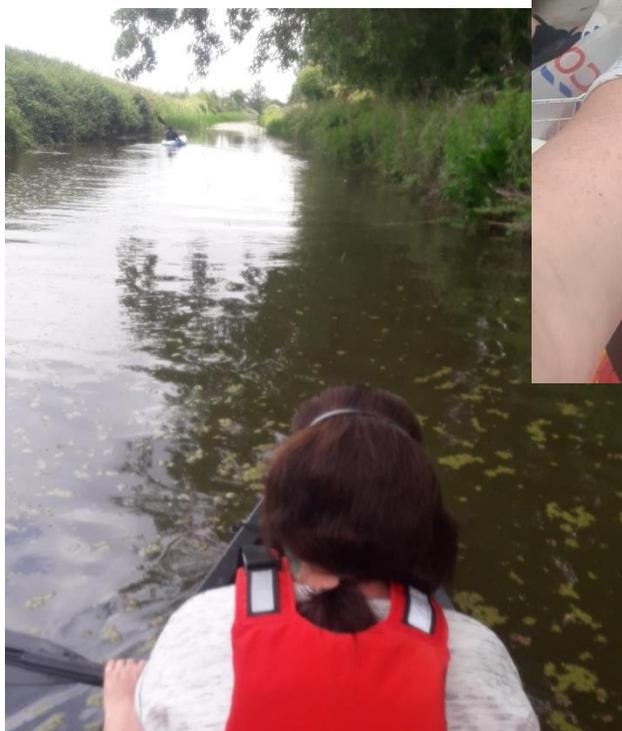


CANONGROVE NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to bring you the latest news and information from the accommodation project for rough sleepers at Canonsgrove.

Canonsgrove Residents Making a Splash!

For the past few weeks some of the residents and staff at Canonsgrove have been enjoying kayaking on Bridgwater Canal. These sessions have been organised by Activities Co-ordinator, Robin Seeley, and are proving really successful giving residents' chance to get off site and try something they've never done before.



As well as being great fun they've told us that it's boosted their confidence as well as helping to build a community spirit with some of the other residents. We're planning some more kayaking sessions so watch this space for more updates of our residents' nautical escapades!

What is supported accommodation?

We often get questions around what supported accommodation is and what we can and can't do for residents.

Supported accommodation is providing somewhere safe to stay for individuals in need and this need may be for a multitude of reasons.

Supported accommodation provides support to residents around their housing and life skills, making their move on to independent accommodation safe and sustainable. We also signpost to other supportive specialist services, such as substance misuse and mental health provisions.

Supported accommodation, like our setting at Canonsgrove, does not have the same responsibilities or duties as a care setting would.

In supported accommodation, residents are able to leave and return to site as they wish, and the residents in Canonsgrove have full responsibility for themselves.

This includes responsibility for addressing their own health needs and finances, through to being present on site and the clothing they wear.

We do everything we can to offer support and signpost to other services, however, we do not have the responsibility, or a defined duty to the residents that come into our provision.

Due to the line between Care and Support being so clearly defined it is important that there is access to a range of services for residents to engage with. At Canonsgrove our health partners support the delivery of: -

- **Outreach Nursing** – An outreach nurse drops into site daily, Monday- Friday, to respond to any physical health needs a resident may have. They can link in with Musgrove Park Hospital if required.
- **Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS)** attend the site weekly. They provide a recovery support programme to individuals and as group sessions. They also offer an outreach session on site for individuals not currently involved in recovery services but who may be interested to learn more and to get to know the staff.
- **GP Surgery** – This has been provided on-site since October and is usually on a Thursday morning and has been a great success.
- There is a **Mental Health Service** available on site weekly.

A new member of staff joins the team

Our latest edition to the Canonsgrove team is Ellie, find out more about her here:

Hi, my name is Ellie I'm a new member of the support team at Canonsgrove. My background is a mix of domiciliary care, and sport and exercise. For over 7 years I have worked with a range of complex and supported needs, along with different agencies.

We have built up a good rapport with the residents and engage them in a range of activities including arts and crafts, cookery and sporting events. We are also working with them by creating individual support plans to assess their needs and try to find them more permanent accommodation to prevent them from having to return to the streets.

I really enjoy my role here at Canonsgrove and helping the residents reach their goals and potential.

A big thank you to Asda

Asda have been kindly donating toiletries to us over the last couple of months. They have been very generous, and we have been able to provide many of our residents with toiletries as they arrive.



Gardening Club

We have decided to establish our own Gardening club as residents are enjoying taking care of the Canonsgrove grounds. Just look at how good the planters are looking already!

COVID-19

As has been publicised, the Delta Variant is resulting in an upswing in positive COVID-19 cases in England and this is something we are being very mindful of in our practice on site.

The site remains closed to visitors, other than those visiting under a professional capacity. As we move forward towards July 19, we are setting out plans to be able to welcome other visitors on site.

Please email Canonsgrove@ymca-dg.org should you wish to arrange a visit to site but note these will not be organised before August 2021 and will follow guidance at all times.

We have had more contact from members of the local community regarding residents of Canonsgrove not wearing face masks whilst doing their shopping or on public transport.

We continuously remind residents at Canonsgrove of the importance of wearing masks and masks are available to take for all residents at Canonsgrove. We do have some residents who are deemed exempt from wearing masks, however the majority should be.

As covered above, we don't have control over this as a supported housing provider, however, we would like to assure you that we do follow up when contact is made if a resident has not been wearing a mask.

The majority of our residents wish to feel, as they should, part of the wider community in Trull so are disappointed if someone does something which causes alarm.

Update from SWT

Section 106 Variation

We are seeking to vary the S106 Order at Canonsgrove to allow us to continue to use the site until 31 March 2023.

The housing service has worked with Bridgwater and Taunton College and Stantec, a planning agent, to support a submission from Bridgwater and Taunton College to vary the S106 agreement.

The planning service has now published this for consultation and it will be considered by Planning Committee on 22nd July.

New accommodation solutions for Canonsgrove residents

We have moved forward on a range of conversations over the past month with various supported housing providers, voluntary sector partners, the Ministry of

Housing, Communities and Local Government, and other organisations to progress various accommodation solutions.

Alongside this we are organising wider partnership meetings to progress a joined-up approach to future support commissioning to ensure that the accommodation has the requisite support to succeed.

There is much work taking place here and we are making good progress.

Improving Communications with Trull

We have had a number of conversations with the Chair of Trull Parish Council and at recent Parish Council meetings, and have agreed to an additional monthly meeting with a small panel of two Parish Councillors, a manager from SWT and from the YMCADG, and a representative from All Saints Church to raise issues and concerns from the community and to make requests for relevant information to be included in the Parish Council reports.

The meetings will provide an opportunity for constructive dialogue to build better communications with the Parish Council and the local community and help address issues of concern. The first meeting will take place later this month.

Further information on the Canonsgrove accommodation project can be found at www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-and-information/ and <https://www.ymca-dg.org/>

We welcome any feedback or further questions on Canonsgrove@ymca-dg.org

Yours



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