

URBAN HOUSE RE-OPENING SUMMARY

Following the dispersal of all residents from Urban House a number of steps were taken to ensure that it could be reopened and operated in a manner which allowed adherence to COVID regulations and up to date health guidance.

Mears consulted with key stakeholders in Yorkshire and Humber region to ensure that a range of views were incorporated into planning.

This involved:

- Initial and ongoing liaison with the Director of Public Health of Wakefield LA
- Discussion with the Community Cohesion Manager of the LA
- Liaison with the Strategic Migration Partnership to identify and involve local voluntary sector organisations
- Consultation with Migrant Help, Home Office, NHS and commercial partners involved in service delivery in Urban House

As a result of a co-operative approach the following plans were agreed:

- Capacity to be limited to 270 SU's (usual maximum capacity is 330)
- No unrelated room sharing
- No clinically vulnerable SU's to be accommodated in UH
- Rooms set aside with separate wash facilities to allow for self-isolation for effective outbreak management
- All new entrants to have undergone appropriate quarantine period prior to arrival in UH
- Static household to be created for 21 days after capacity reached, subject to individual needs (eg- where a requirement for expedited dispersal is identified then that will take priority over static household)
- Social distance measures in place for meals, including staggered meal times and cleaning of tables between sittings
- Hand sanitiser stations throughout the building
- Face masks provided to all SU's
- In depth induction to all SU's on arrival detailing the requirements and the risks of breaching COVID guidance; this also informs SU's of likely timescales for remaining in UH and how to raise grievances, complaints or request dispersal
- Updated guidance to be issued to all SU's as required
- Managed process of dispersal into UH to allow for induction and health screening to take place.
- Outbreak plan, risk assessment and associated protocols developed in conjunction with Public Health

Since re-opening, Mears, Migration Yorkshire, Migrant Help and the local authority have reviewed operations and taken action where needed- for example, we are looking at how best to support Voluntary Sector presence in UH in order to allow further assistance to be provided.