

Suicide Policy

10. Suicide Policy

As a peer support organisation Nightline may receive contacts from individuals who intend to commit suicide. If a Nightliner identifies a contact as presenting a genuine intent to commit suicide the following policies will safeguard and guide their actions during the contact.

10.1. Nightline's Position on the Nature of Suicidal Contacts

10.1.1. It is the official position of Norwich Nightline that it is the responsibility of the Nightliner to ascertain whether a contact is presenting a genuine intent to commit suicide based on the content of the contact. As an organisation, Nightline will support its volunteers in this decision making process and train them to distinguish the difference between suicidal ideation and genuine suicidal intent.

10.2. Contacting Emergency Services

10.2.1. If the contact is a drop-in, Nightliners must contact Security via the panic button immediately if the contact self-harms or reveals an intent to commit suicide. An ambulance should be contacted if this is feasibly possible.

10.2.2. If a contact reveals they have taken steps to commit suicide the Nightliner must immediately offer to call an ambulance.

10.2.3. If the contact refuses this offer, Nightliners are not required to pursue the request further.

10.2.3.1. Nightliners may contact emergency services against the contacts wishes if they feel it is necessary and if they know the location of the contact.

10.2.3.2. Nightliners may offer, at intervals they deem appropriate, to call the emergency services on the contacts behalf again during the contact if Nightliners believe this line of questioning will not escalate the situation.

10.2.3.3. Nightliners may break confidentiality to determine the location of the contact if they feel it is necessary, as long as Nightliners believe pursuing this line of questioning will not escalate the situation.

10.2.4. In the event that an ambulance is called to UEA, Security must be informed after the ambulance has been contacted.