

Droxford Community Hub CIC (DCH)

(trading as Wilfrid's Café)

DISCIPLINARY POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES

We will use this procedure to help and encourage all employees to achieve and maintain standards of conduct, attendance and job performance.

A disciplinary process can be stressful for everyone involved. Different people might respond differently to stressful situations. We understand the prospect of disciplinary action might cause distress and affect your mental health.

We will support you throughout to help avoid this happening to you. Please talk to your line manager about how we can support your wellbeing.

Principles

- We will consider informal action, where appropriate, to resolve problems.
- We will not take disciplinary action against you until the case has been fully investigated.
- For formal action we will advise you of the nature of the complaint against you and we will give you the opportunity to state your case before any decision is made at a disciplinary meeting.
- We will provide you, where appropriate, with written copies of evidence and relevant witness statements before a disciplinary meeting.
- You will not be dismissed for a first breach of discipline, except in the case of gross misconduct, when the penalty is dismissal without notice and without payment in lieu of notice.
- You have the right to appeal against any disciplinary action.
- The procedure may be used at any stage if your alleged misconduct needs this.

Your Right to be Accompanied

You have a statutory right to be accompanied by a companion where a disciplinary meeting could result in:

- a formal warning
- some other disciplinary action
- confirmation of a formal warning or other disciplinary action (for example, at an appeal hearing)

The right is to be accompanied by:

- someone you work with
- a parent or relative

Droxford Community Hub CIC (DCH)

Disciplinary Policy for Employees

You should tell us as soon as possible if you would like a companion and who they will be so we can make arrangements in good time.

If you need any reasonable adjustments, for example for a disability, speak to your line manager.

The Procedure

First stage of formal procedure: for unsatisfactory performance

- An improvement note for unsatisfactory performance if performance does not meet acceptable standards. This will set out the performance problem, the improvement that is required, the timescale, any help that may be given and the right of appeal. We will advise you that this is the first stage of the formal procedure. We will keep a record of the improvement note for three months, but it will then be considered spent – as long as you achieve and maintain satisfactory performance.

First stage of formal procedure: for misconduct

- A first warning for misconduct if conduct does not meet acceptable standards. This will be in writing and set out the nature of the misconduct, the change in behaviour required and the right of appeal. The warning will also tell you that a final written warning may be considered if there is no sustained satisfactory improvement or change. We will keep a record of the warning, but it will be disregarded for disciplinary purposes after three months.

Final written warning

- We might give you a final written warning if:
 - the offence is sufficiently serious
 - there is further misconduct
 - there is failure to improve performance while you're still under a prior warning

This will confirm the full details of the complaint, the improvement required and the timescale. It will also warn that failure to improve may lead to dismissal (or some other action short of dismissal) and will refer to the right of appeal.

The Chair of DCH will keep a copy of this written warning but it will be disregarded for disciplinary purposes after three months, as long as you achieve and maintain satisfactory conduct or performance.

Dismissal or other action

If there is still further misconduct or failure to improve performance the final step in the procedure may be dismissal.

You will be provided in writing with the:

- reasons for dismissal
- date your employment will end
- confirmation of all final payments you are owed, including holiday pay and notice pay

Droxford Community Hub CIC (DCH)

Disciplinary Policy for Employees

- right of appeal

If an action short of dismissal has been decided on, you will:

- receive confirmation of the full details of the complaint
- be warned that dismissal could result if there is no satisfactory improvement
- be advised of the right of appeal

Your line manager will keep a copy of the written warning but it will be disregarded for disciplinary purposes after three months as long as you achieve and maintain satisfactory conduct or performance.

Gross misconduct

The following list provides some examples of offences which are normally regarded as gross misconduct:

- theft or fraud
- physical violence
- bullying
- deliberate and serious damage to property
- serious misuse of an organisation's property or name
- deliberately accessing internet sites containing pornographic, offensive or obscene material
- serious insubordination
- discrimination, harassment including sexual harassment or victimisation
- bringing the organisation into serious disrepute
- causing loss, damage or injury through serious negligence
- a serious breach of health and safety rules
- a serious breach of confidence

We might consider suspending you while carrying out a disciplinary investigation if there's a serious issue or situation. Suspension is when we tell you to temporarily stop working. You would be on full pay throughout any suspension period.

We will consider each situation carefully before deciding to suspend you. Suspension will not be needed for most investigations. Suspension does not mean you have done anything wrong and will not be used to discipline you.

We understand being suspended might be stressful so we will:

- only suspend you if there's no other option
- support you throughout the suspension period, always considering your mental health and wellbeing

Appeals

If you want to appeal against a disciplinary decision, you must do so within seven days. The Chair of DCH will hear all appeals and their decision is final.

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Approval

Approved by:.....(Name)

Signed..... Date

(Chair of DCH)

Review

The effectiveness of this policy and associated arrangements will be reviewed at least biennially in response to new legislation, policies or guidance or specific demand and feedback, under the direct supervision of the DCH Board of Directors.

Date of next review: June 2028