

For 'Choices for Life' 2010 event organisers, the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA), commissioned a new video drama, its contents being a collaboration of ideas by partners from Scottish Government, Learning and Teaching Scotland and NHS Health Scotland.

The group felt strongly that it needed to be age appropriate for primary 7 and should complement the existing key messages within Choices for Life. The drama should also offer opportunities for activities/discussion within the classroom after attending the event.

With this in mind a follow up piece has been included and whilst it will not all be played at the event, the full five minute version it is available on the Choices for Life website and should be used in conjunction with the below ideas.

"Choices"

This short film explores several important issues for young people – peer pressure, friendships, personal safety, making choices, the consequences of choices and of actions and relationships with adults.

In the film some positive choices are made and some not so positive and we see how one choice, good or bad, can then affect so many other things.

The following questions can be discussed as a class, in pairs/groups or as individual assignments with feedback to class.

The aim of the questions is to allow young people to further think about choices and consequences around the issues raised in the film.

Chloe's Choice

1. Why did Chloe end up drinking despite the fact that she really did not want to?
2. Why do you think she did not want to drink?
3. Describe 3 consequences which were as a result of her drinking.
4. What would you have done in Chloe's place and why?

Jack and Lewis

1. What stopped the boys from trying the hash?
2. What possible consequences might that have led to (short term and longer term)?
3. Do you think they should have told Jack's big sister Lisa about the hash?
4. What would you have done in the boys' place and why?

Further questions for discussion

1. Personal safety is very important for young people. In what ways can using alcohol or drugs put your safety at risk?

2. None of the young people spoke to a trusted adult about their situations. Why do you think this was?

There are several activities which could also be done as a follow up:

- Pupils could carry out research on the effects of drugs/alcohol and present findings to class/year group/assembly etc. – group work/power point presentation.
- Pupils could prepare and carry out drama perhaps with alternate endings to the film (exploring consequences etc.)
- Pupils could prepare display materials around the “Choices” video drama and the consequences around using drugs/alcohol – poster/poem/short story etc.