

Smoke-Free Policy

Introduction

Public health introduced smoke-free legislation on 1st July 2007 making virtually all workplaces and enclosed public areas in England smoke-free areas by law. This legislation is not primarily about stopping people from smoking but is rather to do with making all shared spaces smoke-free.

The LIFE-FORCE Centre, hereafter referred to as the Organisation, has a duty of care to provide all staff, team counsellors, independent practitioners, tutors, students, students on placement, clients and visitors, hereafter referred to as Members, to a smoke-free work environment that is free from exposure to second hand smoke which increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses, and therefore has a non-smoking and non-vaping policy.

It is the policy of the Organisation, that smoking is not be permitted in any part of the Centre's premises or in the areas that have been designated as smoke-free external to the building.

Definition of Smoking

Smoking is defined as being in possession of a lit substance such as tobacco or any other substance that can be smoked for example: cigarettes, pipes, cigars and water pipes. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes and vapour pipes which are prohibited in the same way as smoking. While the Organisation recognises that electronic cigarettes and vapour pipes may be useful aids to those wishing to give up smoking it has taken the view that these could undermine the policy of banning smoking in the work place as they give the impression of normalising smoking and also contravene a smoke-free environment.

Smoke-Free Designated Areas

- Inside the Organisation's premises
- Externally in the outdoor areas within 20 feet of the front and rear entrances to the premises
- Externally in the outdoor area within 20 feet of the Centre's operable windows

Smoking Requirements

- Members are required to discard cigarettes in a clean and responsible way and in an appropriate container.

Organisational & Staff Responsibilities

The Organisation takes the implementation of our Smoke-Free Policy seriously and as such is both responsible and committed to carrying out the actions listed below. However all Staff, which includes Management, Office Staff, Team Counsellors, Tutors, Independent Practitioners and Students, are also required to both support and implement this policy.

- To display our Smoke-Free Policy on a notice board in the Centre's foyer
- To ensure smoking does not take place within the building by the display of non-smoking signs inside the building in the foyer, Rainbow Room and basement kitchen
- To ensure smoking does not take place within 20 feet of the back entrance to the premises or operable/open windows by the display of smoke-free/non-smoking signs outside the rear entrance to the building, and by indicating the distance of 20 feet with a broken white line on the block paving of the Centre's private staff car parking area
- To ask any Member who is not adhering to this policy to leave the premises straight away.

NB. Any Staff who fail to comply with the smoke-free workplace legislation could face disciplinary action as well as any sanctions that may be applicable under criminal law.

Help to Stop Smoking

The NHS offers a range of free services to help smokers stop smoking and give up. Visit: gosmokefree.co.uk or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for details.