**The Hut York Accessibility Policy**

## **Policy brief & purpose**

Our charity accessibility policy outlines our provisions for anyone that accesses our service. We want to make our premises, services, products and equipment available to as many people as we can respecting their individual needs, dignity, independence and equal opportunity.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all prospective or current members of the service as well as contractors and visitors. The policy takes into consideration those who possess a disability of any kind that restricts them in various ways.

**Policy elements**

We have taken actions to ensure that people with disabilities will be able to move about safely and easily and make full use of our facilities. Unfortunately, however being the type of service we are, we can’t accommodate everybody even despite the reasonable adjustments in place. There may be times where we cannot accept a new member and have to cancel bookings due to the safety of themselves and other around.

Room Capacity – The Studio has a maximum capacity of 22 people. If there are wheelchairs however, this number decreases due to the space taken up. The Hubble has a maximum capacity of 14 or that number decreases to 10 when there are 2 wheelchairs.

* Wheelchairs – The Studio has a maximum of 3 wheelchairs at one time. The Hubble has a maximum of 2. This is in line with our fire policy which details that wheelchair users will be positioned nearer to the front door to aid their exit. As well as this all those that require assistance being moved from their wheelchair to go to the toilet, they must be accompanied by a support staff as staff are not trained in manual handling or delivering personal care and the premises has no hoist.
* Physical impairments such as visual and hearing – Any members with physical impairments need to be accompanied by a support staff as we do not provide personal care/direct support.
* Permanent/temporary injuries – Minor injuries we can make reasonable adjustments for, although some injuries that may affect mobility in a severe way, we may not be able to accommodate. For those on crutches we will assess on a case by case basis.
* Strollers – At The Hut we have a limited amount of space, we would encourage that if you can please don’t bring them but if it is a necessity then we do have limited space to store strollers whilst at our service.
* Guide Dogs/Assisted Dogs – Unfortunately we don’t permit dogs at The Hut due to our members lack of understanding. Many wouldn’t comprehend that these dogs are working and may become distracted easily preventing the dog from performing its duties. From time to time there may be a dog present which has been agreed by the service manager.
* Alcohol and Drug use – We don’t accept anyone on our premises that is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We have a zero-tolerance policy if any member

**Other conditions are subject to the charities judgement and will be considered individually.**

We have several provisions for people with disabilities. We have:

* Placed a ramp at The Hubble entrance to facilitate the movements of wheelchairs.
* 2 disabled toilets on site, 1 in each building
* Anyone in a wheelchair that attends regularly has a PEEPS to ensure their safety in the event of evacuation
* Room layout has been tweaked so there is plenty of space for wheelchairs to get around the building

We encourage anyone who encounters any problems or doesn’t understand our policy to get in touch with the service manager and we can further clarify. You can contact 01904652991 or email emmalittle@thehutyork.co.uk

Policy written by George Smith and Emma Little

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