



Skylight Psychiatry

Autism, ADHD and Mental Health Specialists

Environment Policy

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Skylight Psychiatry Ltd is trading as **Skylight Psychiatry**

Introduction

Skylight Psychiatry recognises the need to address environmental issues whilst ensuring the highest standards of care, treatment and training continue to be delivered in all areas of its operations. Increasing concern about the environment and the associated environmental legislation mean that environmental management issues are also a priority of the group.

The term 'Environmental Management' will encompass the following within Skylight Psychiatry:

- (a) Utilities management: ensuring efficient use of all utilities and achieving improvements in utility efficiency
- (b) Activities that cause, or could cause, environmental harm through contamination of land (storage of hazardous products, use of measures to prevent land contamination)
- (c) Managing land use and ecology at any of our properties in a manner that preserves or enhances natural ecological or heritage features
- (d) Waste management: fulfilling the duty of care and identifying opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of waste across Skylight Psychiatry
- (e) Transport management
- (f) Managing suppliers and contractors in a manner that reduces or minimises their environmental impact and the environmental impact of the products or services
- (g) Ensuring protection of the environment is considered under all circumstances including on-site emergencies.

Responsibilities

Chief Executive (in the absence of a chief executive, the Registered Manager) –

Skylight Psychiatry's Chief Executive has overall responsibility for the environmental performance of the group, and for ensuring that environmental issues are effectively addressed and resourced within the company.

All Colleagues – Each colleague is required to adhere to the requirements of the Environmental Policy and any environmental procedures subsequently introduced. Colleagues are required to participate in training programmes and initiatives, where requested to do so.

Purpose

Skylight Psychiatry acknowledges responsibility to protect the environment while delivering our role as a health care provider.

We will apply this policy to all existing and new activities as they become operational and will aim to minimise pollution and adhere to relevant legislation across all of the group functions.

This policy will be made available all sites and recognised stakeholders in Skylight Psychiatry and all Skylight Psychiatry's colleagues, employees and associates.

Objectives

Adopt an approach of 'reduce, re-use and recycle' in its consumption of resources with sustainability being a key element as the business develops.

Minimise the production of waste and dispose of all wastes, which are not practicable for recycling, through safe and reasonable methods.

Educate, inform and instruct colleagues to enable them to complete their tasks with increased environmental awareness and decreased environmental detriment.

Commit to the minimisation of the pollution of air, land and water.

Continue to promote the efficient use of energy and water resources and where viable invest in energy-saving technology and management.

Follow relevant national campaigns to address individual areas, such as 'single use plastics' and 'disposable' items, through thoughtful purchasing as far as possible within individual services.

Operation

Waste – Under environmental legislation, Skylight Psychiatry has a duty of care on all waste that it generates (clinical and non-clinical). Skylight Psychiatry is responsible for the collection and safe storage of clinical waste prior to collection and for employing competent contractors for its safe disposal. Under Environmental legislation employers must ensure that waste is transferred only by authorised persons, waste is described accurately, safe disposal of waste is ensured and records of waste consignments are kept. In addition sites must take measures to recycle materials wherever practicable.

Skylight Psychiatry adopts an electronic approach to record keeping and documentation is stored electronically and only printed on request of a service user or as a reasonable adjustment or required by legislation or policy. There is a system in place for disposal of confidential waste with a third party, details of which are available from the Registered Manager.

Skylight Psychiatry does not routinely perform medical procedures and therefore clinical waste is extremely rare. Where it is produced it will be handled in accordance with local protocols for clinical waste disposal.

Energy and Utilities Management – Skylight Psychiatry uses utilities (electricity, gas, oil and water). As well as financial implications, their use will also have an impact on the environment. Skylight Psychiatry has identified measures to improve its management of utilities. Measures include the implementation of an Environment Policy, supported by local environmental procedures, plus service Health & Safety Advisors.

Air – Activities carried out by Skylight Psychiatry will result in emissions to air, some of which may present an environmental risk. Activities may include:

- (a) Burning of fossil fuels in boilers and generators
- (b) Chemicals, reagents and biological hazards used in diagnostic areas (e.g. blood testing)
- (c) Activities that cause excessive noise, dust or odour.

Skylight Psychiatry is committed to the minimisation of air pollution where identified and will always promptly remedy the situation.

Water – Skylight Psychiatry will minimise where practicable water consumption with water further monitored and controlled if unreasonable use is suspected or reported.

Transport – Through the use of vehicles by Skylight Psychiatry colleagues, as well as children or young people and visitors to services, Skylight Psychiatry has an impact on the environment.

Where possible, services are provided virtually and the majority of Skylight Psychiatry services are provided in this manner, resulting in reduced need for use of vehicles.

Decision making about frequency of office working will be taken into consideration for the impact on the environment.

Emergencies – Skylight Psychiatry must consider its impact on the environment in the event of an on-service emergency. Such events could include fire and spillage of clinical, cleaning or maintenance products. Wherever possible, such events will be avoided through preventative measures including training of personnel and maintenance of high-risk installations (e.g. fuel and oil storage facilities). Local health and safety policies should be made available to all staff accessing a service site.

Compliance – Monthly Clinical Governance meetings will consider the service's response to the objectives detailed in this policy.

References

Building Regulations 2010
Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
Clean Air Act 1993
Environment Act 1995
Environmental Protection Act 1990
Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005
Noise and Statutory Nuisances Act 1993
The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000
The Controlled Waste (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2002
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999
Water Industry Act 1991
Water Resources Act 1991