





AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C.

AJ and Friends 6 Carlton Lane Centenary Building Hoylake Wirral Merseyside CH47 3DB

Review Sheet	
 Last Reviewed 10 Dec 2024	 Last Amended 10 Dec 2024
 This policy will be reviewed as needs require or at the following interval: Annual	
Business Impact:	 Minimal action required. Circulate information amongst relevant parties.
Reason for this Review:	Scheduled review
Changes Made:	Yes
Summary:	This policy outlines the need for a Staff Handbook. It has been updated with some small changes to the Staff Handbook in the Forms section including the addition of vaping and reference to the Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure. The Underpinning Knowledge links have been checked and updated.
Relevant Legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Rights Act 1996 • Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Registration and Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 • Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 • Human Rights Act 1998 • Data Protection Act 2018 • UK GDPR • Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021
Underpinning Knowledge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author: CQC, (2024), Regulation 18: Staffing [Online] Available from: https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/regulations-enforcement/regulation-18-staffing#guidance [Accessed: 10/12/2024] • Author: Legislation, (2012), Health and Social Care Act 2012 [Online] Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted [Accessed: 10/12/2024] • Author: LEGISLATION, (1997), Employment Rights Act 1996 [Online] Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/18/contents [Accessed: 10/12/2024]
Suggested Action:	
Equality Impact Assessment:	QCS have undertaken an equality analysis during the review of this policy. This statement is a written record that demonstrates that we have shown due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with respect to the characteristics protected by equality law.



1. Purpose

1.1 To ensure that AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. has a staff handbook that is accessible, easily understandable and reflects the needs of the organisation's business.

1.2

Key Question	Quality Statements
EFFECTIVE	QSE2: Delivering evidence-based care & treatment QSE3: How staff, teams & services work together
EFFECTIVE	QSE3: How staff, teams & services work together
WELL-LED	QSW5: Governance, management and sustainability

1.3 Relevant Legislation

- Employment Rights Act 1996
- Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Registration and Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021



2. Objectives

2.1 To ensure that staff understand the vision, values and philosophy of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. and understand some of the key underpinning policies and procedures it expects staff to be aware of and to follow.



3. Policy

3.1 AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. recognises the importance of ensuring the Staff Handbook reflects our business and the staff who work for us. The content of the Handbook contains information about our business, how we expect our staff to behave and perform and defines our relationship with our V.I.Ps.

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. staff are one of our most valuable assets and it is essential that everyone working for AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. all share a common philosophy in the way we approach and perform our individual and collective duties and responsibilities.

3.2 All staff working for and on behalf of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. are expected to read the Staff Handbook. AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. expects staff to adhere to our policies and procedures at all times.

3.3 AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. may review, revise, vary or change the contents of the Staff Handbook from time to time should the needs of the business require it. Staff will be given reasonable notice of any changes made.



4. Procedure

4.1 Beverley Williams must review the Staff Handbook and adapt the QCS template to meet the business needs of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C..

4.2 Beverley Williams must ensure that all staff receive a copy of the Staff Handbook as part of induction at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C..

4.3 Beverley Williams should periodically review the Staff Handbook to ensure it continues to meet the business needs of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C..

4.4 AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. will ensure that all staff have access to QCS Compliance Centre to ensure that they remain up to date with policies and procedures.

4.5 Beverley Williams is to monitor staff access to QCS Compliance Centre to ensure all staff are keeping up to date. Beverley Williams may set up reading lists for staff to ensure that key documents relevant to the work of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. are read and understood.

4.6 To promote good governance, AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. will encourage and support staff to use the QCS mobile app on any smart phones, tablets or devices they may have.



5. Definitions

5.1 Staff Handbook

- A Staff Handbook, sometimes also known as an Employee Manual, Employee Handbook, or Company Policy Manual, is a book given to employees by an employer
- Usually, the Staff Handbook contains several key sections and includes information about company culture, policies, and procedures

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5.2 Employee

- An employee is someone who works under an employment contract
- A person may be an employee in employment law but have a different status for tax purposes
- Employers must work out each worker's status in both employment law and tax law



6. Key Facts - Professionals

Professionals providing this service should be aware of the following:

- Generally, the policies and procedures within the Staff Handbook of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. are non-contractual unless stated otherwise. This allows AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. as the Employer to vary the policies as and when required
- Employees will continue to remain bound by the policies within the Staff Handbook on the basis that they are management directions/orders



7. Key Facts - People Affected by The Service

People affected by this service should be aware of the following:

- Although the Staff Handbook is not directly applicable to V.I.Ps, the policies are there in part to ensure a good working relationship between staff and V.I.Ps



Further Reading

There is no further reading for this policy, but we recommend the 'Underpinning Knowledge' section of the review sheet to increase your knowledge and understanding.



Outstanding Practice

To be "outstanding" in this policy area you could provide evidence that:

- AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. ensures that all staff have a copy of the Staff Handbook and this is updated to reflect the needs of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C.
- AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. ensures staff have access to QCS Compliance Centre to ensure robust policy dissemination and the QCS App to improve innovative ways of working and good communication
- The wide understanding of the policy is enabled by proactive use of the QCS App



Forms

The following forms are included as part of this policy:

Title of form	When would the form be used?	Created by
Staff Handbook - PC08	As part of Employee Induction.	QCS
Staff Handbook Receipt Form - PC08	When a Handbook is issued.	QCS
Staff Handbook Covering Letter - PC08	When a new Handbook is issued	QCS

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Staff Handbook - PC08**Guidance Note to Employer**

This page does not form part of the Staff Handbook and is intended to be a guidance note to AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. as the employer

This guidance page aims to provide some information to you in order for you to complete the Staff Handbook so it is tailored to the needs of your business. This Staff Handbook is a template only and throughout there are opportunities to tailor it to the needs of your business.

