

Redland Housing Association

Drug Policy

Policy Statement

This policy outlines Redlands' commitment to ensuring that it does not allow any premises it owns or manages to be used for the purpose of supply or taking of controlled drugs.

Effective Date

February 2006

Scope

- It is a criminal offence for Redland to allow any premises it owns or manages to be used knowingly for the purposes of the supply or taking of controlled drugs.
- All Redland staff are expected to support the organisations commitment to ensuring its premises are not used for the supply or taking of controlled drugs.
- In effecting this policy Redland officers will follow clear and transparent procedures.

Principles

- Redland is committed to ensuring a robust response to the use of controlled drugs or supply of controlled drugs in its properties.
- Redland will work in partnership with local authorities, drug action teams, local voluntary agencies and the Police to develop initiatives to combat the use of controlled drugs.
- Redland will use its powers to enforce the tenancy conditions that explicitly prohibit the selling or use of illegal drugs by tenants, people living with tenants or their visitors.
- Redlands' action will be determined according to the evidence available; for enforcement purposes this evidence will be based on the balance of probabilities rather than beyond all reasonable doubt.

- Redland will make use of hearsay evidence where necessary to encourage action against those using and/or supplying controlled drugs.
- Redland will liaise with the witness support agencies to give advice to those reporting the use or supply of controlled drugs.
- Redland will work with individuals and the wider community to encourage the reporting of the use and or supply of controlled drugs in its premises and on its estates.
- Referrals to support agencies for users will form an integral part of the enforcement process.
- Redland will not operate a 'blanket ban' on applicants who are drug users. However, if efforts to satisfy the Association that such use will cease are unsuccessful, the applicant will be considered under the exclusion and sensitive lettings aspects of our allocation policy.
- Redland will consider legal advice in relation to all proposed action, and particularly recognises the difficulties associated with the private use of class C drugs.

Application

- There is a procedure document describing how this policy is to be implemented covering the following:
 - **The legal position**
 - Details of drug classification
 - Procedure guidance for
 - Paraphernalia
 - Drug use
 - Drug supply
 - **Monitoring of cases**
 - **Rehousing**
 - **Evidence**
 - **Witnesses**
 - **Help line information**
 - **Tenancy conditions**

This policy is effective from: Feb 2006.
The policy is due for review by: Feb 2009
The responsible Officer is: Head of Housing
The responsible Focus Group is: