 **Tallaght**

 **Welcomes**

 **Breastfeeding**

**BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY POLICY
[insert company name]**

We are proud to be a breastfeeding friendly venue and welcome breastfeeding in all areas of our premises.

It is unlawful to stop a mother from breastfeeding her child. Breastfeeding mothers are protected in law by The Equal Status Act (2000) and the Intoxicating Liquor Act (2003). The Equality Act helps mothers to breastfeed comfortably in public places by protecting them from being discriminated against or harassed because they are breastfeeding. The Intoxicating Liquor Act (2003) - Section 19 protects against discrimination or harassment occurring in a public house and provides access to the District Court for redress.

If a mother is breastfeeding her baby in a public service area (e.g. a café, hotel, theatre, restaurant etc.) the owner, manager or staff of these premises (on their own behalf or on behalf of another customer) are not allowed to ask her to use separate facilities, or ask her to leave.

If a mother informs the management and staff of a public service area that she is being harassed by another customer because she is breastfeeding, they have a duty to protect her from this.

The aim of this policy is to ensure consistency amongst staff who work here to create an atmosphere within which a mother is able to breastfeed comfortably and confidently.

**How will we make this happen?**

All our staff will support the needs and rights of mothers breastfeeding. If another customer/visitor to the premises objects to discreet breastfeeding they should be told management supports breastfeeding and if appropriate offer the complainant another seat. Remember it is the complainant that should be offered another seat, the mother should not be asked to move.

If the situation cannot be resolved readily junior staff should refer customers/visitors to senior management.

A copy of this policy should be issued to all new staff members with one week of employment and a copy should be available at [insert location] and in the employee handbook.

Distributing and updating this policy annually is the responsibility of the [insert title of person responsible] who will be glad to hear comments and reports of any incidents.

If a member of staff feels they need more guidance on this they should speak to [insert name of person responsible].

Our staff will:

• display breastfeeding friendly stickers and appropriate signage where possible

• make mothers and babies welcome

• be aware of comfortable or discreet areas to feed if requested

**Signatures;** please ask your staff to sign below to agree to this policy.

Signature……………………………………………. Date………………………..

Signature……………………………………………. Date………………………..

Signature……………………………………………. Date………………………..

Signature……………………………………………. Date………………………..