

Dear Ms Ellison,

It was with a sinking heart that I read your written answer to a question 'To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he plans to take to reduce further the rate of smoking, drug use and consumption of alcohol among secondary school pupils', to Mr Nigel Dodds.

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2014-11-19.215134.h>

FRANK is not fit for purpose. Its information on cannabis is out of date, it fails to quote the present strength of skunk now 80% of the UK market, plays down its dangers and has huge omissions. At my request they removed harm reduction (safer use tips) advice on cannabis but still offer it in other sections, e.g. magic mushrooms and ecstasy.

School drug education policy is still one of harm reduction and 'informed choice' in place of the original prevention policy (stopping children from ever using drugs) of the John Major government. Mentor UK, the main charity chosen to spearhead current policy and ADEPIS is a 'prevention' charity but follows harm reduction principles.

These are links to some articles to explain why I am so concerned and frustrated.

On FRANK:

<http://conservativewoman.co.uk/mary-brett-talk-frank-hardly-better-friendly-neighbourhood-drug-dealer/>

Evidence submitted to the Department for Education's PHSE Consultation:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/education-committee/pshe-and-sre-in-schools/written/9763.html>

I also attach a paper I wrote concerning Mentor UK in 2013. So far, nothing has been changed as a result of any of these items.

I am a retired biology teacher. I spent over 30 years at Dr Challoner's Grammar School (boys), Amersham, Bucks, and was in charge of Health Education. I now chair the drug prevention charity, Cannabis Skunk Sense (CanSS) which provides the admin for the APPG on Cannabis and Children, chaired by Charles Walker MP. I have written two books, one for teachers, one for pupils available on our website www.cannabiskunksense.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Yours, Mary.