



ANDERIDA ADOLESCENT CARE

ILLEGAL DRUGS PROCEDURE

This procedure is to ensure good practice should an individual be suspected of using or supplying illegal drugs on the premises.

- Should staff have strong suspicions that a young person is using illegal drugs on the premises they should, in the first instance, ask the young person to hand over the drugs.
- If the young person refuses to do so or denies having drugs on them but the staff are still concerned/suspicious they will immediately notify the manager/on-call and undertake a room search.
- The young person is ideally given the opportunity to be present during the room search. If the young person is not present it is advisable that two staff undertake the room search (see room search policy).
- Staff will contact the police on the non-emergency number if the young person does not comply or illegal substances are found.
- Should any drugs be handed in or found during this process they must be logged on the 'Room Search & Removal of Illegal Items' form and placed in a safe locked area and the police contacted immediately. The police will advise as to how the staff should be destroyed if they are not prepared to attend the home to remove them, should they remove the drugs/substance they will need to sign the form to say that they have removed them. The police will decide as to whether to prosecute the young person, which will usually depend on if they have a history of bringing illegal substances into the home.
- Staff will give the police permission to search the young person's bedroom.
- If suspicions are confirmed, staff will inform the young person's social worker or out of hours duty social worker and parents, where appropriate.
- An incident report will be completed around the situation regardless of outcome.
- The home will look at consequences and safety measures to include NVR approaches which will be recorded on consequence logs.
- The manager will contact the young person's social worker to discuss their concerns and actions taken.
- Access to support services including the under 19's substance misuse team will be pursued.
- Any staff member who hears anything about employees use of illegal drugs has a duty to report this. Intel (including soft intel) received about staff using illegal substances will trigger full Whistleblowing Procedures and be looked into.
- If you have been prescribed or are taking any new medication, it is your duty to make your supervisor, line manager or the most appropriate person in the organisation aware. It also your responsibility to make sure this medication is stored safely and correctly within the home to which you are working that shift. This is to ensure they are not accessible to the young people at any time.

PLEASE NOTE - The term 'strong suspicions' includes smells of cannabis, evidence of drug use found in the young person's bedroom or behavioural symptoms of drug use whilst in the home, however all suspicions can be acted on.