For the past 18 months, St John of God Ballarat’s Bloomsbury House has been supporting young people aged 12 to 25 with substance abuse and mental health problems.

Last week a blessing ceremony was held to celebrate the establishment of the service.

The house supports young people with drug and alcohol addiction while also responding to any mental health issues.

St John of God Hospital Chief Executive, John Fogarty, said that the service was able to collaborate with other organisations in Ballarat to address substance abuse and mental health issues. “Ballarat does have a significant issue in relation to youth drug and alcohol and mental health,” Mr Fogarty said.

St John of God Director of Mission, Maureen Waddington, said that the service was able to assist vulnerable and marginalised people in Ballarat. “For the young people who come here, they find it gives them something to look forward to,” Ms Waddington said. She described it as, “a place where they can meet with others, where there is expert advice and above all respect for the journey of the person.”

HAVEN: St John of God Hospital Chaplain Fr Gary Jones blesses Bloomsbury House.

Text and picture courtesy of the Ballarat Courier 12/10/2010.