



Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Form

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of proposal	Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Policy
Responsible department	Human Resources

B. AIMS OF THE PROPOSAL

What do you hope to achieve?	This policy outlines what is expected of employees, contractors, volunteers and agency workers in relation to alcohol and drugs and how the SSSC will support and act when issues occur.
Why is the proposal needed?	<p>This is an update to an existing policy which is part of the SSSC's commitment to the health, safety and welfare of employees as well as meeting legal obligations to them and others.</p> <p>The changes to the policy make sure that this is in the current SSSC style, in line with current opinion and practises with up to date supports.</p>
How will the proposal contribute to the SSSC's strategic objectives and/or priorities?	This policy supports our Organisational Characteristics in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and specifically "People want to work at the SSSC".

	<p>The Strategic Plan states "we are committed to investing in our own workforce the same way we are invested in the external workforce".</p> <p>This policy supports strategic themes 1, 3 and 4 of our People Strategy 2021-2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective leaders and managers. • A healthy and inclusive organisation. • Informed, involved and engaged employees. <p>This policy supports these priorities by expressing our position and how we support and respond to alcohol and drug incidences and dependencies in a fair and consistent manner.</p> <p>By adopting this updated policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We meet our health and safety obligations • We are clear to managers and employees what supports are available and the procedure that may be followed.
<p>How will the proposal address the SSSC's Equality duties?</p>	<p>The policy addresses all 3 of the equality duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) ie eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010, advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>This policy makes clear our commitment to equal treatment for employees and sets out how we treat them fairly and consistently.</p>

C. DATA AND EVIDENCE GATHERING

What evidence has been used to come to the decisions contained in this EQIA?	The policy has been updated in terms of layout, language and expression. No substantive changes have been made that require extensive benchmarking. Benchmarking has been conducted with ACAS and HSE as well as looking at NHS, Universities and Police Scotland.
Has the proposal been the subject of relevant engagement and/or consultation?	Consultation has been undertaken with the Operational Management Team, Executive Management Team and with Unison our recognised trade union regarding this policy. A consultation log has been maintained of their comments and proposals.
Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?	Yes
Have any gaps been found in the data?	N/A.

D. ASSESSING IMPACT AND IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE EQUALITY

Gender – does the proposal take account of different roles and responsibilities? Does it assume, perhaps wrongly that men have no caring responsibilities? Is the proposal flexible enough to provide a service that everyone can access?

This policy adopts a gender-neutral approach. The policy applies equally to all employees and others as outlined above and is accessible regardless of this specific characteristic. The policy does not take a specific approach regarding this protected characteristic but it does create a common approach for us to follow. This contributes towards creating an inclusive culture.

Ethnicity – have you covered all minority ethnic groups? Consider the impact your proposal has on someone from a minority ethnic group and remember this impact may differ depending on the gender, disability, faith, sexual orientation or ethnicity of the person as different cultures have different views on what is acceptable. Consider language and format.

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Disability – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out day-to-day activities. How does this proposal affect disabled people? Are there any impairment groups who are unfavourably affected by the policy?

The policy applies equally to all employees and others as outlined above and is accessible regardless of this specific characteristic. The policy does not take a specific approach regarding this protected characteristic but it does create a common approach for us to follow. This contributes towards creating an inclusive culture. We recognise that alcohol and drugs can be linked to depression but also that the use of alcohol and drugs can cause disabilities. The information and supports we provide in the policy supports our employees.

Sexual orientation – what are the issues for this group in terms of your proposal? Does it meet the needs of this group?

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Gender reassignment – does your proposal include people of different gender identities? Will your proposal impact transgender individuals in any way?

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Age – remember different age groups have different concerns. When considering age remember that some individuals are more vulnerable or have issues that may need additional consideration.

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Marital and civil partnership – it is unlawful discrimination for people who are married/civil partnership/same-sex couple to be treated less favourably in employment than those who are not married/civil partnership/mixed-sex couple.

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Pregnancy and maternity – protection against maternity discrimination covers 26 weeks after giving birth – this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

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Religion/Belief/Non-belief – does your proposal take into account different festivals, holidays, religious days and traditions? Will the different faith beliefs impact on women from that group and exclude or prevent them from using the service?

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E. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS LIVING IN AN ISLAND COMMUNITY

This section considers the impact or effect of the proposal on island communities and whether this could be significantly different from its effect on other communities.

It is recognised that our islands face particular challenges around distance, geography, connectivity and demography, so it is important that we consider these properly and make sure islands receive fair and equitable treatment and that there is no detriment to their unique circumstances.

This policy is not expected to have any impact on islands communities beyond those individual employees who live on an island and are employed by us. The supports that are available are online/remote resources avoiding any detriment due to location.

F. CHILD RIGHTS AND WELLBEING

This section considers the impact of the proposal on children and young people, or specific groups of children and young people, in Scotland.

This policy will contribute to the creation of a positive culture. This will impact on those people that we employ and make them feel happier and supported while at work. This indirectly contributes to the rights and wellbeing of their children and young people. This policy is not expected to have a direct impact on the rights and wellbeing of children and young people but by supporting the parents and carers of children to receive the support and help when suffering from addiction can potentially lessen the negative impact and outcomes for children and young people.

G. HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND HEALTH INEQUALITIES

This section considers the impact of the proposal on physical and mental health and wellbeing; this includes for example, participation, creativity and developing potential.

This policy is expected to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our employees by contributing to creating a positive environment for them. Employees who are healthier are more likely to perform to a higher standard. Employees who are healthier and happier are more likely to contribute to the wider sector and community. This policy helps to increase awareness of internal and external supports available which may be a help for employees and others now and in the future.

H. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

This section is concerned with the impact of the proposal on pay and employment opportunities as well as valuing and supporting voluntary work.

The policy is expected to contribute towards improving the health of our employees by creating a positive environment for them. Employees who are healthier and happier are more likely to contribute to the wider sector and community.

I. CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS

This section concerns our duties to put Scotland’s care experienced children, young people and adults at the heart of what we do.

This policy is not expected to have a specific impact on care experienced children or young people. We have other policies in place that support our employees in this regard.

J. DECISION MAKING

Which of the following statements best describes the action that should be taken following the EqIA in relation to your proposal?

No major change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adjust the policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop and remove the policy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outline the reasons why you've selected this option

We have not identified any changes following the completion of the Equality Impact Assessment.

K. MONITORING AND REVIEWING

How will the implementation of the policy/proposal be monitored? How and when will the impact of the proposal be reviewed? Outline the actions that will be taken, the timescale for these and who will be responsible for carrying out these actions.

Action	Timescale	Person Responsible
The policy will be monitored on a three-yearly cycle to test for effectiveness and continued suitability.	Ongoing.	Lucy Finn, Head of HR.

L. SIGN OFF

Name: Lucy Finn

Title: Head of Human Resources

Date Approved: January 2023