

Solve It
UK www.solveitonline.co.uk



Solve It promotes a general awareness of the dangers of solvent abuse and works towards the prevention of related consequences. Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA) kills at least one young person every week in the UK and kills more children and young people aged between 10-16 years than all illegal drugs put together.

CASE STUDY

A family's perspective

A parent of four children turned to Solve It after she discovered her eldest son was sniffing aerosols in his room. Solve It provided her with family support and information on substance abuse that, while daunting, resulted in her being able to better communicate with her son on an equal level and understand his situation.

In addition, her son contacted Solve It and entered into counselling on a weekly basis. He is no longer using volatile substances and is able to communicate more effectively with his family.



Barbara Skinner, Founder and Chief Executive of Solve It, established the charity in 1989 following the VSA-related death of her son. She had warned her son about the dangers of smoking, alcohol and illegal drug use but knew nothing of VSA. It was this that led to her to start Solve It to educate parents, professionals and the community at large about the dangers of solvent misuse, and to provide direct support and information to children themselves.

It has recently published a life-skills workbook for young people containing exercises to help them make the right choices about VSA and other aspects of their lives.

Judges' comments

Solve It clearly provides a much needed service in an area that doesn't receive the amount of attention it should. Illegal drugs attract a lot of attention, while VSA is often ignored. With a newly opened office in Liverpool and a national development worker interacting with young people across the country, Solve It is doing an incredible job of spreading awareness about this most worrying and destructive area.

Judge's quote

"Solve It is doing remarkable work and having a huge impact for its size."

Bharat Mehta CEO, City Parochial Foundation.

The Award use

"This award will help us make more young people understand the dangers associated with VSA. The number of people dying is still far too high, with 23% of deaths being first time users. The award will also be used to fund a part-time funding officer and facilitate our office move, providing a nicer environment in which to counsel young people."

Barbara Skinner MBE Founder and Chief Executive, Solve It.

