

# ***Exploring Residential Homes***

## ***Suggested Questions for looking at various Residential Home***

### **General**

- Why has the need for a place arisen?
- Is there an assessment process to decide who can come to live here?
- How is this done
- What are you looking for?
- Are there any people who you wouldn't offer a place?
- Is this a permanent placement or is it seen as a transition placement onto a more independent placement e.g. long arm care

### **Policies**

- Do you have an emotional needs policy?
- How are the emotional needs of residents supported?
- Do you have a sexual needs policy?
- Have any of your residents had experiences of heterosexual and/or homosexual relationships within the home?  
How were these supported?
- Have there been any cases of sexual harassment between residents?  
If yes, how were they dealt with  
If no, how would they be dealt with?
- Do you have an Equal Opportunities policy?
- Do you have a Health and Safety Policy?
- What is the Concerns/Complaints Procedure for residents, advocates, and/or family to use?

### **Staff Issues**

- To what extent do staff keep an overview of residents' activities?
- What is the ratio of staff to residents?
- What is the male/female balance of staff?
- How many hours are staff available for support?
- How many permanent and agency/bank staff do you currently have?  
Is this the usual situation?

PTO



- What is the induction process for permanent & agency staff?
- Is there ongoing training for staff?  
How is it provided, in house, or using external facilitators?
- What kinds of support and supervision do staff have?
- How do the managers gain supervision for themselves?
- How are staff accountable?  
How are managers accountable?
- Is there always a member of staff available/in sight of the residents?
- How is information passed on from one shift to another?
- Is there a risk assessment procedure?
- How do you support safety and explore risk?

## **Practicalities about The House**

- Are there respite beds in the home?
- Do residents have access to a telephone?
- How many toilets and bathrooms are there?  
How does it work with residents sharing?  
Is there a staff toilet?
- Is there a private place for residents to entertain guests other than their bedroom?
- Do residents have their own keys for the door?
- Do residents have to let someone know if they are going out and when they come back?
- Can residents make tea and coffee and snack when they fancy?  
For example, in the middle of the night?
- Is there a recognised lights out time?

## **Family, Advocates and Friends Involvement**

- Does each resident have a named person/keyworker and what does that involve?
- How are parents supported to be involved?
- Is there any conflict between residents?  
If this does occur, how is it facilitated?
- Is there any conflict between residents and staff?  
If this does occur, how is it facilitated?

PTO



- Do residents keep diaries?  
How are residents supported to organise/manage time, keep dates etc.?
- Are residents supported to manage their own money?  
If so, how?
- How far do you feel you can promote healthy living?
- What is your policy in respect of drugs?
- What type of records are kept of each resident e.g. health records?
- How are residents supported to see the chiropodist, hairdresser, dentist, social worker etc.?  
How are residents supported medically?
- Other than yearly statutory reviews, how often are residents' goals and aims evaluated and who is involved?

## Moving Out

- If a client wants to look at other places to live, how would this be supported?
- Have you/can you envisage a situation where you could no longer provide someone with a placement here?  
Why and what was/would be the process?

## Autism Specific Questions

- Do you perceive that people with autism/Asperger's Syndrome have different needs to other people with learning disabilities?
- If there any specific training for staff regarding autism/Asperger's Syndrome?

## Obtaining a Place

- Is there an assessment process to obtain a place and how would you go about requesting a place?
- What would be the time from requesting a place, to one being offered and then moving in?
- What is the transition process for the person moving in?  
How are parents and the other residents involved?

**REMEMBER TO KEEP NOTES OF ALL YOU'VE SEEN AND HEARD  
YOU MAY NEED TO REFER THE THEM IN THE FUTURE!**

