



ENTRY CRITERIA

OFFICE ADDRESS

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ENTRY CRITERIA

The Bridge is a supported housing project for men and women in recovery from drug and/or alcohol abuse. We provide support for residents in fully furnished shared houses for up to two years.

Bridge House is for those in recovery from illegal drugs/alcohol and applicants will need to be a minimum of 14 days free of illegal drugs and/or alcohol before access to the recovery programme. To assist this, successful applicants will enter Bridge House for a 14 day period of probation where they will be tested daily and go through the new resident's induction. A failed drug/alcohol test during this period will result in the resident being evicted. Providing they complete this 14 days dry/clean they will enter the full recovery programme on day 15.

The move-on house is for those who have a sustained period of abstinence from illegal drugs and/or alcohol and are ready to start to look at training/voluntary work with a long term view to employment. We will also accept referrals for the move on house for those without previous addiction issues with low level support needs for a limited period of 6 months duration. However, this would be on the condition that they would be prepared to remain free from drugs and/or alcohol. In order to ensure the move on house is a safe environment for all, tenants are required be tested in accordance with the licence agreement.

People who wish to apply for our move on house must be ready to live independently i.e. budget, cook and clean for themselves, and be willing to be part of a small community that is supportive of one another. They must also already be involved in some form of training, employment, education or voluntary work.

Applicants will be required to accept random testing via a breathalyzer or saliva or swab or urine test as part of their recovery. If appropriate a "buddying" programme may be implemented for the first week to assist the client in settling into a positive pattern of behaviour.

WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO USERS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. Arsonists
2. Schedule 1 Offenders
3. Anyone abusing alcohol or drugs
4. Anyone with a history of very serious violence indicted by:

Evidence of a psychiatric disorder which may cause extreme behaviour and is not treatable with medication or for which the client refuses to take medication

OR

Anyone outside these categories that the attached risk assessments indicate to be a high risk, unless supported with a comprehensive package of care provided and funded by external agencies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are not a direct access project. Our interview process is aimed at establishing whether potential service users are likely to benefit from our services and involves an agency risk assessment. If you wish to make a referral please contact us. If you/your client has any communication needs please inform us at the initial enquiry stage. Acceptance for entry is at the discretion of the staff team and management. We will also consider self referrals.

The rent whilst in our accommodation is usually met by Housing Benefit. However, if there is a shortfall between the actual rent payable and the amount paid by housing benefit you will be required to pay the difference.

The assigned support worker will draw up a support plan during the first week of the resident starting recovery programme. This is done so that we can clearly plan a way forward to help the client achieve goals whilst resident with us. It is most important that all prospective and current residents are aware of and agree to pay their contribution and work with their support worker to achieve progress as detailed in the support plan. These are both conditions of our Licence Agreement. All residents who do not maintain their obligations for the payment of rent or subsequent rent arrears agreements will be at risk of The Bridge terminating their Licence Agreement. This also applies to any resident who consistently refuses to engage in the support we offer.

Please contact us to discuss any query you may have.

Please contact Bridge House to make a referral. You will be required to provide minimum information to the staff member and they will then assess you/your client's suitability for our accommodation. If you/your client is acceptable for referral, you will be sent an application/assessment form. On its completion and return, you/your client may be invited to attend for an interview and will be told of any conditions that may apply.

It may be necessary for us to request certain information prior to the assessment, such as sentence report, psychiatric report, discharge report, etc.

For our move on house there will be a further short assessment in addition to the main application.

THE "BUDDYING" PERIOD

The purpose of a 'buddying' period is to overcome the initial vulnerability of a resident moving into supported housing. It is also to enable a settling in period in which benefits, support plans and outstanding issues can be addressed. This will involve the resident working closely with support staff and other residents to co-ordinate support and to ensure that primary and immediate needs are met (eg Housing Benefit, Benefits Agency, Registration with Doctors etc.)

This period is not a test of the resident's personal attributes, attitudes or beliefs. It is a chance to settle into the project and think about a positive future allowing for structure and change. Staff will at all times treat residents with respect and will do their utmost to uphold resident confidentiality at all times.

The support plan will include the following:

- Housing
- Money
- Social needs and life skills
- Health
- Drugs/alcohol
- Motivation
- Positive life structure
- Training and education

Your Support Worker will also establish you/your client's commitment to the contribution to the rent/service charge.

RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment will be necessary before being accepted by The Bridge.

ENTRY AND REFERRAL PROCESS

This guide will illustrate the process and criteria used by the Bridge staff for the referral interview and the acceptance of new residents into the project.

We are committed to ensuring that our project is able to provide a safe and secure environment in which to provide high quality support services. We will endeavour to meet the diverse needs of our residents at all times.

The Bridge staff will:

- At the enquiry stage ensure that service user/agency are aware of our admissions criteria.
- Explain the reasons if we cannot accept the referral.
- Work with the referrer to ensure a joint working approach is taken at all times and that all parties are aware of outcomes/move in dates etc.
- Ensure that all information provided is read before any interview takes place and that any concerns or queries will be discussed at the assessment interview.

THE ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW

This will usually be carried out by two members of staff. The purpose of the interview, needs and risk assessment is to establish the following:

- Does the client have support needs?
- Can we support those needs?
- If not, are any other agencies able to support the client's needs that we may be able to refer them to?
- Is the client prepared to engage with support?
- What are the risks involved in supporting the client?
- What are the risks to staff?
- What are the risks to current residents?
- What are the risks to the client?
- Can we manage these risks?
- Does the client recognise the risks involved?
- Is the client willing to engage in support to minimise any risk?

Staff will ensure that the client is fully aware of their obligation to:

- Accept support and work within a support plan
- Pay the top-up component of their rent
- Complete forms and provide information for housing benefit
- Be aware of the Project Rules and the relationship of these to their Licence Agreement.

The Bridge Staff will:

- Offer accommodation if the Agency Risk Assessment is complete and no further concerns are raised at interview.
- Not be able to offer accommodation if the Agency Risk Assessment is not available.