



Fire Safety

Issue 2: Keeping you safe

For Brunelcare tenants and
residents

Welcome to the second fire safety update from Brunelcare. In this issue we focus on:

- **Keeping communal areas and corridors clear** - from items that can either catch fire or cause an obstruction when evacuating the building.
- **'Managed Use' of shared common areas** - Brunelcare's policy on preventing sources of ignition and fire spread in shared common areas and maintaining safe routes of escape in Care homes, Extra Care Housing (ECH), and Sheltered Housing, all of which have shared common areas.
- **How you can help** - working together we can stay safe and help people make the most of their lives.

Housekeeping – keeping communal areas and corridors clear

The following items regularly appear in communal areas and present a risk to residents in the event of a fire:

- Recycle bins & rubbish bags
- Scooters & bicycles
- Prams & childrens' toys
- Shoes/trainers
- Furniture



Where you share hallways and stairs with other residents you must not store items that are flammable or cause an obstruction in these areas as they are a health and safety risk.

Management of Shared Common Areas

All Brunelcare sites adopt what is called a “managed use” policy to minimise the potential of ignition and fire spread within communal areas, and to ensure buildings allow a safe escape in the event of a fire. The key points in this policy are:

- All common areas must be kept clear and free from obstruction at all times.



- All common areas must also be kept free from ignition sources and combustible items, at all times.
- A NO SMOKING policy exists in all communal areas and is a requirement of law in its own right.

Common areas of your sites do not belong to any individual – even the area immediately outside of your front door. In general, tenants do not have the right to store or leave anything in the common, shared areas of the building.

How can you help?

We always work hard to protect our residents from the risk of fire. One of the ways we do this is to monitor what we have in communal areas, as these may be a fire risk or a trip hazard, and prevent you safely leaving the building in the event of a fire.

Please can you work with us to help keep all shared common areas and escape routes clear and free from obstruction.

Think 'communicate':

- Spread the word – inform your neighbour
- Don't hoard flammables
- Keep corridors and communal areas clear



For further information please contact:

Ricky Holcombe, Brunelcare's Health and Safety Manager

Email: healthandsafety@brunelcare.org.uk
Telephone: **0117 914 4213**