



# Housing Support



# How We Can Help

**Positive Housing Support** is a FREE service provided by Staffordshire Buddies to help people with HIV find suitable housing and live independently in their homes. Our support is tailored to individual needs and could include helping you to:

- Find suitable housing
- Apply for grants for essential items to set up or improve your home
- Deal with a landlord
- Manage your finance and budget for bills
- Reduce and manage debts
- Claim your benefits entitlement
- Look for paid employment
- Improve your income
- Gain new skills

- **Get any help you need from other services**
- **Improve your personal safety and security**
- **Come to terms with an HIV positive diagnosis**
- **Address issues of loneliness or isolation**
- **Meet new people and build a support network**
- **Achieve and maintain good health**
- **Look after yourself and your home**
- **Live independently**

**The Positive Housing Support Service** is a Floating Support Service jointly funded by the **Supporting People** programmes in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

# Eligibility

The service is completely free but to be eligible you must be:

- **An adult of 16 years of age or over**
- **Diagnosed HIV positive**
- **Living in or intending to set up a home in Stoke or Staffordshire**

You do not have to live in rented accommodation to receive support. We can help whether you rent from the Council, a housing association, a private landlord, or own your own home.

When you contact us we'll talk to you in detail about your needs and agree a support plan to enable you to achieve your goals. We can provide short term support that lasts just a few months or if you need longer term help we can support you for up to two years. Our aim is to help you achieve independence from the service.

## Where Are We?

Staffordshire Buddies main centre for HIV Services is based in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. We also have a centre in Lichfield.

Services are provided from both our centres, in your own home and through outreach to other services and community settings.

## Equal Opportunities

Staffordshire Buddies strives to make services accessible to all members of the diverse community we serve.

Our publications can be provided in large print or other formats to meet individual needs.

We use translation services to help us support anyone who has difficulty communicating in spoken English.

## Our Other Services

Staffordshire Buddies provides a range of other services that may complement the help you receive from Positive Housing Support including:

- **Buddies** – practical and emotional support provided by trained volunteers
- **Transport** – to help people with HIV get to essential appointments when they cannot manage this by themselves.
- **Complementary therapies** – stress reduction and well-being therapies
- **Emergency Fund** – small grants for essential items needed in times of crisis.
- **Positive Families** – a specialist service for children and young people in families affected by HIV.
- **After school activities and a summer play scheme** for children & young people living with or affected by HIV.

- **Positive Teenagers Group** – for teenagers living with HIV
- **Drop-in service** - available for all people living with HIV at both our Hanley and Lichfield centres.
- **Esprit Group** – for women living with HIV.
- **Asylum Seeker and Refugee Group** – for people living with HIV who have immigration issues.
- **Gay Men's Group** – for gay and bisexual men living with HIV.
- **Workshops and and Respite Breaks**
- **Positive Lives** – Staffordshire Buddies own quarterly newsletter for local people living with or affected by HIV.
- **Leaflets and Magazines** – a range of leaflets, books, magazines and other resources relevant to living with HIV.
- **Free condoms & lubricant** – available at our Lichfield and Hanley centres or by post

# Getting in Touch

To access our support please contact our Housing Support Worker or a member of the HIV Services Team at our main office.

**Tel: 01782 201251**

**[www.staffordshirebuddies.co.uk](http://www.staffordshirebuddies.co.uk)**

Staffordshire Buddies - Registered Charity No.1047375

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The JCU is a partnership between Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire PCT and NHS North Staffordshire



Community  
Legal Service



city of  
**stoke-on-trent**

