

Woodleaze

Woodleaze is a new supported housing project for young people aged 16-25. It's very exciting as it is the first service like this in South Gloucestershire, and although Woodleaze is not a new building, it has been totally remodelled to make it suitable for this service.

Young people in Yate have been involved in planning this and making decisions about the building – for example, young people chose paint colours, flooring, tiles, and kitchen cupboards.

Organisations were asked to put in bids to run Woodleaze; again, young people were involved in scoring the bids and asking questions to the organisations interested in running the service.

Who will be providing the service at Woodleaze?

1625 Independent People were chosen by the council and young people to run Woodleaze; 1625IP has worked, for over 30 years, with young people aged 16-25 in Bristol and South Gloucestershire and already have projects like Woodleaze.

You can find out more about 1625IP here <https://www.1625ip.co.uk/>

Where is Woodleaze?

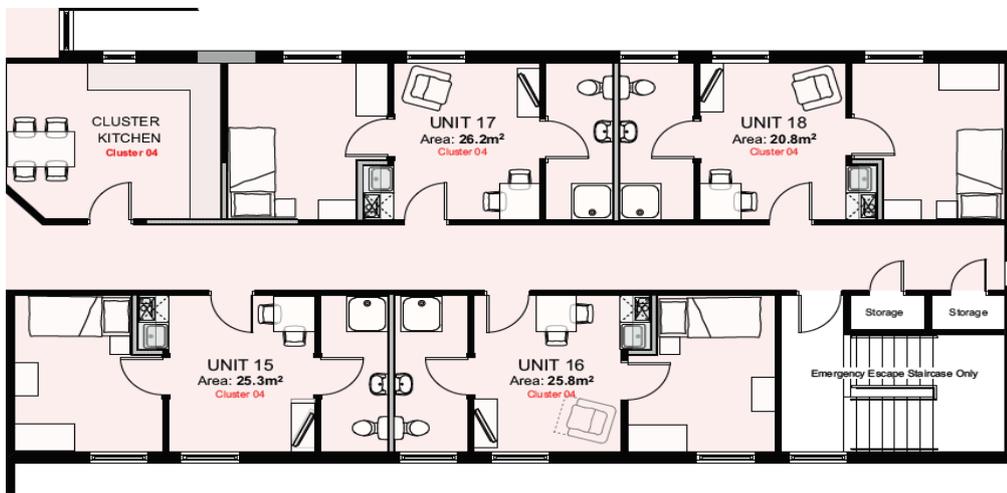
Woodleaze is in Yate, off Station Road, close to Southwold House, the Ridgewood Centre, and a major shopping centre. It also has good public transport links into Bristol.

What is the accommodation?

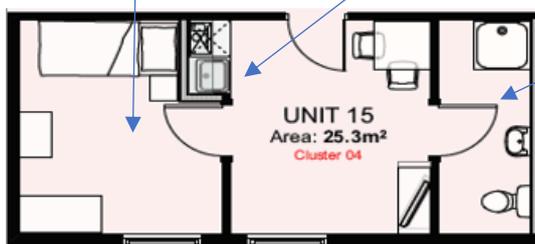
Your own space

There are 18 flats - each flat will have a bathroom, a bedroom, and a kitchenette/lounge area; every 4 or 5 flats will then share a full cluster kitchen.

This is from the plans for 4 flats who share a cluster kitchen, and a closer look at one flat.



Bedroom Lounge, with kitchenette space Bathroom



You will need to buy and cook your own food, but if you have not done this before, we can help you learn to budget and cook. The kitchenette space in each flat will include a fridge, microwave, kettle, sink, and storage.

Furniture

The flats are furnished but electrical equipment like TVs will not be supplied in individual flats.

You can bring your own belongings, but they must be safe to be in the building – for example they cannot be a fire risk, and they must be legal to use - such as if you have your own TV you need to buy your own TV licence – the communal building TV licence does not cover individual flats. You also need to be aware that your belongings are not covered by the insurance that 1625 Independent People has for the building. The staff team can talk to you more about this.

