

# The Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub

Enfield Council

[www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)

# Introduction and Background.

- I am Jodie Rudgley, the manager of The Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub, a service that was developed from scratch in Enfield to enable people who were experiencing rough sleeping in Enfield a pathway into appropriate and sustainable accommodation.
- In 2018, 79 people were found rough sleeping in Enfield, this is one of the highest numbers of people found rough sleeping across the UK.
- We received funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) and the COVID emergency fund to set up the project which was originally for 22 sleep pods and built by the in-house building maintenance team. However, as this was built in the hight of the Pandemic when guidance was continuously changing, we had to re-build the design of the service.

- We created 12 contained rooms within statutory size and each had room for a bed, table/chair limiting shared air to enable the clients to have their own space and not share the living space minimising the risk of spreading Covid 19. The redesign took our in-house maintenance team 4 weeks to supply and fit. We also created and built a testing booth outside the building so people could be tested before accessing the service.
- The Hub opened in January 2020 and so far since opening we have had 550 people have now accessed our service. The majority of our residents have been assisted to access and settle into properties within the Private Rented Sector.
- Due to the success of the service in April 2023 we took on an extra adjoining building and expanded the Hub to a 32 room service, we were then able to accept referrals for single vulnerable male adults from our Housing Advisory Service who are at risk of rough sleeping as a preventative measure, this also reduced and continues to reduce temporary accommodation costs.

# The Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub.

➤ Our hub is open 24 hours 7 days a week

We have 3 cohorts of people we accept into the hub.

- 1) People who are found bedded down and verified as a rough sleeper by the Street Homeless Outreach Team
- 2) Single Approach referrals from the Housing Advisory Service
- 3) We work in partnership with All people All Places, which is a homelessness charity based in Enfield, and they let 6 bed spaces from our service to enable people with NRPF whilst their status outcome from the Home Office.
- 4) We also accept referrals from the Housing Advisory Service for females who are able to move directly into PRS as we have a good network of landlords and agents, and we often have properties available on the day.

## How do we accept people into our service?

- 1) Everyone referred who will stay at the hub will undertake a Risk Assessment and a Support Plan. We work on the basis of risk, is this person a risk to themselves, others, staff and the building? This means we are able to accept a mixed group of people with varying degrees of support needs.
- 2) Once settled in, our practitioners meet with their allocated clients daily and prepare them for their move on.

## What do the staff do?

Our practitioners provide a range of support.

- 1) Maximise people's benefits, set up UC/PIP/Pension Credit. Support people with JCP appointments
- 2) Obtain ID, birth certs, passports.
- 3) Set up bank accounts.
- 4) Register with a GP, fast track appointments.
- 5) Refer to Drug and Alcohol Team
- 6) Support people to attend medical appointments, hospital, opticians, dentists.
- 7) Mediation with families
- 8) Mental health referrals, liaising with the NHS, Crisis teams and Mental Health Wards
- 9) Property searches online
- 10) Assist with online courses.
- 11) Support clients to attend viewings and property sign ups.

We also offer tenancy sustainment for both clients and Landlords, we have built a positive relationship with the DWP, using Easements and Alternative payment arrangements to ensure rent arrears are not accrued and minimising any risk to a tenancy.

A HRA caseworker sits within our team to carry out the legal HRA requirements alongside our work.

We have a van that assists us to collect clients, take to appointments and to assist with moving in new accommodation.

# Statistics

## Clients referred in by the Street Homeless Outreach Team

301 accessed the service to date

172 successfully moved on to the PRS/Supported accommodation

34 days average stay

In August street count we had 11

## Clients referred in by the Housing Advisory Service

203 accessed the service to date

176 successfully moved on to the PRS/Supported accommodation

30 days average stay

According to these statistics the projected Temporary Accommodation cost avoidance savings over a year is 2 million pounds plus.



# Winner of 2023 London Homeless Awards 2023



2023 PRIZE  
WINNER

# The Future

Unfortunately in January 2025 we are having to vacate our current building. However, we have identified an alternative Council owned building to move to which will allow us to extend further to a 36 bed service and having recently had the planning permission approved for a change of use we are now currently exploring funding opportunities for the Capital works with the GLA.

Thank you for your time

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Questions?