



FRIENDS THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY TRUST

TRANSPORT SAFETY POLICY

It is our policy to take all reasonable steps to manage the health and safety of those staff that commute and drive on Trust business. This is to comply with our legal duties as an employer and to demonstrate that we have taken all reasonable steps to introduce safe systems of work. It is for this reason that our Policy not only sets out our procedures on work-related driving, but details what we expect from our staff and locum staff; both in terms of complying with relevant legislation and our own standards. These cover a variety of areas including the documentation that we need to see from own-car drivers, as well as basic guidelines on driver health.

Legal position

We have a duty under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA) to take steps as far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those who need to drive as part of their job. In order to comply with these duties, we will take steps to set up safe systems of work in order to control and manage any risks, which cannot be eliminated. These will be identified by the carrying out of a suitable and sufficient risk assessment as required by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (as amended). Where applicable, this policy is also based on relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Road Safety Act 2006.

Procedures

In order to comply with our legal duties, we have introduced a set of procedures. These are to be followed by staff at all times and are as follows:

- All Trust vehicles are robustly maintained and checked weekly providing they are available, by the Facilities and Safety Manager or Maintenance Team in his absence.
- Managers are required to ensure number of working hours are considered prior to undertaking driving activities, risk management procedures need to be applied.
- Vehicle drivers are responsible for ensuring Trust vehicles are in a roadworthy condition and comply with this Transport Policy before embarking on any journey.
- Before Trust vehicles are driven by members of staff, their current valid UK approved full driving licence must be provided for the HR and Training Officer to inspect and take a copy.

This is to satisfy the Trust that the member of staff will be allowed to use trust vehicles under its insurance policies.

- Only members of staff with D1 Classification are permitted to drive the mini-bus. They are required to have satisfactorily completed the MIDAS training to the recommended standard. A monitoring process will also take place to ensure continued suitability. MIDAS training is provided onsite.
- MIDAS approved drivers will have their Licence details checked every 6 months, all others will be undertaken annually by License Check Ltd.
- All staff driving Trust vehicles can be requested to undertake MPV Observation/Certification training to MIDAS recommended standards.
- Trust vehicles are required to be available for use for transporting the resident group ahead of any other business required by staff of the Trust.
- The Trust is required to share any driving convictions with their insurance provider.
- Any MIDAS driver accumulating more than 6 penalty points will be immediately suspended from driving the minibus until points are removed, all drivers receiving or holding more than 6 penalty points will have their Trust driving approval reviewed by the SMT.
- If a Trust vehicle is provided, available and suitable, staff must always use this in the first instance for transporting residents.
- All journeys must be risk assessed before being undertaken, a vast majority will be included in the standard risk assessment. Longer or more complex journeys will require their own risk assessment. Assistance with this process should be obtained from the Clinical Director or Facilities and Health & Safety Manager.
- When using a Trust vehicle report any suspected vehicle defects in the maintenance file located in the front office, also report directly to the Facilities and Health & Safety Manager or responsible person on site at that time. In the event that a defect is suspected, staff should never take a risk and attempt to drive a vehicle under any circumstances.
- If a member of staff uses their own vehicle, they will be required to maintain it in a suitable and safe roadworthy condition as specified by the manufacturer and sign a declaration detailing conditions of use.
- The Trust reserves the right to carry out or request periodic visual inspections of employees' own vehicles used for business purposes.
- If staff undertake a journey in their own vehicle that would exceed 300 miles, then consideration should be given to using a hire car in preference to their own vehicle. Please

contact the Facilities and Safety Manager in good time with their license and NI number.

