

Free the Way

37 Church Street
Seaham
County Durham
SR7 7EJ

www.freetheway.com

Regulation 28 Report (Re. Phillip Anthony Ellis)

To whom it may concern:

Free the Way are a quasi-residential treatment project, supporting individuals to recover from substance misuse related issues. We work to a peer-support model of treatment (12 Step) where individuals who are further on in the program, support newer arrivals who may be struggling to adapt and understand the philosophy of 12 Step treatment protocols.

Phillip has been resident at our project on several occasions and on this occasion, he had moved on into living semi-independently in his own accommodation within the local area. Phillip continued to receive support from the project as and when requested. However, he had gotten into a relationship and was therefore spending a lot of his time in Darlington where his family also reside. Whenever he presented to the project, either requesting support, or on a drop-in basis he always presented lucid and there were no concerns as to his well-being.

While Phillip was allowed to return to his home to collect clothing, prior to re-entering treatment with us, and this was unaccompanied this has certainly raised issues and something that needs to be addressed in the future. Phillip was also allowed to leave the project, in the company, of another resident and in accordance with our peer-support model of care, however, this could also have provided Phillip with the opportunity of purchasing drugs and paraphernalia and another issue of concern for the future.

Based on this evidence Free the Way will be introducing the following measures, with immediate effect, to ensure that any re-occurrence of such an incident is significantly reduced:

1. Clients re-entering treatment at Free then Way following relapse, will be escorted to their own homes, if required, to collect their property and possessions.
2. All property will be searched by a member of staff prior to their return to the client
3. No clients entering treatment will be allowed to leave the project unaccompanied, and any client who does leave the project will require an escort from a member of staff, or another resident who is established in their own recovery with over 6 months of abstinence. This is in accordance with our peer-support model of care.
4. Clients entering treatment will be monitored closely, with those more at risk of overdose residing at a property that is staffed 24/7.
5. All clients will be subject to regular room checks and searches, as well as subject to regular urine screening.
6. No clients will be allowed to spend time away from the project until they are 3 months or more abstinent from all substances

While we will adhere stringently to the above objectives, as we are a quasi-residential treatment facility where clients reside in accommodation units within the community then they are still free to leave at any

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time and we are unable to mitigate such events. However, should clients leave the project without the approval of staff they will not be allowed to return to the project and their tendencies and license agreements will be terminated with immediate effect.

If you feel that you require any further information in respect of this issue, please don't hesitate in contacting us and we will happily oblige any further requests.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED] (Project Manager)