

Open Minds Proposed Training and Therapy Centre

Open Minds' Supporting Statement

The Statement below has been prepared by Open Minds in explanation of their business activities and aspirations for the proposed Training and Therapy Centre.

At Open Minds we approach treatment with several things in mind.

First, we treat each person who comes to us with dignity and respect and we provide a safe, discreet place in which to start the healing process.

Next, we want to be very accurate in any diagnosis so the assessment and evaluation processes are very thorough to ensure that the person is appropriate for our level of care. Addiction is a complex disease that impacts people physically, emotionally and psychologically, so some people's treatment needs are more severe than others.

Our treatment philosophy is based on the recognition that addiction is a disease and that abstinence is the only way to manage the disease. Clients who spend time at Open Minds have demonstrated a clear commitment to a life free from all mood altering chemicals, including alcohol and prescription drugs. We are not a prescribing service and have no association with using addicts or active alcoholics.

The majority of our clients fund their own treatment. At present our client group is as follows:

Gender	Age	Occupation	Home	Discharge plan
Female	38	Florist	Warwickshire	Will return home to live with her husband and return to work
Female	50	Teacher	Merseyside	Will return home to her children and go back to work
Female	49	Personal Assistant	Manchester	Will return home to her partner and daughter and resume work
Male	54	Shop Owner	Midlands	Will return to family and business
Male	46	Private Income	Isle of Wight	Will return to home and family
Male	58	Incapacity Benefits	Tyneside	Will return to wife, daughters and grandchildren
Female	48	Air Hostess	Manchester	Will return to husband and resume work
Male	37	University Lecturer	Australia	Will return to Australia to join his wife and 3 children

Male	30	Roofing Contractor	Tameside	Will return home to live with parents and resume work
Male	45	Butcher	Midlands	Will return to his own home and job
Male	46	Unemployed following major car accident	Manchester	Will return to his own home and access further education to help with career change

In order to protect our clients anonymity we will bring them to the day centre in our private transport and they will not leave the premises until they are collected again at the end of the day. They have no desire to see or be seen by anyone outside of our organisation and we take their right to privacy very seriously. As you can see the fears that local residents have are unfounded and based on a lack of understanding of the kind of treatment we offer and the people that we help.

Due to the stigma of addiction the service that we provide for chemical dependency tends to attract clients from a wide geographical area who mainly prefer to have their treatment away from home. The move into new premises will now allow us to introduce a valuable new service aimed at helping the local community.

Many people who seek treatment for their drug or alcohol addiction may also struggle with emotional health issues such as stress, depression, eating disorders, grief, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder. This combination of addiction along with other emotional issues is quite common. We are skilled at addressing the complexity of issues around co-occurring disorders alongside the addiction to drugs and alcohol. Due to this expertise we will be developing Emotional Wellness courses aimed at supporting local employers, job seekers, voluntary organisations, etc who may need help for people who are not chemically dependent but whose emotional health is impaired, limiting their ability to lead a full and productive life. In addition we have been asked to become the Northern Training Centre for the Institute of Reality Therapy and will be offering training in Emotional Wellness Coaching following the move.