

SUPPORTED HOUSING

SCHEME OBJECTIVES

Through its clearly stated Mission of working with young people towards their full potential, Guildford YMCA Housing aims to provide quality supported accommodation for young, single people, which is stable, secure, independent and affordable.

This will be achieved by:

1. Providing Accommodation

- (i) Primarily for young people aged 16-30 irrespective of gender, race, creed, or sexual orientation.
- (ii) Which is accessible and attractive to young people.
- (iii) Which offers security, independence and stability while encouraging young people to move on.
- (iv) Which promotes an underlying ethos based on the Christian principles of acceptance, care and support for young people.
- (v) Which has an underlying principle that the rooms are homes for young people, respecting their privacy and independence while maintaining a supportive approach to the residents.
- (vi) Which enables the provision of a balanced community, where members can positively experience those from other cultures, backgrounds and economic situations.

2. Providing Support

- (i) By ensuring that every new resident undergoes an assessment of need resulting in a support plan and subsequent goals for the duration of their stay.
- (ii) Through a variety of staff members including housekeepers, reception staff, duty officers and night staff in addition to the Supported Housing support team.
- (iii) Through nurturing an organisational culture where each staff member has the interest to value and support the residents who make this their temporary home.
- (iv) Through opportunities for residents to get involved with the management of the scheme and Residents' Activities Programme through a Residents' Forum and regular surveys.

- (v) By developing links with numerous other agencies and providing advocacy and support, enabling residents to access other services and provision.
- (vi) By offering a comprehensive induction and introduction into life at the YMCA together with support in accessing benefits, welfare and healthcare.
- (vii) By clearly setting out the rules and boundaries of what is permitted and not permitted, and managing this in a way that is supportive, consistent, firm and fair.

3. Assisting with Move-On

- (i) Through encouraging residents to move to Midway House where appropriate to achieve a greater level of independence and to which tailored support is provided.
- (ii) To assist residents in accessing opportunities to individually develop their life skills in preparation for fully independent living.
- (iii) By working with other agencies to ensure that when the time is right access is gained to suitable permanent accommodation and assistance is provided with setting up home.
- (iv) By providing ongoing support to residents as they move out of the YMCA, through home visits, return visits, and organising specialist individual assistance where required for a period of up to six months.
- (v) Working together in partnership with the Local Authority, in line with its Housing Strategy for Homelessness prevention and provision.

Approved by the Board in December 2002.

Updated TD and approved by residential committee August 2008

Approved by the Board September 2008