



GUYANA POLICE FORCE ACADEMY DRUG POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Guyana Police Force Academy provides an enabling environment that caters for the well-being for all students, facility, and staff. This goal cannot be achieved without addressing the critical issue of drug use within the Academy, communities and country at large. Recognizing the complex realities surrounding drug use, a Drug Policy became necessary for promoting safety, integrity, and healthy lifestyles in keeping with the Laws of Guyana, Police Act, Chapter 16:01, Police Standing Order No.20, the Public Service Rules and Occupation Safety and Health (OSH) Standards.

1.2 This policy is a collaborative effort that embodies our shared values of responsibility, empathy, and support. It acknowledges the potential impact of drug use on individuals and the community, while simultaneously emphasizing compassion, education, and support for those struggling with substance misuse.

2. OBJECTIVE

2.1 The objective of this policy is to provide the Guyana Police Force Academy with a multi-faceted approach to prevent and tackle drug use among students and staff. This can be achieved through education, awareness campaigns and posters.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 The Guyana Police Force Academy is committed to fostering future officers who serve with integrity and protect the Guyanese people. The Academy trains Officers who is committed to advancing safety and well-being through a comprehensive and responsible approach to drug policy. This policy recognizes the complex realities of drug use within Guyana, prioritizing education, harm reduction, and community collaboration alongside effective law enforcement and contemporary policing principles.

3.2 Core Principles:

- **Evidence-Based Decision Making:** The Academy's approach is grounded in research and best practices, ensuring informed and effective strategies for addressing drug-related issues.
- **Public Health Focus:** The Guyana Police Force Academy recognized the negative health and social consequences of drug use and will continue to prioritize initiatives that promote the wellbeing of individuals and the communities at large.

4. SCOPE

4.1 The Academy will maintain a drug-free environment. The use of substances such as; alcohol, non-prescription, and illegal drugs is strictly forbidden for students and staff of the Academy while in or away from the Academy.

4.2 An impromptu random drug/alcohol test will be conducted during the course of the study for all staff and students.

4.3 Any violations of the Guyana Police Force Academy Drug Policies and Regulations will lead to disciplinary action, including but not limited to warnings, corrective actions, and/or dismissals.

4.4 Public Safety and Well-being:

- **Reduce drug-related crime:** This includes curbing drug trafficking and associated violence, reducing public fear and promoting security within communities through the training and development.
- **Minimize health risks:** Promote responsible drug use practices and harm reduction strategies to lessen the negative health consequences of drug use on individuals and communities.
- **Foster societal resilience:** Empower communities to address drug-related issues through collaboration and education, leading to a more robust and adaptable social fabric.

4.4 Effective Law Enforcement:

- **Target illegal drug trade:** Disrupt and dismantle organized crime networks involved in drug trafficking, distribution, and production through training and development.
- **Enforce laws fairly and justly:** Uphold legal frameworks related to drug offenses while avoiding discrimination and promoting ethical conduct within the police force.
- **Build trust and collaboration:** Enhance cooperation with international and local authorities to effectively combat drug trafficking and share best practices.

4.5 Public Health and Recovery:

- **Increase access to treatment and rehabilitation:** Advocate for and facilitate greater availability of quality addiction treatment and recovery programs for individuals struggling with drug use.
- **Promote public health resources:** Support and partner with organizations providing harm reduction services, such as needle exchange programs and overdose prevention training.
- **Reduce stigma and discrimination:** Encourage dialogue and understanding of drug use as a public health issue rather than solely a criminal concern.

4.6 Knowledge and Awareness:

- **Educate police officers:** Equip officers with comprehensive training on drug-related issues, including harm reduction, identification, and intervention strategies.
- **Raise public awareness:** Conduct community outreach programs to educate the public about the dangers of drug use and available resources for support.
- **Promote evidence-based decision-making:** Gather and analyze data on drug-related issues to inform policy decisions and ensure effectiveness of implemented strategies.

4.7 Continuous Improvement:

- **Adapt to evolving trends:** Regularly review and adjust the policy based on emerging drug trends, research findings, and best practices in the field.
- **Promote transparency and accountability:** Foster open communication and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure responsible and effective implementation of the policy.
- **Maintain commitment:** Uphold the core principles of the policy through ongoing training, resource allocation, and leadership support at all levels within the Guyana Police Force.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

5.1 The Force Training Officer, Commandants, Quality Management Committee, and Instructors management will ensure strict compliance of this policy in accordance with the Police Standing Orders, Laws of Guyana, local and international accreditation standards, and best practices.

6. REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 The Force Training Officer will report to the Quality Management Committee, Training Board, and the Executive Leadership Team.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

7.1 This policy came into effect on November 24, 2023.

8. REVIEW PERIOD

8.1 A review of this policy will be conducted annually. The review will be conducted by the Training Board. The results of the review will be shared with the relevant stakeholders and necessary changes to the policy will be implemented based on the review.

9. REVISION DATE

9.1 Revised on February 2024.

10.0 APPROVAL OF POLICY

10.1 This policy was approved by the Guyana Policy Force Executive Leadership Team and the Guyana Police Force Academy Training Board.