

Proposed Closure of Route One – further information

What is Route One?

Route One is a BHT Sussex supported accommodation service, based in Brighton and Hove. It is commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) to support 39 people with low to medium mental health support needs in the city and receives referrals exclusively from BHCC.

Why is there a proposal to close the service?

The closure has been proposed by the Executive Management Team and the BHT Sussex Board of Management due to ongoing financial pressure caused by persistently low occupancy levels at the service dating back to 2023 and leading to significant loss of rental income. We have worked with the commissioners around increasing the number of appropriate referrals, but we have continued to hold a high amount of empty accommodation. This has resulted in a financial position that is no longer sustainable for BHT Sussex.

When will the service close?

The proposed closure date is 31 March 2026. This will allow time for a thorough consultation process with staff of the Route One service, with the support of Unison. It will also enable BHCC, with support from BHT Sussex, to develop a carefully managed rehousing plan for the existing clients of the service.

Will there be staff redundancies?

It is expected that there will be some redundancies. We are exploring all options, including redeployment within BHT Sussex. Staff will be consulted and supported throughout this process.

How will clients be supported?

We will work closely with BHCC and partner agencies to ensure every client has a clear, supported transition plan, including emotional and practical support. Clients have been informed of the proposal to close the service by the staff team and will be provided with support and regular updates.

What will happen to the empty properties?

As an established charity and housing association we are committed to the provision of supported accommodation and the prevention of homelessness in Brighton and Hove and across Sussex. We are currently exploring the feasibility of using current Route One properties for other purposes in line with our mission and values.

Who can I contact for more information?

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