



Action 104: Request to provide a report on  
Legal Highs following concerns

## Legal Highs, Lethal Lows?



## The National Challenge

- Increasing prevalence but data is poor
- Public and professional awareness is low
- Public services capacity is stretched
- Opiate focussed health services need to adapt
- Lack of legislation that can be kept up to date



# Threat, Harm & Risk

## North Yorkshire Overview

- Trading Standards Problem Profile
    - Scarborough – high risk of harm
    - Harrogate – medium risk of harm
    - Craven, Ryedale, Richmondshire & Selby – low risk
  - Existing legislation
    - Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1986
    - Misuse of Drugs Act
    - Product Safety Regulations
- Specific legislation required to tackle NPS problem



# New Psychoactive Substances Bill

## What problems will this address?

- How will success be measured?
- Proposed legislation is complex and will run alongside Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Supply of Intoxicating Substances and Human Medicines Act – confusion?
- Number of amendments required to tighten the current wording of the bill
- Prosecution required to prove that the substance is psychoactive and that it will have a psychoactive effect yet no chemical test for NPS and none in the pipeline
- Personal possession is not an offence
- No right of appeal to civil orders



## So, what next?

Irish legislation saw a reduction in the number of young people presenting at A&E and closure of head shops

But...

- NPS usage continued to rise
- People now manufacturing their own
- Increased internet dealing
- Increased prevalence in prisons – more short term sentences = greater demand on substance misuse services



# Next Steps for North Yorkshire Police

## Practical Recommendations

- Collaborative not competitive approach
- Focus on harm minimisation
- Consistent media messages
- Education, Education, Education
- Safer injecting information at needle exchanges
- Excited Delirium guidance for professionals
- Link to performance data

