

Working agreement Framework between the Young People's Accommodation Service and the Mental Wealth Academy

1. Purpose of the Agreement

This working agreement framework has been developed to ensure that young people accessing the Young People's Supported Accommodation (YPSA) service receive the best possible support through effective and consistent partnership working with staff within the Mental Wealth Academy (MWA) and YPSA services. This agreement outlines how these services will work together to achieve the best outcomes for young people.

2. Background

In past supported housing services' there have been varied experiences received by individual young people in the supported housing service and the staff supporting them which was also evidenced in the review of the Young People's Supported Housing service completed in 2019¹. Collectively supported housing projects did not all have a consistent offer and communication between the supported housing service and key partner agencies.

By having a working agreement framework in place, it is hoped that there will be clear understanding between the MWA and YPSA providers (both in-house and commissioned) from the outset about what is expected from each service and each service is new.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Staff from both services will work together through a joined up approach, avoid duplication and ensure a consistent working relationship to support the young person to achieve positive outcomes.

3.1 YPSA Service

The key aim of the YPSA service will be to provide intensive, evidence-based interventions to prepare Young People for sustainable independence, whilst supported in temporary, high quality accommodation. Staff from all teams must ensure that any offer or support given is shared with the others to ensure a joined up approach which avoids duplication and ensures consistent working relationships to help deliver positive outcomes for young people.

¹ <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/YPSHP/consultationHome>

3.1.1 Role of the YPSA workers

The YPSA worker is responsible for the daily accommodation support which includes:

- Setting up a new home
- Support to develop general household skills
- Support to access education, work placements, employment via referral to EET service and social activities
- Budgeting and money management, including supporting young people to claim the benefits they are entitled to
- Support with personal health
- Support and guidance in preparation for independent Accommodation
- Support with individual personal and emotional matters
- Support with setting up first independent home at 18 and move on

3.2 The Mental Wealth Academy

The Mental Wealth Academy project is delivered by Response in partnership with; SOFEA, BYHP, Ark T, Oxfordshire MIND & Oxfordshire Youth. The project supports 18-25 year olds across Oxfordshire, with mild-moderate mental health issues (which may include; Low mood, self-esteem, depression and anxiety) who are falling through gaps in the transition pathways from CAMHS to Adult Mental Health Services.

Each of the organisations mentioned above has a Transition Wellbeing Practitioner, who offers 1:1 non-clinical sessions, based on CBT & Solution Focussed therapy techniques, for approximately 12 weeks to support young people. The support services/session can include;

- Dealing with anxiety/stress
- Access to education employment and training
- Personal identity
- Physical health/body image
- Recognising/managing emotions
- Relationships/social media
- Steps to wellbeing
- Social skills/engagement
- Community engagement

Referrals can either be made by professionals working with a young person, a parent/carer, or a young person can self-refer via an online referral form².

In response to COVID-19³ and the pressures on young people (lockdown induced anxieties/stress etc.) **from June 1st – 31st November 2020, the project has released the capacity for the staff team to be able work with a young people (16-**

² <https://www.response.org.uk/children-young-people/mental-wealth-academy-request-for-service/>

³ Due to current restrictions, all referrals will be supported by end-to-end encrypted phone/video calls rather than face-to-face.

25). The project will continually review this expansion of service and therefore may not be able to offer this change to the service delivery indefinitely.

4. Communication and Monitoring Progress

For any case enquires or updates, questions regarding referral criteria and suitability please contact Jon Clark, Community & Participation Co-ordinator on either jon.clark@response.org.uk or mentalwealthacademy@response.org.uk or call 07851251317.

5. Summary of Process YPSA Service and the Mental Wealth Academy

