

Centrestage Productions

**YOUTH
THEATRE**

Document Reference Number:

CPYT/004

Smoking and Drugs Policy

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Approved by: Trustees

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Drugs:

Centrestage Productions Youth Theatre (CPYT) defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

CPYT aims to help all young people to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs may have beneficial effects, but that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, volunteers and young people need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

AIMS:

- To support CPYT's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all young people, volunteers, and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements, and obligations.
- To support all the members of CPYT by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.

Key Roles and Responsibilities:

Whilst all members of the Management Committee share a responsibility, the DSL will take the lead on drug related issues that may arise within CPYT.

- Managing drug related incidents and routine arrangements for medicines.
- CPYT accepts some young people requiring prescription medicines, these will be administered by the young person (except in an emergency where they are unable to administer it themselves.). CPYT should be informed if such medicines are required or are likely to be required during CPYT activities.
- Alcohol
- Young people are not allowed to bring alcohol to CPYT. Volunteers under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of CPYT.
- Tobacco
- The Arch including its grounds is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including grounds at all times.
- Solvents
- CPYT will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely. Young People are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.
- Electronic smoking devices
- Electronic smoking devices are not permitted in or around The Arch buildings or grounds.
- Illegal drugs
- No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used at The Arch.

Incidents:

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A person who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug.
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on The Arch premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on The Arch premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on The Arch premises.
- Supply of drugs on The Arch premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use

Guiding Principles:

- A designated member of the Management Committee is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and should be reported to the Chairman or DSL as soon as possible.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in exclusion.,
- CPYT will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

Procedures:

Medical emergencies

- If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disoriented, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the persons' safety.
- Individuals in possession of drugs.
- If any person on CPYT premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, CPYT will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will be to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation.
- Support for young people.
- Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of persons will be considered. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.
- Recording all incidents should be completed in **writing** within 24 hours.

Confidentiality:

- Complete secrecy can never be promised to a person, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a person discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the person comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk.
- CPYT have a commitment to inform the person in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the person to be involved in the process. CPYT are committed to protecting anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures CPYT need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Smoking:

- This no-smoking policy seeks to guarantee the right of all users to breathe air free of tobacco smoke and to comply with smoke-free legislation: The Health Act 2006 and The Smoke-free Premises etc. (Wales) Regulations 2007.
- Smoking in this document covers tobacco products, synthetic products, and vaping devices.
- The policy applies to the whole of the site including the outside area. Users are also requested not to smoke just outside the gates so that those entering the premises can do so without coming into contact with cigarette smoke and/or vapours.
- The Smoking area is located across the road by Chandlers Ford Railway Station Bus Shelter.
- Therefore, it is the policy of The Arch that all the buildings and grounds are smoke free, and all users have a right to be in a smoke free environment. Smoking is not permitted in any part of the premises including corridors, rest rooms, meeting rooms, toilets, reception areas, entrances/exits, and grounds at any time, by any person regardless of their status or business with The Arch or grounds.

Signed:  Chair