You should ensure that where the Handbook cross refers to the Terms and Conditions which have been issued to your employees, that the information referred to is consistent.

Generally, the policies and procedures within the Staff Handbook are non-contractual unless stated otherwise. This allows you as the Employer to vary the policies as and when required without the need to consult with your Employees. Employees will continue to remain bound by the policies within the Handbook on the basis that they are management directions/orders.

The first page of the Handbook allows you to provide information to new staff about your specific business, management structure and how the business intends to develop in the future. In this section you may want to include:

- When AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. was established
- The nature of business at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C.
- The number of staff you employ and the location of your sites
- Details of the management structure and reporting lines within the business including an organisational chart if appropriate
- Future business intentions
- The Company mission statement and values
- Any accreditations or awards which are applicable
- Confirmation that you are an Equal Opportunities Employer

This section can be amended to suit your businesses circumstances.

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C.

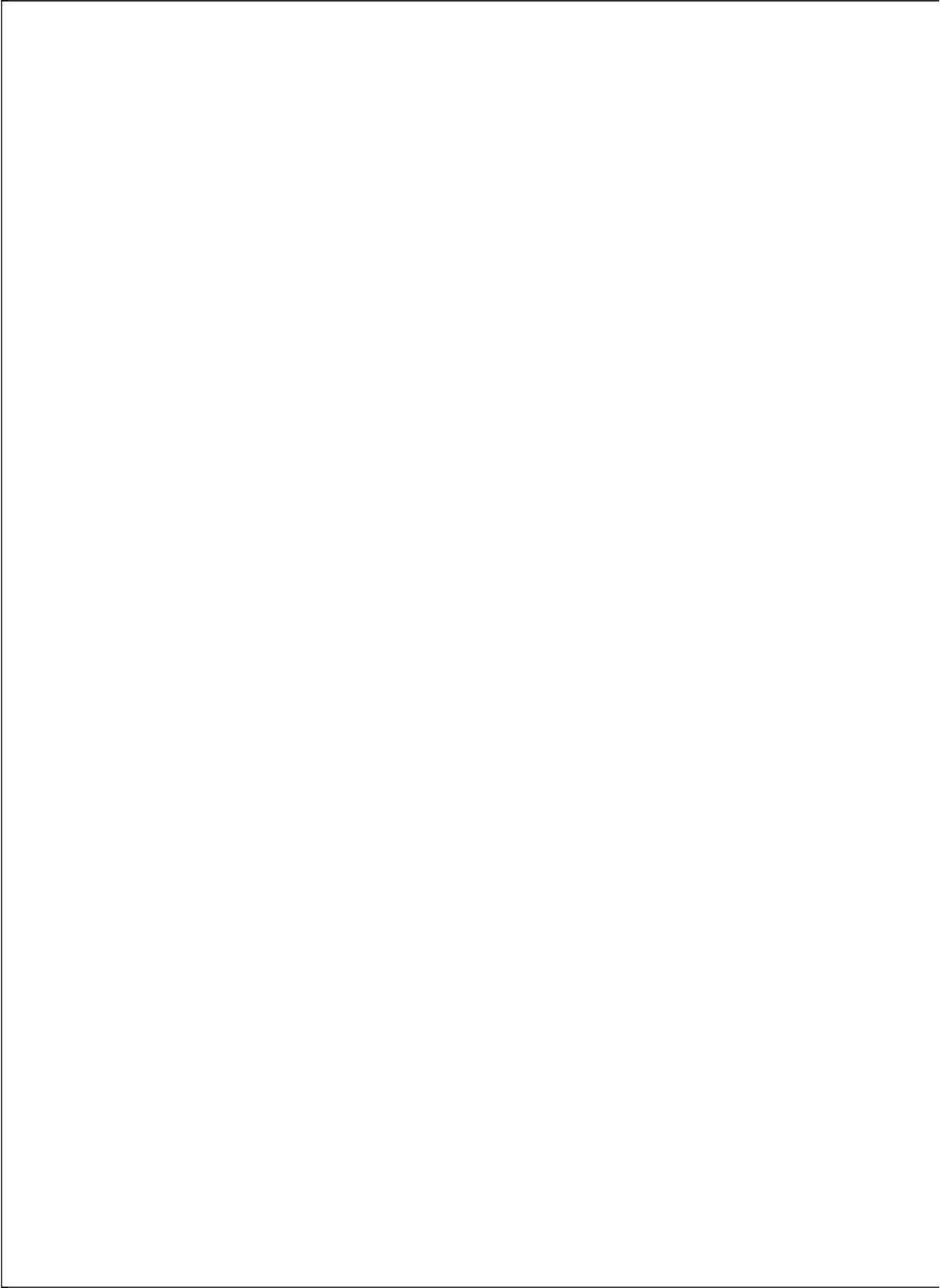
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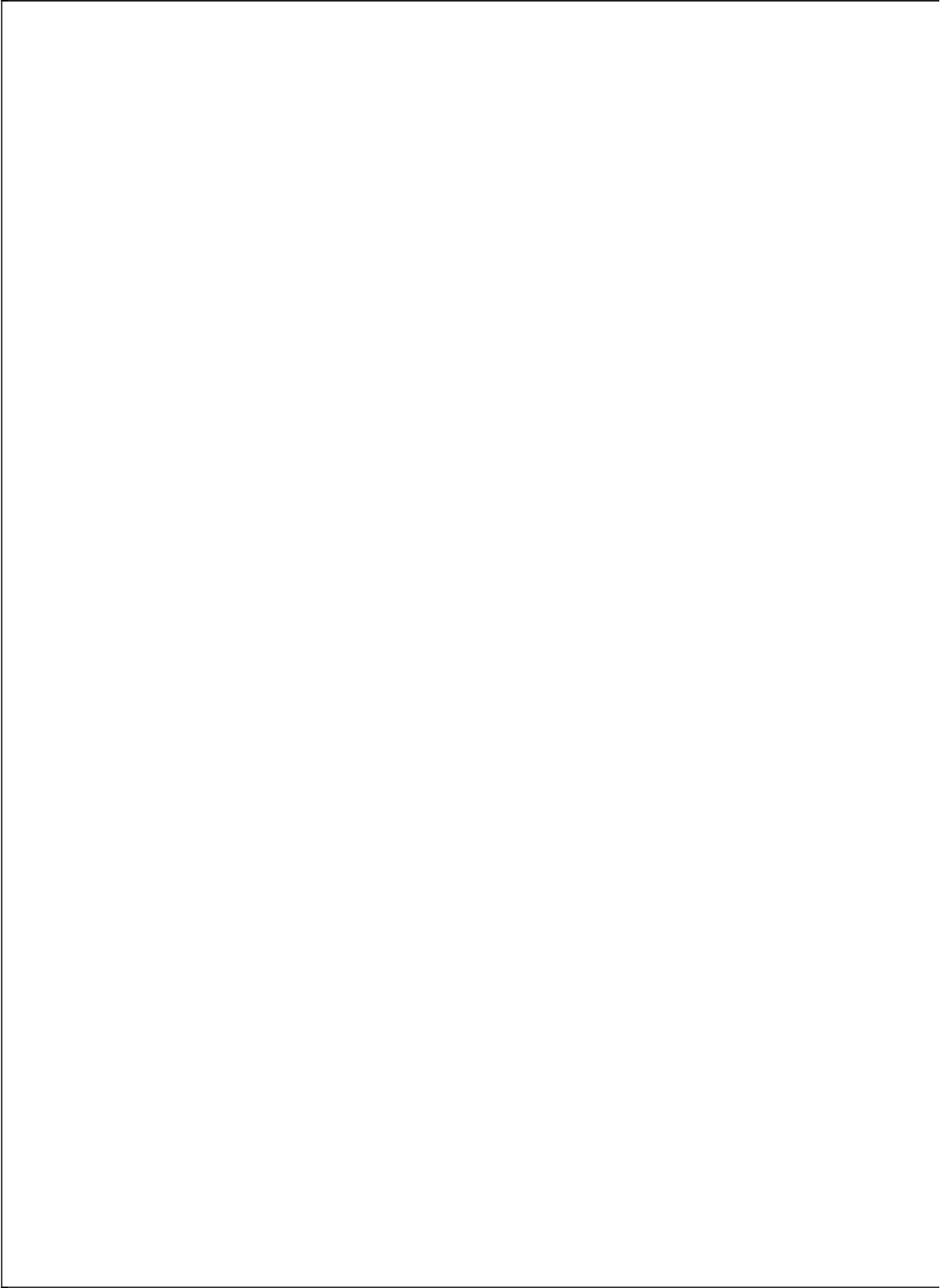
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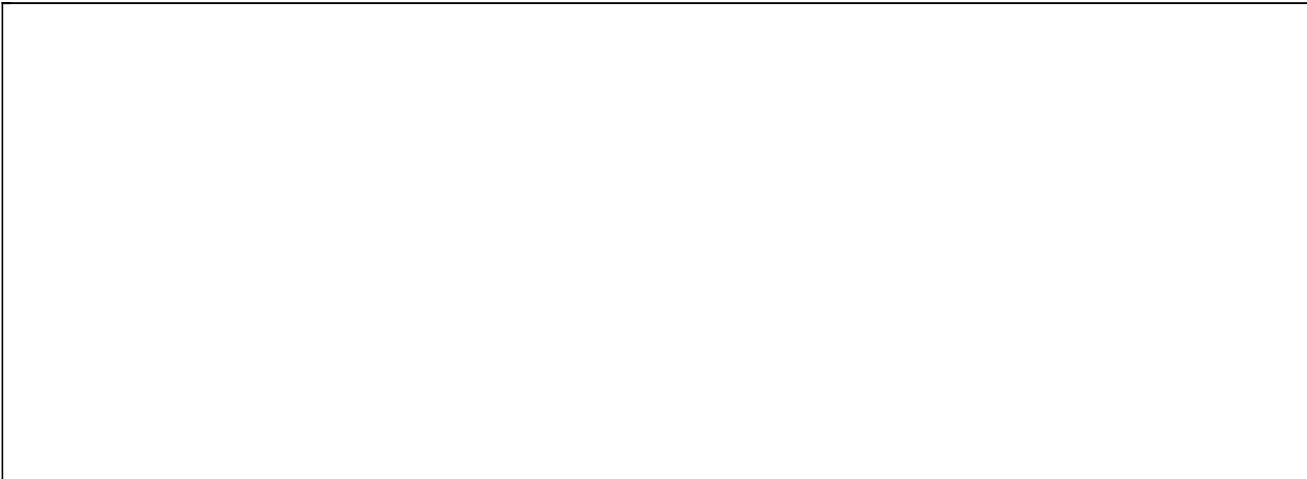
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Safeguarding and Wellbeing

You should always act in such a way as to promote and safeguard the wellbeing and interests of the V.I.P. You must also avoid any act that might bring the organisation into disrepute or diminish the public's confidence in AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C..

