

GET READY FOR WORK STUDENTS EXPERIENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS – AUGUST 2007

Excerpts (names have been changed to protect identities).

Lorraine 16 yrs

My dad is an alcoholic; 11 months ago he had everything. He was doing well in his job, had a wife and two kids. But slowly, things began to change. My mum and dad split up and I moved in with dad. My dad started seeing his girlfriend and leaving me in the house on my own. I was doing all the housework, Hoovering, dusting washing and ironing. I also had to do the cooking and buy the shopping in every week, all this on top of studying for my exams. It was really difficult to cope with. Then he lost his job. I remember one night he came in raging saying I didn't do anything around the house, and that his girlfriend didn't want to see him anymore. He marched up to my bedroom and ended up kicking my globe lamp to bits. A few months later, because I had to look after my wee sister while my mum was in hospital, my dad kicked me out. It has been 4 months since I have seen him or any of my clothes or things. Now all he has is the girlfriend (sometimes), 2 bottles of wine and 40 fags.

Donald 16 yrs

One Saturday evening in Caol about 5 o'clock me and a friend went to the shop to get a carry out, went back to a friend's house to drink. By about 10 pm we were totally steaming and we went to a five a side in Caol and tried to play football but really we were too drunk. Time flew in and before I knew it, it was 1 am and everyone was just going home apart from me and a friend. We went to an 18th birthday party in Inverlochty and got even more drunk. My friend left and I went to my cousin's house at 6.30 in the Sunday morning and fell asleep on his bed. My auntie woke me up at 2 in the afternoon after my dad was at the door looking for me so I walked home still drunk and got shit of my mum but all in all it was a magic night, well what I can remember of it anyway.

John 17 yrs

How I feel about Drug Users in my house. The only thing I don't like about my brother taking hash under the same roof as me is when he does a bong in my room, because we have to share a room and the smell gets everywhere in my bed sheets and in my clothes. The worst part is when he blows smoke in my face after inhaling the smoke from the bottle. As for the other drug users in my house, as long as the passive smoke is not directed at me then I am not bothered about them taking drugs, it's their choice.

Philip 15 yrs

My bad Trip. I took acid twice the second time I took it I had a bad trip and thought I was on a bus hell because I saw flames coming up the side of the bus. I was so scared and I have never taken since and I never will take it again. I was out partying and took it for the craic. A couple of my mates were taking it as well. I don't know what happened to them and I don't even remember going home and only remember bits of the party.

Roger 16 yrs

Saturday morning, the day before Rockness 2007. I can't wait, it's a nice day and I was just getting ready to leave the house to go to the Co-op and meet by friends to get our lift. I am so excited they went down early. Well anyway, I was at the festival that I have been waiting all year for. We were in the campsite getting drunk and full of drugs when this guy offered me an ecstasy tablet and I wasn't really going to say no was I? I took it and when it touched my tongue, it dissolved straight away and I knew then it wasn't ecstasy. I was sitting on a chair and I was looking at everyone sitting in the campsite and I turned round and instead of seeing different people I saw the same ones again and again. I was tripping. I fell off the chair and started to be sick and the next thing I knew its hours later, it was dark and I didn't have a clue what had happened. There were paramedics all around me and they had just given me a jag. Somebody said it was an injection of adrenalin. The worst part of it was I missed one of my favourite DJ's "groove armada". To this day, I still don't have a clue what I took.

Ewen 15 yrs

The Effects of Alcohol. There was a time when my pal was staying overnight at my house. We were both having a good time going to different people's houses consuming alcohol, having a laugh and so on. Around 1 O'clock in the morning, I went to another party, my mate went to the pub. I was having a good time at my friends and as far as I knew, he was at the pub. About 5am when me and my friend had fallen asleep, someone banged on the door, I answered the door and she explained that my car had been stolen by my pal and damaged so much, it was undriveable. He must have sneaked into my house and nicked the car keys. He crashed through some poor persons fence into his garden and kept going until the police caught and arrested him on the spot. He tried to accuse me of handing him the car keys and forcing him to drive and so I got arrested too. I got out later and my "pal" was in court next day. So all I say is when you are drunk is watch who your pals are. And watch who your pals are when sober too.