

E-Bike and E-Scooter Policy

Definitions

Electric Powered Personal Vehicles (EPPVs) are a category of transportation devices powered by electricity, designed for use by a single person.

These vehicles typically include but are not limited to electric scooters (e-scooters), electric bikes (e-bikes), electric skateboards, hoverboards, and electric unicycles.

Please note: not all EPPVs are designed and manufactured as electric vehicles, and are converted to electric vehicles after purchase.

Purpose

The use of EPPVs is on the rise, as is the number of fires they are involved in. Most are powered by lithium batteries which can be charged in the home or at a workplace. However, EPPV battery packs generally consist of a much larger quantity of battery cells in a single battery pack, increasing the risk in the event of thermal runaway (when a toxic vapour cloud is released from the device) or a fire (through batteries overheating/exploding). (London Fire Brigade)

Not only do EPPVs pose a risk in relation to fire, but they also cause accidents which may result in deaths. Studies have shown that accidents related to electric vehicles have risen in recent years, with trauma surgeons voicing their concerns based on what they see on a day-to-day basis. The reason is that electric vehicles are often heavier and faster than their non-electrical alternatives, which creates a higher risk for both riders and pedestrians.

It is our responsibility, as a provider of residential services for children and young people, to protect our staff, service users, visitors, and members of the public and, as far as reasonably practicable, reduce the risk to their health and safety.

This policy aims to manage the risk of fire and other injuries through the implementation of sensible control measures.

Scope

This policy applies to all those entering our site and all EPPVs brought onto our site (including communal and private spaces and outside areas).

Policy

Use on the Premises

Under law:

- It is legal to use an e-scooter on private land with the permission of the land owner. Where a trial rental scheme is running, it is legal to use a rental e-scooter on a public road or cycle lane, provided you have the correct licence and follow road traffic regulations.
- It is legal to use an e-bike if the rider is 14 or over as long as it meets certain conditions (found here: <https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules>). However, if the e-bike does not meet the EAPC rules, it is classed as a motorcycle or moped and needs to be registered and taxed. The rider must also possess a need a driving licence to ride one and wear a crash helmet.

Our Policy:

- EPPVs must not be used on the premises at any time (either indoors or outdoors).
- When bringing an EPPV onto the premises for charging/storage, the rider should dismount and wheel the vehicle to the charging/storage area.

Storage and Charging

Overview - what are the risks?

Lithium batteries are a type of rechargeable battery commonly used in electronic devices, including electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters). They are favoured for their high energy density, lightweight, and ability to recharge quickly. However, managing the risks associated with these batteries, especially during charging, is crucial for safety.

Charging lithium batteries indoors, both during the daytime and overnight, poses several risks:

- **Overheating:** Batteries can overheat if left charging for too long or if used with incompatible chargers, leading to potential fires.
- **Electrical faults:** Poor electrical installations or faulty chargers can cause short circuits or electric shocks.
- **Ventilation issues:** Inadequate ventilation can lead to the buildup of potentially hazardous gases if a battery leaks or vents.

Cheap and non-safety-compliant batteries often lack the necessary safety mechanisms to prevent overcharging, overheating, and short-circuiting. These batteries can be:

- More prone to physical defects, leading to leakage or bursting.
- Lacking in consistent quality control, increasing the likelihood of internal failures and malfunctions.

How to spot signs of defective batteries

Indicators of defective lithium batteries include:

- **Overheating:** Batteries becoming excessively hot to the touch.
- **Bulging/Swollen batteries:** Physical distortion indicating internal failure.
- **Emission of smoke or unusual smells:** Signs of chemical leakage or internal short circuit.

Our Policy

To minimise risk, our policy is that EPPV users must:

- Only use EPPVs that are either purchased from a reputable seller or converted to an EPPV by an approved installer (e.g., Evans, Decathlon, Halfords, etc., who will use UK-approved parts). (Bikes, scooters, etc., that have been converted using off-the-shelf DIY kits are not allowed on our site.)
- Register their EPPVs with us, providing receipts of purchase or proof of the use of a reputable seller for conversions.
- Only use the charger provided with the device or one specifically recommended by the manufacturer. (All batteries and chargers must be stamped with the EU/UK safety mark – ‘CE’ or ‘UKCA’.)
- Only charge them in well-ventilated designated areas. These areas are the charging points in the bike shed at the rear of the house.
- Not leave batteries charging for long periods whilst unattended. (Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for charging durations and procedures.)
- Regularly inspect batteries and chargers for damage or wear (as above).
- Store their EPPVs in the bike sheds at the rear of the house. (EPPVs must never be stored inside communal or private areas as they create a fire hazard and make emergency evacuation more difficult.)
- Dispose of defective or used batteries safely (as hazardous waste) at the local recycling centre.

Non-Compliance

Non-compliance with this policy is a serious breach of health and safety. Therefore, all breaches by children or young people will result in the appropriate sanctions.

For example, minor breaches will warrant a verbal warning, followed by a written warning (where the social worker and, where appropriate, a parent will be notified) if another minor breach occurs.

In the case of serious breaches (those which present a clear and present danger) or repeated minor breaches, we will request that the EPPV be permanently removed from the premises. If this is not done within 24 hours, we will remove the EPPV will be removed and taken to the recycle centre.

Monitoring Compliance

To ensure that this policy is complied with, the Registered Manager will arrange for periodic audits to be conducted. Within these audits, designed staff members will:

- Check the premises to ensure that:
 - EPPVs are being stored correctly.
 - EPPVs are being charged correctly.
 - All EPPVs on site are identified, with those not known to us being investigated to ensure that they are compliant with this policy. (See below for details of how we manage non-compliance.)
- Help children and young people inspect their batteries for signs of damage or defects, arranging for any damaged or defective batteries to be safely disposed of. (This will also act as training for children and young people.)

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Registered Manager (Eliramson Saro) will have overall responsibility for this policy and will ensure that it is reviewed and updated regularly (at least annually).
- The Registered Manager will ensure that this policy is incorporated into everyday practice and that all staff, children, young people, and visitors are aware of its content.
- The Registered Manager will ensure that staff are trained in this policy (including how to identify breaches) and that breaches are sufficiently dealt with.
- Key workers and staff will provide training on this policy to children and young people.
- All staff, children, young people, and visitors are responsible for abiding by this policy.

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Update Required: March 2025 or sooner due to changes to legislation, best practice or local guidance.

Approved by:

Eliramson Saro

Registered Manager