



Shropshire Council Student Accommodation

Illegal Drugs Policy

Our Facilities Support Service is fully committed to creating and promoting a healthy lifestyle for students to enhance their learning experience while staying with us at Mardol House, Shrewsbury.

This policy is designed to reinforce a culture within our Accommodation where the use and possession of drugs is not tolerated. They are harmful to the development of a positive and supportive environment where students can excel in their academic studies and develop social and life skills that will support their future careers.

As we take the potential impact from illegal drugs seriously we will take action against students who are found to possess, use, supply or produce illegal drugs in our Student Accommodation. In all instances where students are found with drugs the police will be notified. Even if the police do not caution or charge a student with any criminal activity disciplinary action will be taken against the resident by the Facilities Support Service.

Applicability and Scope

This policy applies to all residents who have a contract or booking for Student Accommodation and their invited guests, visitors, contractors, colleagues and staff.

Definition

The Illegal Drugs Policy extends to possession, use, supply or production of controlled substances in the accommodation and immediate vicinity.

Please also note that in accordance with your Accommodation Licence Agreement students are responsible for the action and behaviour of any guests invited onto the property.

Policy aim

The aim of the Policy is that:

- a) All residents and prospective residents of Student Accommodation should be made aware, by specific and sufficient notice, of their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions in relation to illegal substances.
- b) All residents should be able to live in a safe, secure and healthy accommodation environment and protected from the use by others of illegal drugs.
- c) All residents and prospective residents should be made aware that illegal activities will not be condoned.
- d) Action taken against students who contravene the regulations should be fair and just and to act as a deterrent to those contemplating involvement.

Version 4.0

Revised

August 2024

Next review date

August 2025

Responsibilities

The prevention of drug use within the Accommodation is a shared responsibility between the Shropshire Council and its partners, staff, colleagues, guests and residential students.

Each of the stakeholders in this partnership commits to accepting the following responsibilities for the successful application of this policy.

- a) Facilities support has both a building and property maintenance responsibility and a Student well-being role for preventing unlawful actions taking place in the Accommodation under its control.
- b) Residential Tutors or similar role who have a responsibility for student residents should be fully aware of their duties in this area and receive training designed to inform, support and manage drug related issues.
- c) Students as individuals have a responsibility not to engage in illegal drugs use, not to expose other residents of student accommodation to such use and not to expose the Council to reputational and legal risks concerning such drugs use.
- d) We recognise the need for support for those wishing to discuss problems related to the use of drugs. Educational Provider colleagues are able to offer confidential advice, support and information through the Student welfare and support teams.
- e) Under the Student Disciplinary Procedures an 'Authorised Person' will fully investigate any allegation of drug use in the accommodation and, where appropriate, the police will be involved.
- f) The following actions will be deemed to contravene the Accommodation Licence Agreement:
 1. having illegal substances on their person or in their accommodation,
 2. using illegal substances
 3. allowing visitors to use of supply illegal substances
 4. being found or after investigation suspected of supplying illegal substances and using the accommodation for this purpose.

In all cases involving the use of illegal drugs, the Conduct and Disciplinary Policy will be followed. Where allegations are proven, the student will be required to leave the accommodation and may be subject to a termination charge.

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