

Warwickshire & West Mercia Armed Forces Covenant Fund

Criminal Justice Services Remember Veterans Project Case Study - Chad



Name: Chad Campbell **Age:**36

Military Service: Enlisted in the British Army in April 1999, served for 2 years with the Grenadier Guards. Serving mainly on ceremonial duties, discharged from the Army through a District Courts Martial in July 2001.

Offending history: Mainly drink related offences, serving a total of 6 years in custody, longest single sentence of 2.5 years. Since leaving the military Chad has lead a transient life, lived in various

My name is Chad Campbell and I have recently relocated to the Nuneaton and Bedworth area. My transition to this area was a difficult one and but for the help of a few organisations it may have been worse still.

I arrived in Nuneaton after a successful period in a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit in Cornwall. My time in Cornwall was enjoyable and I learned many things about myself including my triggers to relapse, relapse prevention and my overall needs as a recovering alcoholic and drug addict.

On leaving the rehabilitation unit I moved to Bristol and found a room and employment as a kitchen porter. Initially I enjoyed the work but the hours were long and the bar was always busy. As a consequence I found myself neglecting my recovery. Struggling, a close friend offered his support and gave me a very temporary place to stay in Nuneaton.

Upon my arrival, I immediately contacted Bristol probation; who were heavily involved in my life due to past criminal offences, and informed them of my new address. I was contacted by Nuneaton National Probation Service 1 week later and my case was temporarily transferred to Nuneaton where I was given an appointment.

My new probation officer was very supportive and I found I could trust her immediately. I explained my circumstances; sleeping on a couch in a bedsit with my friend and his dog on a bed nearby. I spoke of my misgivings, the possibility of homelessness as an immediate fear which in turn presented a massive risk of relapse and eventual loss of self in the pursuit of oblivion.

She listened and through knowledge of my military history, pointed me in the direction of the Veterans Contact Point (VCP), a local Military Charity based in Nuneaton. She also rang the Remember Veterans Referral & Helpline to pass on my details and refer me for help and support.

In short, my life is improving slowly through a measure of hard work and external support. I regularly attend the VCP for ongoing assistance and a coffee and would like to think I have made good contacts there that harbour a variety of wealth of knowledge but more importantly, I mark the VCP as the single most beneficial point of contact for myself and other veterans in need of assistance.

Upon arrival at the VCP I was met by friendly people, veterans just like me. I too had served in HM Armed Forces. I was immediately welcomed, supported and given assistance regarding my housing situation and my drug and alcohol issues. The VCP were very thorough in their approach; applying to external agencies such as SSAFA, The British Legion, Fry Housing, P3 Nuneaton, Nuneaton and Bedworth Council Housing Department, and Drug & Alcohol support agencies local to the area. A plan was made and I was given a basic plan as to what to do, where to go, and more importantly, how to do it!

In short, my life is improving slowly, through a measure of hard work and external support. I regularly attended the VCP for ongoing assistance and for a brew. I would like to think I have made good contacts there that harbour a variety of wealth of knowledge but more importantly, I mark the VCP as the single most beneficial point of contact for myself and other veterans in need of assistance, since I left the Army.

Through the support and advice offered by the Remember Veterans Project and the VCP, I have tried to access support to live in Nuneaton, finding that although the local council prioritised my homelessness application by my prior military service, having a criminal record and no ties to the Borough lowered my priority. I had also attended a job interview and was offered a full time job.

I continued to receive support from my Volunteer Peer Support worker, Chris at the VCP, working with me to maintain my motivation and helping me to consider other housing options. We located a supported accommodation service in Shirehampton, Bristol that I contacted and with the support of my Offender Manager in Nuneaton, I was offered a place.

I am maintaining contact with the VCP and the RV project, who continue to be interested in me and who seem to really care about helping me. I feel that at last, I am getting help, feeling valued and supported to change. I have taken ownership of my own life again and remain positive about taking positive steps forward. I know that if things do start to unwind, that I can contact the helpline number and get advice and support to remain on track. I am in a positive place in my life, I feel confident that I will find work, somewhere to live and want to give something back in recognition of the support I have been given.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff working at the VCP, The Remember Veterans Project and the various partners who offer their support to veterans. I have applied for my Veterans Pin Badge, which I shall wear with pride and inform other veterans in similar circumstance to my own, that there is help out there. I am more than willing to promote this help in any way that I can. I would also encourage any other Veteran who is experiencing similar circumstances as I was, to make contact with the Remember Veterans Helpline 02476 348227 or the Veterans Contact Point 02476 343793, who will help you, as they understand and really do care about ex-armed forces people.