

Drugs Policy

2024 - 2025

This policy is on the use of illegal drugs that is psychoactive substance, nitrous oxide and misuse of legal drugs by students.

Introduction

1. Shockout has a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy study and training environment that respects the law relating to the possession, supply and production of illegal substances.
2. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 makes it an offence to possess, use or supply to other persons, any controlled drugs. The Act also makes it an offence for the occupier of the premises or a person concerned in management of premises to knowingly permit or suffer any of several activities to take place on those premises. The activities specified in the Act include smoking cannabis or cannabis resin and supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another person. Shockout, as the landlord, is obliged to comply with the Act and notify the police if a student is found to be in possession of drugs or to be supplying or producing illegal substances.
3. Purpose of this Policy
 - To support the health and welfare of students, staff and visitors.
 - Enable Shockout to fulfil its duty of care towards students with respect to the use of illegal drugs.
 - Enable us to discharge its legal obligations with respect to the use of illegal drugs.
4. Shockout is committed to reducing the risks associated with drugs usage within its community including raising awareness and providing appropriate training of the dangers of drugs misuse, to actively discourage the use of drugs on Shockout premises and University of Bolton, Bolton College premises.
5. Shockout will offer support and encouragement to those members of its community who are affected by drugs misuse to seek help.
6. Shockout does not condone:
 - The possession uses or supply of illegal drugs within the community.
 - The misuse of legal drugs including drugs in sport.
 - The use of any illegal drugs or any prescription drugs that have not been prescribed for the user.
 - The possession uses or supply of Psychoactive Substances previously known as 'Legal Highs' or Nitrous Oxide also known as 'Laughing Gas'.
 - Any unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse of drugs.
7. It is a criminal offence to be in possession of, use or distribute an illegal substance. If any such incident take place on Shockout, University of Bolton, Bolton College or any other premises hired by Shockout will be regarded as serious and will be investigated in the first

instance and is subjected to **disciplinary action and possibly reported to the police where appropriate.** The consequence of this resulting from a police caution or prosecution for the possession or trafficking of illegal drugs are not limited to fines and prison sentences. A criminal record can have a serious impact on employment prospects.

8. Shockout is sending out a clear message that any person found at any of the previously mentioned premises under the control of Shockout who is found or suspected to be involved with drugs misuse, will be subject to **an immediate ban from those premises.** Any associate of that person who had invited them on the premises and is a student, may be considered for disciplinary action for allowing the incident to take place.
9. Shockout is committed to promoting awareness, understanding and knowledge about drugs and drug abuse. Shockout will provide supportive harm minimisation strategies which reduces the risks associated with drug use, including self-referral opportunities and access to confidential counselling for those who experience difficulties associated with drug abuse.
10. Any student who is concerned about their use of drugs is encouraged to seek advice. Shockout will regard anyone seeking support as having a health problem and will provide assistance to enable appropriate help or treatment to be accessed.
11. If a member of staff or student believe that a student has a difficulty in controlling their use of drugs, the individual will be signposted to seek support. If there are concerns that a student maybe a danger to themselves or others it is recommended that persons with these concerns are reported to a member of academic staff or discuss their concerns with Student Services.
12. Anyone found using/under the influence of drugs, supplying or in possession of illegal substances this constitutes gross misconduct. (See Disciplinary Policy)

Meaning of illegal substances (reference Google)

Psychoactive substance – examples of these are alcohol, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, and heroin.

Substances - also known as drug **abuse**, is use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. ... Drugs most often associated with this term include alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, methaqualone, and opioids.

