

	HEALTH & SAFETY Providence Row Housing Association	Smokefree Policy VERSION: 4
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Smokefree Policy

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006. This places a legal responsibility on PRHA to enforce smoke free environments in most of its premises and on service users, visitors and staff to comply with this requirement.

Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses. Ventilation or separating smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not completely stop potentially dangerous exposure.

POLICY

It is the policy of Providence Row Housing Association that all our workplaces are smoke free, and all employees have a right to work in a smoke free environment. Smoking is prohibited by law in all enclosed and substantially enclosed premises in the workplace. This includes company vehicles.

The policy also applies in PRHA's residential premises where areas are not the sole residence of an individual.

Shared areas of hostels and other premises cannot legally be considered designated areas and therefore smoking cannot be allowed there. Where service users do attempt to smoke they should be asked not to. If they refuse they must be advised that they are breaking the law and that the matter will have to be reported to the relevant line manager for appropriate action. PRHA supports very vulnerable residents and therefore expects any action that is taken to take account of service users' vulnerability. Nevertheless PRHA cannot allow illegal activity in its premises and therefore must take action in the form of warnings to tenants where necessary. Where warnings are ignored the manager of the service must advise the appropriate Assistant Director for further action.

Tenants may smoke in their own self-contained flats and in their bedrooms. Where staff have to work with tenants in their own rooms they should ask the resident to refrain from smoking while they are there. If the resident refuses staff have the right to withdraw from the room and seek advice from their line managers. Services could in some instances be offered to people only in designated non-smoking areas.

This policy applies to all employees, consultants, contractors, service users or members and visitors

Effective Date: 1 st April 2022 Approved by PRHA SLT 2 nd April 2026	Review Date: 10 th March 2026 File No: HS22
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IMPLEMENTATION

Overall responsibility for policy implementation and review rest with the Health & Safety working group. However, all staff are obliged to adhere to, and support the implementation of the policy.

Appropriate 'no-smoking' signs will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within the premises, and in all smoke free vehicles.

NON COMPLIANCE

Local disciplinary procedures will be followed if a member of staff does not comply with this policy. Those who do not comply with the smoke free law may also be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

HELP TO STOP SMOKING

The NHS offers a range of free services to help smokers give up. Visit gosmokefree.co.uk or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for details. Alternatively you can text 'GIVE UP' and your full postcode to 88088 to find your local NHS Stop Smoking Service.