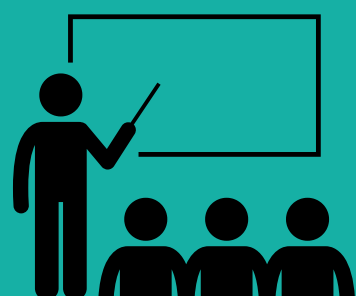


Is there a role for Law Enforcement Officers in drug prevention?

YES, there is! Let's find out..



In the school setting

Should LEO go into schools to warn kids about substance use?

Research shows that providing information alone to young people about substances has no, or even a negative effect. It can make things worse! Kids might think that such a behaviour happens frequently and is normal.

Can LEO deliver drug prevention programs?

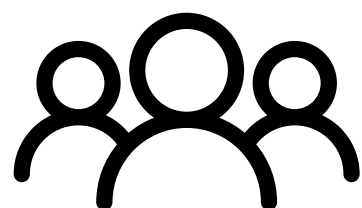
LEO goes into schools with the best intentions, often at the request of the school board. Research shows however, even if LEO is trained and motivated to do so, there is no evidence this is beneficial for young people and has an effect on their behaviour (e.g. decrease of experimental use).

Can LEO go into schools with sniffer dogs to prevent substance use?

Using sniffer dogs can't be seen as a preventive intervention. It is a snapshot in time of who might use or even deal in the school. Of course, LEO plays an important role when a (minor) student is caught using or dealing (illegal) substances in a school.

Should LEO go into schools to improve their image towards pupils and school staff?

LEO can play an important role in the local community without going in to schools. They might play a role in discussing the opportunities for schools to address the problems they are facing with substances. LEO can be the mediator between the school and other local services.



In the community

So, if its preferable for LEO not to go into schools, where should they focus on?

LEO has the perfect mandate to focus on the environment of schools and act against violations of the law.

What kind of activities are relevant for LEO in the local community?

They play an important role in environmental based interventions such as selling alcohol to underage pupils in nearby bars or trace drug deals close to the school environment. Next to this, they have a crucial role in detecting trouble spots near schools.

What are the advantages of being active close to local schools?

They can create a safe and healthy school environment together with other relevant stakeholders. LEO can improve their image while working close together with for example schools and the local government and in the meantime achieving this safe and healthy environment.

In nightlife



Does LEO has a role in organising nightlife?

Absolute! They strive for a safe and healthy nightlife and are tasked with tracking when and where laws are broken.

What are the activities they can be involved in?

There are many interventions they can focus on such as avoiding people to use substance and drive, maintain public order at large dance events, draw the attention of bar staff to stop serving alcohol to clearly intoxicated visitors, ensuring that bars have a liquor license etc.

Does LEO work on their own to organise this nightlife?

All of the activities to organise a safe and healthy nightlife, is the responsibility of many involved stakeholders. Based on their professional finality they have more focus on the 'safe' or 'healthy' part. A good collaboration between the different stakeholders is a must to succeed in organising this kind of nightlife.



Want to know more? Read the EUSPR-position paper on the role of Law Enforcement in prevention.