

**Deafblind Scotland vision – “A society in which deafblind people have the permanent support and recognition necessary to be equal citizens”**



## **Deafblind Scotland Policy on Alcohol & Substance Misuse for Service Users**

### **What do we mean by alcohol or substance misuse?**

Alcohol Misuse is defined as a level of drinking which either persistently affects a person's life on a one-off or occasional basis.

Substance Misuse refers to the use of illegal drugs and the misuse, whether deliberate or unintentional, of prescribed drugs and substances such as solvents.

### **Policy Statement**

Deafblind Scotland recognises that the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol have serious consequences to physical health and mental well-being. Deafblind Scotland recognises that it is important to approach such issues in a positive and supportive manner, while recognising its legal obligations, its obligations to those using its services and its duty of care to its staff and volunteers.

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'illegal drugs' will be used to mean those substances set out in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Classes A, B and C. These include drugs such as heroin, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines, cannabis and benzodiazepines.

This policy also applies to the misuse of any drug supplied on prescription from a registered medical practitioner.

### **Drug and Alcohol Misuse**

Deafblind Scotland recognises that some of its service users may have previously used or currently be using illegal drugs; and that they may misuse alcohol. Deafblind Scotland will encourage and assist any service user who uses illegal drugs or who misuses alcohol to seek help from a specialist agency.

Deafblind Scotland recognises that in the provision of support it may be appropriate and acceptable for service users/members to drink alcohol. While Deafblind Scotland encourages moderation in the use of alcohol, it recognises the vulnerability of some of its service users, Deafblind Scotland respects the right of its service users to make their own choices.

If, as a result of their use of alcohol or misuse of drugs, a service user disrupts a group or service, or their behaviour is otherwise unacceptable, Deafblind Scotland may take action to remove the service provision from that service user. If, as a result of their use of alcohol or misuse of drugs, a service user endangers themselves or others, Deafblind Scotland will take any action necessary to prevent harm. This may include calling the police or other action as appropriate.

Deafblind Scotland will not condone any service user to be in possession of or to be misusing drugs while using its services. If any member of staff or volunteer is aware that a service user is in possession of illegal drugs or witnesses them taking illegal drugs, the service user will be asked to leave the service and may be excluded and appropriate authorities will be informed.

Deafblind Scotland may exclude any service user who is intoxicated by drugs or alcohol from that service for a defined period, indefinitely or permanently. A decision on exclusion will be taken by the registered manager in consultation with the Chief Executive and or appropriate others for example social workers.

Deafblind Scotland recognises that possession and possession with intent to supply illegal drugs are criminal offences. Any service user who supplies drugs to another person while using Deafblind Scotland's services will be excluded from all services. The police or other agencies will be informed as appropriate.

### **Alteration of this policy**

This policy will be subject to review, revision, change updating, alteration and replacement in order to introduce new policies from time to time to reflect the changing needs of the business and to comply with legislation. Any alterations will be communicated to you by your line manager.