

PACCS 23rd Annual Conference:

Tipperary Drugs Initiative – Tom Needham Report – Breda Hanley

This workshop started with a DVD concerning one young person's life. Paul was bullied in National School and had low self esteem. In Secondary school he decided he was going to become popular. Paul started 'ditch drinking' – drinking with his **new** friends at the side of the road until they were very drunk. This led to smoking hash and on to stronger drugs to get bigger highs.

Parents need to look for the physical signs of drug taking i.e Hot Rock burns (small burns in clothes), a dramatic change of friends, paranoia, depression, loss of interest in their appearance and not washing.

Children with low self-esteem are most likely to use alcohol or drugs as a crutch.

If parents are vigilant, they may be able to help their children before they become addicted to drugs.

43% of children first take drugs at home – petrol, tablets, aerosol cans etc.