

Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs – POL025

Action for Children and Happy Bananas are committed to promoting the health and well-being of children and their families. We do not condone the misuse of drugs, including alcohol or smoking. The use of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco, including Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems is forbidden across all premises.

Definition

A drug is defined as, 'a substance that people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

Aims

- To provide a clear message to all parents/carers, staff, volunteers and visitors using the children and family service about our policies on smoking, illegal drugs and alcohol
- To protect the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of all children using the children and family service, their families and children and family service staff.
- To protect children and staff wherever possible from second-hand smoke.
- To provide appropriate support to any child, thought to be at risk.
- To follow the law around smoking, illegal drugs and alcohol.
- To set out clearly our policies surrounding the use and storage of legal and prescribed medicines.

This policy will encompass all drugs under this definition

- Alcohol
- Tobacco – including Electronic Nicotine Delivery systems i.e. E cigarettes

and Personal Vapourisers

- Other legal drugs, including 'legal highs'
- Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicine
- Prescribed medicines

- Volatile substances e.g. aerosols, butane, petrol

Smoking

Since July 2007 it has been illegal to smoke in any enclosed or substantially enclosed public place or vehicle that is open to the public. In line with this law, smoking is forbidden anywhere within the building or grounds where a Children and family service is being delivered.

Tobacco, cigarettes and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems must be kept out of children's reach either in bags which are kept out of the reach of children, or kept in areas that the children do not have access to

It is the staff member's individual responsibility to ensure that tobacco products are kept away from service delivery areas.

Anyone who attempts to smoke on the premises will be asked politely to take themselves off-site. In the event of someone becoming aggressive or abusive, the Police will be called.

Any staff members who smoke are required to leave the centre when doing so, and ensure they are out of sight of the entrance to the children and family service. This will only be allowed upon managers discretion. If this applies to you please make them aware.

All Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems are included in the definition of smoking.

Illegal drugs and alcohol

Illegal drugs are forbidden anywhere on the children and family service site (grounds and building). This applies to all children and families using the children

and family service, all staff and students.

Alcohol should not be consumed on the premises.

Staff members, parents and carers should not bring alcohol on to the children and family service. Use or supply of illegal drugs or solvents on children and family service premises will be treated with the utmost seriousness. Where illegal substances are discovered the police will be informed. No staff member should attempt to analyze or taste an unidentified substance.

Children using children and family services should never be in possession of alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drug at any time. If any child is found in possession of an illegal drug or solvent, it will be confiscated by staff in the presence of a witness and put in a locked safe in the office by management. Social services and the police will be informed in line with our Safeguarding Policy. Parents / carers will be informed, and a record of the incident will be kept.

A parent / carer under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst caring for their child

No staff member will deal with this situation without full support. Where parents / carers appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs that will impair their ability to care for their child(ren), staff will do their best to persuade the parent /

carer to keep their child(ren) on the premises (if suitable care is available) or to find an alternative appropriate adult to come and escort them home and provide care. If the parent / carer insists on leaving and staff are concerned about the family's welfare, staff will follow the Safeguarding policy.

Legal and prescribed drugs

Any medicinal drugs belonging to centre staff should be kept in a secure place (e.g. locked drawer or locker) away from children's reach.

Arrangements for complaints

These are defined in the Children and family services Compliments and Complaints Policy.

Legislation / guidance that informs this policy:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- The Medicines Act 1968
- The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Control of Substance Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)

Linked policies:

Behaviour Management – POL003

Safeguarding – POL019

Partnerships with Parents and Carers – POL022

Risk Management and Assessment – POL024

Health and Safety – POL029