

## **An Introduction to Teenage Parents Project**

Shape's Teenage Parents project offers low/medium supported accommodation for teenage parents aged between 16-21. The aim of the project is to assist young parents to develop daily life skills ready for independent living.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation offered is dispersed throughout Bath and consists of a mix of one and two bedroom flats.

Staff provide housing management and low / medium support service with offsite cover and regular visits from staff from Pathways Wells Rd.

Teenage Parents have access to the IT UK On-Line Computer suite at Wells Rd and all other activities held at the Pathways project.

### **Staffing**

The Teenage Parents project have access to the same staff team available at Pathways Wells Rd which is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days of the week, and also a security number for out of hours emergencies. Support staff provide regular daytime visits, and clients are encouraged to access Pathways staff by phone or in person for any additional advice / support / questions required.

### **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 3 months as standard and also at a clients request or in the event of an incident or significant change in circumstances. The aim of the Cleveland projects 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 outside agencies to help young people with any emotional or health needs they may have.

The Teenage Parents Project 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 CV's 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 Cleveland staff will refer and access specialist services in order to provide support in these areas.

### **Clients 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 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 The Teenage Parents project and other SHAPE young person's services must be made through [www.housingsupportgatewaybathnes.org.uk](http://www.housingsupportgatewaybathnes.org.uk). This application covers all of the BANES housing related services including Floating Support provided by REACH.

Applications for the Young Person's Projects and the decision as to where a young person will be housed is made by the staff interviewing and the clients own choice. It is also based on the online application, the interview, the support level identified for that young person and contribution from the referring agency.

Should you have any problems with accessing the website, need more advice or would like to visit the project please contact the Pathways office on 01225 339330.

**Hannah Newman Grimes-Supported Housing Administrator.**  
**Emma Andrews-Teenage Parents Supported Housing Officer**  
**Tom Box-Supported Housing Officer**  
**Lee Sainsbury-Supported Housing Officer**  
**Kate True-Supported Housing Officer**  
**Anita Holden-Service Manager**

**This service is funded by BANES Supporting People clients can access the service for a maximum of two years**