

## **Good Practice Guidelines with respect to Alcohol**

These guidelines are framed against the background in Ireland to day, which sees widespread and well-founded concern about the high level of alcohol misuse and the further concern regarding alarming rates of underage drinking. This relates to the young age at which many children begin to use alcohol and acknowledges heavy drinking patterns in Ireland.

We recognise that Clare Youth Service has a responsibility to promote responsible attitudes to the use of alcohol. Against this background the following guidelines were developed:

- Workers and volunteers have a strong responsibility to take a lead role regarding the proper use of alcohol. The standards that workers and volunteers apply to young people in relation to legal, responsible and safe alcohol use they should also apply to themselves.
- All events, activities and programmes for young people which are organised by or involving Clare Youth Service or Affiliated Youth Clubs Groups and Projects are to be strictly alcohol and drug free.
- Serious consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the presence of alcohol at CYS events for adults including for example fundraising events. These will be addressed on a case by case basis and a decision to serve alcohol in such instances will be taken in consultation with Management or Club Development Worker as appropriate.

These guidelines are intended as a support to staff and volunteers – should you find that you are faced with situations where you are unclear as to best practice approach please discuss with your line manager or club development worker as appropriate.

Additional information can be found in

YWI Alcohol Policy Available from the Irish Youth Work Centre

<http://www.iywc.com/indexa.htm>

Drug and Alcohol Guidelines Located in the Youth Work Resource Library or available to view on Youth Work Ireland Website

[http://www.youthworkireland.ie/downloads/drugs\\_alcohol\\_tobacco.pdf](http://www.youthworkireland.ie/downloads/drugs_alcohol_tobacco.pdf)

## **Alcohol Policy**

- It is not acceptable for staff to consume alcohol in the general course of their work. Neither is it acceptable to present for work while under the influence of alcohol or of a hangover.
- Staff should refrain from speaking in an inappropriate manner about their consumption of alcohol, particularly excessive use of alcohol when in the presence of young people or young volunteers.
- Where staff are representing Clare Youth Service at external events with young people under the age of 18 present it is not permitted to consume alcohol.
- At external work related events where staff are responsible for young people or volunteers under the age of 25 it is not permitted to consume alcohol.
- At other external events involving peer groups, for example conferences, where staff are in contact with young people or adult volunteers, it is incumbent on Clare Youth Service staff to use alcohol in moderation given that professionally we are seen as role models for young people.

**Breach of this policy shall be dealt with in line with the disciplinary procedures of the organisation**

### **Additional information can be found in**

Alcohol Policy	Located in the Staff Guidelines Booklet January 2008
YWI Alcohol Policy	Located in the Youth Work Resource Library (Margaret's Office)
Employee handbook for Community Training Centres	Copy located in Edel's Office
Drug and Alcohol Guidelines	Located in the Youth Work Resource Library or available to view on Youth Work Ireland Website <a href="http://www.youthworkireland.ie/downloads/drugs_alcohol_tobacco.pdf">http://www.youthworkireland.ie/downloads/drugs_alcohol_tobacco.pdf</a>
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