



Compass
St John's

Providing Sustainable Homes

Long Term recovery begins with support

In October 2012, working hand in hand with the National Probation Service St John's Approved Premises launched its Outreach Service. The vision was always to provide a service that would encourage and support Service Users to live independently, minimise relapse, foster longer term recovery and reduce risk of re-offending.

Throughout the last two years, lack of appropriate and affordable housing has consistently been identified as a contributing cause for relapse.

In 2013 St John's launched a 6 months pilot Housing Scheme with the aim of addressing the problem. Working in partnership with an already established housing provider, the pilot offered a number of selected Service Users the opportunity to take residency in properties within West Yorkshire that were financially viable, of a standard and would compliment any long term move-on plans already agreed.

Following its success, in May 2014 St John's Approved Premises launched Compass, its own supported housing programme for those Service Users eligible to live within the Leeds area.

Why another Housing Project?

Our first step in identifying a need for Compass was to look at those services offered to ex-offenders by existing organisations in the area. Having offered support to over 140 Service Users within the last two years, it has always been apparent that existing housing options are limited by both finances and suitability. Additionally, many schemes only offer short term, temporary accommodation of



approximately six months. Neither of these factors are conducive to long term resettlement and recovery.

The Compass St John's Difference

Building upon the success of the Outreach Service and experiencing first hand the difficulties faced by those within the judicial system, we had a very clear vision for Compass - to offer sustainable, long term homes of a standard with ongoing access to support through Outreach to those most vulnerable and at risk of relapse. Our biggest challenge has been to break down the barriers preventing Service Users from being able to access suitable accommodation.

Long Term Supported Tenancies

Working in partnership with local authorities, existing private landlords, current housing providers and the Probation Service, we have developed a scheme that not only meets our vision, but also offers landlords the confidence and long term support when looking to house ex-offenders.

Each Service User is provided with, and agrees to, a 'Licence To Occupy' which clearly sets out the terms of Tenancy. Tenancies are provided for either six or twelve months dependant on individual circumstances, after which time the Service User has the option to take it over themselves.

In line with local Housing Benefit rates, and our first hand experience of typical running costs, all our Compass properties are limited to single bedroomed flats or houses. All properties are provided fully furnished, including white goods and day to day items such as crockery, cutlery kettle and toaster. Our aim is to provide Service Users with the best start possible

Engagement with St Johns' Outreach service is a mandatory term of tenancy and is tailored to the individual needs of the Service User. Support through the Outreach Service continues any care plans already developed whilst residing at St John's Approved Premises.

Continued access to St Johns' range of Purposeful Activities is encouraged, including budgeting, life skills employment, education and the bike club.

For further
information please
contact:

Imogen Johnson	Strategic Manager
Phil Atkinson	Project Coordinator 07587 130530
David Jowitt	Project Development 07442 531546

Compass St John's

263 Hyde Park Road
Leeds
LS6 1AG

Telephone: 0113 2755702

Email: compass@stjohnsap.co.uk



Compass is managed by St John's Approved Premises

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