- Before embarking on a journey, staff should always carry out basic checks as detailed on the FTCT vehicle diary, e.g. to check but not limited to light functions, horn, screen wash. For significant journeys oil, water levels, first aid provision and tyre pressures should also be checked.
- Staff should follow any advice given on route-planning. They should also ensure that 15 minute breaks are taken every **TWO HOURS** without exception to prevent fatigue, and allow sufficient journey time for any bad weather or traffic congestion, etc.
- Hand-held mobile phones or other such like devices are never to be used whilst driving and calls taken only once the vehicle has been placed in a stationary safe position with the engine switched off.
- All vehicle users are required to drive within statutory speed limits, not change any safety settings provided to alert drivers to excess speed and drive safely according to the prevailing weather and road conditions at all times.
- Before driving, staff should familiarise themselves with the vehicle and procedure to follow in the event of a breakdown or unexpected event.
- Smoking is not permitted at any time in any Trust vehicle or in any vehicle being used for Trust business by any driver or passenger.
- Eating and drinking whilst driving is not permitted at any time. The vehicle driver is responsible for ensuring all waste is collected before leaving any rest stop and Trust vehicles are left in a clean and tidy condition with no litter left in the vehicles at the end of every journey.
- All Staff are required to maintain fuel levels above 25% to ensure vehicles have suitable range in emergencies.
- Staff will be liable to pay for any fines incurred for motoring related offences whilst using any Trust or their own vehicle on Trust business.
- The Trust reserves the right to undertake disciplinary action if staff do not follow the Transport Policy and current Road Traffic Laws.

When borrowing Glebe House vehicles for personal use the following always applies:

- The needs of the Trust come first at all times.
- Agreement needs to be obtained from the Director or Facilities and Health & Safety Manager.

- Only staff employed by the Trust are permitted to drive Trust vehicles.
- The minibus is not to be used for personal use at any time.
- Details of duration and who has borrowed the vehicle to be put in the main diary with at least one day's notice.
- All mileage and destinations to be recorded in the vehicle diary.
- The vehicle to be topped up with sufficient diesel to cover the approximate MPG used and receipt provided to the Finance Officer.
- Any faults or damage to reported to the Director, Facilities and Health & Safety Manager or Duty Manager immediately.

Staff duties

Section 7 of the HSWA also places a responsibility on staff to assist us in complying with our legal duties. They are also required to be mindful of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their activities. To this end, staff are required to follow the procedures laid down in this policy and to:

- Keep their insurance up-to-date if using their own vehicle[s] for commuting and business use including business passengers.
- Keep the Trust advised of any address changes immediately.
- To maintain their vehicle as specified by the manufacturer in a safe and suitable road worthy condition at all times, including basic safety checks, i.e. coolant, oil, lights, screen wash etc. if their declaration states they will claim expenses or transport resident group at any time or for use on Trust business.
- To ensure their vehicle has a current valid MOT and vehicle excise duty.
- Make related documentation available for inspection within one week of the request being made.
- To ensure their photo card license is renewed well in advance of its expiry (this is a lawful requirement which has a potential £1000 fine)
- Inform the HR and Training Officer or Facilities and Safety Manager of any road safety issues or changes in circumstances, e.g. Fixed Penalty Notices, speed awareness courses, RTA's, other motoring offence or change of vehicle, etc. immediately when returning for their next normal working day.

- To ensure they have regular eye tests and that any advised correctional eye wear is used while driving.
- To keep themselves up-to-date of legislative changes which may affect driving for business purposes?
- Smoking is not permitted in staff members vehicles while on business use.
- Staff and residents have the right to refuse travel in a vehicle where smoking has taken place.
- Have some form of breakdown cover in place if their declaration states they will transport resident group at any time.
- To ensure that they are not under the influence of alcohol (night before included), illegal or prescription/over counter drugs or other substances that may impair their judgment cause drowsiness or ability to drive safely at any time.
- In the event an employee has a courtesy car or borrowed vehicle from an acquaintance they will ensure it is in a road worthy condition, supported by the required documentation should it be requested and they are fully insured to use as stated in their transport declaration. The Trust may request documentation for the vehicle if the employee continues to use the vehicle for more than a period of 7 days.
- The Trust reserves the right to monitor online data bases relating to vehicle information at any time. Driving license checks will be carried out on an annual basis or sooner if points have been applied.
- Staff must ensure any features provided for vehicle safety are not altered and are present and working at all times.
- During periods of inclement weather staff are required to follow advice given by the Trust and external providers
- To follow any risk management process put in place for staff regarding ill health or injury.

III-Health and driving

Staff are responsible for ensuring that they are physically fit to drive. Should this change, the Trust must be informed as soon as possible.

Drivers should also remember that some prescription and over the counter medication can cause drowsiness and affect the ability to drive safely. In the event that medication is necessary, staff should check with their GP or pharmacist before driving; even short distances.

Research suggests that a journey time of more than four hours could carry a risk of Deep Vein

Thrombosis (DVT), those who drive and are passengers regularly for long distances should advise us of any family history of DVT, or if they have ever experienced problems with blood clotting. Where this is the case, we will refer them to their GP in order to ensure that they are able to drive safely and without risk to their health and safety.

