

Coffee Morning Policy

Purpose

The purpose of our coffee mornings is to bring together the local community, raise awareness of eating disorders, and offer informal opportunities to learn about the work of Personalised Eating Disorder Support (PEDS). These sessions are open, welcoming spaces where anyone with an interest in our work can join us for a hot drink and a chat in a relaxed, non-clinical setting.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, attendees, and anyone representing or engaging with PEDS during a coffee morning.

Guiding Principles

- **Community Focus:** Coffee mornings are community engagement events and not a substitute for clinical sessions.
- **Accessibility:** These events are free to attend and open to the general public, including carers, professionals, supporters, and those interested in learning about PEDS.
- **Boundaries:** These sessions are not clinical. Attendees should not expect or request individual clinical advice, support, or assessments during the event.
- **Safeguarding:** The safety and well-being of attendees and staff are paramount. All safeguarding concerns will be managed in line with PEDS Safeguarding Policy.

Attendance Guidelines

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- Patients currently accessing PEDS support are welcome to attend in a social capacity but should not use the event as an opportunity to seek additional clinical input.
- Staff attending will maintain professional boundaries and will not engage in clinical discussions or assessments during coffee mornings.
- If a patient or member of the public raises a concern that may require follow-up, staff will signpost appropriately and arrange a follow-up via the usual channels (e.g. contacting the clinical team or admin to schedule an appointment).

Pets As Therapy (PAT) Dogs

On some occasions, a registered Pets As Therapy (PAT) dog may be in attendance at PEDS Coffee Mornings. The presence of the dog is intended to offer comfort and therapeutic benefit to attendees. However, PEDS recognises the need to balance this with the comfort and safety of all visitors.

PEDS and the PAT dog owner will ensure:

- The attendance of the PAT dog is clearly advertised in advance through posters, social media, and/or email reminders.
- Visitors are informed upon arrival that a PAT dog is present on the premises.
- A designated section of the room is provided for the PAT dog and handler, allowing the rest of the space to remain dog-free for those who prefer not to engage with the animal.
- The PAT dog will remain on a lead and under the control of the registered handler at all times.

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Safeguarding Considerations:

- The presence of the PAT dog will be risk-assessed in line with PEDS' safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Any safeguarding concerns, adverse reactions, or incidents will be addressed in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy and recorded where appropriate.
- Visitors will be supported to express any needs or concerns in confidence.

Staffing and Supervision

- Coffee mornings will be staffed by a minimum of two team members, at least one of whom will be safeguarding trained.
- A named staff lead will be responsible for each event, ensuring that safeguarding and conduct policies are followed.

Conduct

- All attendees are expected to treat one another with kindness and respect.
- Disruptive or inappropriate behaviour may result in being asked to leave the event, and further action will be taken if needed in line with PEDS' organisational policies.

Promotion and Messaging

All promotional materials (posters, social media, website) will include the following disclaimer:

Conduct

- All attendees are expected to treat one another with kindness and respect.

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- Disruptive or inappropriate behaviour may result in being asked to leave the event, and further action will be taken if needed in line with PEDS' organisational policies.

Promotion and Messaging

All promotional materials (posters, social media, website) will include the following disclaimer:

“PEDS Coffee Mornings are informal, community events and not clinical sessions. If you are receiving support from PEDS, please speak to your clinician or contact our admin team to arrange clinical support.”

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