



## Queen Alexandra's House

### Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2023 / 2024

The Drugs & Anti-Social Behaviour policy applies to all residents of Queen Alexandra's House. It confers responsibility on residents, visitors, contractors, and staff.

#### Drugs: A Policy Statement

##### **1. Introduction – aims of the policy.**

- 1.1** The central aim of the QAH's policy on controlled drugs is to balance respect for the privacy and freedom of individual residents with the imperatives of compliance within the UK law and maintenance of a safe, productive, and legal environment in the best interests of all residents.
- 1.2** An important feature of the policy is the offer of assistance to residents who may need advice or counselling about drugs, or about any issues arising from the use of drugs. QAH wishes to support students who have a drug dependency to seek help, and to be supported in doing so.

QAH encourages residents to contact drug helpline numbers, as well as their universities helpline numbers. List is available at reception and in your Residents Handbook.

- 1.3** It is a requirement of QAH regulations that residents observe the terms of the policy, violations of which will constitute misconduct under the licence agreement.

##### **2. Drugs and the Law**

- 2.1** The misuse of substances known as 'drugs' is against the criminal law in the UK. The term 'drugs' covers a wide range of substances, including cannabis, cocaine, and heroin, together with the many derivatives or hybrids of these drugs. It refers to any substance controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.
- 2.2** The term 'misuse' includes the use, possession, trade, distribution, selling, offering for sale, and purchase of drugs, as well as the illegal use of prescription drugs (i.e., the use of prescription drugs that have not been legally obtained, or have been used in a manner or for a purpose other than as prescribed.)
- 2.3** A resident who breaks the law on drugs will be reported to the police, have their licence agreement terminated, and evicted from QAH with immediate effect.

##### **3. Assistance for residents**

- 3.1** Any resident who has or fears she may have a drug dependency is encouraged to seek professional assistance and advice as soon as possible.
- 3.2** A resident's own GP may often be the most appropriate source of such advice.

#### **4. Reporting of offenses**

**4.1** The disciplinary procedures of QAH require that where any resident of QAH believes that an offence against the Regulations has been committed by another resident of QAH, they should notify reception as soon as possible. In the case of the use of controlled drugs, the following are examples of instances where a report to QAH will be required:

- i) Direct observation of drug misuse or the physical symptoms or manifestations of impairment due to such drug misuse, while on QAH premises, or in circumstances which have the potential to damage the reputation of QAH, or where this affects or concerns other residents of QAH.
- ii) A report of drug misuse provided by a reliable and credible source.
- iii) Other evidence that a resident has engaged in such drug misuse.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Queen Alexandra's House is committed to tackling antisocial behaviour in an effective manner, taking appropriate and proportionate action to create a balance between the prevention of anti-social behaviour and the enforcement of a resident's licence agreement.

Anti-Social Behaviour is described as *"...any conduct (including speech) that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm or distress to one or more persons of the same household"*.

##### **1. Anti-Social Behaviour Categories**

Anti-Social behaviour can be categorised into workable groups i.e., the various types of complaints of tenant/resident anti-social behaviour that have been, or could be, reported to the Police or to the Residence Staff. However, this list is not intended to be exhaustive and anti-social behaviour may include any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm or distress to one or more persons.

##### **Group A: Disregard for Community and Personal Wellbeing:**

- Noise – noisy neighbours, noisy cars/bikes, loud music, persistent alarms
- Rowdy Behaviour – shouting and swearing, fighting, drunken behaviour, hooliganism, or loutish behaviour.
- Nuisance Behaviour – urinating in public, fire raising, inappropriate use of fireworks, throwing missiles, climbing on buildings, impeding access to communal areas, playing games in restricted or inappropriate areas.
- Hoax Calls – false call to the emergency services.
- Tampering with Fire Safety equipment e.g., Covering Smoke Detectors or tampering with Fire Extinguishers.

##### **Group B: Acts directed at People.**

- Intimidation and Harassment – groups or individuals making threats, verbal abuse, nasty or offensive letters, obscene or nuisance phone calls or text messages, menacing gestures. This type of behaviour may be motivated by race, age, culture, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

### **Group C: Environmental Damage**

- Criminal Damage/Vandalism – graffiti, damage to street furniture including bus shelters, telephone kiosks, buildings, trees, plants, or hedge.
- Litter and Rubbish – leaving litter and rubbish in communal areas, dropping litter, dumping rubbish.

### **Group D: Misuse of Public Space**

- Drugs & Substance Misuse/Dealing – taking drugs, solvents abuse, discarding needles and drug paraphernalia, presence of dealers or users.
- Smoking in doors or outside of designated smoking areas.
- Street Drinking.
- Kerb Crawling – loitering, pestering residents.
- Vehicle Related Nuisance & Inappropriate Vehicle Use.

### **Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour**

If a resident sees or is subject to any Anti-Social Behaviour, it should be reported to the Queen Alexandra's House reception team immediately. All complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour will be processed in accordance with this Policy.