

# Clinical Toolkit

## Clinical Tool: Public Health Model or Interaction Model of Substance Use

The model of public health, or the Interaction Model, explains the reasons for substance use as relating to the:

- **Individual:** the characteristic of the individual including attitudes, values and personality structure
- **Drug:** the characteristics of the drug or drugs of choice e.g. the pharmacological action of the substance
- **Environment:** the environment in which drug use occurs e.g. the influence of the physical and social setting within which use occurs

These categories can also be a helpful way of assessing and identifying the range of harms that young people can experience due to their substance use. Strategies can then be devised to reduce harm related to drug use.