

An introduction to Pathways at Wells Road and our Bloomfield Road project

Our Pathways project and Bloomfield Road project provide high support accommodation for young people between the ages of 16 and 19 with a secondary age group of 19-21 who are homeless, in temporary or other unsuitable accommodation, at risk and vulnerable and may be already in receipt of outreach services.

Accommodation

Pathways has 14 bed spaces. It is a high support hostel with housing management and is covered by staff 24 hours a day with an on-call management system in place. The accommodation itself is spread over four houses close to Bath city centre and comprises of 14 bed spaces arranged in clusters. There are four self-contained bedsits, four rooms with shared facilities for males, three rooms with shared facilities for females, a shared flat for two, plus one en-suite room suitable for a male or female.

We also have two communal lounges, a UK On-Line computer suite, a quiet room available to clients and laundry facilities on site. Clients also have access to the garden. Clients are expected to be able to live communally and respect each other within the project. **Bloomfield Road** is a large shared house which houses six young people. It has a shared kitchen on each floor, an extensive garden and all clients staying at Bloomfield are able to access facilities at Bath Foyer and also Pathways. We want the project to be safe for everyone and there are guidelines in place to ensure this for all clients, staff and visitors.

Staffing

The staff team at Pathways and Bloomfield consists of four Supported Housing Officers, a Senior Supported Housing Officer / Floating Support Worker, a part-time Supported Housing Administrator, an Outreach Worker and a Service Manager. Each client is allocated a support worker on arrival and other workers are available within the project at all times. Clients will meet with their support worker on a weekly basis or as and when needed depending on the young person's need.

Supporting young people

On entry, every client will have a comprehensive needs assessment, risk assessment and risk management plan and training needs assessment. Clients then work with their support worker to complete a mutually agreed support plan based on the outcome of the needs, training and risk assessments. Their involvement in this process is essential and core to the success of achieving aims and goals. The above documents are reviewed every three months as standard and also at a client's request or in the event of an incident or significant change in circumstances. The aim of Pathways is to provide stable accommodation with a holistic approach in order to support young people to move on into medium and low support accommodation and independent living. Clients receive assistance in setting up and maintaining their accommodation and we provide comprehensive advice on budgeting, benefits, drug and alcohol issues and offending behaviour. We also work closely with external agencies to help young people with any emotional or health needs they may have.

Pathways also empowers young people to utilise our own in-house training services such as basic skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT. We can also provide assistance in preparing CVs and interviewing techniques.

For those with more in-depth issues around offending, drug/alcohol use and mental health we recognise that we are not a specialist support service and Pathways staff will refer and access specialist services in order to provide support in these areas.

Client involvement

Clients are encouraged to be involved in the running of the project, and to attend group activities.

We currently have a cooking, art and gardening group and are also planning other ideas for the forthcoming year. Clients are also involved at a strategic level and we have currently have two client representative positions on the Board of Management and on the appeals and fundraising panel. Clients are also involved in creating and implementing our involvement strategy to ensure inclusion for all our clients within the YPS service. We facilitate client meetings and also questionnaires which consult clients on the service that we provide and constantly seek ideas for improvement. We are committed to doing all that we reasonably can to ensure that clients take responsibility for and control over their lives by encouraging them to make their own choices and decisions within the remit and guidelines of our services. Our goal is to ensure all clients have as much respect, dignity and independent choice over issues in their lives.

How to apply

Applications to Pathways and Bloomfield and other Shape young persons' services are to be made through agencies such as Social Services, Off the Record, Project 28, Connexions and other local agencies working with young people. Self-referrals are not accepted. The application covers all young persons' projects and the decision as to where a young person will be housed is made by the staff interviewing and the client's own choice. It is also based on the written application, the interview, the support level identified for that young person and contribution from the referring agency.

Should you have any problems with your referral or need more advice or would like to visit the project please contact any of the following staff at Pathways or Bloomfield on who will be able to help you on 01225 339330.

Hannah Newman-Grimes, Supported Housing Administrator

Paul Spriggs, Senior Supported Housing Officer/ Floating Support Officer

Lee Sainsbury, Supported Housing Officer

Kate True, Supported Housing Officer

Tom Box, Supported Housing Officer

Angela Wrigley, Outreach Worker

Anita Holden, Service Manager

This service is funded by B&NES Supporting People. Clients can access the service for a maximum of two years.