

## Unit 4222-606 Support individuals who are substance users (ASM3)

**Level:** 3  
**Credit value:** 7  
**UAN:** A/601/0670

### Unit aim

This unit is for those who support individuals who are substance users by enabling them to adopt safe practices, providing care and support following an episode of substance use and supporting individuals' efforts to reduce or cease substance use. Substances would include alcohol, opiates, hallucinogenics, amphetamines, cannabis, prescribed medication, solvents and other volatile substances; their use may be experimental, recreational or dependent.

### Learning outcomes

There are **four** learning outcomes to this unit. The learner will:

1. Understand about different substances, their effects and how they might be used
2. Be able to enable individuals to adopt safe practices associated with substance use
3. Be able to support individuals when they have used substances
4. Be able to support individuals in reducing substance use

### Guided learning hours

It is recommended that **42** hours should be allocated for this unit, although patterns of delivery are likely to vary.

### Details of the relationship between the unit and relevant national standards

This unit is linked to the Skills for Health/DANOS national occupational standard: AB2 Support individuals who are substance users. This also appears in Health and Social Care Standards as HSC379.

### Support of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body

This unit is endorsed by Skills for Health.

### Assessment

Any skills-based element within the unit must be assessed within the workplace or by using workplace evidence.

# **Unit 4222-606 Support individuals who are substance users (ASM3)**

## **Assessment Criteria**

### **Outcome 1 Understand about different substances, their effects and how they might be used**

The learner can:

1. identify the different substances which individuals might use, how they are used and their likely effects
2. identify the risks involved with substance use both in the short and the long term (eg overdose, dependence and associated health risks)
3. explain legislation, policies and guidelines on the use and storage of substances.

### **Outcome 2 Be able to enable individuals to adopt safe practices associated with substance use**

The learner can:

1. explain factors that influence individuals to use substances and reasons why individuals decide to reduce or cease substance use
2. communicate with individuals in a manner that maximises the individuals' understanding
3. support individuals to discuss their circumstances and history of substance use
4. advise individuals on ways in which methods of substance use and activities affected by it can be practised more safely
5. support individuals to dispose of hazardous materials and equipment safely
6. describe harm reduction strategies, how and why these may differ from individual to individual
7. identify the potential effects and difficulties that are likely to arise in attempting to cease or reduce substance use and the strategies/methods for alleviating them.

### **Outcome 3 Be able to support individuals when they have used substances**

The learner can:

1. explain relevant policies and procedures for the support of individuals who have used substances
2. support individuals in a manner appropriate to the substance used, the effect which the substance has had and the condition of the individual
3. demonstrate how to make the environment as safe as possible, including how and when to move individuals for their own safety
4. support individuals to meet their own needs and requirements after the effects of the substance have worn off
5. show when and how to request further support and assistance
6. report information about episodes of substance use to an appropriate person and record it in the required format.

## **Outcome 4    Be able to support individuals in reducing substance use**

The learner can:

1. assist individuals who have made a commitment to reduce substance use to review their reasons for doing so
2. offer support to individuals which respects their individual rights, and is appropriate to their needs
3. assist individuals to review their progress in reducing substance use
4. describe how to manage your own feelings about the individual's progress or lack of this in such a way as to minimise their impact on the support provided
5. identify the specialist agencies and support networks involved in supporting substance users.