

HOWARD HOUSE FACT SHEET



Overview of your service

Howard House is a St Christopher's run young people accommodation service within the borough of Camden. Since it was opened as an Assessment Centre in 2006, Howard House has played an integral part in the network of provision which comprises the London Borough of Camden Young People's Pathway. Currently we are using the provision to provide 10 assessment spaces for young people and 5 Specialist Progress beds. There is also an emergency bed space available.

Howard House offers a safe and supportive environment for single homeless young people between the ages of 16 – 21 years old (up to 25 if this includes special needs). Assessment is the first stage in the Pathway. At this stage their stay their accommodation and support needs are comprehensively assessed in order to progress either within, or out of the Pathway.

In providing a comprehensive support package and working closely with colleagues within the Social Services Department, St Christopher's are ideally placed to ensure that they support Social Services to comply with the judicial responsibilities placed on local authority by recent case law.

Referrals

The service is commissioned by Camden Social services and referrals are made from Camden Council Social Services, Housing and Children's Services Departments.

Support

We offer a 24 hours staffed service which includes waking night support staff. We operate by offering predominantly double cover staffing to enable intensive interactive support of our young people. This includes activities, outings and group work for both Assessment and Progress stage.

In Assessment every young person undertakes an initial 12 week assessment period that creates a bespoke support package. This includes possible referrals to external agencies and setting up of services for the young person. Howard House has established excellent working relations with key agencies within Camden.

Support is offered for up to 6 months with the option of reducing or increasing this timescale depending on the individual level of need. Once a young person has been assessed they will be referred to an appropriate service within the Pathway to meet their needs.

In Progress the service has been developed to accommodate young people who have had some experience of the Pathway and have been assessed as needing more intensive specialist support. Staff work in an intensive way together with specialist agencies to ensure there is a wrap around service that meets all the needs of the more vulnerable young people.

The service provides a “needs” led service, tailored to the young person and working within the service aims. We are working towards running a service based on social pedagogic principles and supported by behaviour assessment tools such as Q Pack.

An Individual Support Plan is created and will be an ongoing tool to assist the development of the young person. In addition, St Christopher’s measures a young person’s progress by using the Outcome Star Measurement Tool. Key working between a young person and an allocated staff member is pivotal in the relationship and takes place regularly a minimum of once a week.

All the clients are allocated a keyworker and all the staff work together to ensure that there is someone available to accompany young people to appointments especially ensuring that they are signed up to health appointments.

Aim of the Service

To provide a high quality support and accommodation service to those who need to achieve the necessary skills in dealing with individuals, organisations and interpersonal relationships.

To actively involve young people in the running of the project and to shape its future direction.

To achieve positive outcomes that encourage a young person to progress with the Pathway towards independent living.

To provide a clear and precise 12 week assessment period for every young persons that builds bespoke support package for them to achieve the right move to the next stage of Camden Pathways housing service.

Achieve a Record of Achievement boosted with AQA Awards linked to Camden 16+ social services assessment of Steps to Independence.

Description of the accommodation

Howard House offers 3 self contained flats and one 2 person shared flat for its specialist progress beds. And 10 assessment placements 2 flats are shared between 2 but the others are single occupancy flats. Each flat has its own bathroom, lounge/kitchen area and double bed room. The rooms are fully furnished. There is also one emergency bed space. The young people are also able to access a communal space downstairs, where activities, workshops and AQA sessions are conducted.

All young people receive a Welcome pack of clean linen, cutlery, crockery and cooking pots upon arrival.

About St Christopher's Fellowship

St Christopher's is a registered charity and housing association providing care, accommodation, education, training and support to children, young people and vulnerable adults. We manage children's homes, fostering services, supported housing and hostels along with education, employment and training, outreach services and peer education work.

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