

Case Study

“Johnny” was identified as a Priority and Prolific Offender (PPO) in 2010. His many offences ranged from petty shop theft to house burglary but also offences against a person which ranged from battery to threats to kill

He has been dealt with by the courts with the full range of sentencing options including 15 custodial sentences.

Drugs and alcohol were a major issue for “Johnny”.

Whilst the EHO Alcohol and Substance Misuse officer was visiting another offender in Holme House prison, ‘Johnny’ asked if he could have a quick word.

At that time he was serving a 36 month sentence for two dwelling house burglaries and 3 non dwelling burglaries, common assault and theft. He was due to be released in December 2010.

He had heard about the Trainer Flats and he wanted the opportunity to be housed into one of them on his release.

He was advised that a flat may not be available but we would make sure that he had temporary accommodation so he would not be released ‘NFA’.

Discussions with all agencies prior to his release identified that ‘Johnny’ had a history of damaging property if he is challenged in any way but a joint decision was made to place him into a recently vacant Trainer Flat with intensive support.

‘Johnny’ was released from prison December 2010 and was placed on licence until July 2012 - he had to work with the PPO team and also have two weekly drug tests.

The IOM team collected him from prison and he was accommodated in the Trainer Flats. He had intensive floating support from Stonham along with weekly landlord visits and weekly visits by probation.

He paid his rent regularly and never got into arrears, he was there for all his home visits and caused no problems whilst he was in there, he also fully engaged with CRI and Lifeline which helped him stay drug free and reduce his alcohol intake.

Our officer convened a Multi Agency Strategy Meeting and invited all agencies involved with ‘Johnny’.

All agreed that he was ready for his own tenancy so we started the ‘move on process’.

His occupation of the Trainer Flat had given him the opportunity to demonstrate his ability to manage a tenancy, look after his own property and actively engage with services to address his alcohol and substance mis-use.

This demonstration of modification in behaviour enabled us to put the case forward to Tristar Homes that he should be eligible to join the Housing Register and become an active applicant on the Choice Based Lettings Scheme.

‘Johnny’ actively started bidding for property and he secured his own tenancy in August 2011. The Stonham floating support service continued in his new home.

After a while of doing really well, 'Johnny' and his Support Worker agreed that that the floating support was no longer required.

As part of our Officer's role in Probation, she often accompanies Probation Officers on home visits if the customer is known to our service.

Such a joint visit took place in respect of 'Johnny'.

'Johnny' said he was struggling financially and finding it hard to manage his bills because of the amount of stoppages from his benefits.

An appointment was made for him with the CAB to get his deductions from his benefits restructured.

Our Officer attended 'Johnny's' PPO conference when a decision was made to de-register him as a PPO. 'Johnny' was really upset when advised of this and admitted he didn't want to be left without support. He also said he was struggling in his tenancy.

We re-instated his Stonham intensive floating support and 'Johnny' continues to successfully maintain his tenancy and continues to test negative for any substance misuse.