

Somerset County Youth Service Smoking Policy

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to second hand smoke and to comply with the Health Act 2006.

Rationale:

- Research shows that almost a quarter of young people are regular smokers by the age of 15.
- Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children.
- Approximately 114,000 smokers die a year in the UK.
- People are harmed by second hand smoke i.e. lung cancer and child respiratory disease, heart disease and asthmatic attacks.
- Youth services have a role to play in working towards a smoke free society.
- All young people need to receive clear, consistent messages about the dangers of smoking.
- Compliance with the Health Act (2006) requiring all work spaces and enclosed public spaces to be smoke free from 6.00am on 1st July 2007.
- Compliance with Somerset County Council Policy.

Aims:

- Somerset County Youth Service aims to be a health-promoting organisation and to protect staff, young people and visitors from the effects of tobacco smoke.
- Somerset County Youth Service will raise awareness of the dangers of smoking through health education programmes and, in line with Somerset County Council policy will help smokers to quit.

Context:

- Smoking is not permitted in any part of office accommodation premises or entrances used by Somerset County Youth Service for delivery of youth work at anytime, by any person regardless of their status or business.
- Smoking will not be tolerated at entrances and exits and is not permitted in any of the following areas; lifts, corridors, stairwells, toilets, staff rooms or vehicles.
- This applies to Somerset County Youth staff and non Somerset County Youth staff, young people, visitors and contractors and includes visits, trips and out of unit activities.
- Staff will ensure smoking related topics form part of the curriculum and extra curricular work.

Communicating the Policy to staff:

- Staff will be informed at recruitment
- Clearly worded signs meeting legal standards and requirements will be sited at the entrance of all units
- Information will be included in publications and the website

- Details on stop smoking services will be available through Somerset County Council leaflets and posters.

Communicating the Policy to young people:

- Staff recognise a duty of care to support young people and help them break the habit of smoking
- Assistance will always be provided to those young people who want advice
- If a young person is caught smoking, youth workers should follow their standard procedures as they would in other situations where a young person is behaving in an unacceptable and uncooperative manner.

Enforcement of the Policy:

- Breaches of this policy will be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with Somerset County Council policy.
- Breaches of the legislation could result in fixed penalty fines
 - Premises where “No Smoking” signage is not displayed £200 up to £1000
 - Individuals smoking in smoke free areas £50
 - Managers of premises that allow smoking up to £2500

Implementation, monitoring and review:

Responsibility and compliance to this policy rests with all staff employed through Somerset County Youth Service. The policy will come into effect from 6.00am on 1st July 2007 and will be reviewed annually to ensure that it continues to meet its aims.

List of supporting information and websites

The following are links to contacts/websites that provide a comprehensive range of information about smoking and tobacco control as well as a range of help and advice for anyone wishing to give up smoking:

Mendip Stop Smoking Service - 01749 836525
 South Somerset Stop Smoking Service - 01460 238671
 Taunton Deane Stop Smoking Service - 01823 323808
 Somerset Coast Stop Smoking Service – 01278 432032

<http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk>
http://www.bhf.org.uk/youngpeople/index_home.asp?SecID=59
<http://www.quit.org.uk/>
www.roycastle.org
www.teachernet.gov.uk
<http://www.ash.org.uk/>
www.costkids.org/trueads/trueadframeset.htm
www.givingupsmoking.co.uk)
www.nosmokingday.org.uk
www.tacade.com