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COSHH stands for The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. The Regulations aim to protect people who come into contact with hazardous substances as part of their work. Under COSHH every employer must, by law, ensure that the exposure of employees to substances hazardous to health is either prevented or, where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled.

This organisation believes that, staff and service users within the organisation should be as safe as possible from the threat of harm, through coming into contact with chemicals or other dangerous substances. And that the best way to ensure this state of safety exists is to comply with the law as set out in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH).

This policy is intended to set out the values, principles and policies underpinning this organisation's approach to COSHH. By implementing COSHH guidelines thoroughly and fully the organisation aims to protect staff who come into contact with hazardous substances as part of their work. Such 'hazardous substances' include:


- substances or mixtures of substances classified as dangerous to health under the current CHIP Regulations, including chemicals classified as very toxic, toxic, harmful, irritant or corrosive, such as bleaches and cleaning agents
- any substance which has been assigned a maximum exposure limit or occupational exposure standard (as listed in the Health and Safety Executive's publication EH40 — Occupational Exposure Limits)
- substantial concentrations of airborne dust
- harmful micro-organisms

CHIP is the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002. The aim of CHIP is to ensure that people who are supplied with chemicals receive the information they need to protect themselves, others and the environment. To achieve this CHIP obliges suppliers of chemicals to identify their hazards (for example flammability, toxicity, etc.) and to pass on this information together with advice on safe use, usually by means of package labels and safety data sheets.

COSHH Policy

To comply with COSHH this organisation will:

- Ensure that the exposure of staff (or anyone else) in the organisation to hazardous or potentially hazardous substances is minimised and adequately controlled in all cases.
- Ensure that a COSHH risk assessment is carried out of all work in the organisation that involves exposure to hazardous substances as defined above. This includes regular assessments of the organisation's premises as well as assessments made during the initial health and safety assessments of service users' homes.

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- Ensure that COSHH assessments are reviewed and performed regularly or whenever there is a substantial modification to the work process.
- Ensure that all staff who come into contact with, or have to use hazardous substances in their work, receive comprehensive and adequate training and information and are issued with appropriate protective clothing or equipment.

All COSHH assessments should be based on the manufacturer and supplier's safety guidance, which accompanies most products. A file of such information will be kept in the main office.

The COSHH lead for the organisation is the registered manager.

The organization will support its COSHH assessments by using the HSE guidance pack, COSHH Essentials: Easy Steps To Control Hazardous Chemicals, which has been specially developed to help small firms carry out a COSHH assessment, to identify and implement action and to adequately control exposure to hazardous substances. The pack includes a step by step risk assessment guide and examples of good practice controls for common tasks. The COSHH pack will be kept in the office.

Health Surveillance

Where an assessment has shown it is necessary health surveillance and monitoring will be carried out. This might involve examinations by a doctor or trained nurse.

Training

All new staff should be encouraged to read the policy on COSHH as part of their induction process. Existing staff will be offered training to organisational standards covering basic information about health and safety. Staff expected to perform COSHH assessments will be offered suitable training for the role.

Reviewed:- 14th October 2025

S L Pickles

Director