

Youth Club Management Committee Illegal Substances Policy

The law states that it is illegal for a Youth Club worker to knowingly permit (this includes 'ignoring the obvious') the following acts on the premises:

- Production or attempted production of a controlled drug.
- Supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another person.
- The preparation of any illegal substance for consumption.

In law, 'premises' means your building and the surrounding grounds. The Chalgrove Youth Club premises consist of the Youth Centre building and outside fenced area.

Should there be serious concerns regarding the use of illegal substances the following chain of contacts should be put into place:

Volunteer -> Youth Worker (who fills out the incident log) -> Safeguarding Officer -> County Council Didcot Hub.

Should there be definite evidence of what is believed to be illegal substances produced, supplied or prepared on the premises then the following chain of contacts should be put into place:

Volunteer -> Youth Worker (who fills in the incident log) -> Police
you are under no obligation to give names to the Police

You are under no obligation to inform parents about drug incidents. You should think carefully about the home situation and your future relationship with the young people involved.

One option is the removal of the young people involved. This not only helps with the legal requirements shown above but also sends a message to the young people that not only will drugs not be tolerated, but that the Youth Club is an environment safe from drugs.

When considering the removal of a young person as an option it is worth considering their physical and mental well being. It may be the case that they may not be in a fit state to travel home. If this is the case it may be worth keeping them under observation in a quiet place, ringing home and asking someone to collect them. It is also likely that this becomes a first aid issue and it may even be necessary to call an ambulance.