Shared, or communal, spaces

There are other shared spaces, including a communal lounge, study spaces, a garden, a laundry, training space, and staff offices, as well as space for external partners to use for meetings with young people living at Woodleaze.

Keys and security

You will have keys to your own flat, and to the cluster flat front door, but you will not be given a key to the front door of the building. Everyone, young people, staff, PAs, etc. will have to ring and be let in or out of the building by the staff who are on duty.

Staff are on site 24/7, but there will be a time after which you will be encouraged to be in the building, and in your own flat, and the shared areas such as the lounge will be closed. There is also CCTV in the building.

You will not be able to have visitors in the building (apart from visiting professionals) and will not be able to have overnight guests.

Pets are not allowed at Woodleaze.

Rules and rent

You will need to sign a licence agreement to stay at Woodleaze – this explains your rights and responsibilities, including that you are expected to engage with support and meet at least once a week with your keyworker. Staff members will explain it to you more, but it is very important.

You will also be required to pay rent; most residents have most of their rent paid for by housing benefit, but all will need to pay something out of their income – this pays for things that housing benefit will not pay for, such as the electricity in your individual flat.

The expected length of stay is up to 12 months; staff will work with you to look at suitable accommodation for you to move on to.

What is the support?

There will be at least 2 members of staff on site 24/7, including waking night cover.

You will be allocated a key worker from the staff team and will be expected to meet with your key worker at least once every week.

Your key worker will work with you to agree a support plan – this will be individual to you, but support plans look at areas such as

✓ **Work and learning** – what are your ambitions or hopes; how can we work towards them?

- ✓ **Health** – physical, mental, and emotional – are you getting all the support and help that you need to be well as you can be?
- ✓ **Money and rent** – are you getting all the benefits you should, do you have debts that need to be managed, do you know how to budget?
- ✓ **Behaviour and choices** – do you know how to keep yourself safe, do you need to get better at being able to make good decisions?
- ✓ **Looking after yourself** – can you cook, do you know how to budget and shop so you can feed yourself? The practical things people need to know to live independently.
- ✓ **Move on** – where would you like to move to when you leave Woodleaze and how can we try and work towards that?

What the staff team at Woodleaze will not do at all includes:

- X Any sort of personal care, such as helping someone bathe themselves, doing someone's laundry, or helping someone get in and out of bed
- X Looking after or giving out medication and medicines
- X Looking after or managing money for you

Other support and services

As well as the Woodleaze staff team, a lot of other 1625 Independent People teams can work with people living at Woodleaze. 1625IP have teams that specialise in

- ✓ engagement and learning – this might be running cooking classes, or craft groups – it depends what people living at Woodleaze are interested in doing
- ✓ participation – getting involved in how Woodleaze is run but also 1625IP has a youth board, regular surveys, involves young people in staff recruitment so there are lots of ways that people can get involved and participate
- ✓ specialist support in areas such as mental well-being, reducing re-offending
- ✓ education, employment, and training – to look at your aspirations and moving towards them, maybe through training, or apprenticeships, or writing a CV and job applications
- ✓ peer education – this team trains young people who have experienced homelessness and/or experienced financial difficulty to run workshops in schools and youth settings to prevent youth homeless and help other young people build independent living skills

There are more – these are just some examples and not a full list!

The team at Woodleaze will also work closely with other local organisations to provide training, drop ins, group, one-to-one meetings – this will change depending on the needs and interests of the people living at Woodleaze but office and meeting space is available in the building.

Referrals

You have been or would be referred to Woodleaze through your PA, social worker, or the housing team at South Gloucestershire council.

1625 Independent People will then meet or speak with you to carry out an Initial Needs Assessment (INA) to explore your needs and ambitions and to see if they can be safely met at Woodleaze.

It's also a time for you to ask any questions you have about Woodleaze.

Following the INA, we will consider whether Woodleaze is suitable for your personal needs. If so, you could move in as soon as an appropriate flat becomes available.