

Slieveardagh Vintners Federation

Substance Misuse & Alcohol Policy



In partnership with the
**SUBSTANCE MISUSE UNIT,
SOUTH EASTERN
HEALTH BOARD**
and the
**MID TIPPERARY
DRUGS INITIATIVE**



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Vintners Policy

Foreword

This Substance Misuse Policy document outlines a framework to address issues which affect S.V.F (publicans) ability to effectively manage and maintain their business premises within the goals and objectives highlighted within. These issues are specific to publicans however they also relate to current social and economic issues affecting the Slieveardagh area and the wider community.

Thank you

S.V.F. Chairperson Michael McCormack.

Introduction

- The S.V.F. endeavours to provide a safe fun environment for their customers they also promote sensible use of alcohol amongst their patrons and discourages underage drinking.
- The S.V.F. promotes and actively encourages the concept of a designated driver in areas, where a customer has to travel.
- The S.V.F. would recommend the use of taxis in the absence of a designated driver.
- The S.V.F. may in the future pilot a communal transport system to get customers home (the benefits for the publicans are that they can get people out on time).
- The S.V.F. may also look at the possibility of having Disposable Alco meters available to customers on their premise.



Dealing with Underage drinking

- Identification Mandate- the only form of identification that will be acceptable by the S.V.F. group will be the National Identification card other forms of identification e.g. passport driver's licence will not be accepted.
- Young people are reminded as customers of a licensed premise that they are obliged by law to carry the National Identification Card until the age of 21 years.

Responsible Serving

- In accordance with the Equality Status Act and defamation law Patrons who appear to be evidently intoxicated may not be served or allowed onto the premise. Clients that may be under the influence of mood altering substances may not be served or may be asked to leave.
- When dealing with difficult patrons the S.V.F. wishes to point out that when a customer is barred from one pub following a drug conviction this may then result in being barred from all Pubs in the S.V.F. area but at all time remembering that - **Each case is at the discretion of the publican and taken on its own merits**
- The S.V.F. group promotes their premises as a safe environment in which customers can enjoy themselves. Rudeness or abuse to either management staff or other patrons will not be tolerated and may result in a customer be refused and or being asked to leave the premise.
- Unruly aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated at all and such customer(s) exhibiting aggressive and or unruly behaviour may find themselves barred from all premises in the S.V.F. area.

In exceptional or extreme circumstances the S.V.F. group may move to seek an exclusion order.

Managing a drug related incident

- The S.V.F. defines a drug as any substance that changes the way a body feels, acts or thinks.
- The S.V.F. group will not tolerate the used or misuse possession of or supply of any illegal substance outlined under the Misuse of Drugs Act see appendix for list.
- The S.V.F. group agrees that those convicted of drug dealing may be barred from all licence premises in the area however those convicted of drug dealing on a licence premises will be barred from all S.V.F. establishments. Any ban may be reviewed after a reasonable period.
- Customers who appear to be under the influence or acting in a bizarre or unusual manner may/will be asked to leave the premise
- In a case where a customer is showing symptoms of distress staff and or management are asked to contact emergency services
- Customers are advised that in the cases of suspected drug dealing the staff and/or management **will** notify the Gardai immediately.



Education

The South Eastern Health Board in conjunction with the Mid Tipperary Community Based Drugs Initiative will design a programme based on the needs assessment carried out in May 04.

This will include:

1. General Drug Information
2. Law relating to drugs and alcohol use
3. Health and Safety

4. What to do in a drug and alcohol related emergency
5. Harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption.

All of the above issues will be dealt with for staff and management of the S.V.F. group. This programme will be made available in 2004-2005

Dissemination

Following the launch of the policy this document will be given to all staff and management of licensed premises working within the S.V.F. area and will be available upon request to any customer who wishes a copy. Key points will be displayed openly on each premise.

A copy will also be given to other relevant agencies

Review and Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed by the S.V.F. group on a three to six monthly bases during the first year and annually there after.



Appendix

- Support Services Directory of Services
- Drugs Facts
- Emergency procedures
- (Dos and don'ts of sensible drinking)
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1977-1984
- Intoxicating Liquor act 1988-2003

Local Directory of Services

Substance Misuse Unit SEHB	052-77900	
Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative	062-52604	www.drugtipps.com
Clonmel Drugs Initiative	052-70876	
Carrick Drugs Initiative	051-645775	
Garda Clonmel	052-22222	
Garda Confidential Line	1800 666111	
Alcoholics Anonymous	01 4538998	
Regional Drug Helpline	051-373333	
Resource Officer Suicide Prevention	051-8704013	
Money Advice and Budgeting Service	052-29313	
Tipperary Victim Support	052-28566	
Rape Crisis Centre	052-27677	
Cuan Saor (Domestic Violence)	052-27557	
Samaritans	051-872114	

Drugs Facts

Cannabis

Street Name: Hash, Weed, Dope, Draw, Grass, Blow, Ganga...

How is it used?

Cannabis is smoked in large hand rolled cigarettes mixed with tobacco often called joints.

You can make cakes and eat it

It can be smoked in pipes

You can make tea from it and drink it

The effects

Depend on how much is used and the mood of the user.

You can become excitable talkative giddy relaxed paranoid.

