



Supported Housing Programme

ADMISSION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE

Set out below are the criteria and procedure for admission to The Nehemiah Project's ("Nehemiah") Supported Housing Programme.

1. FIRST CONTACT

Following the initial contact, which might be by letter, telephone, email, an agency query or a visit, Nehemiah will provide the information required about the programme, and send the applicant the Supported Housing Application Form for completion and return to Nehemiah. Please note that no applicant will be accepted onto Nehemiah's Supported Housing programme unless he is entitled to Housing Benefit. The applicant should be made clearly aware of this.

Completion of the Application Form will not automatically guarantee an interview.

Criteria

- Applicants must be male over 18, have been chemically dependent on either drugs or alcohol, with a possible history of offending and homelessness.
- Our main criterion is to support men through their latter stages of recovery assisting them with person centred goals and choices in areas their progression into independent living e.g. education, training and employment and assistance in their move on strategies.
- Applicants should be prepared to engage in the latter point as well as the requirement of our 12 week daily structured CBT based programme.
- Have abstained for a period of 4 weeks before being accepted. We would need this to be accounted for by any other referring agencies the client is currently engaged with.
- Must have completed some type of intense therapy or treatment either RESIDENTIAL or in the community DAY PRAGRAMMES or within a prison setting - SHORT INTERVENTIONS UNDER 3 MONTHS ARE NOT INCLUDED.
- Must have an awareness of their support needs over and above basic homeless issues i.e. addiction being their main need, any emotional support to be addressed and family or debt issues.
- We are not a detox or a rehabilitation programme but a specialist supported housing programme with; 1: a medium structure over a 12 week period and required to be present in the mornings 2: move on to lower structure over a 1 to 2 year period. 3: Finally an option of minimum structure or self-governed for a further 1 to 2 years.
- ****There is a need for clients to be partially if not fully funded (shared funding streams would be a good option)****

****THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ADMISSIBLE ONTO THE PROGRAMME:**

- Applicants who are under 18
- Applicants with a history of Arson.
- Previous incidents of violence or aggression in the last 6 months
- Applicants on taking any maintenance prescriptions
- Applicants with a current diagnosis of Schizophrenia, Psychopathy, long term Depression, tendencies of Suicidal attempts, or Psychosis.
- Applicants with any history of sexual offending – the programme does not purport to deliver effective treatment to sexual offenders.

****N.B: Applicants who are regarded as high risk to the public or themselves will be assessed case by case RISK ASSESSMENT ****

****Please note that risk assessment and a list of Pre conviction must be attached to the application form.****

2. FIRST INTERVIEW

If possible applicants will be given an interview by two Nehemiah staff consisting of either the Supported Housing Manager or the Senior Support Worker, and one other member of staff. If this is not possible, either because the applicant is in prison, or cannot come to 47 Tooting Bec Gardens, the first interview may be by telephone. A telephone interview must be followed by a second interview in person.

The interview will contain questions designed to highlight self motivation, insight and recognition of the need by the applicant for continuing support. The outcome of the initial interview will be recorded in the Resident Interview Report. This will consist of a simple summary containing the following basic information:

- client details
- his suitability for the programme
- a basic risk assessment
- evaluation of the applicant's risk factors, and
- final recommendations.

If the applicant appears suitable, either:

- He will need to attend a second interview to complete a Need Assessment and risk profile

3. FUNDING

During the interview, the applicant's funding strategy, if any, needs to be identified and discussed. Ideally, he should be financially supported by his referring agency. As a minimum, it should be made absolutely clear to the applicant that he will only be accepted onto the programme if he is entitled to Housing Benefit. **An applicant without a valid identification will not be accepted.**

4. DECISION/ SECOND INTERVIEW

Following the first interview, the interviewers will consider the applicant according to the stated criteria. They will then decide:

- to accept the applicant onto the programme
- to request more information from the applicant or his referring agency
- to conduct a second interview with the applicant (this is essential if the first interview is by telephone), or
- to reject the application.

5. ADMISSION

The decision will be recorded on the Resident Interview Review form. The Senior Support Worker or the Supported Housing Manager will inform the applicant and his referring agency of Nehemiah's decision by telephone, letter or email as appropriate within 5 working days.

If there is a vacancy at 47 Tooting Bec Gardens, the applicant will be invited to join the programme as soon as possible. Priority will be given on a strictly first come first served basis. If there is a waiting list, applicants have a responsibility to keep in contact with Nehemiah until a vacancy occurs.

Applicants will be drug tested on arrival (see point 2.IV). Should the test proven positive, the person will be asked to leave for two weeks. There is no guaranty that the place will be kept for the individual. However, the person's name will be put back on the waiting list and will be given priority over a new applicant.

Applicants will be encouraged to attend probation meetings and comply with all probation or other sentence planning requirements, but it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they do.

6. APPEAL

If an applicant is rejected following the first interview, he may request a second interview in writing setting out why he is unhappy with the decision. In this event, Nehemiah will normally arrange a second interview, and at this interview the applicant may bring a sponsor with them.

Any decision taken by Nehemiah following a second interview is final.

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