

# Ashdene

**Ashdene, situated in central Wakefield, specialises in working with a range of ex-offenders who may have complex needs or who are hard to place locally or nationally.**

Accommodation is available for fourteen men aged eighteen plus. There are fourteen single rooms, most have wash basins. There are showers and bathrooms, mostly situated at ground floor level. Some ground floor bedspaces are available for ex-offenders in wheelchairs. All meals are prepared and served by staff members.

## Local Community

Wakefield has a cinema, sports centre, theatre, a library and a swimming pool all within walking distance of the project. Cheap local transport is available. There are rail and coach stations in the city centre offering convenient access to the whole of West Yorkshire including Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield.

## Staffing

At Ashdene staff provide twenty-four hour cover for the home. Staff share a Christian value base enhancing the quality of support provided. Staff work closely with the local Police and Probation Services.

## Personal Support Plans

Each resident will be allocated a Key Worker and during the initial four week assessment period, individual Personal Support Plans will be worked out. This support plan is reviewed so staff can work towards helping residents move-on into independent or semi-supported accommodation where appropriate. Ashdene has recently developed a Floating Support Service whereby service users establish tenancies in the community, supported by Ashdene staff.

## Opportunities

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities available whilst they are with us. Wakefield College courses are available on an Open Learning 'drop in' basis and domestic and social skills are taught 'in house'. Courses run by the local Probation Service from time to time also provide a good opportunity to learn new skills. In some cases qualifications can be achieved. There is a health and fitness centre and emphasis is placed upon encouraging residents to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

## Conduct

Rules are kept to a minimum, but some are necessary and include:

- Behaviour to one another and guests is expected to be of a reasonable standard.
- Alcohol and drugs are not allowed inside the house. Prescribed medication is held by staff.
- Guests are not allowed in resident's bedrooms without prior permission.
- Residents are expected to be active in seeking employment or training where this is part of the Personal Support Plan.
- Residents are required to keep their rooms clean and communal areas tidy and to assist in the gardens.
- Residents are expected to take part in a rehabilitation programme.

## Length of Stay

Not all residents have the same needs so there is no fixed length of stay. (Residents rarely stay more than 2 years). Each referrer will identify sources of funding, some of which may be time

limited. Where appropriate, the aim is to help individuals achieve independence.

## Conditions of Residency

Before we can assess an application, prospective residents are asked to sign a Data Processing Consent form. All residents will need to sign a Licence Agreement and abide by this. Residents will be given a handbook which includes important information about living at a Langley House Trust project.

## Referrals

Referrals in the first instance should be made to Ashdene. The level of risk to the public, staff and residents will be the principle determining factor. Staff visit prospective residents in prison, hospital, hostels, etc., to assess their needs and also their suitability for the project. Those considering coming may be asked to spend home leave at the project. Ashdene have developed a protocol with West Yorkshire Probation Service and Wakefield Mental Health Services.

## Equal opportunities & confidentiality

Ashdene is committed to achieving equal opportunities for all. Religion, race, nationality, disability, age and sexual orientation will not be part of the selection criteria. We will challenge any discriminatory attitude within the house.

The staff provide each resident with a confidentiality policy through which they seek to safeguard and keep secure all confidential information received regarding an individual.

Information recorded by Project Workers should, as part of the open record keeping policy, be shared on a regular basis between Key Worker and resident.

## For further information

Staff at Ashdene welcome informal enquiries from those considering making a referral. Prospective residents are encouraged to visit the home by prior appointment, as are Probation Officers, Social Workers, Sentencers and other professionals.

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