

Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy



Dalmuir Park Housing Association can provide this document on request, in different languages and formats, including Braille and audio formats.

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| <i>Purpose:</i> | To establish DPHA's policy and guidance and approach to Alcohol and Substance misuse and to ensure a safe, healthy and productive work environment for all staff by addressing alcohol and substance misuse |
| <i>Guidance:</i> | Adoption of EVH Model Policy |
| <i>Policy complies with the following Regulatory Standards:</i> | Standard 1 - The governing body leads and directs the RSL to achieve good outcomes for its tenants and other service users Standard 5 - The RSL conducts its affairs with honesty and integrity. |
| <i>Policy is linked to the following DPHA policies:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety policy and manual • Disciplinary policy • Grievance policy • Mental Health Charter • Code of Conduct • Equality and Human Rights policy |
| <i>Date policy last Reviewed:</i> | May 2022 |
| <i>Date Approved by Board of Management (or PRWG if delegated):</i> | June 2025 |
| <i>Date policy is next due to be revised:</i> | June 2028 |
| <i>Equality Impact Assessment carried out for policy:</i> | Yes |
| <i>Publish on website</i> | Yes |

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

1. Introduction 3

2. Policy Aims 3

3. Legislation 3

4. Definition 3

5. Disciplinary Procedures 4

6. Health and Safety 4

7. Illegal Activity..... 4

8. Alcohol and the Workplace4

9. Driving at Work4

10. Managing Alcohol misuse5

11. Managing Substance misuse5

12. General Illegal Activity. 6

13. Police Involvement 6

14. Dependency 6

15. Confidentiality7

16. General Data Protection Regulations7

17. Equality & Human Rights7

18. Dissatisfaction7

19. Review7

20. Supporting Agencies7

1. Introduction

This policy has been devised to assist Dalmuir Park Housing Association in managing situations of alcohol and substance misuse affecting the employee's ability to carry out their duties. Dalmuir Park Housing Association has a duty to provide high service standards of at all times and it is acknowledged that alcohol and substance misuse is likely to have an adverse effect on this.

This policy will set out DPHA's standards and expectations in relation to alcohol and substance misuse and the level of support that will be offered should such a situation arise.

2. Policy Aims

- Clarify DPHA's position on ongoing alcohol and/or substances misuse at work whilst on duty
- Explain DPHA's position on illegal activity concerning alcohol and substance misuse.
- Provide guidance and boundaries on appropriate assistance and support to employees being affected by alcohol or substance misuse.
- Adhere to the legal obligations of DPHA as set out under Health & Safety legislation.
- Clarify the circumstances in which disciplinary procedures will be instigated.
- Provide guidance for managers to manage alcohol and substance misuse.
- Clarify the distinction between dependent and non-dependent misuse of alcohol or substances.

3. Legislation

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

4. Definition

For the purposes of this policy the following definitions apply:

- **Alcohol Misuse:** when a person drinks in a way that is harmful, or they are dependent on alcohol. (www.nhs.uk)
- **Substance Misuse:** Intoxication by/or regular excessive consumption of and/or dependence on psychoactive substances, leading to social, psychological, physical or legal problems. It includes problematic use of both

legal and illegal drugs (including alcohol when used in combination with other substances) www.nice.org.uk

5. Disciplinary Procedures

In circumstances where DPHA's disciplinary procedures are instigated in relation to this policy, the outcome may include dismissal.

6. Health and Safety

DPHA recognises its duty under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure as far as is reasonably practical the physical and psychological health, safety and wellbeing of all employees. If it is felt that an individual poses a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of themselves or anyone else as a result of alcohol or substances, immediate action will be taken to remove the individual from the environment, most likely by sending the individual home, or seek emergency medical assistance. If it is not safe for the individual to make their own way home alternative travel arrangements must be made.

All employees have a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of others is not put at risk. If an employee has reason to believe that a colleague is misusing alcohol or substances, they must inform their line manager immediately.

7. Illegal Activity

DPHA respects an individual's right to a private life, however DPHA works within the community with a purpose of improving the lives of those who live there. As a result, DPHA will not tolerate any instances of illegal activity concerning or associated with substances. Any employee found to be involved or connected to illegal activity will be managed under DPHA's disciplinary procedure which will likely result in dismissal.

8. Alcohol and the Workplace

The consumption of alcohol at work is not normally permitted. However, at special events, where the employee is not driving and only with the approval of the Governing Body alcohol may be permitted.

