



FRAMEWORK
FOR MANAGING

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

at Clann Eireann
Youth Club & GAC
Lurgan

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FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGING ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE AT CLANN EIREANN YOUTH CLUB & GAC. LURGAN

The framework covers all activity happening under the auspices of Clann Eireann/Youth Club/GAC, including the Youth Club, the Football Club (underage, ladies and senior level), the Handball Club, the Camogie Club and the Club's social, cultural sporting and recreations/activities

Introduction

1. This framework relates to all staff, volunteers, members, coaches, players and young people at Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC and covers both alcohol and substance misuse.
2. The framework should be read in conjunction with (a) the Club's Child Protection Policy, (b) the Club's Discipline Policy AND (c) the document on the "Management of Drug Related Incidents within the Youth Service", produced by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland. Copies of these documents are available from the Designated Officers at Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC. The term 'Designated Officer' is used throughout this document - the persons currently holding these posts are - the Youth Leader in Charge and the Chairperson of the Youth Club.

Objectives

3. Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC is committed to managing and maintaining the health and well-being of the staff, volunteers, members, coaches, players and young people who manage/use the facilities and services of the club. The following objectives underpin this commitment:
 - To promote a safe and healthy working environment for all staff, volunteers, members, coaches, players and young people.
 - To provide access upon request to support agencies dealing with drug/alcohol addiction/abuse.
 - To reduce the incidence of injury to person or property as a result of alcohol or substance misuse.

Rules

4. In relation to alcohol or substance misuse, Clann Eireann Youth Club/ GAC will apply the following rules:

- We will not allow illegal substances to be bought, sold, used, possessed or manufactured by our staff, volunteers, members, coaches, players or young people in our buildings or during our activities.
- Any staff member, volunteer, member, coach, player or young person who is found to be under the influence of an illegal substance while on our property or in the course of an activity will be subject to disciplinary action.

Procedures

5. Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC has developed the following procedures. These must be followed when dealing with incidents of alcohol or substance misuse.

When it is reasonably believed that a staff member, volunteer, member, coach, player or young person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on our property or in the course of Club . activities, the following guidelines must be followed:

The individual should be removed from the scene until s/he is no longer under the influence. Appropriate arrangements should be made to have the individual transported home. In the case of a young person under the age of eighteen, parent(s)/guardians, must be informed.

The individual should be supported in seeking assistance and information appropriate to their needs.

In the case of a staff member, volunteer, or coach, ineffective performance in carrying out their duties will be subject to normal disciplinary action. In the event that the staff member, volunteer or coach who is known to suffer from illness arising from alcohol dependence and/or substance misuse commits a disciplinary offence, account will be taken of the individual's co-operation in treatment, and any other mitigating factors, when deciding what disciplinary action, if any, Clann Eireann Youth Club/ GAC should take.

Assistance and Rehabilitation

6. Staff, volunteers, members, coaches, players and young people requiring assistance in dealing with the misuse of alcohol or illegal

substances can receive such assistance in two ways: self-referral or by seeking information from the Club's Designated Officer.

7. An individual's need for assistance or rehabilitation will be treated as confidential by Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC and only those persons "needing to know" will be made aware of the request.

Education and Training

8. All staff, volunteers and coaches at Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC will receive training on drugs and alcohol, so that use can be recognised and incidents can be dealt with in accordance with this framework.

9. All young people and players at Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC will be offered education programmes in order to raise awareness levels around dangers, effects and consequences of drug and alcohol misuse.

The Law In Northern Ireland

10. All staff, volunteers, members, coaches, players and young people at Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC should be aware of their responsibilities under the law. It is important to note that the law in Northern Ireland differs in certain aspects from elsewhere in the UK. The relevant pieces of legislation are the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967, as outlined below.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- To supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act;
- To be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act. It is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he took all such steps as were reasonably open to him to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it;
- For the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis: or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply any controlled drug.

The offences listed above are arrestable offences.

Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: A person commits an offence if, being the occupier or concerned in the management of any premises, s/he knowingly permits or suffers any of the following activities to take place on those premises, that is to say:

- Producing or attempting to produce a controlled drug in contravention of section 4 (1) of this Act;
- Supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of section 4 (1) of this Act or offering to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of section 4 (1) of this Act;
- Preparing opium for smoking;
- Smoking cannabis resin or prepared opium.

Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967

Section 5. Failing to Give Information: where a person has committed an arrestable offence, it shall be the duty of every other person who knows or believes:

That the offence or some other arrestable offence has been committed;

That s/he has information, which is likely to secure, or to be of material assistance in securing, the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of any person for that offence;

[The actions listed in this bullet point will be managed by the Club's Designated Officer].

To give that information, within a reasonable time, to a serving officer with the PSNI and if, without reasonable excuse, s/he fails to do so then that person is committing an offence. This places an onus on individuals to inform a PSNI officer. Also, the Law permits the person in charge to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a young person from harm and from committing the offence of possession. The person in charge should take the suspected drug and any associated equipment as soon as possible to the Designated Officer for Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC. S/he should arrange for its safe storage until it can be handed over to the local police to identify whether or not it is a controlled drug.

Persons in charge i.e. Staff/Volunteers/Coaches should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance.

Confidentiality

11. The spirit of confidentiality is of primary importance to those who work with young people in a trusting and secure environment, such as Clann Eireann Youth Club/GAC. However the legal requirements of drug legislation will mean that in certain circumstances it will be necessary to inform young people that there will be a change in the convention of confidentiality. The Children (Northern Ireland) Order (1995) makes it clear that the welfare of the young person is paramount and therefore confidentiality may not always be possible on a one-to-one basis.



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