



FIRST STOP CENTRE

Policy on Alcohol and Illegal Substances

1. INTRODUCTION

First Stop Centre exists to help people with mental health problems and a social and/or economic disadvantage. It is possible, therefore, that visitors may present with substance misuse problems. The Centre will continue to offer its service to such visitors whenever reasonably possible. However, it is not the purpose of the Centre to offer specialised help regarding substance misuse.

2. POLICY

It is the policy of First Stop Centre

- To be non-judgmental about substance abuse
- To offer a full service to visitors regardless of alcohol and/or drug abuse provided that such abuse does not manifest itself in unacceptable behaviour which compromises the possibility of other visitors using the service.
- To encourage independence from alcohol and drugs
- To refer those visitors who wish to reduce their dependence on alcohol and/or drugs to the relevant agencies.
- To offer support to visitors who wish to reduce their dependence.
- To forbid the admittance of people in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances
- To work closely with the police to prevent the supply of controlled drugs at the Centre.
- To ensure staff have access to Drug Awareness training.

3. GUIDELINES TO STAFF AND VISITORS

- 3.1 Staff should assess the suitability of people to be admitted as visitors to the Centre on the basis of their behaviour and whether they are in possession of banned substances, rather than on the personal use of such substances. Behaviour which compromises the ability of the Centre to deliver the service offered should be dealt with according to the Incident Procedure, considering these guidelines.



- 3.2 Visitors should be made aware that possession of alcohol, illegal substances or other intoxicating substances on the premises is not acceptable, and that the possession or supply of controlled drugs is illegal and cannot be tolerated.
- 3.3 Visitors and staff need to be aware that supply of drugs includes giving as well as selling and that being involved in the supply chain may be illegal even if no possession of the drug takes place.
- 3.4 Staff should not attempt to confiscate banned substances. If a visitor is found to be in possession of these, she or he should be instructed to leave the Centre.
- 3.5 Staff should not put themselves at risk in dealing with visitors and should not hesitate to call the police in cases of confrontation.