You must act with honesty, integrity and respect for V.I.Ps and their property.

Workers must, at all times, safeguard the wellbeing of the V.I.P, themselves and their colleagues. When caring for a new V.I.P, when their care needs change, when carrying out new procedures, or using new materials or equipment, a risk assessment must be undertaken and in place. If in doubt as to whether a risk assessment has been carried out, you must discuss the matter with Beverley Williams. In cases whereby, an assessment has already been carried out, the Manager will inform you of the identified risks and the methods of controlling those risks. Where a risk assessment has not been carried out, the Manager will either prohibit the un-assessed activity or carry out a risk assessment and tell you of the identified risks and the methods of controlling those risks.

When working within the team, you must act professionally towards colleagues and other professionals and indeed all concerned with wellbeing of the V.I.P/s. When Care Workers feel that another worker is acting in such a way as to threaten the wellbeing of a V.I.P they can discuss the matter with the person in charge.

Code of Conduct

You are required to comply with the Code of Conduct for Healthcare Support Workers and Adult Social Care Workers. A copy of the Code has been issued to you on your employment. You are accountable and responsible for ensuring that you understand and follow the Code of Conduct as a social care worker. If you are employed as a Registered Nurse, you will be expected to comply with the NMC Code and ensure you retain your professional registration.

Complaints

If you receive a complaint from a V.I.P, you must inform the V.I.P of the Complaints Policy and Procedure and notify Beverley Williams immediately. The member of staff responsible for handling complaints at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. is The Registered Manager.

Escalating Concerns

All employees have a responsibility to report to their manager with regard to any changes in the physical, behavioural or social condition of the V.I.P, to any perceived lack of resources, help or advice, or any action by persons or organisations which may be harmful to the V.I.P. You should also report any refusal of care or any time you are unable to deliver Care as planned. You must ensure you read the Safeguarding Policy, the Child Protection Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy for AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. on the QCS Online Management System or via the QCS App.

Commencing Work

Confirmation of Employment

You will have been interviewed and have received a formal offer of employment providing some basic details of your job, pay and hours, etc. We cannot incorporate all employment conditions in this offer and we shall therefore issue you with a Statement of Main Terms and Conditions within the first eight weeks of your employment. This document, together with other details within this Handbook, covers all of the conditions of employment applicable to you in this employment. You must therefore familiarise yourself with the Policies and Procedures referred to in the Staff Handbook which are available in QCS Compliance Centre and the QCS App. You have been provided with a job description of the position to which you have been appointed, but amendments may be made to your job description from time to time in relation to our changing needs and your own ability.

Personal Details

Please keep us informed of any changes in your personal circumstances, e.g. new address, telephone number and next of kin. It is important that we keep such information up to date in order to make contact with you whenever appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. recognises that discrimination in the workplace, in any form, is unacceptable and in most cases unlawful. We have therefore adopted an Equality and Diversity Policy and Procedure, to ensure that all job applicants and employees are treated fairly and without favour or prejudice. AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. is committed to applying this policy throughout all areas of employment, recruitment and selection, training, development and promotion. In all situations, people will be judged solely on merit or ability.

The Equality and Diversity Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and the QCS App. Any breach of the policy will lead to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal. You will be requested to complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

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Non-Harassment Policy

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. recognises that harassment in the workplace, in any form, is unacceptable and in most cases unlawful. This includes sexual harassment. We are committed to ensuring that we are able to provide a working environment that is harmonious and acceptable to all.

The Harassment Policy and Procedure and the Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure are available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Private Work for V.I.Ps

Private work for V.I.Ps with whom AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. is already providing with Care is not acceptable as it conflicts with our contract of employment and will very probably be regarded as financial abuse if undertaken without prior approval. In exceptional circumstances, AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. may authorise such work where it is clearly for the benefit of the V.I.P subject to the approval of the organisation/individual funding the Care to that individual V.I.P, and subject to controls on charging and quality and with prior agreement from Beverley Williams.

The Moonlighting Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and the QCS App.

During Your Employment

The previous section dealt with aspects of your early employment. We now wish to draw your attention to certain aspects that will apply during your employment:

Induction Training

You will be expected to work through the induction training programme at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. at a reasonable speed, and within the standards laid down in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012). This process will begin on your first day when you will be given more details. If you feel that you can progress faster than the material and experience which is being presented to you, please speak to your manager.

Working Standards

The management of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C., and many of its working practices, are set out in the Compliance Management System supplied to us and maintained by Quality Compliance Systems Ltd. This online management system is made available to you at all times and will be shown to you during your induction. It is a fundamental part of your contract of employment that you familiarise yourself with this system as soon as is reasonable, that you abide by the policies and procedures contained within it at all times, that you do not change, remove, or add to any of the documentation without the authorisation of the Registered Manager, and that you do not use unauthorised documentation, i.e. documentation which does not have the standard format used by the QCS system, which denotes that the document is a part of the authorised system. You must report the existence or use of unauthorised documentation to the Registered Manager (Beverley Williams) immediately. AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. may have to comply with locally agreed policies and it is important that you are familiar with them. Your manager will tell you about this during your induction.

Training – Induction and Ongoing

All employees are entitled to a minimum of three paid days of training per year, which description includes in-house training, staff meetings and supervisions.

