

# Information for Professionals

## Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be aged 18 or over (we are a gender sensitive organisation and are also open to applicants who are non-binary).
- Be committed to engaging in mutual aid and recovery, based on complete abstinence.
- Provide a negative drug and alcohol test on arrival. We will not take people who are still using illicit substances. In certain circumstances, we may waive the need to test negative on arrival. This will only be where it has been disclosed at referral and assessment that there has been previous use of certain drugs which take time to clear the body. We will need to be completely satisfied that the individual has established abstinence. In these circumstances, we may agree to admission with a specific date at which the individual must test negative. At that stage, a positive test will almost certainly result in discharge.
- Not require psychoactive medication that would interfere with engagement. Where SSRIs are prescribed, medical confirmation is required to confirm that reduction to the point of abstinence is possible and safe. Only those people who can safely reduce to abstinence will be accepted.
- Have no current or ongoing psychiatric diagnosis which would preclude full engagement.
- Due to the age and nature of our premises, we regret that we cannot fully comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and subsequent legislation. Therefore, we are unable to accept referrals for individuals that require building adaptations due to fire safety.

## Our Service

Our accommodation is specifically provided for those who want to use mutual aid as a means to achieve and maintain abstinence-based recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol.

Tenure is by licence agreement and is initially for 6 months. This can be extended in appropriate circumstances, but the accommodation is always “temporary”. The absolute maximum stay is two years.

We provide supported accommodation where our residents can apply themselves to their abstinence-based recovery.

Our staff deliver support and housing management. We do not provide treatment or personal care. Our residents are responsible for working their own programme of recovery

using the local mutual aid meetings. Our project is principally a safe and supported community of like-minded individuals, who have made a conscious decision to engage in a Mutual Aid Community within the house.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate pets or provide parking for vehicles.

**Eligibility Criteria** – please see the separate web page.

## **Referral**

Referrals can be started by telephone, letter, or email. On receipt of the Referral form from an appropriate professional, and once eligibility has been established, an in-person assessment will be offered. A copy of the Referral Form is available on each website or by telephone/email request. Any current risk assessment should also be shared if possible. If an applicant is being released from prison into our service, we require a copy of their OASys assessment prior to the interview.

## **Assessment**

During the assessment we will:

1. Clarify the purpose of the admission in discussion with the professional referrer and the client so that an initial plan of support with relevant interventions can be in place from the point of admission, with proposed outcomes clearly defined.
2. Take a history of existing and past drug and alcohol use and previous treatment and detoxification episodes.
3. Clarify any psychiatric or medical issues, identify their likely impact on engagement, and explore if external support is needed to enable full participation.
4. Agree on a proposed length of stay.
5. Carry out a comprehensive risk assessment around, for example, any history of violence, arson, self-harm, etc.
6. Note any existing drug prescriptions and other current medical treatments.
7. Clearly define any appropriate liaison arrangements.
8. Clarify transport arrangements to and from the Project.

## **Admission**

On admission, new residents are introduced to the work of the Project. House rules and the general timetable is explained.

The resident will then be shown around the Project and introduced to the staff on duty and existing residents. The house community members will 'buddy' the new resident during their first two weeks of residency.

## **General Medical Needs**

New residents will be expected, and assisted, to register with the local GP practice unless they are currently registered with their own local GP in the area.

## **Substance misuse screening**

Each resident will be required to supply a saliva or urine sample for drug and alcohol screening on admission.

Samples for screening may be requested randomly at any time during the resident's stay. Screening may be requested to establish existing drug or alcohol use, other health matters, or as a result of concerns about the safety and security of the Project. Refusal to supply a sample may lead to the discharge of the resident.

## **Allocation of Keyworker**

In all cases, a new resident will be allocated a Keyworker, who will be expected to oversee the support plan for that individual and provide the majority of their one-to-one interventions. All residents are expected to engage in weekly one-one support sessions with their Keyworker.

## **Support Plan**

A clear written support plan will be developed with the resident within the first two days of admission, considering the original goals outlined in the referral. Every resident will receive a copy of their support plan. The support plan will list the goals and interventions in relation to that resident's stay and, subject to review, indicate any longer-term needs or goals that may need to be addressed. It will take account of:

- Any medical interventions.
- In-depth review of the resident's previous life experiences and the connection with their current drug (and alcohol) related problems.
- The recovery processes.
- Engagement with the mutual aid community.
- Practical issues which may need resolution, such as welfare benefits, and contacting family and relevant professionals.