

Energy Drink Prohibition Policy

Effective Date: [November 2025)

Applies To: All Staff, and Visitors

Location: All Children's Residential Homes Operated by Durham County Council

1. Purpose

To ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all children in our care by prohibiting the purchase, possession, and consumption of energy drinks within children's residential homes.

2. Policy Statement

Energy drinks are not suitable for children due to their high caffeine and sugar content, which can negatively impact physical and mental health. Therefore:

- **Energy drinks must never be purchased for or provided to children** under any circumstances.
- **Staff, and visitors are strictly prohibited from bringing energy drinks** into any children's home, whether for personal use or otherwise.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All employees (full-time, part-time, and temporary)
- Contractors
- Visitors
- Any individual present on the premises of a children's home

4. Definitions

- **Energy Drink:** Any beverage marketed as providing energy, typically containing high levels of caffeine, sugar, and other stimulants such as taurine, guarana, or ginseng. Examples include but are not limited to Red Bull, Monster, Rockstar, and similar products.

5. Procedures

5.1 Staff Responsibilities

- Ensure no energy drinks are brought into the home.
- Educate children on the health risks associated with energy drinks.

- Report any breaches of this policy to the Home Manager immediately.

5.2 Management Responsibilities

- Display signage in staff areas reminding personnel of this policy.
- Include this policy in staff induction and training programs.
- Monitor compliance and address violations promptly.

6. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Disciplinary action in accordance with the organization's disciplinary procedures.
- Removal from the premises for non-staff individuals.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation or best practice guidance.