

## **26. WELFARE AND DRUGS POLICY**

### **Welfare**

26.1 Welfare will be overseen by **TBC** and will be based in the site as shown on the plan.

This area will be primarily for individuals who need assistance either due to fatigue or are seen to be in distress.

### **Underage Entrants**

26.2 Challenge 25 is operated at the search marquee. Any persons considered to be under the age of 18 and cannot prove otherwise will not be allowed access to the event. The event is publicised as an over 18's show. If there is any concern about the welfare of an underage person presenting themselves at the gate the Incident Response Manager will attend and decide on an appropriate course of action. See also Appendix N - Safeguarding Policy.

### **Drugs Policy**

#### **Introduction**

26.3 Security operatives enable the organisers to provide a robust anti-drug policy. We will employ a strict search at the entrance with body searches made by SIA licensed staff.

Amnesty bins will be positioned prior to the search lanes on entry. Customers will have the opportunity to dispose of any illegal substances prior to entering the search area. They will enter from the 'Disney' queueing lanes, into a sterile zone where the drugs detection dogs will be located. Any person who is indicated by the dog, will be taken to the enhanced search area where they will have the chance to voluntarily give up any illegal substance. If they are then searched and any substance is found, they will then be evicted from the site (pending any age/vulnerability issues that may preclude this). If the search is negative, they will be escorted back to the search lanes.

Amnesty bins will also be located on the search lane tables for any other items precluded from the event site and as a last opportunity for customers to dispose of anything illegal.

Security will be stationed inside the venue with patrols looking out for drug dealing, with searches being carried out if suspicious activity is spotted.

The Metropolitan Police will collect the amnesty bin contents (**TBC**) except NO2 canisters which will be separated. This will be undertaken by the Metropolitan Police staff present.

The event organiser will have a suitable secure storage location for amnesty bin contents should there be a delay in collection.

There will be a 100% general search (see search policy app O) application of bag searching and body pat-down checks in the search tent, unless a major incident dictates the public need to be quickly moved from danger. Should there be a change from this 100% policy, the position will be reviewed by Event Control, in consultation with the Responsible Authorities as necessary.

Security have experience with similar events, and are vigilant with the general welfare and safeguarding of everyone attending. Any person who they have concerns with will be checked and if necessary action will be taken following their own guidelines for the event that will have been agreed by the event organisers.



### **Purpose**

26.4 The purpose of this policy is to show how we plan to prevent drug dealing taking place at the event, how we are going to minimise drug use and how we plan to safeguard our customers if they have taken drugs.

### **Staff And The Drugs Policy:**

26.5 There are two main groups of staff dealing with the implementation of the drug policy: Security and Medical. All staff will keep a pro-active watch and report anything to either Security or Medical Control.

26.6 Security have set procedures when dealing with drug searching, discovery and welfare and these are set out in their Stewarding document for the event and will be in line with the policy set out in the ESMP appendices - search/safeguarding policy etc. All security personnel are briefed on these procedures and all SIA staff are first aid trained. This is only a support should additional medical assistance be required.

Experience and training, when confronting and apprehending drug dealers and takers means that every situation is dealt with taking their own health and safety plus that of the public around them into consideration.

### **Communicating The Drug Policy To Customers:**

26.7 There will be signage at the entrance stating that search is a condition of entry. We also deliver social media posts and info mailers out to customers 'rave safe' with general welfare info and information regarding searching and advice to refrain

from bringing illegal or prohibited items to the event.

26.8 Amnesty bins are supported by the local Police. They will be used for this event under the guidance of the Metropolitan Police Service.

26.9 Free drinking water will be available on all bars upon request. Signs are visibly displayed on the bars.

26.10 The information point is also a point of contact for people with any concerns. Our staff will take the necessary measures acting on any information given.

26.11 There are large numbers of SIA staff at the search lanes searching people for prohibited items.

### **Preventing Drugs And Weapons Entering The Venue: Searching and confiscation**

26.12 Persons entering the Festival site including traders, staff, artists and members of the public are all liable to be searched by SIA security staff.

