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| Date: 25h May 2017  |  |

Dear Parent / Carer,

Since the beginning of April 2017, a number of young teenagers have attended at Arrowe Park hospital suffering from the effects of taking MDMA, better known as ecstasy. Furthermore, on other occasions Merseyside Police have been contacted by parents of young teenagers having become aware of them taking a particularly strong form of this drug. This has naturally been very distressing for the young people and the parents.

Young people are taking this ecstasy generally in the form of tablets shaped like the ‘Snap-chat’ ghost icon or a blue cartoon icon.  What is particularly concerning is that these young people are often being supplied these drugs by class-mates or associates their own age.

The aspect of young people supplying the drug to their peers is concerning. There appears to be a mis-conception amongst these young people that by only using or supplying half and quarter tablets, the reaction will be controlled and safe. It is clear they do not understand the personal consequences of their actions in supplying this drug to others.

The key risk is that as MDMA is such a variant drug and its effect on the individual is specific to their own physiology, that a young person on the Wirral will suffer a life changing or fatal reaction.

Merseyside Police are treating all incidents of supplying drugs very seriously. We want parents to be aware of our concerns so that you can safeguard your children. There are support services available to assist you and I would encourage you to look at the following websites for further information and advice:-

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

[www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/parents-and-carers/resources-and-contacts/](http://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/parents-and-carers/resources-and-contacts/)

If you have any information that could assist us, you can contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Yours sincerely

Nick Gunatilleke

Chief Inspector