

# Policy on information and communication technologies

This policy should be read in conjunction with Community Lifestyles' separate policies on data protection and procurement



(updated January 2018)



## Introduction

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are integral to supporting the work undertaken by Community Lifestyles. Lifestyles is committed to using these technologies in a secure, efficient and legitimate manner. It fully supports compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation, and other legislation relating to the use of information and communication technologies.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the organisations technologies are used in a manner which is ethical, legal and appropriate to Lifestyles' values, and not used to the detriment of others. These technologies include, but are not limited to, computers, email, the Internet and Internet services, social media, messaging services, mobile phones, and fixed landlines.

The policy sets out the conditions of use of these technologies and provides a set of procedures that ensure responsible use of equipment provided by Lifestyles.

The policy also exists to minimise the risks these technologies bring to Lifestyles, the people we support, our employees and our information systems.

This policy is relevant to all ICT equipment irrespective of the use or location, and applies to:

- All Lifestyles employees and volunteers.
- Employees and agents of other organisations who directly or indirectly support or use Lifestyles' communication infrastructure.

The following are straightforward conditions and procedures which must be observed at all times.

## Equipment and services

Lifestyles' procurement of products and services related to ICT are subject to a separate procurement policy as well as external regulation. No purchasing or contracting is permitted without the agreement of ICT staff.

ICT staff makes use of a number of nationally agreed purchasing frameworks to secure best value.

Fixed landline and mobile phone services are secured through one such centrally negotiated contract. Only in exceptional circumstances, and in prior agreement with ICT staff, can landline and mobile phone contracts exclusive of the provisions of the centrally negotiated contract be used.

## Data protection

You must treat confidential information in accordance with Lifestyles' separate policy relating to Data Protection.

The General Data Protection Regulation and other UK-based legislation contain provisions relating to the retention and disclosure of data concerning individuals. This includes information held electronically and on paper.

The definition of an individual includes, but is not limited to, the people supported by Lifestyles, people employed by Lifestyles and employees and agents of other organisations Lifestyles may work in partnership with.

- Work relating to Lifestyles and its activities must never be stored on computers or cloud-based storage systems owned by or subscribed to by employees.
- Only commit information relating to Lifestyles, its employees or the people it supports to paper when it is absolutely necessary.
- Information must only be shared with external parties when an explicit data sharing agreement permits this.
- If you believe personally identifiable information has been misplaced or lost, you must report this immediately to Lifestyles' Data Protection Officer.

## Use of computers

ICT equipment is provided for work purposes. This includes its use in giving direct support to the people who use Lifestyles' services. ICT equipment must not be used for personal or recreational use or private gain.

If you believe that ICT equipment has been improperly used you

must report this immediately to your line manager or to ICT staff.

**Settings and security** - You must not alter the settings of your computer or the network. Installations are generally standardised to aid support and maintenance. You must not attempt to gain access to parts of the system or network to which you do not normally have access rights.

**Automatic Updates** - Important security and software updates download automatically on computers connected to the Internet. Updates should be installed as early as possible after they have been downloaded.

**Passwords** - Access to all systems is controlled by a logon user name and password. User passwords are renewed on a schedule set by ICT staff.

- This password should never be disclosed to another person.
- Compromised passwords should be reported to ICT staff immediately.
- Passwords must never be written down or displayed to permit others to see it.

- When leaving a computer unattended, you should always log off or shut down the computer.

**Where to save your work** - All work relating to Lifestyles must be stored in the folders or network drive set up by and agreed with ICT staff. This will ensure that the data will be properly backed up.

**Folder structures** - Folder structures must not be altered, extended or put to alternative use by users. If a structure does not meet the needs of the organisation a review should be sought with ICT staff.

**Using removable media/drives** – Information relating to individuals must never be saved to removable media. Lifestyles' virtual desktop environment provides access to information from any location with an Internet connection.

Where information not related to an individual is committed to removable storage, the media/drives must be owned by Lifestyles and use data encryption software to prevent unauthorised access.

The removable media/drive must never be the sole or primary location for this data.

**Relocation of equipment and services** - Once installed no computer, telecoms or electronic office equipment should be moved without first discussing this with ICT staff. This is to ensure the continuing availability of Internet and network services as well as meeting Lifestyles' asset management requirements.

