

Our Vision and Values

Vision

River Garden's vision is to be a place **"where hope takes root and lives bloom."** We envision a future where individuals recovering from addiction are not just leaving their past behind, but are actively building a future worth living. We aim to provide a "safe harbour" that transforms lives through a combination of community, nature, and purposeful activity.

Mission

Our mission is to provide an intensive, abstinence-based therapeutic community for men and women in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. They achieve this through a holistic, long-term connection with River Garden including a six month residential program located on the Auchincruive estate.

Key pillars of our mission include:

- **Meaningful Work:** Integrating residents into social enterprises (like the Bothy Café and garden) to learn skills and gain hands-on experience.
- **Connection:** Fostering genuine human connection and a relationship with nature.
- **Social Integration:** Operating as a "destination" for the wider community, allowing the public to visit their gardens and café to break down the stigma of addiction.

Core Values and Philosophy

River Garden's approach is guided by several foundational values:

- **Person-Centered & Trauma-Informed:** Recognising that every individual's path is unique and providing support tailored to the person's specific journey (incorporating 12-Step, SMART Recovery, or other paths).
- **Culture of Care and Compassion:** They emphasise a "vibrant, living community" where residents, staff, and volunteers support one another.
- **Lived Experience:** We highly value the professional expertise of their team, which is enriched by those with personal experience in recovery.
- **Holistic Growth:** Our focus on the "whole person," including physical health, mental wellbeing, therapeutic support, and vocational training.
- **Inclusion and Community:** Belief in being an open, welcoming site (including being dog-friendly) that encourages partnership with other organisations and the local public.

Duty of Candour

All health and social care services in Scotland have a Duty of Candour. This is a legal requirement which means that when things go wrong and mistakes happen, the people affected understand what has happened, receive an apology, and that organisations learn how to improve for the future. An important part of this duty is that we provide an annual report about the Duty of Candour in our services.

This short report describes how River Garden has operated their Duty of Candour during the time between **1st January 2025** and **31 December 2025**. We hope you find this report useful.

River Garden operates a Duty of Candour Policy and all staff are required to undertake training to ensure they understand their duty, the policy and the approach. We also provide training to senior staff to help them understand the organisation's policy and the process of the Duty of Candour which could affect them. The people we work for have a variety of support needs as a cause and consequence of drug and alcohol use.

How many incidents happened to which Duty of Candour applies?

In the last year, there have been **no** incidents to which the Duty of Candour was applied.

Type of unexpected or unintended incident	Number of times this happened
A person died	0
A person incurred permanent lessening of bodily, sensory, motor, physiologic or intellectual functions	0
A person's treatment increased	0
The structure of a person's body changed	0
A person's life expectancy shortened	0
A person's sensory, motor, or intellectual functions was impaired for 28 days or more	0
A person experienced pain or psychological harm for 28 days or more	0
A person needed health treatment in order to prevent them dying	0
A person needing health treatment in order to prevent other injuries as listed above	0

Our policy and process

When an incident occurs that necessitates the implementation of Duty of Candour, our staff reports this to the Service Manager who has responsibility for ensuring that the Duty of Candour procedure is followed.

The Service Manager records the incident and reports as necessary to the Care Inspectorate. When an incident occurs, we know that serious mistakes can be distressing for staff as well as for the people we support, therefore the Service Manager and staff set up a learning review to provide support for the team and emphasise this is about learning and improving, not blame. This allows everyone involved to review what happened and identify changes for the future.

We offer independent counselling and occupational welfare support for staff if they have been affected by a Duty of Candour incident.

Duty of Candour is part of our training which is mandatory for [all staff](#). In addition to the legislation, a series of scenarios form part of the training to emphasise to staff that while it is distressing when things go wrong, we can and do learn from our mistakes and adapt our processes to try to minimise the events recurring. This is also included in our Whistleblowing Policy and Impact training.

Where the incident arises from staff wrongdoing, our Disciplinary process is immediately put in place.

When we would activate a duty of candour

Organisations subject to the duty must activate the duty of candour procedure as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware that:

- An unintended or unexpected incident occurred in the provision of the health, care or social work service provided by the organisation as the responsible person; and
- In the reasonable opinion of a registered health professional not involved in the incident:
 - that incident appears to have resulted in or could result in any of the outcomes mentioned below; and
 - that outcome relates directly to the incident rather than to the natural course of the person's illness or underlying condition.

The relevant outcomes which trigger the duty of candour procedure are as follows:

- The death of the person.
- Permanent lessening of bodily, sensory, motor, physiologic or intellectual functions (including removal of the wrong limb or organ or brain damage) ("severe harm").

Harm which is not severe harm but which results in:

- An increase in the person's treatment
- Changes to the structure of the person's body;
- The shortening of the life expectancy of the person;
- An impairment of the sensory, motor or intellectual functions of the person which has lasted, or is likely to last, for a continuous period of at least 28 days;
- The person experiencing pain or psychological harm which has been, or is likely to be, experienced by the person for a continuous period of at least 28 days.

The person requiring treatment by a registered health professional in order to prevent:

- The death of the person;
- Any injury to the person which, if left untreated, would lead to one or more of the outcomes mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c).