

KHAT: Information for the public

KHAT - the law is changing

KHAT is a green-leafed shrub that is chewed for its mild stimulant effects. It is grown in the Horn of Africa, the Arabian peninsula, eastern and southern Africa. KHAT is imported into the UK and mainly used by people in Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Yemeni communities.



- From 2014, it will be **ILLEGAL** to buy, sell, share and use KHAT in the United Kingdom.
- From 2014 it will be against the law to chew KHAT in public, in mafreshi, in your own home, someone else's house or even places of worship.
- From 2014, you must not use KHAT and drive – this will be “drug driving”.
- From 2014, if the Police find that you have KHAT in your home, in your car, in a public place or on your person (in your pockets or bag) you could be warned, fined or arrested. If you are convicted of possession you will have a **criminal record**, this may make it difficult for you to get a job, driving license, travel visa or insurance.
- If the police suspect a person may be in possession of KHAT in a public place, they will have powers to stop and search that person. If the police believe that KHAT is being kept, produced or supplied in a private place, they may obtain a warrant to search that place.
- Possession of KHAT will attract a range of penalties, for a first offence this will be a 'khat warning', a fixed penalty notice for disorder (£60 fine) for a second offence, followed by arrest and prosecution for repeat offences, which may result in a fine, imprisonment or both.

If you want to cut down or stop using KHAT, **confidential help** is available without waiting from:

- CRI Arundel Street Project (0114) 272 1481, 92a Arundel Street (no appointment needed)
- CRI “Arundel on the Move” van in your neighbourhood
- Your family doctor (GP)
- If you would like to talk in confidence about a family member or friend's KHAT use please phone “Families in Recovery” Service (RDASH) on (0114) 270 2855
- If you want help with stopping smoking please contact the Sheffield Stop Smoking Service on 0800 068 4490
- Please tell anyone you know who is buying, selling, sharing or using KHAT of these changes.



KHAT - the law is changing

- If you are under 18 and want help cutting down or stopping using khat please contact CRI The Corner on (0114) 2752051

Further information and support is available at:

- Legal advice from the Sheffield Law Centre and general advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau Adviceline on (0114) 2055055
- National Debtline on 0808 8084000
- Sheffield Credit Union on (0114) 2760787
- Sheffield Citizens Advice – Mental Health Unit on (0114) 2718025
- Sheffield MIND on (0114) 2584489
- Transcultural Mental Health Team on (0114) 2262299
- Sheffield Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 8082241
- MAAN – Somali Mental Health Sheffield on (0114) 2758556
- Yemeni Community Association on (0114) 2762472 (Burngreave) and (0114) and Firvale (0114) 2560933
- Yemeni Welfare and Advice Centre on (0114) 2560933

Sheffield Help Yourself Directory is available at:

<http://www.sheffieldhelpyourself.org.uk/>

