

## Substance Use Liaison (SUL) Program

### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide consistent, relevant drug and alcohol services throughout the district supporting and fostering healthy decision-making and wellness.

### PROGRAM SERVICES

The SUL program is a *Safe Schools* initiative to meaningfully address the subject of substance use through conversational best practices. SUL services aim to provide education, prevention tools and early intervention. The team encourages positive change, the development of self-assessment skills, and bridges students and their families to specialized resources.

Services are subject to limits of confidentiality.

### REFERRAL

Students who are determined to be in possession of, or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at school, will be referred to the SUL program and required to meet with a team member for a minimum of three times. The referral is made at the time of suspension so to best support the student around the incident. A letter indicating the student's referral to the SUL program is to be provided to caregivers by their administrator.

Students can also self-referee via staff at their school, likewise staff who are concerned about a student's substance misuse can present them with the opportunity to meet with a SUL. This is a voluntary service outside of the three-meeting protocol.

### CONTINUITY OF CARE

SUL's work closely with both school and community-based teams in order to provide comprehensive case management.

Upon the closure of a file, the referring party will be provided a brief report that outlines the student's attendance, participation and any outside agencies they may have been referred to.

### STUDENT SUPPORT

If a student is not at a stage where they would like to change their usage and would not make a suitable referral to an outside resource, they can request continued support from their SUL, or be re-referred to the program at a later date. Recognizing that students are at different stages in their efforts towards meaningful change, SUL's are available to remain committed to working with students who resist community resource intervention.

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Team members are available to support caregivers with resources as they work to better understand the student's substance use. However, caregivers are only contacted by SUL's if the student provides consent, the parent requests support, and/or there is concern for student safety or well-being.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The SUL team works collaboratively with the community by participating in, as well as hosting public forums on topics relating to Substance Use. In addition, the teams work closely with the Surrey RCMP, City of Surrey and Fraser Health to support safe and caring school environments.

### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

*Conversational Circles* are available for grade 6-8 classrooms on substance use. These are aimed at providing students with an opportunity to have real discussions about drugs and alcohol, but also to nurture fundamental resistance skills, self-assessment tools and provide access to resources.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The program can host professional development opportunities for teachers, counsellors, support staff and administrators about substance use.