Date: 08 May 2017	For immediate release
Police urge parents to talk to teenagers about dangers of Xanax	

Police are issuing a warning to parents/guardians in Salisbury following incidents in the past week in which approximately twenty young people have taken the prescription drug Xanax.

The young people aged 15/16 years have received medical treatment.

Police received further information today, Monday 8 May 2017, of another 15 year old girl who has taken the drug and needed medical treatment. Fortunately all of the teenagers are now recovering however the side effects can last for several days.

Xanax is drug which should only be prescribed by a doctor for anxiety disorders. It can cause cardiac / respiratory difficulties, slow down reactions and can make a person feel drowsy, lethargic and forgetful. These drugs can also lead to problems concentrating, headaches, vertigo and are very addictive. When taken with or even without alcohol they can slow the heart rate down to dangerous levels.

Inspector Pete Sparrow said: "We are concerned about these incidents in which young people are deliberately risking their health. The effects of taking any drugs which haven't been specifically prescribed for you can have serious or even fatal consequences and we urge parents/guardians to talk to their children about the dangers. We are investigating where the supply to these young people has come from and ask that anyone with information comes forward."

Ceri Williams, head of prevention of harm at Wiltshire Council, said: "Our young people's drugs and alcohol service – Motiv8 – is already engaging with young people in Salisbury to make them aware of the risks associated with Xanax. We would encourage people to contact Motiv8 if they have any concerns relating to Xanax or any other substances by calling 0800 169 6136 or emailing info@dhimotiv8.org.uk"

Anyone with information is asked to contact Salisbury CID on 101. Or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 where details may be left anonymously if preferred.