

# Julian Housing

## Joint Working Partnership Guidance Between Julian Housing and Norfolk Constabulary

- For the management of cannabis in residential settings where Julian Housing holds Landlord Responsibility:

**Oak House**  
**Bakery Court**  
**Devonshire Place**  
**Barnard's Yard**

### Section 1: Julian Housing

Julian Housing is aware of the legal obligations under Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including the obligations to prevent the production, supply or use of cannabis on premises.

As part of our ethos, Julian Housing would seek to balance these legal obligations against the nature and level of drug-related behaviour, the impact on the organisation, the individual, other service users and the wider public.

Julian Housing recognises that in some situations it may not be possible or desirable to evict or exclude a person from a service or a building solely for the use of cannabis where there are no other problems present, and that to do so exacerbate problems for the wider community.

#### **1. In the event of a service user smoking cannabis within the premises directly managed by Julian Housing, the organisation will seek to assess the following:**

- Is their behaviour creating health or social risks for other service users (e.g. is use taking place in shared or communal areas, are non-users and non-smokers being exposed to it, is it impacting on child safety etc.)
- Is the behaviour having a negative or disruptive impact on the quiet enjoyment of other residents (e.g. loud music, late night visitors etc)
- Is the behaviour associated with the supply of cannabis, especially the sale of cannabis, the storage of large quantities or numerous visitors to the premises
- Is the use of cannabis having other negative impacts on the service user or other service users

**Where the use of cannabis is NOT having a negative impact as described above, the organisation will undertake the following interventions as appropriate:**

- The person using cannabis will be reminded that the possession of cannabis remains a criminal offence, and that such use brings with it a risk of prosecution.
- That the use of controlled drugs on site is a breach of Julian Housing tenancy and may jeopardise continued access to the service
- The people will be given the opportunity to access support or advice services or literature as required

**Where the use of cannabis is not associated with additional problems, the organisation asserts that it would be inappropriate and disproportionate to seek to ban the person from the premises or seek eviction and would not pursue such a path in the absence of additional problem factors**

**2. In the event that the drug related behaviour brings with it associated additional nuisance or risk:**

- the organisation will seek to address this with the service user in the first instance and explore opportunities to change
- where these are not successful, the organisation will proceed to enforcement action which may ultimately lead to police involvement, eviction or both

**Where the organisation knows or has suspicions that supply is taking place they will act to address this. The response will depend on the nature and level of supply taking place:**

- Where 'supply' involves the sharing of cannabis in pipes, spliffs etc. amongst two or more peers, the organisation will address this by:

- ◆ Ensuring that vulnerable people are not being put at risk
- ◆ Reinforcing that the users are committing a criminal offence, which may result in prosecution or jeopardise the continued use of service/ tenancy

- Where small quantities of cannabis are being exchanged or sold, this will require more robust action; if the behaviour does not cease, it will require further action, which may include eviction, exclusion or possible police involvement

- Where supply is more large scale or more frequent, then enforcement action may be required which may lead to loss of tenancy, exclusions or police action

**3. The organisation will keep records of actions taken: records that identify specific individuals will not normally be shared with external agencies unless there is an obligation to do so. However, anonymous information may be shared externally, for example to establish that enforcement protocols are being followed**

**This guidance document will be reviewed internally by the organisation and effective liaison with the police carried out as necessary**

**This guidance relates only to situations involving people aged 18 and over. Separate guidance would need to be considered for people below this age**

## **Section 2: Enforcement Guidance/ Considerations**

Norfolk Constabulary recognises the tension between the need to provide appropriate housing to people who use cannabis and the obligations created by section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

This guidance is an attempt to reflect the spirit of re-classification and the changes/ revisions to Section 8 of the MDA

**1. Norfolk Constabulary expects that organisations will undertake pro-active measures to discourage the use of cannabis on site. This may include:**

- reminding service users that possession of cannabis is still illegal, and can lead to prosecution
- that ongoing use of cannabis on site may result in eviction, bans or other sanctions, especially where the use can cause nuisance or disruption to other service users or the wider community
- that advice, information and support services are made available to the service user as needed

**Norfolk Constabulary are NOT looking to penalise organisations for cannabis offences under Section 8 of the MDA provided that they are working within the spirit of this guidance.**

**2. Where cannabis use is taking place and is causing risk to other service users/ staff, nuisance to other service users/ staff or the wider community or is causing**

disruption, then the police would expect the responsible agency to address this and if necessary, seek assistance from Norfolk Constabulary or other agencies as required.

**3. Where supply of cannabis is taking place on site, i.e. sale or distribution, Norfolk Constabulary would expect robust action to take place. If other measures and attempts by staff to prevent supply taking place then it may be necessary to involve the police.**

**Failure to respond appropriately to episodes of supply may be a criminal offence and where there is uncertainty or confusion as to how to proceed, an informal discussion with the police is advised**

**4. Wherever possible, Norfolk Constabulary will endeavour to consult and negotiate solutions with staff and residents of Julian Housing where cannabis related activity is a cause for concern**

**This document represents guidance that has been discussed with Norfolk Constabulary and Julian Housing. This agreement in no way constrains police powers and as such the police may take action as deemed necessary on an operational basis, which may override this agreement**

## Further Information:

KFx: [www.ixion.demon.co.uk](http://www.ixion.demon.co.uk)

Email: [kfx@ixion.demon.co.uk](mailto:kfx@ixion.demon.co.uk)

Cannabis Reclassification: [www.drugs.gov.uk](http://www.drugs.gov.uk)

[www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

[www.release.org.uk](http://www.release.org.uk)

[www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

## Literature:

There is a wide range of literature and pamphlets available for service users. It is worth considering your audience when purchasing such information as some of the leaflets are aimed at specific target groups i.e. street workers/ under 16s, etc.

- **Lifeline** – a Manchester based project offers some excellent material. Contact:

**Lifeline Publications**

101-103 Oldham Street,

Manchester

M4 1LW

Tel: 0161-839 2075

E-mail: [publications@lifeline.org.uk](mailto:publications@lifeline.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.lifeline.org.uk>

- **HIT** – also offers excellent material –

Tel: 0870 990 9702

E-mail: [stuff@hit.org.uk](mailto:stuff@hit.org.uk)

Website: [www.hit.org.uk](http://www.hit.org.uk)

• There are a wide range of services in Norfolk where people can get help and there is a list of these attached at the back of this policy.

• Other services include -

National Drugs Helpline – 0800 776600

Release – 0207 603 8654

Drink Line – 0800 917 8282

Guys Hospital Poison Unit – 0207 955 5000

(Remember that in cases of emergency medical services should be accessed directly)