**Virus protection** - Antivirus software is installed on all computers and is set up to operate automatically. The software is configured to update itself each day.

**Backups** - Backup of data is done automatically. This backup data is held on servers within either Lifestyles' main administrative office in Glasgow or its designated business continuity site. The backups are, in turn, archived for up to 12 weeks.

**Computers owned by the people Lifestyles support** - Employees can use computers belonging to people supported

by Lifestyles only in the following circumstances:

- to provide direct support to the individual
- to access Lifestyles' virtual desktop environment to complete administrative tasks relating directly to that person and with their prior, informed consent

**Computers owned by employees** - Employees should not use personal or family owned computers, except as a means to access Lifestyles' virtual desktop environment. Administrative tasks must only be carried out on physical or virtual computers belonging to Lifestyles.

Computers owned by employees must never be brought in to the workplace, nor connected to wireless or wired networks belonging to Lifestyles or the people Lifestyles support.

## Use of telecoms

Fixed landline and mobile phone services are provided in liaison with Lifestyles' ICT staff. This allows for compliance with

centrally negotiated contracts and Lifestyles' policies on procurement.

Changes to existing services or securing new services should be done via Lifestyles' ICT staff.

**Fixed line and mobile phone handsets** - Lifestyles' ICT staff will supply fixed line and mobile phone handsets appropriate to business needs and contract provisions. If a handset is damaged, it should be reported to ICT staff straight away.

Employees must never transfer a SIM to another handset except upon the instruction of ICT staff. Users must not change or remove any PIN set on the device by ICT staff.

**Pay As You Go (PAYG) mobile contracts** - This type of mobile contract does not comply with Lifestyles' financial audit requirements and must never be used.

**Smart phones and Internet enabled devices owned by employees** - Devices owned by employees may be configured by ICT staff to connect to wireless networks operated by Lifestyles

to facilitate email services when a business convenience has been demonstrated. Where Lifestyles' email is accessed in this manner, users must agree to use an access PIN on their device and permit Lifestyles to remote wipe the device should it become compromised.

Internet enabled devices owned by employees should never be connected to wireless or wired networks belonging to the people Lifestyles support.

**Smart phones and Internet enabled devices owned by people Lifestyles support** - Devices owned by people we provide support to should never be connected to wireless or wired networks operated by Lifestyles. The only exception to this rule is within short stay services where additionally an individual undertaking has been entered in to as part of the short stay contract.

## Use of the Internet, email and social media

Lifestyles encourages use of the Internet, email and social media for activities relevant to the aims and objectives of the organisation, including the direct support of the people we provide support to. Employees are expected to exercise responsible and appropriate behaviour when sending email, whether externally or internally, or when using the Internet, including social media websites and applications.

Personal use of the Internet, email or social media is not permitted. You must discourage the sending of email to your account that does not relate to the business of Lifestyles. You must not use the Internet, email or social media to view, store or distribute any material that may be construed as obscene, offensive or of a discriminatory or harassing nature in any way. Should there be evidence of any abuse of this nature disciplinary action will be taken.

You are responsible for all use of the Internet, email

and social media carried out under your username and password. Masquerading as/or misrepresenting another user is prohibited.

### The Internet

Much valuable information is available from the Web. Many organisations have a presence on the Web to provide up-to-date information and advice. Internet shopping and online services are commonplace. The Web also contains unpleasant, inaccurate and illegal media. For this reason it is important that employees using the Internet in the course of their work abide by the principles of this policy.

**Access to the Internet** - Everyone has access to the Internet for business purposes. Internet connections must only be set up by ICT staff.

**Internet Services** - You must not subscribe to any Internet services (including, but not limited to file sharing or third party messaging services) without the agreement of ICT staff.



## Using copyrighted materials obtained from the Internet -

Information found on the Internet is subject to the copyright laws covering printed publications and audio releases. Only content that is stated as being free of copyright or royalty restrictions or is released through the Creative Commons scheme should be used within presentations, broadcasts or publications issued by Lifestyles.

Confirmation of the legal copyright status should be stored along with the electronic files. If required by the Creative Commons license, a public attribution of copyright should also be included within the presentation, broadcast or publication.

## Email

**Access to email** - All employees have access to email. Lifestyles' email address should only be used by employees of Lifestyles for business purposes.

