

KONNECT COMMUNITIES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CASE STUDY



Mark's Story

Feb 2021

BACKGROUND:

Mark self-referred to Konnect's offender engagement team some months after leaving prison. He had experienced significant trauma and abuse in childhood and suffers from epilepsy and complex mental health conditions.

At the point of contact, Mark was homeless, rough-sleeping and had no benefits in place. He was using street drugs, his physical and mental concerns were unmedicated and he was expressing suicidal thoughts. During his period of homelessness, he experienced renewed coercion from previous gang associates. This worsened his mental health; he was keen to move away from the risks of criminal association.

KONNECT'S SUPPORT:

A Konnect offender engagement mentor worked with Mark and a comprehensive action plan was put in place.

Mark was supported to put in a basic benefit claim for Universal Credit (UC) and we established as a priority need for emergency accommodation. Secure housing was found for Mark when the risks of criminal exploitation emerged once again.

Konnnect accompanied Mark to addiction recovery services and helped to arrange and attend physical and mental health care assessments.

Konnnect worked with Mark to put in an application for PIP and we collaborated with housing partners to secure a move into accommodation in a safer region.

Konnnect encouraged and supported Mark to attend regular probation appointments and desist from offending.

KONNECT'S IMPACT:

With Konnect's advocacy support, Mark's PIP application was awarded at a high level. He has not re-offended and has completed his licence period without recall to prison. As a result, he is no longer on the prolific and priority offender (PPO) list.

"I know the system, I've had other workers that I've lost faith in. [The Konnect Criminal Justice Mentor Programme] is the best thing that could have happened to me. What a worker.

I've got my life back. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for [Konnnect], I'd be dead."

Mark is stable on a script and demonstrates this through the submission of regular, clean tests.

He maintained his place in temporary housing for 12 months and moved into his own flat in February 2021.

This allowed Mark to start long-term mental health treatment and management recommended by CMHT.