the possible
  indications of substance misuse. You will also have had the opportunity to identify sources of current
  information.
- 2. Look at your current practice so that you are alert to possible **indications of substance misuse** by those with whom you come into contact.
- 3. Have worked through scenarios where you have had to investigate situations sufficiently to allow you to make a reasonable judgment about whether individuals are misusing substances.
- 4. Review the process of obtaining specialist assistance where you are unable to a make a reasonable judgment about whether individuals are misusing substances.
- 5. Work through a scenario to assess the risk to individuals that may result from substance misuse and take prompt **action** appropriate to your assessment of risk.
- 6. Review **actions** open to you, and recording procedures in line with the legal, and your organisational, requirements.
- 7. Look at providing information about situations and **actions** taken only to those entitled to receive it.
- 8. Identify potential barriers to communication and to identify possible strategies for overcoming those barriers.
- 9. Discuss the factors relating to solvent and volatile substance abuse.

Your work may include the following:

#### **Substances**

The associated training resource focuses upon solvents. You may wish to supplement this resource with information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

#### Indications of substance misuse

This includes physical or behavioural evidence as well as information provided by the individual and information from other sources.

## Actions

These may include actions agreed between yourself and the individual, for example exclusion from the normal activities, referral to higher authority in your organisation or referral to a legal authority.