



BARNABAS SAFE & SOUND – SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PROJECT REFERRAL INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our supported accommodation project provides temporary accommodation with support for young people aged 16-25 years who are in housing crisis AND need support. We aim to give young people the skills they need to live independently within the community, building their confidence and encouraging them to engage in training, education or employment.

Our Accommodation

We currently offer 9 bed spaces: 3 in Morpeth, 5 in Ashington, and 1 in Stakeford. Our accommodation is a mix of both single unit and shared accommodation. We only accommodate single young people.

Shared accommodation is an ideal choice for those young people who have never lived alone and require more intensive support. Single unit accommodation is allocated to young people who perhaps have lived independently before but still require ongoing support to manage their home.

The Referral Process

Referrals may be made by professionals, and by young people who present themselves as needing support. Barnabas Safe & Sound will carry out their own assessment of needs, and risk. Allocation of supported accommodation will take into consideration our existing residents, and any potential areas for concern.

To make a referral, a young person must be: Aged between 16 and 25 years old and in need of housing, with support. They must be willing to participate in training, education or employment. Priority will be given to young people from Northumberland.

Our accommodation is not available for young people who are already independent, do not require support, and able to access housing through the usual routes.

Due to funding, our service may not be suitable for young people in full time employment with a substantial wage. This will affect the level of housing benefit which is claimed and may result in young people having to contribute more to the cost of their accommodation. We can provide further advice on referral.

Our supported accommodation project does not offer emergency accommodation.

Exclusions

- Those who have been cautioned or convicted of arson.
- Those who have been cautioned or convicted under Schedule One of the Children & Young People Act 1933.
- Those who have been cautioned or convicted for relevant offences under the Sex Offenders Act 1977.
- We may need to exclude young people if there are factors which would be detrimental to the health, safety and wellbeing of our existing residents.

Ready to make a referral?

- For professionals, we ask that you discuss the idea of supported accommodation with the young person before making a referral. Always seek consent from the young person before proceeding.
- We are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding our accommodation, and support. Please do contact our office on 01670 517721 to make an enquiry.
- If you are ready to refer, our Referral Form can be found on our website:
www.barnabas-northumberland.org.uk/resources/
- Completed referral forms should be emailed to: admin@barnabasne.org.uk
- All referrals will be acknowledged by either email or phone, outlining the next course of action.



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What happens next?

- Our Intensive Housing Management Lead will carry out an initial eligibility check. If the young person is eligible, the referral will be passed to our Housing Support Worker for further assessment.
- Our Housing Support Worker will be in touch. If we have no vacancies, the young person will be asked if they wish to be added to our waiting list.
- If we have availability, the young person will be invited to attend an assessment interview – this is our opportunity to get to know the young person, assess their needs and any risks. They can bring someone with them and ask any questions they might have.
- If we can offer accommodation, the young person will be invited to view the property at a convenient time.
- If there are any concerns, we may need to discuss the referral with another Housing colleague but will try to give an indication on how long it will take to respond.
- If we are unable to proceed with a referral, we will give our reasons for this.
- Applicants can ask us to review our decision if they feel they have been treated unfairly, or if they feel we have not followed our procedure.
- If the application for supported accommodation is successful, our Housing Support Worker will discuss a convenient time for you to move in.

Licence Agreements

Typically, residents are issued with a 6-month licence agreement, with non-exclusive use of the property being offered. We may issue a shorter licence if there are concerns. As the end of their licence agreement approaches, our Housing Support Worker will revisit the resident's needs. If appropriate, a further licence of 6 months will be issued. If the resident is ready to do so, we will provide support by helping them to secure their own tenancy, in a planned way.

Our licence agreements outline rights, responsibilities, and house rules. They also state the charges for the property. The licence clearly states that 28 days' notice is required for either party should the agreement need to end. However, in emergency situations where Barnabas Safe & Sound feel there is risk to the health and safety, or wellbeing of others, including staff, we may issue an immediate eviction.

Providing Support

As part of our licence agreement, we ask all residents to engage in support. This is offered on a one-to-one basis and is appropriate to their own needs. Our Housing Support Worker will work with the resident to establish an initial support plan. This will be reviewed periodically to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our residents.

We do not currently provide an out of hours service. However, do provide a full list of emergency contacts in each of our properties, and endeavour to respond to any issues at our earliest opportunity.

Warnings & Evictions

All new residents are made aware of our Warnings & Evictions procedure. Where there are initial concerns, we may address these through verbal or written reminders. Where this is not possible, warnings will be issued. We view our warnings as an opportunity for change.