All employees must undergo induction training. As your employment progresses your skills may be extended to encompass new job activities within the business. You will receive notices through your payslips and notices will be displayed in your staff room indicating the various training topics. Certain training events are compulsory; the notice identifies these and payment for attendance will be received. Other training programmes will be on a voluntary basis and the notice indicates these. For further details relating to booking training sessions contact Beverley Williams. Failure to attend mandatory training could result in disciplinary action.

You are reminded that in order for AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. to satisfy its obligations under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) you are employed subject to certain contractual requirements with regard to training and qualifications, which are detailed in your Statement of Terms and Conditions.

Business Expenses

We will reimburse you for authorised and legitimate expenditure, reasonably incurred by you, during the proper performance of your duties, i.e. travel, accommodation and other pre-agreed out-of-pocket expenses. You will be required to complete an expense claim form and support such a claim by submitting valid receipts. You should have prior approval from Beverley Williams before incurring any expenses.

Alterations and Modifications to the Staff Handbook

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. reserves the right to make reasonable alterations to this Handbook and any other terms and conditions of service. Minor changes of detail, such as those relating to procedure, may be made with a general notice being provided to you. Significant alterations will only be implemented following full consultation with all affected employees.

Such changes will be implemented at the end of that notice period subject to any written objections having been lodged with Beverley Williams - AJ and friends C.I.C..

Annual Holidays, Holiday Pay and Procedures

Holiday Entitlement

Annual leave within AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. commences and ends 01st January to December 31st. Full-time staff will be entitled to five point six (5.6) weeks - see contract of employment which gives a total of ' leave per year. For casual and part-time staff, this will be calculated pro-rata and will be in line with the terms of your contract of employment.

The Annual Holiday Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Public/Bank Holidays, Pay & Procedures

Where the above days are worked, payment will be made as indicated in your Statement of Terms and Conditions or Principal Statement or Contract of Employment.

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Sickness/Injury Absence Payments and Conditions**Notification of Absence**

The Sickness Absence Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App. A failure to follow the Sickness Absence Policy and Procedure may result in absences being treated as unauthorised and could give rise to disciplinary action.

Maternity

The Maternity Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Adoption Leave

The Adoption Leave Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Shared Parental Leave

The Shared Parental Leave Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App. In essence, Shared Parental Leave allows a mother or adoptive parent to share their maternity or adoptive leave entitlement with their partner including any entitled to statutory pay.

Paternity Leave

The Paternity Leave Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

General Rules and Regulations**Using your Own Car**

If a V.I.P requests that you take them somewhere in your own vehicle, you may not be insured if you do so. We must point out that you are not insured by AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. when using your own vehicle during working hours.

If you use your car to travel to different workplaces, from which you then onward travel by other means, you need "Business Class 1, Comprehensive".

If you travel between V.I.Ps using your own car, you need "Business Class 3, Comprehensive".

If you carry V.I.Ps in your car, you need "Business Class 3, Comprehensive", but you also need to speak directly to your insurers to confirm that cover is valid.

If you are using a pool car then further information is available in the Transport Policy and Procedure which is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

If you use your own car for work purposes, you must be able to provide proof of an appropriate level of insurance cover and driving licence status. Should there be any change in either and you use your vehicle for business use, you must immediately inform AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C..

Additional Time Off Work

We recognise that there will be occasions when you will request time off for medical/dental appointments or for domestic reasons. Every effort will be made to arrange such appointments outside normal working hours. Where this is unavoidable, then appointments must be arranged to minimise disruption to your working day/rota.

Personal Property

Please avoid bringing valuable personal items to work and do not leave any valuables either unattended or overnight. We cannot accept liability for the loss of, or damage to such personal property brought onto our premises.

Lost Property

All items of lost property must immediately be reported to Beverley Williams. Similarly, any unidentified article must be handed to the manager, whilst attempts are made to discover ownership.

Personal Telephone Calls

Such calls are only allowed in the case of emergency and with the prior permission of Management. Please remember that, where provided, AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. telephones are provided solely for business use and abuse will not be tolerated. Where applicable, personal mobile phones must be switched off during working hours. Staff must not, therefore, be answering or making calls while with a V.I.P or where V.I.Ps or their friends and relatives may be able to overhear conversations.

Mail

Private mail must not be sent care of our address. No private mail may be posted at our expense except in those cases whereby a formal recharge arrangement has been made.

Buying or Selling of Goods

You are not allowed to buy or sell goods on your own behalf on our premises or during your working hours. This includes buying or selling from catalogues.

Friends and Relatives Contact

We discourage friends and relatives from making contact with you at work either by telephone or in person, except in the case of an emergency.

Uniforms, Personal Appearance & Appropriate Dress

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We will purchase appropriate uniforms for your use. All uniforms will be returned on leaving, and where uniforms are not returned in reasonable condition, a charge will be made to cover the cost of replacement.

Employees must refer to the Appearance Policy and Procedure which is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Protective Clothing or Equipment

All such clothing, except for Care Worker's shoes, trousers will be provided to employees concerned free of charge by the company and must be worn throughout working periods. Failure to wear protective clothing may be treated as a disciplinary offence. If the risk of injury is great the failure may, depending on the surrounding circumstances and any mitigating factors, be treated as gross misconduct.

The Health and Safety Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and the QCS App. The person responsible for Health and Safety at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. is Registered Manager.

Smoking and Vaping

This is a no smoking establishment. Smoking and vaping are not permitted within the premises. Your manager or supervisor will advise you of the designated smoking area at your place of work.

