



Young People Count – No: 1153050

Policy and Procedures

Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Young People Count will continually be vigilant and work with the young people to ensure that the activities and the space that we provide is free from the use and influence of alcohol, drugs and smoking. We are committed to work with the young people, providing avenues for communication, giving information, advice and support in these matters. We will be linking into specialist support services and provide information to young people in regarding to the use of these substances.

OUR COMMITMENT IN REGARD TO ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

On the premises

If any young person is found to be drinking alcohol or taking drugs on the premises they will be instantly asked to leave, providing support for their safety if necessary. We will contact their parents, unless there is good reason not to and, in such cases, the Safeguarding Officer will be informed. They will also be banned from the next session and advice and support will be offered to them at a suitable time.

Arriving under the influence

Any young person who arrives or is found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be offered support and guidance if they are in a position to receive it. Parents may be contacted if appropriate. If they are in anyway aggressive, or potentially aggressive, they will be asked to leave. If the situation deemed necessary, the police may be called.

Influencing others

Anyone found influencing others with alcohol or drugs would be asked to leave, and before they are ever likely to return, a meeting will take place with the Safeguarding Officer, a supporting Trustee and either a parent and/or local police officer. The person concerned will only be able to return to the organisation when there is a satisfactory outcome to these meetings and there is a low risk of re-occurrence.

Parents

In all of the above parents will be notified when it is deemed necessary. This is also dependent on the age, home situation and severity of the incident.

Reporting

In all of the above an incident report will be written. The aim of this report is not to keep a 'record of bad behavior' on the young person concerned but to use as a record of events to help us ensure the best outcome for the young person and the other users.

Support to be given to young people

- To provide good avenues of communication with the young person, either during the session or at an agreed time and place.
- Take reasonable action to make sure they don't hurt themselves or others on the premises.
- As far as we are able to take action to provide support to any young person asked to leave so they return home safely.
- Use organisations and specialist help to give information, advice and support.
- Use posters and information leaflets to help the young person gain a better understanding of the effect of using such substances.
- Have visitors and speakers who are able to share testimonies of the negative personal effects of such use.
- Staff team will be given training and updates on the use of drugs.

OUR COMMITMENT IN REGARD TO SMOKING

Young People Count recognise that while smoking is dangerous to health it is also, for some young people, an habitual part of their life. We also discourage smoking and discuss openly the effects of smoking and use information and visual images to show the effect of smoking on the body.

- There will be no smoking allowed on the premises.
- During a session anyone wanting to smoke will be discouraged, however a public bin is situated outside the premises for anyone who is determined to smoke so that butts are not thrown on the pavement.