

# Open Hands Coventry

Professional Referral Overview · Registered Charity No. 1115626

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## WHAT OPEN HANDS COVENTRY IS

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Open Hands Coventry (OHC) is a peer-led recovery charity providing exempt accommodation for men recovering from alcohol and drug dependency. Operating since 2005, the charity houses up to 17 men at a time in a structured, communal setting in Coventry.

OHC is not a detox unit, a treatment centre, or a clinical service. It is a place to live and recover, supported by people who have been through the same process. Residents are active participants in one another's recovery.

## WHO OHC CAN HELP

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Suitable referrals are men who:

- are aged 18 or over
- have alcohol or drug dependency
- are ready to stop using and willing to commit to abstinence
- can engage with a structured, step-based recovery programme
- are able to live in shared accommodation with other residents
- are willing to support fellow residents as part of their own recovery
- do not require one-to-one clinical or mental health support

OHC is **unlikely to be suitable** where a person has active serious mental health needs requiring clinical oversight, a history of violence placing others at risk, or care needs beyond what a peer-led communal setting can safely provide.

## HOUSE EXPECTATIONS

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All residents are required to:

- remain abstinent for the duration of their stay
- keep their room and shared areas clean
- attend house meetings and engage with the programme
- support the running of the house and the recovery of fellow residents

These are not optional. They are the basis on which OHC operates.

## SUPPORT STRUCTURE

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Support at OHC is built around the Helper Principle: residents support one another as a core, structured element of recovery — not incidentally. This peer-to-resident support is logged and recognised as part of each person's programme.

The house has permanent staff and experienced volunteers. There are house leaders — senior residents who take on a formal peer-support role. Staff provide oversight, guidance, and advocacy, and are available to residents throughout the week.

Residents have access to internet and digital skills support, help navigating benefits, housing, and debt, and an optional 12-step programme. Those who complete the main programme may move to second-stage supported accommodation.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

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Referrals are accepted from housing officers, probation, health services, recovery workers, family members, and self-referrals.

- Call or email to discuss suitability — this is encouraged before a formal referral
- Complete the online referral form at [openhands.charity](https://openhands.charity), or call to refer directly
- OHC will respond within one working day
- If appropriate, the person will be invited to visit and meet residents
- Admission follows if there is a suitable place and the person is ready

There is no waiting list in the conventional sense. Places are filled as they become available. Early contact is worthwhile.

## CONTACT

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| <b>Phone</b>    | 02476 630621   |
| <b>Mobile</b>   | 07834 281151   |
| <b>Email</b>    | <a href="mailto:admin@openhands.charity">admin@openhands.charity</a> |
| <b>Web</b>      | <a href="https://openhands.charity">openhands.charity</a>            |
| <b>Location</b> | Coventry, West Midlands  |