



The Strength Shack Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy

The Strength Shack, hereinafter referred to as 'the Organisation' is committed to providing a confidential service to its user's. No information given to the Organisation will be shared with any other organisation or individual without the user's expressed permission.

For this policy, confidentiality relates to the transmission of personal, sensitive or identifiable information about individuals or organisations (confidential information), which comes into the possession of the Organisation through its work.

The Organisation holds personal data about its staff, users, members etc., which will only be used for the purposes for which it was gathered and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the organisation without prior permission.

All personal data will be dealt with sensitively and in the strictest confidence internally and externally.

Purpose

The purpose of this Data Protection & Confidentiality Policy is to ensure that all staff, members, volunteers and users understand the Organisations requirements in relation to the disclosure of personal data and confidential information.

Principles

- All personal paper-based and electronic data must be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and must be secured against unauthorised access, accidental disclosure, loss or destruction.
- All personal paper-based and electronic data must only be accessible to those individuals authorised to have access.



Statistical Recording

The Organisation is committed to effective statistical recording of the use of its services to monitor usage and performance.

All statistical records given to third parties, such as to support funding applications or monitoring reports for the local authority shall be produced in anonymous form, so individuals cannot be recognised.

Records

All paper records are kept in locked filing cabinets. All information relating to service users will be left in locked drawers. This includes notebooks, copies of correspondence and any other sources of information. All electronic records are stored in password-protected files.

It may at times be necessary to share data with other health, fitness and medical professionals to ensure the best possible care and treatment for the client. In these instances, permission will always be sought prior to sharing data.

Breaches of Confidentiality

The Organisation recognises that occasions may arise where individual workers feel they need to breach confidentiality. Confidential or sensitive information relating to an individual may be divulged where there is risk of danger to the individual, a volunteer or employee, or the public at large, or where it is against the law to withhold it. In these circumstances, information may be divulged to external agencies e.g. police or social services on a need to know basis.



Where anyone in connection with the Strength Shack feels that confidentiality should be breached, the following steps will be taken:

- The worker should raise the matter immediately with the owner, Matthew Parker.
- The worker must discuss with the owner the issues involved in the case and explain why they feel confidentiality should be breached and what would be achieved by breaching confidentiality. The owner should take a written note of this discussion.
- The owner is responsible for discussing with the worker what options are available in each set of circumstances.
- The owner is responsible for deciding on whether confidentiality should be breached. If the owner decides that confidentiality is to be breached, then they should take the following steps:

A full written report on the case should be made and any action agreed undertaken. The owner is responsible for ensuring all activities are actioned and his decision to breach confidentiality or not is the final decision of Balance Health and Fitness Limited.

Legislative Framework

The Organisation will monitor this policy to ensure it meets statutory and legal requirements including the Data Protection Act, Children's Act, Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and Prevention of Terrorism Act. Training on the policy will include these aspects.

Ensuring the Effectiveness of the Policy

All employees and volunteers will receive a copy of the confidentiality policy. Existing and new workers will be introduced to the confidentiality policy via induction and training. The policy will be reviewed annually and amendments will be proposed and agreed as required.

Non-adherence

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with under the Grievance and/or Disciplinary procedures as appropriate.

Last review date: 11.09.20 Signed: Matthew Parker