

Five Lamps – William

William went to The Five Lamps as a recovering drug addict in June 09. He was a chaotic drug user and was not really ready to move on. However 5 Lamps worked with him to try and overcome his addiction. He signed up with partner organisations including The Drug Action Team, and Pathways where he could get the appropriate treatment and attend a day care structure programme. By working together over a number of months William slowly started to see that there is more to life than using drugs. He decided he wanted to put something back into the community that had helped him, so he



became a user representative for other drug users in Stockton. He worked voluntary with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and while with the Five Lamps he has completed skills for life programme in literacy and numeracy and IT, which was a great achievement as he could not

previously read or write.

William has now secured a job through the Future Jobs Fund working with the Birchtree Practice in Stockton. This is a GP practice run by Dr Olding which specialises in working with people with addictions. William's role is a case worker. So he has achieved his ambition in helping others who like himself want to come off drugs and lead a fulfilling drug free life.

William said: "Being dyslexic, I found learning difficult, but Five Lamps offered me support all the way."

"I've now got a string of qualifications up to NVQ level 2. And have started my Health and Social Care and Counselling level 3 qualifications."

"I did a drug awareness course for the DAAT and from this was offered the opportunity to become a service user representative for Stockton. Through doing this I found out that this was what I wanted to do - to help others in a similar situation to me overcome their addictions."

"I have a son and daughter. I knew I didn't want my kids to see me like this – with my life spiralling out of control. I want them to have a future and it was essential that I was a good role model for them."