The Smoking at Work Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Alcohol & Drugs

The Alcohol and Drugs Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Attendance & Time Keeping

Good time-keeping and prompt attendance is paramount in the lives of the people to whom we provide support. Please advise the person in charge/Beverley Williams if you are running late in attending work. We would also request that you inform the person in charge/Beverley Williams with as much notice as possible about any intended absence due to sickness. This is critical as it allows us to sensitively and proficiently replace you if you give us the maximum amount of notice.

The Absenteeism Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Staff that are absent without notifying the person in charge/Beverley Williams may be subject to disciplinary action.

Handling V.I.P's Money

If during the course of your work, you are required to handle a V.I.P's money, you must follow the procedures as laid out in the V.I.P's Care Plan and the Service User's Finances Policy and Procedure.

Employees must remember that V.I.Ps may be vulnerable and rely on AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. and its employees to exercise care and judgment on their behalf when it comes to their finances. Employees must not, therefore, accept any gifts of any value or seek to borrow any money from a V.I.P. Employees must not remove property or money from a V.I.P without permission or purpose. This policy is designed to protect both employees and the V.I.P and any employee that is found to be in breach of the policy may face disciplinary action which could result in dismissal. Where we believe a person has caused harm or poses a future risk of harm to vulnerable groups, including children, we will refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service in line with our statutory duties.

Information About V.I.Ps

Information about all V.I.Ps is held in the Care Plan. If you are attending a V.I.P for the first time, please make yourself familiar with the V.I.P's needs through reading the Care Plan. If you have any doubts, contact the person in charge/Beverley Williams. All information to which you have access regarding a V.I.P must be treated with the utmost confidentiality (see Confidentiality Policy). On each occasion on which you attend to the V.I.P, you must record on the Care records brief details of duties carried out and general information regarding the V.I.P's situation. Please also use this daily visit sheet as a means of communicating information to the next Support Worker on duty with the V.I.P, or as a reminder for yourself.

Gifts, Wills, Donations and Bequests

You must not, under any circumstances, act as signatories to the wills, lasting powers of attorneys or similar legal documents of V.I.Ps, or be beneficiaries of V.I.P's wills, nor should you accept gifts of any kind except with the express authority of the Registered Manager. Please refer to the Gifts, Donations, Wills and Bequests from Service Users Policy and Anti-Bribery Policy for further information.

Parking

Car Parking is available in the car park provided.

Private vehicles parked on or around our premises are done so at the owner's risk and we accept no liability for any damage caused to such vehicles. Employees' cars must be parked at the furthest distance available from the main entrance to allow visitors to use the nearer spaces.

Housekeeping

Please keep your work area clean and tidy at all times. Please report any concerns about housekeeping to Beverley Williams. You can contact 07825412401 for assistance.

Infectious/Contagious Illness

If you are suffering from such a condition you must not report for work without your doctor's clearance. If in any doubt, please notify us and consult your doctor. All employees must adhere to Infection Control Policy and Procedure at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C..

Loss, Damage and Wastage

It is important to maintain efficient and cost-effective routines in order to ensure that resources are appropriately focussed on V.I.P services. For this reason, please take extra care during your normal duties by avoiding unnecessary or extravagant use of services, time, energy, etc. The following points are examples of this:

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- Handle machines, equipment and stock with care
- Turn off any unnecessary lighting and heating. Keep doors closed whenever possible and do not allow taps to drip
- Ask for other work if your job has come to a standstill
- Start with the minimum of delay after arriving for work and after breaks

The following provision is an express written term of your contract of employment:

- Any damage to vehicles, stock or property (including non-statutory safety equipment) that is the result of your carelessness, negligence or deliberate vandalism will render you liable to pay the full or part of the cost of repair or replacement
- Any loss to us that is the result of your failure to observe rules, procedures or instruction, or is as a result of your negligent behaviour or your unsatisfactory standards of work will render you liable to reimburse to us the full or part of the cost of the loss
- In the event of failure to pay, we have the contractual right to deduct such costs from your pay

Security and Confidentiality

Confidentiality

You must not disclose any trade secrets or other information of a confidential nature relating to AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. or any of its associated companies or their business or their clients/V.I.Ps and employees in respect of which AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. owes an obligation of confidence to any third party during or after your employment except in the proper course of your employment or as required by law.

You must not remove any documents or tangible items which belong to AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. or which contain any confidential information from AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. premises at any time without proper advance authorisation.

You must return to AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. upon request, and, in any event, upon the termination of your employment, all documents and tangible items which belong to AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. or which contain or refer to any confidential information and which are in your possession or under your control.

You must, if requested by AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C., delete all confidential information from any reusable material and destroy all other documents and tangible items which contain or refer to any confidential information and which are in your possession or under your control.

Use of Computer Equipment

Use of computer equipment, use of email and of the Internet are controlled for security reasons.

The Computer, Email and Internet Usage Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Rights of Search

We have the contractual right to carry out searches of employees and their property (including vehicles) whilst they are on our premises or conducting business on our behalf. These searches are random and do not imply suspicion in relation to any individual.

If you should be required to submit to a search, and if it is practicable, you will be entitled to be accompanied by a third party to be selected only from those who are on the premises at the time that a search is taking place. This right also applies at the time that any further questioning takes place.

You may be asked to remove the contents of your pockets, bags, vehicles, staff lockers (where available), etc.

Whilst you have the right to refuse to be searched, refusal by you to agree to being searched will constitute a breach of contract, which could result in your dismissal.

We reserve the right to call in the police at any stage.

Communications or Statements to the Media

Only Beverley Williams - AJ and friends C.I.C. is authorised to make any communication or statement to the media in matters relating to the business.

