



Social
Interest
Group

equinox

Brook Drive

Service

FAQs

For more information visit:
www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk



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What updates can we expect to be given to the referring keyworker?

Please ensure you complete all the sections of the referral form, including a comprehensive substance misuse history of all drugs the client uses, a recent Urine Drug Screen, and a blood test from the GP should include a Liver function test with Gamma-glutamyl Transferase (GGT).



2



What is your Covid testing policy?

We require a covid test before admission. On admission, all clients will have a lateral flow test and be required to wear a mask when out of their room. We will send off PCR tests on the same day. Anyone testing positive will isolate in their room until receipt of the PCR result. We encourage all new clients to isolate themselves until their PCR test results. If clear, clients are encouraged to follow our infection control standards. All staff wear PPE, and we regularly disinfect communal rooms throughout the day.



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Do you take short notice admissions?

Yes, provided all documentation is in place, we can make short notice admissions.



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Are the TVs in the rooms allowed to be on all day?

We initially put TV's in during our work with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital for self-isolation purposes. We are still in the pandemic, so we have allowed them to remain. There is not enough downtime for clients to have these on all day.



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What 1 to 1 psychological therapy do you provide if any? Is it Trauma-informed?

We train all our staff in the PIE model (Psychologically Informed Environment). We do not provide in-depth Psychotherapy during detox as the length of time is not enough to move through trauma safely. We provide 1:1 care planning sessions and daily check-in with staff on a 1:1 basis. Staff are always available to support any client struggling during their stay.



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Do you discharge people with a methadone script?

No, we don't routinely issue methadone scripts on discharge. We give clients their daily dose upon discharge. Before release, we liaise with the referrer to ensure that a prescribing appointment is in place either on the day of discharge or the following day.



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Are dogs allowed?

Yes, we are also reviewing our existing policy for large breed dogs.



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What is your pre-rehab stay offer?

We are currently developing this service, which will consist of extended stays for individuals who may require a level of enhanced physical healthcare who have already undergone treatment for their drug and alcohol use. Our pre-rehab offer will be a clinically-led service and begin with more intensive therapies and groups, including talking therapies with specialist psychologists.



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Do you have a provision for no recourse to public funds?

Local Authorities fund most of our placements. We would usually expect the referral to be part of a more comprehensive care plan that includes planning for the next steps of someone's recovery journey, be that rehabilitation or continued involvement in community provision. However, we are exploring access to bursaries through charitable funds for people who cannot secure a funded referral - this may be available for people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). Please call us to discuss any potential referral for someone in this situation.



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Are longer detoxes allowed?

Yes, they are allowed. Benzo and some opiate detoxes can be 21 or more days.



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Can people's stay be extended, and what is the process?

An extension is possible. Medically, we can request an extension if indicated. Referrers can also request an extension if required. Some detoxes can be up to 30 days in length.



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What is the content of the Nurse-led Health Group?

Content in this group covers diet and nutrition, harmful effects of alcohol, smoking and drugs, smoking cessation, oral hygiene, and medication. We also have a Q and A session on health issues, enabling clients to discuss important topics. We discuss personal matters outside of the group.



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What non-clinical roles do you have?

We offer a programme of varied and skilled non-clinical and psychological assessment and intervention to maximise treatment and positive recovery outcomes. We have Substance Misuse Workers, a Therapist Team, a Psychosocial Lead and a Recovery Team Deputy Manager. They manage different aspects of care for alcohol and drug stabilisation and improve physical and psychological health and wellbeing. We also have Peer Mentors and Volunteers who help clients access ongoing group work and other external services.



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What is your smoking policy?

We do not allow smoking within the building. We have provided a smoking shelter in the Brook Drive car park. We also offer smoking cessation for those clients interested in stopping smoking.



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Is there a waiting list?

There is no waiting list as our current referrals are lower than the number of rooms available.



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What is your clinical governance at Board level?

The organisation has a clinical governance board that sits alongside our trustees. Its membership includes representatives from the trustees and the clinical team within Brook Drive. The board's purpose is to review our efficacy against the continual changes to best practice whilst also looking at and cascading learning from severe and untoward incidents.



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Does the referral form need to be that long?

Yes, it needs to capture all the necessary information to have a complete picture of a person's physical and mental health and risk-related factors to decide whether we proceed with admission.



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Is there an onsite GP?

The service continues to involve GPs to undertake health screenings for patients. However, the primary clinician for all individuals will be our onsite Addictions Psychiatrists available for input 24hours a day, seven days a week.



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How do you meet cultural needs, including language?

We can meet cultural needs through our food menu upon request. When there is a language barrier, we can provide an interpreter. We charge translation service costs to the referring agency and ensure this is a known requirement and agreed in advance of admission. We can make prayer time available and online religious sermons.



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Is there a ban on any substances being allowed on the premises?

Illicit substances, alcohol-based mouthwash, aftershaves, and perfumes containing alcohol are all prohibited.



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Do people having an alcohol detox only have to be screened from drugs beforehand?

We would expect drug screening to occur if you have it in place, primarily if they use cannabis and Benzodiazepine.



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What IT access are people allowed?

Personal IT equipment is forbidden.
Clients can use our onsite computers for online banking or paying bills online.
Internet access is restricted unless staff are present.



Equinox Care

If you have any other queries, please get in touch by email to speak to a member of our team:

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