# Explosion that killed seven-year-old Archie York exposes dangers of cannabis shatter production in Newcastle



A tragic explosion in Newcastle's Benwell area has cast a shadow over the community, resulting in the heartbreaking loss of seven-year-old Archie York and a 35-year-old man, Reece Galbraith. The incident unfolded last year when butane gas ignited during the hazardous process of producing cannabis shatter—a concentrated form of cannabis resin infamous for its volatile extraction methods. The explosion wreaked havoc, destroying an entire block of 12 flats, highlighting the severe dangers associated with illicit drug production.

Archie's mother has voiced her devastation over her son's untimely death, describing the circumstances as "sickening." She has made an impassioned plea to anyone involved in this perilous practice to cease their operations for the sake of their own safety and the well-being of others. Her call resonates deeply within the community, where the echoes of this tragedy continue to linger.

Detective Chief Inspector Katie Smith has also spoken out about the incident, urging individuals engaged in the production of cannabis shatter to "think again." Her statement underscores a growing concern among law enforcement regarding the dangers posed not just to individuals involved in drug manufacturing but also to innocent bystanders who may find themselves in the crossfire of such reckless activities. The explosion is a stark reminder of the unintended consequences that can arise from illegal drug production practices.

Reece Galbraith, identified as the drug dealer responsible for the catastrophic explosion, was apprehended and subsequently sentenced to 14 years in prison. The severity of his actions has amplified discussions around the need for stringent measures to curtail such dangerous practices. The case raises broader questions about drug regulation, public safety, and the responsibilities of individuals engaged in the illegal drug trade.

The ramifications of this tragic event extend beyond the immediate loss of life; they serve as a critical wake-up call regarding the risks associated with drugs that are often involved in underground markets. As communities grapple with the dangers of drug-related activities, stories like that of Archie York serve as poignant reminders of the human cost linked to the pursuit of profit in illicit industries.

For affected families and communities, the scars of such incidents are deep. Incidents resulting from drug production not only bring grief but often leave communities questioning their safety and the effectiveness of existing laws. As more lives hang in the balance due to similar activities, the urgency for a robust public discourse on drug safety and legality becomes ever more pressing, with the hope that no other family will have to endure such profound loss.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/benwell-explosion-archie-york-galbraith-b2750829.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/benwell-explosion-archie-york-galbraith-b2750829.html> - An explosion in Newcastle's Benwell area resulted in the deaths of seven-year-old Archie York and 35-year-old Reece Galbraith. The incident occurred when butane gas ignited during the production of cannabis shatter in a small flat, destroying a block of 12 flats. Archie's mother expressed her horror over her son's death and urged those involved in the process to cease immediately. Detective Chief Inspector Katie Smith emphasized the need for individuals making shatter to reconsider their actions to prevent further fatalities. Reece Galbraith, a drug dealer, was filmed during his arrest and subsequently sentenced to 14 years in prison.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-65512345> - A tragic explosion in Newcastle's Benwell area led to the deaths of a seven-year-old boy and a 35-year-old man. The blast occurred when butane gas ignited during the production of cannabis shatter in a small flat, causing extensive damage to a block of 12 flats. The boy's mother expressed her devastation over her son's death and called for an end to the dangerous practice. Detective Chief Inspector Katie Smith urged individuals involved in making shatter to reconsider their actions to prevent further loss of life. The drug dealer responsible, Reece Galbraith, was filmed during his arrest and received a 14-year prison sentence.
4. <https://www.northumbria.police.uk/news/2025/05/benwell-explosion-archie-york-galbraith> - Northumbria Police have released details about the explosion in Newcastle's Benwell area that resulted in the deaths of seven-year-old Archie York and 35-year-old Reece Galbraith. The incident occurred when butane gas ignited during the production of cannabis shatter in a small flat, leading to the destruction of a block of 12 flats. Archie's mother has expressed her horror over her son's death and urged those involved in the process to cease immediately. Detective Chief Inspector Katie Smith emphasized the need for individuals making shatter to reconsider their actions to prevent further fatalities. Reece Galbraith, a drug dealer, was filmed during his arrest and subsequently sentenced to 14 years in prison.
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