Standards of Conduct/Performance

Throughout this section we shall give an indication of the required standards of conduct or performance expected from all our employees. It must be appreciated that any judgement of whether those standards have not been observed will depend very much on the specific circumstances of each case. It is important, however, that we set out certain standards for the guidance of all employees. A failure to work to these standards may result in disciplinary action on grounds of misconduct or poor performance. The following sub-sections are examples only and must under no circumstances be considered as an exhaustive statement of all potential misdemeanours.

General Attendance (Absence/Timekeeping)

Ensure that you arrive at work sufficiently early to be ready to commence work at your official starting time.

You must comply with any time recording procedures relating to your job including, where required, clocking in using any device or system provided.

If you wish to leave work during normal working hours, you must receive authorisation from your immediate supervisor. Failure to do so will result in such absence being treated as unauthorised.

Lateness and absence will be recorded, and unacceptable records of attendance will render you liable to disciplinary action. Employees should refer to the Absenteeism Policy and Procedure.

Conduct Outside Working Hours

Whilst we have no intention or wish to intrude upon your activities or interests outside work we would expect that none of our employees would be engaged in any activity outside working hours which could result in adverse publicity to the business, bring the business into disrepute or which would cause us to question their integrity or which has a detrimental impact upon relations with fellow colleagues or V.I.Ps. Doing so may result in disciplinary action and could lead to dismissal depending on the seriousness of the conduct outside work and the level of impact it is having or could have on the organisation.

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C.
AJ and Friends 6 Carlton Lane Centenary Building Hoylake Wirral Merseyside CH47 3DB

Social Networking

Employees are not permitted to use social media during work hours. We require all our staff to avoid and refrain from engaging in any conduct on social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.) either during or outside working hours which brings the company into disrepute, or

- Is derogatory or critical of the business
- Results in adverse publicity
- Could constitute any form of bullying or harassment of a colleague or V.I.P
- Would be a breach of our Equal Opportunities Policy
- Would cause us to question your suitability to be working with our V.I.Ps

The above list is not exhaustive, and employees must be careful to avoid any inappropriate or adverse references to the business or their work colleagues. Employees should remember that they represent AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. at all times.

Employee's must not connect/be "friends" with V.I.Ps on social media unless there was a relationship (Family or friend) prior to them becoming a V.I.P of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. or you have permission of Beverley Williams. This is to protect the reputation of AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. and avoid the risk of adversely affecting relations with our V.I.Ps and prevent any safeguarding issues arising.

Employees can refer to the Social Networking Policy which can be found within QCS Compliance Centre and the QCS App.

Stock/Property

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. property (and/or that of our V.I.Ps) must only be used for the purpose for which it is intended and must not be removed from site without prior approval.

All employees have a duty to report to management any damage to, or loss of stock or property.

If, as a result of your carelessness, or negligence, we (and/or our V.I.Ps) suffer loss or damage to property or stock, (including vehicles) this will be construed as a serious breach of the rules. Where this is construed as particularly serious then this may render you liable to pay the full or part of the cost of repair or replacement, or insurance excess if appropriate. If you fail to pay, we reserve the right to deduct the costs from your pay.

Work Performance

Your performance at work will be regularly reviewed and unacceptable standards due to individual negligence or carelessness may be referred to the disciplinary process.

Similarly, if there is deemed to be an unacceptable volume of work produced in relation to agreed targets or by general comparison to other employees this will be the subject of further investigation. Whilst such investigation may lead to referral to the disciplinary process, we shall also consider whether training or other forms of assistance would offer more appropriate remedies.

The Capability Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Policy and Procedure is available in the QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App. The person responsible for Health and Safety is Registered Manager.

Leaving AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C.

You are reminded that the company is entitled to rely on you to work cooperatively and to full capacity during your notice period, unless you are requested to cease work before your notice expires, or your employer agrees for you to leave before your notice expires. Failure to meet this obligation, which is for the benefit of your V.I.Ps and colleagues, opens you to the possibility of claims for excess costs of replacement by the company as per below.

The notice period which you are required to give is detailed within your individual terms and conditions of employment.

Terminating Employment Without Giving Notice

If you terminate your employment without giving or working the required period of notice, as indicated in your individual statement of the main terms of employment, you will have an amount equal to any additional cost of covering your duties during the notice period not worked deducted from any termination pay due to you. This is an express written term of your contract of employment. You will also forfeit any contractually accrued holiday pay due to you over and above your statutory holiday pay, if you fail to give or work the required period of notice.

Examples of additional costs include:

- Costs incurred in covering shifts under your notice period by someone who is on a higher hourly rate
- Costs incurred in covering your shifts under your notice period by an agency worker who's hourly rate is higher
- Admin costs incurred by reason of using an agency to obtain cover for the shifts under your notice period.

All costs incurred in providing urgent cover as a result of your failure to work all or some of your notice period will be calculated and the pay you would have received during that period will be deducted from this cost which will leave a balance which equates to the "additional cost" arising from your breach of contract OR a fixed amount in the sum of [£x] will be deducted from your final pay in the event that you fail to work some or all of your notice and as a result AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. has incurred additional costs.

This right does not prejudice any other legal rights or remedies which AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. may have arising from your failure to work your contractual notice period.

Where there is an unjustified failure to work notice, this may be referred to in any reference provided to prospective employers.

References

Employees who wish to request a reference can refer to the References Policy and Procedure.

Redundancy

The Redundancy Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

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Disciplinary Procedures**Discipline and Disciplinary Appeals**

The Discipline Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Grievance Procedure

The Grievance Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

Whistleblowing

The Raising Concerns, Freedom to Speak Up and Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App. Given the nature of the industry we operate in, we encourage all staff to disclose any concern or issue they may have which they feel is wrong, unsafe, dangerous, illegal or a breach of any other regulations or obligations. Our only request is that such disclosures are made in response to a genuine concern and in good faith.

