



## Drugs policy

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### 1. Purpose of the policy

Ignite Life is an alternative provider. The nature of the sector we work in means that some of the young people we are commissioned to work with will have been in contact with drugs and may be currently involved in drug or alcohol use. This policy clarifies the approach Ignite Life takes with young people, their parents/carers and our providers to promote healthy lifestyles and support young people to lead drug-free lives as well as managing incidents should they occur.

### 2. Drugs-Definition

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave' (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances.

### 3. Drug education.

The young people referred to us usually have access to drug education at their school or home organisation. However, for those who are not attending or who have left school it is possible for discrete drug education sessions to be planned and delivered as part of their programme. This requires planning and timing so that the benefits of engagement are not lost. Elements of the school's own drugs education curriculum can be delivered by Ignite Life by agreement.

Mentors will promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle at all time to support and guide young people towards making healthy choices; with awareness of the impact that drugs may have on themselves and the wider community and changes.



#### **4. What to do if a young person presents with concerns linked to drugs**

Where mentors have concerns about the harmful effect of drug misuse on specific individuals, they will report it as a child protection concern. Leaders from Ignite Life will contact providers to discuss what action is appropriate. And if outside agencies can support with the identified needs.

ANYTHING YOU HEAR OR SEE WHICH IS RELATED TO DRUGS AND THE YOUNG PERSON MUST BE RECORDED IN YOUR SESSION REPORT OR A CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN FORM.

##### **If a young person reports for a session and smells of alcohol or drug**

-Mentors should not professionally be out as mentors with a CYP who smells as if they may have been using drugs or alcohol with us-even if the smell is from their activity the previous night

-This should always be reported to providers

-If you are picking up from school take the young person back in, seek a member of senior staff for advice about how to complete the session

-If you are picking up from home take the CYP back in and discuss the situation with their parent/carer. If the young person and the parent/carer reassures you that they are not under the influence of substances, ask them to change their clothes so that they no longer smell of drugs or alcohol. Ask the young person in the presence of the parent/carer to show their pockets etc so you can be confident they are not carrying drugs or alcohol on their session

-If the parent or carer is not present, ask the CYP to go into the house and change their clothes while you wait outside. Call your pod Leader to get advice. If -once they have changed-you are confident that they are not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and they have assured you that they do not have anything on their person you may continue the session.

-Call If the young person appears to be under the influence of any substance or you have suspicions about them having drugs or alcohol on their person you must not take them out. Call your Pod Leaders and call the provider to explain. Call the parent/carer to make arrangement for them to come home and supervise the CYP.

-If the parent/care cannot come home to supervise contact the provider to seek advice. In most cases the default will be to let the CYP go back into the house while you remain outside.

##### **If a young person is found to have alcohol or drugs on them during a session**



-Call the parent/carer to inform them and tell them you will be taking the CYP home or delivering them to the location of the parent/carer

-Inform the provider

-Inform your Pod Leader/senior Leader

-A review will be held about future sessions with the provider

**If a young person appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during a session**

The safety of the CYP is paramount

-If they are not in control of their actions take them somewhere quiet and assess the situation. Keep them calm. Use the group communication to see if another mentor is nearby to assist. If you are in a facility seek help from staff who are there.

-If they are able to speak and act coherently take them to the car and call the provider for advice. Call their parent/carer to inform them. Inform your pod Leader.

-Only drive the CYP when you are confident that their behaviour will not pose a risk to themselves or to you.

**5. Confidentiality**

Any information concerning drug use may be shared internally and externally with due consideration to CYPs rights and needs.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Concerns over drug use and Child Protection should be followed up as outlined by the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and this policy.

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