26.13 In certain circumstances, where there is evidence to suspect possession of contraband goods by site traders, staff, artists or members of the public, they may be requested to submit to a search of vehicles and personal property.

Refusal to be searched could lead to a person being evicted from site by security following the event/festival eviction procedure. Additionally, traders' vehicles will be searched prior to the site opening.

26.14 If there is intelligence to suspect that a person may be in possession of 'prohibited articles' the search will only be conducted by SIA licensed staff.

26.15 If any prohibited items are located on a person, or in a vehicle in possession of the person being searched, the following options should be considered:-

- i) Refuse entry.
- ii) The person to surrender the specified 'contraband' property against a receipt and entering or remaining on the site, signing a disclaimer for destruction.
- iii) Confiscation of the property and eviction from site.

26.16 Should a weapon be found on a person or a weapon be seen being placed into the amnesty bin by a person then security will detain that person and may request the attendance of the Police.

### **Procedure for dealing with drug seizures from a person by Security Staff**

26.17 All drug discoveries no matter how minor must be dealt with by the following procedures:

The drugs must be sealed in a tamper-proof forensic science drug bag, wherever possible in the presence of a corroborating officer/member of security staff as well as the suspect (this will help to avoid any allegations being made against the person seizing the suspected substances).

The person seizing must record on the bag the physical appearance of the substance and what they suspect it to be, e.g. *“A fifty-pence sized piece of brown resinous substance suspected to be cannabis resin”* or *“A small re-sealable clear plastic bag containing a small amount of white powder”*. In addition, record who they have seized the substance from, sign the bag and invite the suspect to also. The corroborating officer/member security staff must also sign.

Complete searching the individual and consider searching those in their company. Often a dealer will carry a small amount of the drug leaving an associate to hold the larger quantity.

Initial responsibility for the handling of minor controlled drugs possession will lie with the security company who will instigate seizure, initial enquiries and the decision-making process relating to the eviction policy.

Should the security company identify a potential ‘drugs dealer’ Event control will be informed.

They will consider whether the police should be called and will consider if there are any aggravating factors such as the person's age, demeanour, level of intoxication etc.

### **Preventing Drug Dealing At The Venue**

26.18 All security staff will be vigilant for any signs of drug dealing. Security staff are positioned at every entrance and exit, by every bar, toilet areas and there are also mobile foot patrols and undercover/covert patrol teams. The toilets will be patrolled at regular intervals by teams checking for drug dealers.

As well as every entrance and exit gate being manned, there are also a number of perimeter fence patrols around the whole event site. A drugs dog will undertake a sweep of the fence line for any secreted drugs and will be present at the front gate.

### **Process for Security staff finding drugs other than on a person**

26.19 If suspected drugs are found other than in the possession of a person, the Security staff will carry out the procedure detailed above but in addition, they must clearly mark the bag explaining how the item was seized.

### **Keeping Drug-Using Customers Safe:**

26.20 All security staff and ambulance staff will stay vigilant looking out for anyone suffering the effects of taking drugs.

26.21 on-site there is a Welfare room, medical room, two ambulances and foot patrols all handled by [TBC](#) who are trained, medical staff.

26.22 Free drinking water is available on all bars upon request.

26.23 Anyone feeling poorly can be monitored in the welfare room until their condition improves. The Welfare room is fitted out with seats, mattresses, bottles of water and a radio to control. Any person in the welfare room is asked to stay there until the staff are sufficiently satisfied with their condition to let them leave. If their behaviour is deemed as threatening to the members of staff, Security will assist by staffing the room, and at the same time will actively try to contact either the person's friends or family.

**Dealing With Emergencies:**

26.24 Any medical emergencies will be dealt with by TBC, who would constantly inform control of the situation. Depending on the circumstances they may then instruct security and others to assist with the situation.

**Record Keeping**

26.25 Security will be keeping a full record of confiscations made.

26.26 Medical keeps records of any incidents requiring medical attention.