**Email contents** - All emails are effectively an electronic representation of Lifestyles' letterhead. You should not put anything in an email that you would not put in a memo or letter.

The following procedures are recommended practice:

### Consider whether email is the best way to send a message:

- Messages may not be secure.
- Messages may be produced as proof that you said something.
- Messages may be held to be legally binding.
- Messages may be subject to tampering after delivery or sending.

### Apply the same principles you would use with a printed memo:

- Content should be clear and not open to misinterpretation. Use plain English.
- Include a meaningful and logical subject line. If the recipient is not expecting the email and does not recognise the subject of the data they may delete it. Always telephone the recipient if they are not expecting something unusual.
- Include your position and contact details the first time you correspond.
- Only copy to those who need a copy.

- If you are transmitting sensitive data, send it in a password protected document or folder. This password must be shared via a means other than email.

You must not send, forward or redirect any obscene or defamatory emails, or emails containing foul language, bullying, harassment or discrimination of any kind. You must not send emails that could be construed as sexual harassment.

### **Access to other people's email**

- You must not attempt to gain access to email messages of other employees, except where this is provided to you for monitoring purposes.

### **Signature and disclaimer -**

All email messages carry the organisation's centrally managed signature. The content of this signature is populated by Active Directory fields. All external email messages carry the organisation's disclaimer which you cannot alter or delete.

**Written record** - Any important email exchange should be filed in an appropriate manner to maintain a record of this correspondence.

## **Social media**

If you are required to use social media as part of your work with Lifestyles, you must do so in line with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for RSL Staff Members. The same professional expectations and guidelines for interacting with people in the real world apply to online communication and information sharing and you must always be a positive ambassador for Lifestyles and our work.

Information posted via websites and social media applications is classed as public and not private. You must not disclose any private or confidential information relating to Lifestyles, the people we support, or our suppliers, board members or other employees. This applies whether you are posting under your own name or using a pseudonym.

Employees must not access social networking sites for personal use during work time. Posting information or comments related to your work with Lifestyles (even in your own time and using equipment owned by you) may be viewed as misconduct and be in breach of Lifestyles' policies.

## Monitoring of use

Computers, email, the Internet, mobile phones and fixed landlines are installed expressly for the purpose of supporting the work of Lifestyles. In most instances, their use is automatically recorded. Lifestyles will routinely monitor the use of the communication methods covered by this policy statement.

This may be done by, but not limited to, accessing billing information, computer logs and mailbox contents. Among the reasons for this monitoring are:

- Detecting viruses.
- Prevention of unauthorised access to Lifestyles' systems.
- Inappropriate use of the Internet or email as defined by this policy.
- Detecting unusual trends in use of Internet or email services.

All email messages sent or received via Lifestyles' email address are the property of Lifestyles and can never be considered private for the purpose of monitoring/auditing. Monitoring

of email messages may be carried out by ICT staff or senior and line managers.

Employees must conduct themselves in a trustworthy and appropriate manner in accordance with the spirit of this policy statement so as not to discredit or harm Lifestyles or its staff.

## Breaches of policy

Failure to adhere to this policy can result in disciplinary action, the exact nature of which will depend on the breach.

The use of ICT systems for any criminal activity or if used in an obscene or offensive way will be viewed as gross misconduct and action will include the possibility of dismissal from the organisation.

## Review of policy

This Policy will be reviewed annually to take account of both legal and technological developments and the changing needs of Lifestyles.

## Questions about this policy?

If you have questions about any aspect of this policy, you may contact the ICT Support team person assigned to your location.

Location	ICT Support person *
Glasgow SDT members	Grant Ford, 0141-342 1572 grant.ford@Lifestyles.org.uk
Head office and infrastructure	Greig Mitchell, 0141-342 1573 greig.mitchell@Lifestyles.org.uk
Other Community Lifestyles staff	Nicoll Davie, 0141-342 1574 nicoll.davie@Lifestyles.org.uk

\* These numbers should not be used for ICT support issues.



For help and assistance,  
call the ICT Helpdesk  
0141-342 1570

Available during office hours. For critical support at other times refer to the out-of-hours phone list



Coming soon

Login in with your usual credentials to access training videos, tips and more

<https://icthelp.key.org.uk>