

## **PUBLIC ACCESS - ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

For the Internet in your block to work in a way that suits most of the users, all users need to stick to some rules and behaviours when using it. These rules are usually contained or referred to in the relevant terms and conditions governing the particular Internet service, as well as the law.

To help users have a better understanding of what is and is not acceptable when using the Internet, and to help you get the best out of the Internet, Stockport Homes Group has developed this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

### **ILLEGAL AND INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES**

#### **YOU MUST:**

- comply with the relevant laws that apply in the UK. You should also be mindful of the fact that the Internet is a worldwide service and is regulated by the laws of many different countries. Material which is legal in this country may be illegal in another and vice versa.

#### **YOU MUST NOT:**

- by using the service, download, possess or transmit in any way, illegal material (for example indecent images of children).
- send, publish, distribute, circulate or otherwise propagate any material that may be deemed to be grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene nature or menacing in character, or discriminatory (including but not limited to racist, homophobic or sexist material).
- send, with the intention of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety a message that you know to be false, defamatory or misrepresentative to others.
- gain or attempt to gain unauthorised access to any computer systems for any purpose, including use of anonymisers to disguise identity or activities.
- infringe the rights of others, including the right of privacy and copyright (an example would be downloading/sharing, without permission of the copyright owner, protected material such as music/video files, software or games).
- intentionally or unwittingly participate in the sending of unsolicited email (spam), bulk or otherwise.
- send email which has forged header information, nor should you attempt to impersonate any other individual or organisation.

Many of these activities could result in legal action leading to a fine, term of imprisonment or both.

Parents and carers must ensure children/young people in their household or visiting their household understand the conditions stated above and act responsibly. Parents and carers are responsible for setting appropriate filters on devices accessed by children and young people to ensure they are not exposed to inappropriate and/or harmful materials.

## **FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Any online financial transactions, using credit/debit cards, are undertaken at the user's own risk. You should always provide the minimum amount of personal data required for the transaction – be wary of providing bank account details, mother's maiden name, etc. The Internet site should use secure technology – web address begins with "https" and a small padlock should appear on the menu bar.

## **BANDWIDTH-INTENSIVE SITES**

Stockport Homes Group reserves the right to restrict access to sites which are bandwidth-intensive in order to maintain a quality level of service across the network. Bandwidth intensive sites could include, but are not limited to: streaming audio/video, games and social networking sites.

## **WI-FI / WIRELESS**

Where available, the internet can only be accessed using wireless devices from residents own homes and in communal areas within agreed high rise blocks. Stockport Homes cannot guarantee that wireless devices will connect to the access points and cannot guarantee to provide any support for wireless devices.

## **DISCLAIMER**

Stockport Homes is obliged under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act to disclose information to Law Enforcement Agencies and Public Authorities that are legally entitled to obtain such information. Similarly, Stockport Homes must comply with court orders to disclose information. In serious instances of abuse, we may also notify the police or relevant law enforcement agency.

Stockport Homes reserves the right to monitor access to the computers and Internet sites visited electronically for statistical and security purposes. Stockport Homes cannot and does not monitor content of chat rooms, instant messaging, email, newsgroup or indeed of any communications and therefore cannot and does not guarantee that all of these are free of illegal material or other content considered unacceptable by others including the Internet community.

While internet content is filtered, Stockport Homes does not accept responsibility for the quality, accuracy or availability of information accessed through the Internet.

Stockport Homes does not assume liability for any loss, damage or injury, direct or indirect, suffered as a result of using these computer resources.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains timely and relevant. It is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with any changes to this Policy.