



Building Bridges AS

Where every Veteran is CARED FOR

High Peak

We are an abstinent supported accommodation with a substance misuse drugs and alcohol recovery programme with a primary focus on supporting our veterans.

We provide housing related support to individuals to develop the skills required to manage their own tenancy, live confidently, remain in recovery and achieve independent living.

Building Bridges aims to provide multiple units of temporary supported accommodation. Our recovery focused accommodation supports abstinence and recovery, offering a safe and healthy environment.

Our in-house and community-based activities support health and wellbeing, improve confidence and the motivation to live happy, independent lives maintaining sobriety.

Residents are supported by experienced staff and peers to maintain sobriety and successfully move on.



» Joe's Story

The idea of Building Bridges AS CIC was formed by two best friends Joe & James during Joe's journey to sobriety. Joe himself is a veteran who served in both the RAF & British Army. James has witnessed first-hand the devastation of addiction and how it affects family and friends when they feel helpless watching someone, they love spiral down a dark path. Everything you try to do to help them on the road to recovery almost acts like an enabler. James tried multiple avenues to provide Joe with the help he required but unfortunately Joe was not in a position to accept the help or accept the fact he needed help. There had been multiple occasions where suicide had been on Joe's mind as his spiralled further into depression through the misuse of alcohol and drugs. Unfortunately, the people that Joe had surrounded himself with did not have his best interests at heart, they we're only there for the entertainment side of things. James, Joe's other loyal friends and Joe's family all had to be there to help pick up the pieces from constant benders and altercations with the police.

Joe has now abstained since August 2022, his story is the reason Building Bridges AS was formed. It was his own lived experience of poor providers in the Greater Manchester area and having to leave the High Peak where his family and friends lived to get the support he so desperately needed. Joe has literally been there and done it, admitted to a rehab facility in Barrow-in-Furness, from there ended up in supported accommodation in Tameside where he found that the service was lacking in the basic things that they were paid to provide to the residents. James visited Joe at these facilities and was also appalled by the lack of care and mistreatment of people who at this stage in their journey require so much more. Joe has seen first-hand that most of these places have drug dealers living in them, drug users who are desperate to give up and just do not have the strength to do it on their own. Alcoholics desperate to stop but no one willing to help them do it safely. These providers who are supposed to be caring for and rehabilitating these individuals are literally just providing 4 walls to people who require so much more.

The journey of abstaining is not for everyone; people must be willing to make a change, but we believe given our lived experience that the ones who are desperate to succeed will, given the right support and time which is why our programme CARED FOR was created. If Joe can do it, so can they!

We know that there aren't many providers out there that have this experience at the core of the business model and that is what sets us apart from them with our wrap around care. We will be helping to better people's lives helping them to rebuild relationships they have lost through addiction.

» Eligibility

We can provide this service to people who are:

- 18 and over
- Have a Derbyshire connection
- In housing need and willing to engage in our CARED FOR program
- Committed to personal recovery
- Abstinent from illicit drugs and alcohol use at point of entry

No blanket exclusions exist in this service and as such each case will be treated on its own merits or need.

Building Bridges Programme

All our client plans will be based around our Company principles CARED FOR. They are all written with realistic timelines to help the clients grow and reach their goals.

Counseling

We aim to help all our client's access counselling or therapy if they choose to engage. We do understand that this route is not for every client and will respect that we will not force clients into any decision as we feel this has to be an individual choice.

Assessing Individuals

We will be constantly assessing the clients and having regular meetings with them to understand and to help facilitate the client's growth. There plans will be a work in progress and something that we will monitor closely with the client.

Rebuilding Relationships

We will establish over time what relationships our clients would like to work on and help them facilitate this by acting as a mediator for them. We understand the complexity of the issues here and this is why the relationship rebuilding will be done over time with no pressure on the client. The rebuilding relationships must be done carefully, and this is why we will work with clients with no time restraints to this.

Education

We believe in education for our clients, this is very important for future employment we are aiming to establish a connection with local colleges to provide our clients with remote learning for maths and literacy and then we aim to establish what path they would choose career wise and help them on the journey to gain relevant qualifications.

Discipline

While our clients live with us, they will have to abide by the rules. These are very basic, but we feel they are necessary to help every client grow in our accommodation, we will not bend them for anyone.

