

Khat: Information for professionals

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.



The law on KHAT is changing from 2014 when it will become a Class C substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)

- The government has decided to control the importation, supply and use of KHAT because of concerns about potential social harm and re-exportation.
- The change in law will impact on individuals using KHAT, households where KHAT is used, small businesses involved in selling and distributing KHAT by making these activities **ILLEGAL**.
- The change in law will impact on public and private places e.g. parks, cafes, mosques, homes.
- 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.
- Buying KHAT to share with friends or family could be considered to be a 'supply' offence and a trafficking or supply conviction may result in a fine, imprisonment or both. Conviction for possession or supply will mean the individual will have a **criminal record**.
- If you would like a briefing on KHAT for your workplace please contact Sheffield DACT on 0114 273 6851 or dact@sheffield.gov.uk

<http://sheffielddact.org.uk/drugs-alcohol/the-dact/contact-us/>

KHAT is not a harmful substance for the majority of the individuals who use it, but if individuals want to manage, reduce or stop using KHAT, confidential help is available without waiting from:

- CRI Arundel Street Project (0114) 272 1481, 92a Arundel Street (no appointment needed)
- The individual's GP

