

# Norwich Housing Society

## SMOKE FREE POLICY

### **Purpose**

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, residents, service users and visitors from exposure to second hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006. In July 2007 the English government passed a new law which makes it illegal for anyone to smoke in an enclosed public place and within the workplace. This ensures that everyone can use the train station, eat in a restaurant or shop etc. without suffering the negative effects of second-hand smoke.

### **Policy**

It is the policy of Norwich Housing Society that all our workplaces are smoke free. All employees have a right to work in a smoke free environment.

### **Smoking in Communal Areas**

It is against the law to smoke in internal communal areas. The Society displays appropriate signage in all communal areas which can be used by tenants, guests, visitors, contractors or staff. Local councils are responsible for enforcing the law and anyone who smokes in a communal area could face a fine. In addition tenants and their visitors should also refrain from smoking in a communal area where smoke may enter the building or where residents and visitors may congregate e.g. the communal gardens. Areas adjacent to public footpaths, open windows, entrances and neighbour's gardens should also be avoided.

Please respect the law and the right of others by **not smoking in communal areas.**

The Society will not provide facilities for smokers such as smoking shelters at any of its schemes.

### **Smoking in your home**

We accept that tenants have every legal right to smoke in their own homes. We ask that tenants protect their safety and the safety of others by ensuring that cigarettes are always fully extinguished.

The Society's staff and contractors are not permitted to smoke while visiting tenants in the course of their duties. We recognise that staff and contractors are entitled to be protected from the potentially harmful effects of smoke while they are carrying out their jobs and we would

therefore ask tenants not to smoke while staff and contractors are in their properties.

Cigarette smoking damages the internal decoration of property which can result in considerably increased costs to the Society. With effect from 2016, new tenants who smoke will be required to contribute to this increased cost by making an additional monthly payment of £30. A maximum contribution of £1,800 could be payable. All contributions made are non-refundable. This includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vaping and e-cigarettes.

**Further information**

If a person is concerned about an individual or public place / workplace not adhering to the laws surrounding a smoke free England you may call 0800 587 1667.