***The Westminster women’s safe space***

The Westminster Women’s Safe Space (WWSS) offers 3 emergency respite rooms for the purpose of an emergency requiring an overnight stay (Housing benefit claim not required). Referrers are required to move these clients out the following day. Clients who access these beds could potentially move into the respite rooms in the body of the WWSS; however, this will depend on individual circumstances and suitability, as well as availability. This will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

The WWSS offers a further 38 temporary respite rooms (for up to 3 months) for females currently rough sleeping or those who are at risk of rough sleeping and who are also currently experiencing or who are at risk of experiencing domestic abuse/violence against women and girls. All support needs are considered. Pets are also considered on a case-by-case basis. Each room consists of a bedroom and an en-suite bathroom. There are shared kitchens and laundry facilities in each of the clusters of either 3 or 5 rooms. 5 of the respite rooms are for women who have no recourse to public funds. Meals are not provided; however, food vouchers will be provided for those with no recourse to public funds. The assessment and reconnection workers at WWSS will case work all clients who are accessing these respite rooms, carrying out a full assessment. The assessment and reconnection workers will continue to work with referral agents and link clients in with all relevant services for ongoing support based on their needs at any given time.

All those apart from residents with no recourse to public funds will need to make a housing benefit claim.

Referrals must be from Westminster-based services only, and priority will be given to Westminster rough sleeping teams. We will consider referrals for those who are chain verified as well as those who are not.

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