

Keeping Young Epilepsy safe for all

Our aim is for all Young Epilepsy Groups and Activities to be safe and inclusive spaces where all young people, volunteers/young reps and staff feel respected, safe and understood

To help us achieve this we have a group agreement, a procedure for managing young people who may break these ground rules and a procedure with guidelines for managing issues between young people.

We have an expectation that all young people, volunteers, and staff to agree to these and support us in Keeping Young Epilepsy youth groups Safe for All.

Young Epilepsy Group Agreement

All members of Young Epilepsy Youth Project, young people, volunteers/young reps, members of staff help create a safe space for each other by agreeing to the following:

1. Treating each other with respect.
2. Respecting confidentiality.
3. Welcoming and including new people to Young Epilepsy.
4. Being understanding of each other's differences.
5. Not using sexually inappropriate language or innuendos.
6. Not taking photos or making video calls during groups.
7. Avoiding getting involved in gossip of any kind.
8. Respect each other's personal space and boundaries.
9. Not using Young Epilepsy as a romantic space.
10. Not swearing or using violent, bullying, or abusive behaviour/language.
11. Not using drugs and/or alcohol before or during sessions.
12. Ensuring the only appropriate online content is being viewed/used.
13. Not making assumptions about anyone's gender identity or sexual orientation. We are an Epilepsy Youth Project.
14. Young people attending are not to contact each other privately outside of group unless consent has been given by parents and that young epilepsy staff have been notified.

These are our priority ground rules but there may be other behaviours not covered that may require action if Young Epilepsy feel at any time anyone taking part in the group is made to feel unsafe.

What happens if the ground rules get broken?

If a young person breaks the ground rules it may make staff, volunteers or young people feel unsafe and if this happens it may be necessary to take the following actions.

1. If a young person breaks the ground rules, they will receive a warning from a member of staff.
2. If a young person consistently or seriously breaks ground rules or makes the drop-in / group / activity unsafe they will be asked to leave that session immediately.
3. Young people who are asked to leave a session will be contacted by a staff member and will be required to attend a one-to-one session with a staff member to review the situation and see when/whether it is possible for them to return to Young Epilepsy.
4. In cases of serious misconduct, Young Epilepsy staff may decide that groups are not appropriate for a young person and they will be 'suspended' for a period of time to be decided by staff at Young Epilepsy.
5. If the young epilepsy staff identify that someone in the group is posing an immediate risk, they will be removed from the group without notice and placed in a breakout room with a member of staff.

In most cases their situation will be reviewed on a regular basis to see if the situation has changed and they can return.

Managing issues with other young people

1. Young Epilepsy staff will deal with it directly by speaking to the young people involved together.
2. If speaking to them directly does not get things resolved, in some circumstances we may be able to offer a mediation where a Youth Worker talks with you both to try and help resolve the issue.
3. If you do not feel able to resolve the issue directly with the young person, you may wish to make an 'informal complaint' to a Youth Worker who, if necessary, may deal with the issue for you
4. You may feel this issue is so serious that it requires a 'formal complaint'. If this is the case, please speak to a Youth Worker who will inform you of the formal complaint's procedure.