

Aspinden Care Home FAQs

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



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Do you accept referrals from any local authority?

Yes, we can accept referrals from any local authority in the UK.



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How does funding work?

Generally, it is the Local Authority social services who pay for placements.

However, funds are sometimes available via the NHS either because someone has been under the mental health section or sometimes to enable hospital discharge. As part of social services placements, referrals are financially assessed and may have to contribute, but we ask that any contribution is collected directly by the Local Authority.



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What are your exclusion criteria?

We cannot accept people currently using illicit drugs such as opiates, crack or cocaine.

We cannot take DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty) where locked doors are required, as we operate an open-door service.

We suggest that you contact us directly to discuss any individual issues, and we can assess these on a case-by-case basis.



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Can you accept short notice admissions?

Yes, provided all documentation and funding are in place, we can offer short notice admissions.



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Do you accept referrals from people who are also taking drugs?

We cannot accept people currently using illicit drugs.

Please feel free to contact us directly as every person is different, and we assess each on a case-by-case basis.



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Can you accept short-term and respite placements?

Yes, we offer short-term placements, open-ended stays, and respite care.

We operate a harm reduction model, where our residents are encouraged to lower their alcohol intake to safe levels, which in many cases allows them to move on to a detox programme, or go back to living independently.



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Can you offer placements to people with reduced mobility?

Yes. Aspinden Care Home offers a high complexity service to manage a wide range of people with different support needs.



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Can you accept referrals from people living with Alcohol Related Brain Disorders?

Yes, but this would depend on the person's specific needs. We work with people who have early stages of Korsakoffs (alcohol-related dementia).

However, if someone has a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), requiring them to stay on the premises, we wouldn't be able to offer them a placement due to our open-door policy.

Please get in contact with our team for an individual assessment.



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How do you safeguard people who may be vulnerable to fraud?

Once we identify vulnerability, we work with the Social Worker team, who will conduct a Mental Capacity Assessment around finance management, which may result in DoLS to safeguard the person been referred.



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What updates can the referring key worker expect?

Personal reviews take place every six weeks alongside any additional updates we feel may be necessary.



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Which Harm Reduction techniques do you use?

- Using low strength alcohol
- Delaying the first drink of the day
- Providing regular healthy meals
- Delaying the time frame between drinks
- Having an alcohol free morning, or day
- Encouraging residents to have 8 hours sleep
- Making sure that they drink enough water
- Discouraging street drinking
- Supplying drink diaries to monitor alcohol consumption
- Encouraging residents to see our GP
- Promoting positive daily structure (e.g.: exercise)
- Encouraging engagement in alcohol treatment
- Setting daily SMART goals around alcohol use



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Will your clinical staff be managing the resident's medication?

We administer medication by trained staff under the established professional Code of Conduct. All staff administering medication receive annual medication supervision overseen by the Clinical Lead in SIG Equinox Care.

We operate a policy in accordance with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Standards for the Administration of Medication in line with associated legislation.

Please get in touch if you need further information.



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If someone is relocating, who would take over the Methadone prescribing?

If someone is relocating to London, the nearest Drug and Alcohol Service would need to collect the prescription for them prior to their arrival.



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

While we don't provide in-depth psychotherapy at Aspinden, we provide personalised care planning sessions and daily check-ins with staff on a 1-2-1 basis. Staff are always available to support any resident struggling during their stay.

We also train all our staff in the PIE model (Psychologically Informed Environment), where we reflect on what we are doing and how we can be more effective, empowering our residents through a range of tools, including The Alcohol Star*.



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

Placements are only open to people with recourse to public funds. However, someone with no recourse to public funds might be able to access charitable funding by other means. We would need the referrer to source this.



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Can people's respite care or short stays be extended, and what is the process?

Yes, simply contact our local team to confirm availability over the dates required. Please note you will need to provide evidence of funding.



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

- Nurse leads on medication ensuring staff competence
- Carryout weekly physical checks
- Running the Clinic with the GP
- Ensuring our residents attend hospital appointments
- Following up on hospital admissions



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What non-clinical roles do you have?

Roles include service managers, administration, personal well-being and health coordinators, volunteers, maintenance and housekeeping.



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What is your smoking policy?

We do not allow smoking within the building. Residents are permitted to smoke outside in the outdoor shelter located in the car park.



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Is there a waiting list?

Availability varies throughout the year. There isn't a waiting list currently, and rooms are 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. The Board aims to review efficacy against the continual changes to best practices and assess and cascade learning from any incidents.



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Do we need to complete every section on the referral form?

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

We ask referrers to provide all the information available to them when completing the referral form and attach any other relevant documents or reports. We will cover any additional information required during the formal assessment.



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Is there an onsite GP?

A local GP visits Aspinden Care home once a week to attend to all health needs and carry out required investigations as per primary care protocols. The nursing staff are available daily.



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How do you meet specific 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?

Yes, there is a ban on all Illicit substances and illegal drugs at this service.



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**Do new rhave to be screened
for drugs beforehand
admission?**

No.



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What IT access are residents allowed?

Personal IT equipment is allowed, and residents have access to the service's Wi-Fi network.



What are your Covid testing and immunisation policies?

We require staff, visitors and professionals to carry out a LFT on site if they have not already done so before visiting ACH and to follow our Infection Prevention and Control processes, including hand hygiene and wearing masks if providing personal care.

We are following the current Government Covid-19 guidelines for Care Homes on isolation.

For more information, please visit Admission and Care of Residents in a care home during COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).



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Equinox is part of Social Interest Group. We believe good care, support and well-planned services make a difference and improve lives. Our people and values of ambition, empowerment, transparency, and inclusivity drive everything we do. We work to high standards within external and internal regulatory frameworks.

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