Good Practice Statement**Mental Capacity**

It is essential to be familiar with the Mental Capacity Act, guidance and to recognise diminished or fluctuating capacity. Confusion, memory loss, aggression and changes in personality or behaviour, are some symptoms that can be caused by prescribed medications, or other treatable causes, for example, a urinary tract infection or chest infection, dementia or mental health illness. Medical advice must be sought. Sometimes changes will be permanent and progressive. All people with mental health illnesses will be treated with the same respect accorded to any other V.I.P. They should be enabled to make decisions about their own lives to the fullest extent of their abilities. V.I.Ps can be supported to complete a Preferred Priority Care Document which will enable them to make decisions about their preferred place of care as well as about details of daily routine and managing finances. Patience and sensitivity will be called for from the Support Workers who can help support the V.I.P.

Exercising choice and control involves risk, and independence should not be unnecessarily curtailed because of others' fears. Restriction of rights and freedoms will be strictly limited, subject to agreed safeguards in care planning. Care Workers supporting people with mental illnesses will have education and training about mental health, and multi-disciplinary working will be encouraged. Instances of necessary denial of rights to restraints will be recorded and reported, restraint must be limited to exceptional circumstances only and in accordance with the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The V.I.P and advocates will be involved in making decisions about any Care service which restricts V.I.Ps in any way and will be notified of emergency actions.

Progressive and Multiple Conditions

Older and disabled people's need for Care may not be stable and consistent. Some illnesses or disabling conditions, for example, motor neurone disease, progress rapidly; V.I.Ps will be confident that the Care Worker will respond quickly and appropriately when disability increases, i.e. by reporting change to the Registered Manager. Multiple disability disorders and chronic illness, including stroke and osteoarthritis, are common among older people, and a sufficient Care service can prevent long-term residential, nursing or hospital care for V.I.Ps, if that is the V.I.Ps wish.

Terminal Illness

Our Support Workers will enable people who are terminally ill to maintain independence and be as comfortable as possible and support their decisions of where they choose to be at the end of life. The V.I.P will be supported to complete the Preferred Priorities of Care document in line with the National End of Life Care Guidance. Not all relatives and friends feel able to care for someone who is dying, and this should be respected. The Support Worker will play an important role in supporting relatives and friends.

Isolation and Loss

Older and disabled people may experience loneliness or grief due to changes of lifestyle or location, loss of mobility, or loss of a close friend or relative. People may need to spend some time alone through personal choice, and this will be respected. Care Workers will have the training and past experience to enable them to recognise symptoms such as depression, lethargy, or problems with eating or sleeping. Care Workers will also be able to listen and talk to the V.I.P and support them. Care Workers can also help the V.I.P obtain appropriate advice and counselling by liaising with the Registered Manager or person in charge.

Discrimination

AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. adopts a proactive anti-discriminatory policy and takes high regard of racial and cultural factors in full compliance with the Equality Act 2010. Similarly, the Care Team will be sensitive to the needs of both male and female V.I.Ps, particularly where personal care is involved. Again, full compliance of the Equality Act 2010 will apply. Please refer to the separate Equality and Human Rights Policy and the Equality and Diversity Policy and Procedure for further information.

Safeguarding

Abuse may be described as Physical abuse, Domestic violence, Sexual abuse, Psychological abuse, Financial or material abuse, Modern slavery, Discriminatory abuse, Organisational abuse, Neglect and acts of omission, Self-neglect as defined in the Care Act 2014. Care Workers will be able to identify the possibility of abuse which may not be the result of an acute situation but of concern over a period of time. All Care Workers are/will be familiar with the indicators of abuse and will report any suspicions to Beverley Williams or another person in charge. The Safeguarding Policy and Procedure is available in QCS Compliance Centre and on the QCS App.

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Staff Handbook Receipt Form - PC08

Manager	
I confirm that on _____ (date) I gave a copy of the AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. Staff Handbook to _____ (Name of Recipient).	
Manager Name:	
Manager Signature:	Date:
Employee	
I confirm that on _____ (date) I received a copy of the AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. Staff Handbook.	
Employee Name:	
Employee Signature:	Date:

The Employee and AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. should retain a copy of this form. A copy should also be held on the personnel file.

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Staff Handbook Covering Letter - PC08

AJ and Friends 6 Carlton Lane
Centenary Building
Hoylake
Wirral
Merseyside
CH47 3DB

Date:

Dear

Please find enclosed the Staff Handbook for AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. which is designed to assist us to maintain our compliance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and other legislation.

The Staff Handbook at AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. is intended to be a single reference source for you to fully understand what expectations we have and outline some of your conditions of employment. You can also view the Staff Handbook via the QCS Mobile App which can be downloaded via Google Play or the App Store. Additionally, you can also access QCS Compliance Centre via your desktop. Please speak to me if you need assistance with accessing the system.

You are asked to read through the Handbook and the policies. The intention of the Handbook is to bring many elements of your conditions of employment that may previously have been given to you in various documents into one document and to highlight some key policies. If you are concerned about any issues that you find on reading this document, please bring them to my attention and we will discuss the matter.

Please sign to confirm that you have received a copy of the Handbook or that you have been given access to QCS Compliance Centre to read the Staff Handbook for AJ AND FRIENDS C.I.C. online or via the QCS App

Please return a copy of the form and keep a copy for yourself

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Williams

Registered Manager