**Intelligence gathering for suspected harmful substances**

If you are in contact with someone who reports harm to themselves or another, the following information will help build intelligence to help analyse potential risk.

**Questions for people directly involved/who taken the substances**

If possible, this should be someone with a close, trusted relationship to those involved such as a peer or support worker. Ask each person the same questions in the same order and record their response:

* what drugs were taken?
* what did they look like?
* how did you take them?
* what did you think they were?
* what were the effects?
* source of purchase?

**Questions for people who have witnessed harm e.g. staff, family members**

Ask each person the same questions in the same order and record their response:

* who was affected? how many?
* what drugs were taken?
* what did they look like?
* how were they taken?
* what were the effects?
* what was the timeline of events? how quickly did the effects come on/last?
* what action did you take?

**Sample description and analysis**

In order to provide accurate meaningful communications, an accurate description of the drug is required. Where possible photos and toxicology testing should be sourced.

* What did the drug look like? Consider colour, texture, shape, markings.
* Are photos available?
* Did the substance react differently to what was expected? Consider smell, texture, melting point, solubility.
* Is testing or toxicology information available?
* Is any testing underway and is any more likely to be known?
* Is a sample available for testing? People in the UK can get drugs tested by using a free, anonymous postal service. This service is provided by Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances (WEDINOS. Instructions for sample testing can be found on [www.wedinos.org/sample-testing](http://www.wedinos.org/sample-testing))