9. Driving at Work

Drinking alcohol or taking substances can affect people in different ways. Should an employee drink alcohol or take a substance (legal or illegal) which impairs their ability to drive and then undertake any occupational driving this will be deemed as breach of conduct and will be dealt with under our Disciplinary Policy. This will also be reported to the police.

Before any driving at work takes place, a dynamic risk assessment should be conducted. This should be completed by the driver and should include any alcohol or substance consumption. This is particularly relevant 'the morning after the night before'. If an employee is in any doubt as to whether they are safe to drive they should not do so.

If an employee suspects another staff member has consumed alcohol or substances or they have reason to believe the person may not be safe to drive, they have a responsibility to report this immediately to a manager. The manager will deal with the situation appropriately which will include informing the police. Should malicious allegations be made this will be treated very seriously and will be subject to formal disciplinary action.

10. Managing Alcohol Misuse

DPHA will manage alcohol misuse depending on its nature. Alcohol misuse will be dealt with under the following categories:

- 1) Alcohol overindulgence
- 2) Alcohol dependence

Where concern arises regarding alcohol overindulgence that results in socially unacceptable or dangerous behaviour but which is not related to a physical or psychological dependence, this will be treated as a conduct issue and will be dealt with under the organisation's disciplinary procedures.

Where concern arises regarding alcohol dependency and interferes with an employee's ability to carry out their duties, this will initially be considered as an ill-health issue and managed in accordance with the appropriate procedures. However, where there is no improvement, support is not accepted, programme not completed, or no dependence is diagnosed **DPHA** will instigate the disciplinary procedure.

11. Managing Substance Misuse

Legal Substances

Where concern arises regarding overindulgence in legally obtained substances which results in socially unacceptable or dangerous behaviour. This also relates to prescription medication, whether required short or long term. Such situations will be treated as a conduct issue and will be dealt with under the organisation's disciplinary procedures.

Where an issue arises concerning legal substance dependency which has been obtained legally and interferes with an employee's work, this will initially be managed as an ill-health issue and managed in accordance with the appropriate procedures. However, where there is no improvement, support is not accepted, programme completed or no dependence is diagnosed **DPHA** will instigate the disciplinary procedure.

- **Illegal Substance Misuse**

DPHA will not tolerate the consumption or possession of illegal substances in any circumstances. This will always be considered to be gross misconduct.

- **Illegally Obtained Legal Substances**

DPHA will not tolerate illegal activity concerning legal substances. Any employee who is suspected of being involved in any such activity will be dealt with in accordance with **DPHA's** disciplinary procedures as gross misconduct.

12. General Illegal Activity

Any employee suspected to be involved in illegal activity concerning substances will also be reported to the police.

13. Police Involvement

In circumstances where the police are involved in an investigation concerning any employee, **DPHA** will continue with their own investigation and act on this accordingly regardless.

14. Dependency

In circumstances where an employee is suspected of having an alcohol or legal substance dependency **DPHA** will provide reasonable support. In the first instance the line manager will have a meeting with the employee and make a referral to a counselling service. The manager will then have follow-up meetings on an appropriate and regular timescale to determine the progress the individual is making.

Where there are performance issues relating to the dependence appropriate performance plans will be put in place in accordance with **DPHA's** under performance procedures as detailed in the disciplinary procedures. Where the improvement is not

adequate or support via a counselling service is not adhered to, normal disciplinary procedures will be instigated which may result in dismissal.

15. Confidentiality

Employees with alcohol or substance misuse problems who are referred for support, whether voluntarily or mandatory will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

16. General Data Protection Regulations

The organisation will treat your personal data in line with our obligations under the current data protection regulations and our own Data Protection policy which can be found [HERE](#)

17. Equality, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION

We are committed to promoting an environment of respect, understanding, encouraging diversity and eliminating discrimination by providing equality of opportunity for all. This is reflected in our Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Policy.

18. Dissatisfaction

Any employee not satisfied with the implementation of this Policy can in the first instance raise their concerns with their manager or the senior officer dealing with the situation. If the employee remains dissatisfied, they should refer to the Association's Grievance Policy and procedures.

19. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed by the Board every 3years or earlier if required.

20. Supporting Agencies

Turning Point Scotland Tel: 0800 652 3757

National Drugs Helpline Tel: 0300 123 6600

Employee Counselling Service Tel: 0141 332 9833

Community Addition Team Clydebank 0141 562 2311

Clydebank Area Council on Alcohol (DACA) 0141 952 0881

Dumbarton Area Council on Alcohol (DACA) 01389 731456

Men Matter Scotland 0141 944 7900

Hub of Hope – www.hubofhope.org.uk