

Policy Statement



Physical intervention

We take seriously our obligations to the people using our services arising from the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Human Rights Act 1998. The organisation is committed to safe practices and safety in environments. Emphasising the importance of communication, building relationships and learning in our services, we aim to avoid or minimise the use of physical intervention with people who use services. Physical intervention is appropriate for the circumstances, used only where it is necessary to secure the person's welfare, lasts for the minimum amount of time required to achieve the desired result and is most often part of an agreed plan.

Sense Scotland will:

- Ensure that staff are aware of their obligations and work in a way that reflects the values of the organisation and this policy.
- Train staff in safe working practices and the use of physical intervention where this is required.
- Ensure that staff are aware of and understand the staff guidance on physical intervention and that a physical intervention record is developed for anyone who needs support to deal with behaviour.
- Use physical intervention as part of an agreed plan.
- Review plans regularly.
- Record incidents of physical intervention which detail:
 - the intervention applied
 - why it was necessary
 - who authorised it
- Keep records of incidents harmful to health and welfare of a person using our services.
- Notify the Mental Welfare Commission of any incidents of alleged or actual improper detention or unlawful treatment.

The relevant staff guidance is: Physical Intervention – planning and recording agreements (July 2003) and Challenging Behaviour (October 2003) (both in the Accountability Handbook).

Sense Scotland's CALM trainers comply with the BILD Code of practice for trainers in the use of physical interventions (BILD, 2001).

Ian Noble, Training & Learning Centre Manager, is the designated person in relation to this policy.

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

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Available in other formats on request.

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