

April 2019



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Flax Foyer

16 Flax Street
Belfast
BT14 7EJ

02890 593301
info@flaxfoyer.com



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Introduction

Flax Foyer is a project of NB Housing. Flax Foyer offers short term accommodation for single young people aged 18-25, with access to 24 hour support.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to provide temporary supported accommodation with access to training, education and employment opportunities from which young people are empowered to become socially and economically active citizens.

We support independence, choice and well-being in the following key areas:

- Ability to manage housing costs
- Ability to arrange provision of services to keep own home habitable
- Ability to maintain the security of own home, ensuring personal safety
- Ability to maintain health & safety in own home
- Development of practical living skills
- Development of employability, through training and educational opportunities
- Development of social and emotional well-being and improved motivation
- Ability to establish a stable place in the community.

Each resident will have individual support plans which will be written and reviewed regularly with their nominated Support Worker. Support levels provided will be person centred according to the resident's individual needs and wishes which can be reassessed and adjusted when needed. Services delivered within the scheme aim to contribute to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017-22 (available at www.nihe.gov.uk/northern_ireland_homelessness_strategy.pdf).

Location and Amenities

Flax Foyer is situated on Flax Street in Ardoyne. The scheme is within walking distance of the city centre. It is close to local amenities in North Belfast, library, doctors, dentists, bus stops, taxi ranks and several supermarkets.

Facilities

Accommodation is based within a seven story building. There are 37 furnished 1 bedroom flats.

Communal areas consist of:

- Communal lounge
- Computer suite with internet access
- Communal Kitchen/Laundry with two washing machines and two tumble driers.

Staffing Structure

Scheme Manager x 1 FT

Day Support Workers x 5 – 2 x FT, 3 x PT (Equivalent to 4 x FT)

Night Support Workers x 4 FT

Resident Licence Agreement

The lifetime of the licence is *one week* and will be taken as extended on a weekly basis so long as all the terms of the licence are met by the Licensee.

Ending the Licence:

NB Housing or their agents in the Flax Foyer project can end the Licence at any time (subject to giving notice as laid out below) by issuing a written notice on one or more of the grounds listed below: -

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- i. The Licensee has failed to pay the charges which are due.
- ii. The Licensee has failed to comply with, or breached any conditions of this agreement, the Joint Contract, including breaches of Policies and Foyer rules.
- iii. The Licensee has committed any criminal offence on the premises, or has used any part of the premises for unlawful or immoral purposes. i.e. drugs / prostitution.
- iv. The Licensee has caused damage to the property, fixtures or fittings of the Foyer. NB Housing will pursue any costs incurred by individuals.
- v. In NB Housing's reasonable opinion the Licensee no longer requires the services attached to the Foyer.
- vi. The Licensee can be asked to vacate the Foyer immediately if Licensee is in breach of rules laid down in relation to use of illegal substances, solvent/aerosol misuse
- vii. The Licensee can be asked to vacate the Foyer immediately if it is believed that; the individual poses a risk to themselves, other residents, staff or NB Housing property. Flax Foyer also reserves the right for immediate termination of agreement if the resident is violent or poses a violent threat.

Activities and Outings

Flax Foyer offers a diverse range of activities to cater for individual residents' needs. Examples include trips to local activity/sporting complexes, in house training and activities in partnership with other providers.

Activities and events are planned in consultation with residents with all planned events circulated amongst the residents, advertised on the scheme notice board and placed prominently within communal areas.

Community Involvement

Residents within Flax Foyer are encouraged to become involved with the local community. This is facilitated by the numerous partnerships and connections which have been created and maintained by Foyer staff. The Scheme Manager and Support Workers regularly review and seek new opportunities for joint working to encourage social and community involvement.

Access to Information

All residents have the right to access their personal information held within the scheme and/ or by the organisation. If a resident wishes to access such information they should speak to a member of staff to arrange.

Complaints, Compliments & Feedback

The Association's Complaints & Suggestions Policy and Procedure is displayed on a noticeboard on the ground floor and provided at Induction. A copy is also available from staff on request.

Supporting People

Supporting People provide funding for Housing Support Services; these services are designed to help residents live independently. Funding is received for the full time equivalent of 9 staff for the provision of housing related support.

Supporting People will ensure that the services being delivered are: of a high quality; cost effective; and meet the needs of each individual resident. In order to ensure this, Supporting People have developed a process of contract management and performance visits to seek the views of residents, staff and visitors. A copy of the latest performance visit report is available on request from the Scheme Manager.

Applying for Accommodation at Flax Foyer

Anyone wishing to apply for a place in the Foyer can get an application form directly from the Foyer by contacting:

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Flax Foyer
16 Flax Street
Belfast
BT14 7EJ
Tel: 028 90593301
Email info@flaxfoyer.com

By visiting our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/flaxfoyerbytes or by visiting the association's website: <http://flaxhousing.com/flax-foyer-help-for-young-people>

Referrals will be accepted from the following: statutory and voluntary agencies including the NIHE; Social Services; community based groups; Probation Board; PSNI, hostels etc. An application form may be forwarded to the referral agent by post, e-mail or by hand delivery. Self-referrals are also accepted.

Where an application to Flax Foyer is being considered, it should be noted that the following criteria apply:

1. The scheme is for all genders aged 18-25.
2. The applicant is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
3. The applicant does not have a history or display persistent and/or extremely violent behaviour.
4. The applicant is not experiencing mental illness symptoms whereby they are a serious risk to themselves or others.
5. The applicant will fully participate in the support planning process to enable them to achieve their maximum level of independence.
6. The service can meet the needs and risk presented.
7. Any applicant excluded previously will be considered on the basis that they have taken steps to deal with the issue.

The application pack should be completed as fully as possible and returned directly to Flax Foyer. Any outstanding information will be collected by support staff once the form has been received.

All agencies referring applicants to the Foyer are required to provide any other additional information, which they deem relevant to assist staff in making an informed decision about the support needs of the applicant. Support staff will also complete background checks before accommodation is offered.

As an integral part of each resident's support plan, a programme of support will be established to enable the resident to eventually move on from the Foyer. This will be managed in line with the Association's Fair Exit Policy.

Exclusions

The Association reserves the right to reasonably exclude anyone from the Foyer project for the following reasons:

- The exclusion of schedule 1 (sex) offenders due to the risk they would present to vulnerable clients.
- The exclusion of convicted arsonists due to the risk to other clients, staff and Association property.
- The exclusion of anyone previously barred from Association property for defacing/destruction of property, anti-social behaviour, substance abuse, violent/aggressive behaviour, breach of Foyer rules or License Agreement.

For any further information, please refer to our website as outlined above or contact Foyer staff on 02890 593301.