

## **CASE STUDY SUE**

### **Background History**

Sue had a 16 year history of domestic violence from the father of her children which led to her children being taken into care. The relationship broke down and Sue found herself homeless living rough on the streets and friends sofas for 3 and half years. Sue also had a difficult relationship with her son who was often violent toward her.

In December 06 Sue was referred to our service for tenancy support as she had been accepted priority homeless by Stockton Borough Council. Concerns were her substance misuse and capability to maintain their tenancy.

### **Offending History**

To fund her substance misuse Sue became involved in prostitution and crime.

When we first started working with Sue she was on probation and was committing crimes to fund her substance misuse.

### **Drug and Alcohol Misuse**

Sue was using heroin and other prescription medication and alcohol as a way of dealing with her situation and was treated with a methadone script.

### **Client's Situation**

When we first started to work with Sue, she had just moved into a Tristar tenancy. Sue had no furniture and had been turned down for a community care grant (CCG). Sue was in debt and under threat by Baliffs and was drinking heavily.

### **Support Given to Date**

- To appeal for CCG and ongoing support with benefits, debts and budgeting.
- To stabilise on methadone program.
- To monitor and help reduce alcohol misuse
- Sign Posting, Advocacy and liaison with various support networks and agencies.
- To stay clear of offending and criminal behaviour

### **Networking with other agencies**

We have worked closely with Sue and various agencies, Birchtree Practice, Probation, Police & Crime protection unit, Housing Options, A Way Out, SECOS, My Sister's Place, Domestic Violence Unit, Benefits agency and Solicitors.

### **Outcomes**

December 07 Sue will have completed her introductory tenancy with Tri-Star.

Her patch manager has no concerns and her rent is paid on a regular basis.

Sue received a community care grant to furnish her flat.

Sue has not been involved in any crime since moving into the property and liaises well with probation receiving home visits on a monthly basis. She is stable on a methadone programme and has now started a reduction.

### **Conclusion**

Sue's alcohol intake has dramatically reduced however there is still a lot of work to be done and this remains her main drug. Sue has agreed to speak to a counsellor regarding her past and hopefully this will impact on her alcohol abuse. Sue's future goals are to be methadone and alcohol free and hopefully be involved in training.