Environmental and Sustainability Policy

1. **Statement of intent**

* Omega Care Group has a commitment to ensuring best practice, to minimising its environmental impact and to embedding sustainable working practices within the organisational culture.
* Omega further recognises that policies should reflect ethical, fair trade and environmental considerations as far as practicable.
* The organisation will work in conjunction with staff to implement this policy throughout all aspects of service delivery, and to identify further opportunities to promote sustainability.
* Omega is committed to ensuring a safe workplace for staff which embraces and celebrates workforce diversity.
* Omega will evolve a culture of sustainability through practices relating to operations to the facilitation of support.
* This policy will be monitored regularly and evolve in line with best practise and continued innovation.

1. **Energy Efficiency**

Omega will aim to operate the following methods to conserve energy:

* Individual radiator thermostats fitted
* Use of LED lighting where possible
* Use of low energy light bulbs
* Appliances not in use will be switched off, or put on standby (e.g. computer systems)
* Energy efficient white goods
* Hot water temperature set at a minimum
* Washing machine only used when full
* Use of single cup boil kettle.
* Batteries – if use is necessary, these will be rechargeable only
* Lights switched off when room not in use.
* External washing line replaces use of tumble dryer.

1. **Recycling and waste minimisation**

* Effective sorting of recyclable and reusable materials
* Scrap paper reused
* Printing ink cartridges recycled / refilled
* Work towards paperless office
* Avoidance of packaged goods where possible
* Minimise aerosol use where possible
* Avoid the purchase of single use bags
* Recycle items though upcycling or taking to the recycling centres

1. **Conserving Water**

* Kettle fitted only for immediate use
* Dual setting toilet flush systems
* Tap leaks immediately repaired
* Taps not left running when washing up
* Washing machine filled prior to use and to encourage young people to wash clothes at 30 where possible

1. **Cleaning**

* Biodegradable, plant-based cleaning materials to be used where reasonable possible for toilets, washing up, floors, surfaces and windows
* Bleach / chemicals only to be used in exceptional circumstances (COVID-19)
* Recycled paper toilet rolls / hand towels
* Use of washable cleaning cloths.

1. **Purchasing items**

Where possible Omega will purchase:

* Paper from recycled sources
* All wood / furniture products from certified sustainable sources
* Biodegradable, plant-based cleaning materials
* Avoidance of unnecessary packaging
* Use of local suppliers where possible
* Fair trade options selected wherever possible.

1. **Awareness Raising – Children / Young People**

* Young people placed with Omega will be supported to develop an awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainability, its processes and how they can minimise their personal impact.
* This is developed through the Independent Living Program.

1. **Transport**

* Staff to be encouraged to use public transport and minimise one-car journeys.
* Staff should be encouraged to car share when traveling to work.
* Staff to be encouraged to use the ‘Ride to Work’ scheme.
* Omega Care Group is committed to seeking ongoing improvements in the promotion of sustainability issues.