



## **Policy on the use of illegal drugs, Psychoactive Substances, Nitrous Oxide and misuse of legal drugs by students**

### **Introduction**

1. Orlando Village has a duty to provide a safe, leisure environment for students to live that respects the laws relating to the possession, supply and production of illegal substances.

2. The 'Misuse of Drugs Act 1971' makes it an offence to possess, use or supply to other persons, any controlled drug. The Act also makes it an offence for the occupier of the premises, or a person concerned in management of premises to knowingly permit or suffer any of several activities to take place on those premises. The activities specified in the Act include smoking cannabis or cannabis resin and supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another person. Orlando Village, as the landlord, is obliged to comply with the Act and notify the police if a student is found to be in possession of drugs or to be supplying or producing illegal substances.

### **Policy statement**

3. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Support the health and welfare of students, staff and visitors.
- Enable Orlando Village to fulfil its duty of care towards students with respect to the use of illegal drugs.
- Enable Orlando Village to discharge its legal obligations with respect to the use of illegal drugs.

4. Orlando Village will offer support and encouragement to those tenants who are affected by drugs misuse, to seek help.

5. Orlando Village does not condone:

- The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs within its accommodation.
- The misuse of legal drugs.
- The use of any illegal drugs or any prescription drugs that have not been prescribed for the user.
- The possession, use or supply of Psychoactive Substances Previously known as 'Legal Highs' or Nitrous Oxide also known as 'Laughing Gas'.
- Any unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse of drugs.

6. It is a criminal offence to be in possession of, use or distribute an illegal substance. If any such incidents take place on Orlando Village premises, they will be regarded as serious, will be

investigated by Orlando Village Senior Staff, subject to disciplinary action and possible reporting to the police where appropriate. The consequences resulting from a police caution or prosecution for the possession or trafficking of illegal drugs are not limited to fines and prison sentences. A criminal record can have a serious impact on employment prospects, particularly for professions such as law or teaching.

7. Any visitors found on Orlando Village premises who is suspected to be involved with drugs misuse, will be subject to an immediate ban from those premises. Any associate of that person who had invited them on the premises and is a student, may be considered for eviction from Orlando Village without notice or warning for allowing the incident to take place.

8. Any student who is concerned about their use of drugs is encouraged to seek advice. Orlando Village will regard anyone seeking support as having a health problem and will provide assistance to enable appropriate help or treatment to be accessed.

9. If a member of staff or student believes that a student has a difficulty in controlling their use of drugs, the individual will be signposted to seek support. If there are concerns that a student maybe a danger to themselves or others it is recommended that persons with these concerns are reported to a member of Orlando Village staff or discuss their concerns.

10. Staff, students and visitors are clearly required to comply with the law and therefore residents at Orlando Village may not bring in or cause or allow to be brought into the accommodation any unlawful drugs or other such substances. Where there is reasonable suspicion that illegal activities are taking place in the accommodation, an investigation and searches will be carried out by the Police in the presence of the Caretaker, Senior staff and/or Security.

11. Anyone found using, supplying or in possession of illegal substances will face eviction from Orlando Village without notice or warning.