

HANDOUT – PRODUCTS, RECOGNITION AND METHODS OF USE

Type of product	Aerosol deodorant			
Does this product have the potential for solvent misuse?	yes/no	yes/no	yes/no	yes/no
What evidence is there for this on the container?				
How is the product misused?				
What would be the effects				
What would be the risks?				

James is 14. He has no sisters or brothers. His grandfather came from Jamaica, although the rest of his immediate family were born in Britain.

Family

James lived with his mother until he was 7 years old. He was taken into care by social services following an incident with his mother and the police. His mother has had a long-term alcohol problem over at least the last 10 years. She also suffers from bouts of depression and is on prescribed medication. James does talk about good and bad times with his mother. They still have regular contact, but his mother is not in a position to care for him.

James' father left following an argument. There is no contact between his mother and father and his father has made little attempt to maintain contact with his son.

Local authority care

James went into an emergency foster placement and after a short period was found a long-term foster home. Unfortunately after a year the foster carers moved from the area and so a further family were found. James' behaviour deteriorated quickly and he ended up being taken into police custody for breaking and entering a neighbour's house.

He had another two foster placements that lasted a few weeks before being placed in a children's home. James appeared to settle in well at his first home, and formed a strong association with four boys and three girls at the home. At least one of the boys had previous experience of solvent use.

When James was 12 the home closed following local re-organisations and he was moved to another home.



Only one of his friends came with him to the new home. James expressed his dislike of the move and the staff reported that he was sullen and aggressive and he found it difficult to make friends. He ran away on two occasions, the first time he went to his mother's home. Both times he returned within two days.

After a year things improved and James was found a further foster placement. These foster carers were younger than previous placements and they had an interest in outdoor activities. At the last meeting with James, his social worker reported that he appeared to be very happy, although James did say that it would all come to an end and he would then go and live on the streets.

School

James has an average intelligence. He has had periods of truancy that have coincided with other problems. He is affable and polite and his teachers like him, although he also has a reputation for disruption. His form tutor said that "When there is trouble James is not usually the leader, but he is usually there". His teachers recognise an aptitude for English, but he underachieves in this as well as other areas.

Interests

James' interests are music, football and girls. When he was 12 he tried and enjoyed karate at a local club and climbing on an outward-bound holiday.

Risks

James is 14 years old. The local authority looks after him. His mother has a severe alcohol problem, but in the last year James has been building a relationship with her. James's behaviour has been problematic and as a result he lived in number of foster carers. He has recently been placed with another foster carer and James appears to have a positive attitude to them. James' foster carer finds three cigarette lighter refill cans under his bed. She also finds some cigarettes. How would you assess the level of risk to James?

HIGH-RISK

LOW-RISK