Friendship

Helping our clients to establish friendships is our passion. Unfortunately, too many vulnerable adults have lots of friends, but it is only by understanding how a friendship works that we can truly accept some of the friends we have are only there as we serve a purpose to them. Friendship is two way, and it is important to help our clients understand this.

Oppportunity

We aim to provide every opportunity to our clients, finding what they are passionate about is our passion. When we have this, we will help and guide them to let them realise their true potential.

Reintegration

When we have completed our plan with our clients we will look to help them with the next move for them. Now early on we will establish where they would like to live and register them with the relevant councils, so when the client is ready to move on, they would have already been on a housing waiting list. This should help speed this process up. We will have helped with the education for a career they want, we would have helped establish a healthy routine and we will assist with the moving on process to help them with setting up a home and everything that comes with a new tenancy. We pride ourselves on an open-door policy so our ex-residents may come back for a brew and catch up anytime they want.

Every individual plan will be indeed that, Individual, but we like to have a timeline for our clients to help them with their own personal development.





Building Bridges

Building Bridges is a registered community interest company based in the High Peak, aiming to predominately support veterans with drug and alcohol dependency issues.

1 in 400 veterans said they were homeless, rough sleeping or living in a refuge.

A survey by charity PTSD Resolution has found that 46 per cent of the 500 UK armed forces' veterans who responded, used alcohol or drugs to manage the symptoms of trauma.

In England, around 3% of people sleeping rough are veterans. This suggests that approximately 300 to 400 veterans end up on the streets each year, and up to 4,000 may need support finding accommodation

A significant portion of UK veterans report substance misuse, particularly alcohol, to cope with trauma symptoms. A recent survey by PTSD Resolution found that 46% of veterans relied on alcohol or drugs for this purpose. Research also indicates a higher prevalence of alcohol misuse in veterans compared to the general population.

66% of homeless people cite drug or alcohol use as a reason for becoming homeless (s. Crisis)

Our Service

- Maintaining abstinence and managing substance and alcohol issues
- Enabling clients to build links with family and the wider community
- Maximising income, claiming benefits, budgeting and financial management
- Developing life skills and being independent at home
- Accessing training, education and employment
- Developing links and encouraging involvement with community organisations
- Signposting and support for clients to access specialist services. For example, substance misuse, primary care, mental health, counselling etc.
- Support with understanding and accessing independent accommodation (private and social)
- Assisting clients in understanding a tenancy agreement and what their obligations are when they move in
- Avoiding rent arrears, negotiating with landlords avoiding eviction, anti-social behaviour and neighbour issues

BB MEETING/ACTIVITY TIMETABLE

BUILDING BRIDGES ACTIVITY TIMETABLE						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	09:30 – 10:00 Community Meeting					
AM	10:15 BACK TO YOU	10:15 STRAIGHT AHEAD	10:15 RESIDENTS MEETING	10:15 HEALTH & WELLBEING	10:15 WEEKEND PLANNING	11:00 – 14:00 SEE WEEKEND ACTIVITY BOARD
PM	1:1 KEY WORK SESSIONS OFFSITE ACTIVITIES, TRAINING & VOLUNTEERING SEE AFTERNOON ACTIVITY BOARD FOR ON SITE ACTIVITIES					
	EVENING COOKING DUTIES AND HOUSEHOLD JOBS					
	10:30 Community Meeting					
	11:00 – 14:00 SEE WEEKEND ACTIVITY BOARD					
	11:00 – 14:00 SEE WEEKEND ACTIVITY BOARD					
	Sunday					

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

BUILDING BRIDGES AS CIC



Co-Founder
Joseph Bishop



Co-Founder
James Wild



Director
Russ Wild
Solicitor



Director
Annie Wild
Staff Nurse



Director
Sally Depee
Community Engagement Officer



Director
Amy Longdon
Business Owner



Director
Andrea Price
Care Co-Ordinator



Director
Angela Burgess
Counsellor & Psychotherapist
BSc (Hons) MBACP (Accred)



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Our moto

CAREDFOR



Building Bridges AS

Building Bridges AS CIC is a company registered in England.

Registered Company No. 15201381