


SEXUALITY		
VERSION No	2	
REVIEWED BY	Mariana Philipova	
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Policy Statement





The confidential and sensitive nature of information regarding a resident's sexuality or sexual activities means that only those with a specific need to know should be able to access it; the information should be recorded separately and held in a file that is accessible only to those who need to know. This document outlines the policy of this organisation in relation to the sexuality and sexual activities of residents.

The Policy




This organisation believes that residents have the right, which is often denied to older people and to people with disabilities, to develop and maintain intimate personal and sexual relationships; to engage in sexual activity that is lawful and does not cause significant offence to others; and to enjoy pleasurable experiences and take appropriate decisions for themselves in this area of their lives. We believe that our care practice should support the operation of rights associated with sexuality, and that, where appropriate, we should help to provide the information and guidance that helps residents remain safe and healthy.

Care Practice

- ☞ For a resident who has a marital, civil or sexual partner who resides with them or visits them, our service is provided in ways that respect their wish to be together in private.
- ☞ Residents are able to decide whom they see and do not see, and, if necessary and requested to do so, our staff provide support in these decisions and protection from any personal contacts that are unwelcome or abusive
- ☞ When intimate care is given, residents' wishes as regards the gender of the worker are respected where possible
- ☞ We assist residents who require access to advice or guidance to ensure that any sexual activity they engage in is safe and pleasurable
- ☞ The sexual orientation and preferences of residents are treated with respect
- ☞ Homosexual relationships and activities are accorded the same respect as those that are heterosexual
- ☞ If residents engage in any sexual activity or display that is offensive to a staff member, or if they make a sexual approach to a staff member, the matter is reported to their supervisor; they will take prompt and appropriate steps to discuss the matter with the person concerned and to help them contain their behaviour within reasonable limits
- ☞ If residents continue to engage in inappropriate sexual activity or display in the presence of a staff member then the service may be terminated
- ☞ All possible efforts are made to protect residents from any forms of sexual abuse
- ☞ Any resident who due to disability requires assistance in fulfilling their sexual aspirations has the opportunity to discuss their needs with staff; they will, where possible as part of our care service, arrange for the appropriate help to be provided
- ☞ Information about residents' personal and sexual relationships and activities is treated confidentially and sensitively, passed only to those with a specific need to know
- ☞ The opportunity is provided for residents to discuss matters relating to their sexual relationships and activities within the care-planning process if they wish to, always with due regard to the need to treat these issues with confidentiality and sensitivity

-  Particular care and sensitivity are exercised if it becomes necessary to pass information between staff or to make a written record relating to any matter concerning a resident's intimate relationships or sexual activity
-  The relatives, friends and representatives of a resident are fully informed about the contents of this policy and are provided with appropriate support and guidance if they seek it
-  A resident requiring advice on sexual matters or personal relationships can raise the matter with any member of the care staff or management with whom they feel comfortable
-  Sexual relationships between staff and residents are not allowed.

Accommodation.

-  Meals can be booked through the staff and all emergency procedures are clearly visible in the room.
-  Where applicable, if the resident asks for a friend to stay in their room with them the visitor is requested to provide their own portable bed and is responsible for it.
-  Visitors are informed that when staying overnight, the home cannot be responsible for the safekeeping of any personal possessions.

Further Advice

Further advice on matters relating to sexuality is available to residents from GPs and from other local organisations

Training Statement

All staff members will be given a copy of this policy and encouraged to read it during induction.

Related Policies
Care and Support Planning
Code of Conduct for Workers
Equal Opportunities
Equality and Diversity