

## **CASE STUDY HARRY**

### **Background history**

At the time of our initial meeting Harry a 35 year old male was living in hostel accommodation with his partner who was expecting their first child. The couple had first met when Harry was dealing illicit substances.

### **Offending history**

Harry was a convicted drug dealer and a prolific offender. He had been in prison numerous times for various offences which were linked with his drug usage.

### **Drug and alcohol misuse**

Harry had a past history of heroin addiction and was treated with a methadone prescription. He was later admitted onto a Drug Treatment and Testing Order programme (D.T.T.O.) although he states that he was already clean by the time he started the programme.

### **Client's situation**

When we first started to work together Harry was stabilised on a low dose of methadone. The couple were very stressed due to Social Services involvement with their unborn child and Harry had approached his brother to ask if he could help alleviate the pressure by applying for a temporary residency order of the unborn child. His brother and partner had initially agreed but after giving the matter some consideration had decided that it would be too stressful and had declined. As a result the baby was put into short term foster care when she was first born. As a result of this situation both Harry and his partner were determined to prove they could be good parents to their daughter and went to court to fight their case. Harry managed to wean himself off his methadone prescription and become drug free and eventually after a long period of time they were granted a permanent residency order. Their daughter is now one year old and is thriving.

### **Support given to date**

- To keep the flat in good order and keep up do date with his rent
- To help Harry stay clear of offending and criminal behaviour
- To remain drug free
- To attend regular appointments with Stonham and Probation Service

### **Networking with other agencies**

Courts; Guardian for Child; Social Services; Probation; Midwife; Health Visitor; Housing Options; Tristar; Birchtree; Pathways and Stonham

## **Outcomes**

Due to Harry successfully completing his Drug Treatment Programme with The Birchtree and proving to the courts and other agencies that he and his partner could meet their Daughter's needs, they were granted custody of their Daughter.

Harry and his partner have maintained their introductory tenancy and Tristar will be looking at giving them a permanent tenancy.

Stonham have carried out a planned exit and he will be leaving our project next month. I have referred him to Pathways, an outreach worker will be working with him, when our support ends.

## **Conclusion**

A multi-agency approach when working with clients with complex needs is the way the way forward.