

FORTH **CHILDREN'S** **THEATRE**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

V1.0

Strategic Objective

The purpose of this policy is to promote a culture of health and wellbeing by highlighting and raising awareness of the dangers of smoking, drugs, and alcohol and substance abuse.

General Statement and Principles

Smoking is a preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society. Additionally, the use of illegal drugs and misuse of alcohol, prescription drugs and other substances (such as glues, solvents and propellants) are recognised as being damaging to health and wellbeing to individuals and society at large. As such, whilst respecting the rights of individuals, Forth Children's Theatre wishes to promote a culture of deterrence rather than tolerance.

Target Audience

All Parents and carers, young people and volunteers to Forth Children's Theatre.

Responsibilities

The Operations Lead and Production Manager are responsible for the communication and implementation of this policy to all Young people & volunteers of Forth Children's Theatre.

Arrangements

The use of drugs, alcohol and illegal drugs and the misuse of prescription drugs and other substances such as glues and solvents is not permitted on any premises of which Forth Children's Theatre have an occupancy (both permanent or Temporary).

Additionally, those under the influence of any of these substances whilst on any of our sites may have The Police called, be asked to leave. Great care must be taken, by all volunteers, not to promote illegal or irresponsible activity; our young people are vulnerable and it is our responsibility to help them be informed about the dangers of addiction or misuse.

Alcohol may be permitted at certain fundraising and social events held at Forth Children's Theatre, should the Board of Trustees deem it to be in the interest of the organisation. Aside from these instances, alcohol consumption is not permitted on any volunteer who is actively volunteering or has responsibility over children.

E.g. - a volunteer who is watching the show one evening may have alcohol but is unable to volunteer in any role after consuming any alcohol.

Alcohol is served at performances in accordance with local licensing procedures. This is also bound by a challenge 25 policy. Soft drinks are sold at a separate bar to allow young people access to refreshments. It is also an offence to purchase alcohol for anyone under the age of 18. Should irresponsible behaviour like this be witnessed the police will be informed immediately.

Smoking is not permitted on the premises at any time, with the exception of the use of the designated areas on each site. Forth Children's Theatre is a committed non-smoking organisation. Specific arrangements for smoking are:

- Smoking is not permitted within a building, nor is it allowed within the perimeter fence, with the exception of in the designated areas
- At no time should cigarette ends, and matches be discarded or left lying around – please have some respect for local residents and for other people
- Parents, carers and other users must ensure children are supervised appropriately if exiting the building for a cigarette.
- Volunteers are only permitted to smoke in designated areas; these must be well out of sight of children and other users.
- Staff violating this policy may be asked to leave the venue
- Appropriate literature will be displayed to support no smoking campaigns

Substance misuse is a zero-tolerance approach within Forth Children's Theatre and will be dealt with robustly. Should an individual be found to be misusing substances which includes both prescription and illegal drugs, solvents or excessive alcohol they will be asked to leave the premises with immediate effect. This will be followed up with a discussion between the Safeguarding Lead and the board of trustees to determine if further volunteering or participation within Forth Children's Theatre is appropriate for the individual and safe for the young people and other volunteers in accordance with the Forth Children's Theatre safeguarding Policy.