

Policy Statement



Personal and sexual development

Sense Scotland believes that people should have choices about what happens in their lives. This must mean choice about relationships, including sexual relationships. The organisation believes that relationships are private matters and that staff should play a supportive not intrusive role.

Sense Scotland will:

- Assist people who use our services to learn about choice in all areas of life.
- Encourage an environment where all service users can expect to have friendships with people of their own choice. For adult service users, this may include sexual relationships.
- Acknowledge that these matters are private and personal for the service user but must also be open to scrutiny to afford the highest level of protection and meet the demands of the law.
- Provide advice, support and guidance to staff working directly with adult service users.
- Assist staff to provide positive support and avoid negative judgments where people's choices are contrary to their own beliefs.
- Assist staff to make reasonable, individually determined responses to an adult's expressed need which are acceptable to the adult and his or her representatives and staff.
- Work in a way that avoids disagreements but will aim to support the service user positively with disagreements which may arise with his or her representatives.
- Ensure the dignity, safety and welfare of adult service users.
- Protect all service users from sexual harassment, exploitation or abuse.
- Work within good practice guidelines and within the law.

The relevant staff guidance is: Personal and sexual development briefing (March 1999) (to be added to Accountability Handbook following review, currently available from regional managers or head office).

Definitions: in this policy, adult is taken to mean someone aged 16 and over.

Paul Hart, Principal Officer, is the designated person in respect of this policy.

Consultation method: circulation amongst members of the internal policy working group and lead officer for PSD, March 2006, with reference to external guidance, and circulation to SMG 26 May 2006.

Approved by SMG: 5 July 2006

Revision planned by: 5 July 2009

Available in other formats on request.

Sense Scotland, 43 Middlesex Street, Glasgow G41 1EE

Tel: +44 (0) 141 429 0294 Fax: +44 (0) 141 429 0295 Text: +44 (0) 141 418 7170

www.sensescotland.org.uk info@sensescotland.org.uk

Registered as a company limited by guarantee in Scotland 147570 Scottish Charity Number SC022097