

# Safeguarding Update December 2023

## Cannabis Edibles

Dear Parents/Carers

Essex Police regularly send us information that they ask us to share with parents. As the Christmas holidays are looming and your children are going to be out and about mixing with friends and potentially going into the town centre, I wanted to draw your attention to these items that are very popular and may be sold or given to your children by criminal gangs.

### What are Cannabis Edibles?

- Cannabis Edibles are food products that contain cannabis. There are currently many different forms of edibles available in the UK, including sweets, cakes, chocolates, biscuits, gummies and lollipops.
- They are packaged to look exactly like other popular sweets to attract young children, meaning they could easily be mistaken for the genuine item.
- These so called sweets contain a number of chemicals and cannabis oil which holds high amounts of THC – the psychoactive compound of cannabis.
- THC remains illegal in the UK as a class B controlled drug – therefore cannabis edibles are a class B drug.

### What are the Risks and effects on young people?

- The drugs appear professional, safe and appetising without any risks or safety issues explained.
- Edibles contain higher doses of THC than cannabis joints and have other substances added such as Spice (A synthetic Cannabinoid) making them even more dangerous.
- Younger people have a much lower tolerance to THC and are more likely to overdose on edibles.
- The more common side effects of THC are paranoia, memory loss, dizziness, nausea/sickness & difficulty sleeping
- Consumption of these items could potentially result in injury or death through misadventure. It could also lead to an onset of psychosis.

## What should we be looking for?

- The packaging used is deliberately eye-catching towards young people.
- They often copy well-known brands.
- Despite looking similar there are several differences in packaging between cannabis edibles and the genuine product. Any packaging found that does not look legitimate or has cannabis references on may contain cannabis edibles.



## What do I do if I come across them?

- If you find any of these products, they should be kept away from children and police should be notified straight away.
- Schools are legally allowed to take possession of these items so that they can provide them to a lawful authority, this will help prevent any further risk they pose.
- If you think or are concerned that someone has consumed these items, please seek medical advice immediately.



THC Logo –  
displayed on the  
packets.