Possible Harmful effects

The side effects of cannabis are short term memory loss, lack of motivation, hallucinations, panic, anxiety, and paranoia, and lung cancer, disruption of male and reproductive systems.

How to recognise Cannabis Abuse;

It is not always possible to recognise a cannabis user when they are not on the drug.

Ecstasy

Ecstasy is a chemical developed in 1914 to control eating habits. It was never used as a medicine. In the 70's the drug became popular with young people and still continues to be as popular today.

Slang names: E, XTC, love doves, disco biscuits, Dennis the menace...

How is it used?

Ecstasy takes effect about 30 minutes after swallowing it, making you feel relaxed but full of energy with a love buzz

(This is a happy relaxed feeling towards others)

The buzz can last up to 12 hours Ecstasy can make the user want to dance for hours at a time. This can lead to heat stroke, dehydration and exhaustion.

Harmful effects;

There are many side effects to taking ecstasy such as dehydration, nausea, loss of appetite, exhaustion, liver failure, strokes, convulsions, brain damage.

It is not usually possible to recognise Ecstasy abuse unless the user is high on the drug

Solvent Abuse

Solvent abuse is a deliberate inhalation of chemical gasses, fumes and vapours and pain killers such as air fresheners, hair spray, insect spray, lighter fuel, deodorants, paint thinners, nail varnish and remover glue petrol diesel etc...

Slang Names; Poppers amyl nitrate huffing etc....

How is it used?

Solvents are inhaled through the mouth and nose

They can be inhaled through cotton wool or ion cloth

The can may be pierced while in the mouth a plastic bag containing the solvent can be placed over the nose and mouth Solvents can be sniffed through a bottle

The effects of the drug;

Is that it instantly goes to the lungs and to the brain for an instant high similar to being drunk

Harmful side effects;

Depression, headaches, aggression, tiredness, anti social behaviour, sniffers rash around the mouth and the nose, suffocation and heart failure.

How to recognise Solvent Abuse;

Sores or ulcers around the mouth and nose. A chemical smell on the breath. Glue or solvent stains on clothes. Drunken behaviour mood swings rowdy or silly behaviour, self inflicted injuries and accidents.

Amphetamine

Street Names; Speed or whiz...

What is amphetamine?

Amphetamine is a man made drug first created over 100 years ago. It is a powerful stimulant that triggers the central nervous system making a person more alert and energetic

How does it work?

Amphetamine stimulates the nervous system. It acts like adrenaline your blood pressure goes up your heart thumps and your temperature rises

What does it look like?

Amphetamine usually comes as a powder form. The powder usually comes in a folded paper envelope called a wrap.

Effects:

Every thing speeds up and seems urgent

Users feel they're capable of doing things beyond their ability. People can become very talkative. A risk of overheating can be very dangerous especially if it is mixed with alcohol. Speed can make a person quite aggressive.

Emergency Procedures

Do not panic

Approach the abuser in a firm caring way avoiding confrontation

Do not chase after solvent abusers as physical activity or stress may cause heart failure if particular types of drugs have been taken.

Remove the materials especially from the mouth or nose. If indoors open windows and doors to improve ventilation

Check breathing and circulation

Check the airway is open and the abuser is breathing

If not begin the ABC of resuscitation

If the abuser is breathing but unconscious, convulsed, collapsed or suffering severe chest pains

Place the abuser in the recovery position on their side

However if spinal injury is suspected do not move unless difficulties in breathing makes it essential

Cover with a blanket or coat to maintain body heat

Do not interfere with breathing by placing covers close to the mouth or nose.

Call for help. Send someone to call the emergency services alerting the ambulance crew that a substance is suspected.

Stay with the abuser and check that breathing is maintained. If breathing stops commence the ABC resuscitation.

If the abuser is conscious but intoxicated

Loosen clothing around the neck and chest

Advise the abuser to breath deeply and slowly

If hyperventilation very rapid breathing occurs instruct the abuser to breathe into a paper bag or into cupped hands until the rate of breathing slows to normal

Give nothing to eat or drink

Stay with the person until they are sober if possible inform a relative.

Do's and Don'ts of Sensible Drinking

Pace Yourself

Know your limits

Know how much you are drinking

Drink for taste

Take smaller sips

If you drink spirits dilute them

Put your drink down between sips

Try a soft drink/juice/water instead of a chaser

Don't drink on an empty stomach

Don't use drink as a cure or crutch

Don't mix drink with other drugs

Avoid drinking on your own

Don't get involved in a round system

Don't drive if you have taken alcohol

Drugs and the Law

Drugs laws are complex and the South Eastern Health Board advises vintners to be proactive in developing a good working relationship with the local Gardai, as they will be able to give more details on the Drugs Law

The laws that are most relevant to vintners are;

Misuse of Drugs Act 1977-1984;

The Misuse of Drugs Act is intended to prevent the non medicinal use of drugs. The drugs included are known as controlled drugs and include opiates e.g. heroin, sedatives, valium and stimulants e.g. amphetamines and hallucinogenic drugs e.g. LSD

Offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act include;

Possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use.

Possession with intent to supply to another person.

Production;

Growing of opium poppies, cannabis and cocoa plants.

Supply or intent to supply to another person.

Importation or exportation.

Allowing the premises you occupy to be used for the supply and production of drugs.
The printing or sale of books or magazines that encourage the use of controlled drugs or which contain advertisement for drug equipment.