

## **Agenda Item 7**

**Handout circulated at Committee meeting**



## **Foyer for South Wilts**

### **Background**

The Foyer for South Wilts is the result of discussions and research which started as far back as 1999 as a need for housing for single young homeless people in South Wiltshire became evident.

Many stakeholders formed a Steering Group and Beacon Youth Trust, Salisbury District Council and the Housing Corporation negotiated capital funding for a Foyer to be established.

The Foyer opened its doors at the end of July 2003 – it is managed by Beacon Youth Trust and revenue is provided from rental income and a grant from ‘Supporting People’. Young people aged 16-25 can benefit from the services provided by the Foyer for up to 2 years.

### **Accommodation/ Facilities**

The Foyer is a purpose built accommodation and training centre situated on Wilton Road. There are 14 flats which have 2 bedrooms, shower room, loo and a kitchen – with 2 people sharing each flat so there is accommodation available for 28 residents. The flats are furnished and the residents only need to supply their own bedding, kettle, cutlery etc.

In addition to the bedrooms, there is a laundry, TV lounge, pool table and Cyber - Café for use by the residents.

Residents cook for themselves and are expected to keep their room/flat clean and tidy.

There are 2 training rooms available where in – house training takes place. These rooms are also used by outside training agencies, and are available to organisations to hold meetings, training etc.

## **Staffing**

The Foyer is staffed by a small team providing 24 hour support:

- 1 Foyer Manager
- 1 Training Co-ordinator/ Deputy Manager
- 2 Support Workers
- 2 Night Support Workers (8pm to 8am cover 1 worker on duty )
- 1 part- time Administrator
- 1 part- time Floating Support/Resettlement Worker for Montague House.

## **Support**

The scheme is staffed 24 hours a day and each resident is assigned a Support worker, whom they will normally see on a weekly basis for a 1:1 meeting. Together the resident and the support worker will draw up a Personal Development Plan and will work together to enable the young person to be supported and empowered to move forward and achieve their goals in life and move on to independent living.

Support will include help in

- accessing training, education, recreation and employment opportunities – a full time Training Co-ordinator will work in conjunction with the Support Worker to assist in these areas, working with other agencies ie Connexions, Job Centre, local training providers and Colleges.
- improve social and life skills such as budgeting, cooking etc.
- referring to any relevant specialist counselling and other health services if appropriate
- assistance in moving onto independent living accommodation

As the Foyer is staffed on a 24 hour basis, residents know that there is always someone to talk to for any information, advice they may require.

## **Applying to the Foyer**

Applications are welcomed from young people aged 16-24 who have a connection with South Wiltshire and are in need of safe, affordable housing, and who are committed to moving on with their lives.

Applications can be made by an agency eg. Social Services, Connexions, SDC Housing dept, or can be made by a young person directly.

Once the application is received an assessment interview will be held, references followed up, a risk assessment carried out if relevant and a decision will then be made to offer a place to the applicant.

If a room is offered and a room is available then the young person can usually move in within a week. A small deposit is required ( currently £35-00).

If no room is available the successful applicant will be placed on a waiting list, where priority will be given to those with the greatest accommodation need.

Accommodation is provided on a licence agreement which is for 6 months initially but which can be renewed for up to 2 years, as long as the resident is meeting the terms of the licence. If the rules are broken then a resident may be given 28 days notice to move out of the Foyer.

Once moved into the Foyer, the resident will be allocated a Support Worker and will meet with their Support Worker and Training Co-ordinator within a week, and a Support and Development Plan will then be drawn up, and the Support process commenced. Support and development plans are reviewed on a regular basis.

## **Residents Involvement**

A Residents Committee is made up of residents representatives, voted in by the residents. The residents committee meets at least monthly with the Foyer manager to discuss any issues/ideas/suggestions. Any items are then put onto the next Residents Meeting which is held monthly.

Residents are encouraged to take an active part in the running of the Foyer.

## **Move – On Accommodation**

Montague House is situated on Wilton Road , adjacent to the Foyer and provides 8 flats which are classified as ‘Move- On Accommodation’.

Residents at the Foyer who are proving to be able to live more independently can apply to move into Montague House. They will have the support of a Floating Support/Resettlement worker available and the aim will be to enable the young person to become ready for completely

independent accommodation. Montague House is available for up to 2 years or age 25.

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