

MINUTE BRIEFING

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

If you are concerned about an individual's alcohol consumption contact Knowsley **Integrated Recovery Service** Tel: 0845 873 4462

http://www.changegrowlive.org /content/knowsley-integratedrecovery-service-huyton

For more information on FASD click here www.fasdtrust.co.uk www.nofas-uk.org

'Exposure to alcohol before birth is the most important preventable cause of brain damage in children today'

Prof. Sir Al Aynsley Green.

Alcohol is a teratogen - a substance that disrupts foetal development of body organs including the brain.

2

There is no 'safe' time to drink during pregnancy.

FASD is 100% preventable.

The UK Chief Medical Officers guidance (2016) states;

- If you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, it is safest not to drink alcohol at all.
- Drinking in pregnancy can lead to long-term harm to the baby.

5 4 Applied locally, approximately The exact prevalence

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of FASD in the UK is unknown. International studies state that at least 1 in 100 children are affected. This suggests that in the North West there are; - 16 babies born each week, - over 850 babies born each year, - 71,000 people, who could be affected with

some form of FASD.

FASD is an umbrella term for a range of effects that can impact an individual who was exposed to alcohol in the womb. FASD covers a spectrum of disorders ranging from mild emotional, intellectual & behavioural issues, to the extremes of profound disability and premature death.

In FASD, defects of both the brain and the body exist only because of prenatal exposure to alcohol. Often the condition goes undiagnosed, or is misdiagnosed, for example as Autism or ADHD. This can lead to secondary disabilities as ADHD medication can exacerbate FASD symptoms.

20 children are affected each year in Knowsley. This figure is cumulative so year on year the financial cost of supporting those children is escalating as different problems emerge during childhood, adolescence, & into adulthood.

For more information regarding 7 minute briefings, please email sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board, 2nd Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton L36 6GA Tel: 0151 443 3859 www.knowsleyscb.org.uk