Monitoring

The Trust reserves the right to inspect documentation and question road worthiness of any vehicle used for Trust business purposes. In the event of evidence obtained that elements of a vehicle fall short of this policy, staff member's vehicles will be removed from the approved vehicle list, staff members may be subject to disciplinary procedures with measures implemented to protect the Trust.

Managers will have the opportunity to discuss at-work driving, including vehicle suitability and conditions of use with members of staff at monthly supervisory meetings or yearly appraisal meetings.

Failure to provide requested documentation within one week will result in the matter being placed into the supervision structure should no progress be made.

The Trust reserves the right to update the Transport Policy and monitoring process at any time.

Mobile phone/handheld device conditions of use

We are a responsible employer which takes the Health Safety and Welfare of our staff seriously. This sub category will apply to both drivers of Trust and private vehicles and will affect the use of mobile phones and other handheld devices, Trust owned or personal.

- It is now illegal to use a hand-held mobile phone whilst you are driving, stopped at traffic lights, in a traffic jam or in any other hold up. Hand-held phones may only be carried in the vehicle providing they are on silent or switched off and not checked during these periods.
- The only occasion under which a handheld mobile phone or other handheld device can be used whilst driving is to make a 999 emergency call, but only if it is NOT SAFE or PRACTICAL to stop to make the call.
- Calls may be made and messages retrieved when the vehicle is safely and securely parked with the engine switched off.
- Hands-free sets for mobile phones are legal to use. However, we expect all drivers to exercise their judgment in deciding when it is safe to make or receive phone calls. Drivers are required to retain full control of their vehicles at all times.

- Calls received to a hands-free mobile phone should be kept as short as possible allowing the vehicle to stop in a safe place to continue the call.
- Any breach[s] of the above conditions of use will be treated as a serious breach of Trust Policy and may be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Note: You can still be personally prosecuted for failing to drive without due care and attention, or for dangerous driving. Staff are liable to pay for any fines incurred for motoring related offences whilst using a Trust vehicle or their own vehicle while on Trust business and may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Policy Reviewed by:

Facilities and Safety Manager March 2019

FRIENDS THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY TRUST – USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES DECLARATION

The Trust has a policy of providing vehicles for use by staff members and these should be used in the first instance, however, appropriate use of private vehicles for Trust business may be required. The following conditions apply to **ALL STAFF** who commute to and from work and declare use of their vehicle for Trust business.

As a staff member of FTCT I **confirm/agree to:**

1. By signing the declaration **(a - b)** I hold a full driving licence (copy required) and agree to my driving licence being electronically checked on an annual basis or sooner if points have been applied OR MIDAS trained. (An electronic declaration will be sent to you to agree to before such checks are carried out).
2. By signing the declaration **(a-b)** all private vehicles I use for business purposes will have a valid MOT certificate and paid vehicle excise duty in place.
3. By signing the declaration **(a-b)** all private vehicles I use for business purposes are covered by a full insurance policy including general business use and transportation of the resident groups if required.
4. By signing the declaration **(a-b)** all private vehicles I use for business purposes are in a suitable, safe and maintained in a roadworthy condition as specified by the manufacturer.
5. By signing the declaration **(b)** of the intention to transport the resident group I confirm all private vehicles I use for business purposes will be serviced and maintained according to the manufacturer's inspection recommendations by a competent person.
6. By signing the declaration **(b)** I understand it is my responsibility to ensure suitable breakdown or emergency assistance cover is in place whilst using my private vehicle to transport members of the resident group.
7. Abide by the Trust's Transport Policy and confirm I have received a copy.
8. Make or agree to all related documentation checks (i.e. MOT, Car Tax, Insurance, etc.) be made available when requested to do so and agree to further checks being made on documentation supplied if deemed necessary by the Trust.

Staff found to be in breach of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

(a) I intend to **Use/Not use** my own vehicle(s) for Trust business and claim mileage. *(Delete as Required)*

(b) I intend to **Use/Not use** my own vehicle(s) for transportation of the Glebe House resident group. *(Delete as Required)*

(c) **Current Car Registration Number(s):**

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Signing this document, verifies that you have read and understood the policy and will adhere to it. This policy will be reviewed yearly or when any significant change is necessary.