

Douglass House Project (DHP)

Catchment area: Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham, North Southwark

Project Contact details

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website:	None at present		

Project opening times: Residential

Accessibility:

Physically accessible? Not for wheelchair users

Language interpreter available? We can access interpreters, but participation in the project would be difficult for someone who has difficulty with spoken English.

BSL interpreter available? Can be accessed if necessary.

What does the project offer?

DHP is staffed 24 hours a day and has a team of mental health professionals to provide additional support. There is a therapeutic programme spread across the week, and residents are supported in re-integrating into the community.

What kind of support or involvement activity is offered?

The DHP Programme includes group work, one-to-one sessions and communal activities. Crisis support is available 24 hours a day.

Who does the organisation aim to provide a service for?

Men who have a diagnosis of PD which is associated with a history and/or risk of anti-social behaviour that has caused a problem for the people around them. Residents have usually had a significant amount of contact with mental health and/or criminal justice agencies.

Who can and who can't access it i.e. inclusion/exclusion criteria?

Who can access?	Who's excluded?
Men over the age of 18 who are eligible for housing in the boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham and North Southwark who have a personality disorder and who are at risk of interpersonal violence.	There are no formal exclusion criteria for people who meet the basic inclusion criteria. If there are potential barriers to someone engaging with the Programme (e.g. substance misuse that is not under control), this would be discussed and assessed on an individual basis.

Are there any barriers to new people joining?

At times there is a waiting list. There are no funding problems for individuals eligible for housing in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham or North Southwark.

How can people access it?

We ask for a written referral indicating the presenting issues, the kind of personality difficulties the individual has, and the links between these and their antisocial/offending behaviour. It is helpful to have one or two comprehensive reports if possible.

How does the process start?

After referral, a member of the DHP Team will visit the person for a preliminary discussion of their needs and what DHP offers. If it seems that DHP may be suitable, there will be further meetings with other members of the DHP Team. If everyone involved is agreed that DHP would be helpful to the person, he will (if practically possible) usually have a series of visits and overnight stays before moving in.

Are there any conditions to joining?

Participants are expected to abide by the DHP house rules. Most residents stay for around 2 years though this may vary depending on individual needs.

Are there any opportunities for service users to have an informal chat/meeting with someone before joining?

The referral and assessment process gives opportunities for prospective residents to ask questions and raise any concerns they may have.

What makes it different from mainstream mental health services?

DHP is a specialist service for men with PD and associated offending/anti-social behaviour, who have often had a difficult relationship with other services and agencies. We aim to offer a service that supports both the service user and his relationship with mainstream services.

What do people who use the service like about it?

Residents appreciate the level of support offered by DHP, and having a safe base from which to develop their capacity to cope more effectively with life and become more independent.

What could I expect if I came along?

On your first visit to DHP you would find a comfortable and welcoming house, with experienced and supportive staff and an opportunity to meet other residents.

Who runs the organisation/project?

Oxleas Foundation NHS Trust and Turning Point

Any plans for future development?

To continue developing an effective and supportive programme.

Service User and Carer Involvement

Service User Involvement

There are two community meetings a week, at which issues are discussed and decisions made. At the end of each term there is a review of the therapeutic Programme, and service users' feedback informs its future development. In general, residents are encouraged to be as actively involved in the life of DHP as they feel able to be. Residents work closely with their keyworker and other team members on actively developing a shared understanding of their difficulties and identifying personal goals and plans.

Carer Involvement

- Carers are not involved in running the Project.
- We offer the opportunity for people who are important to residents to meet members of the team if they and the resident wish.
- We encourage people who are important to our service users to get to know the team, if this is what the service user wants.