



Warwickshire & West Mercia AFC CJS Remember Veterans Project Case Studies



Brief History/Background

Veteran X served with the Armed Forces, serving 2 tours in Northern Ireland and 8 months in Berlin. X, was referred to the ESS Project by his Offender Manager (OM). In July 2016, following his release from joining the IOM Cohort as an amber nominal, later reduced to green, but then recently increased back to amber.

Since release from custody **X** was living with his partner in temporary Council accommodation, unfortunately, they lost this accommodation due to issues in and around the property, they were quickly evicted, leaving them both street homeless; living in a tent and begging on the streets of Shrewsbury.

X has a long history of substance misuse, both alcohol and class A drugs. He suffers with depression for which is treated with medication, but he also has a long list of untreated medical issues that also needed attention. However due to his lifestyle, he has found it difficult to prioritise his health or even register with a GP. Referred to YSS to help him address his accommodation needs; **X** also lost his benefits, leaving him with nil income for around 7 months.

Outcomes achieved & Objectives completed; what has changed / improved:

- **X** has obtained supported accommodation.
- Supported with ESA assessment and appeal
- Supported with food parcels
- Applied for Birth Certificate
- Contacted Remember Veterans who met with **X** to help improve motivation and give information on possible places he could access support.
- Contact made with various Veteran/Military charities all who were willing to offer support; however, he does need to reduce his substance use before they can consider funding for a Private rented property.
- Worked intensively with **X** and IOM Co-ordinator to assist him to attend medical appointments, to gain his benefits and liaise with housing providers to prevent him losing his current accommodation.
- Liaised intensively with substance misuse and Police teams to support him and his partner.

Summary

X continues to remain chaotic, he continues to drink heavily however, he attends most appointments and so we are able to continue to work intensively to address his attitude, thinking and behaviour. We have worked tirelessly to prevent him losing his accommodation and to try to get him his benefits reinstated. We were recently been informed that he has been turned down for ESA based benefits, resulting in that he will be deemed fit for work and he will be advised to claim JSA. YSS continue to support him to appeal against this decision as he is clearly not fit for work due to his substance misuse and all the while we will be encouraging him to make the right choices and address his issues and prevent him from re-offending.

Feedback from Client:

He has recently informed his OM that he did not know where he would be without the support from YSS, his IOM and the Remember Veterans Project. **X** feels he benefits from having an understanding and directive approach ("*given me a kick in the backside when it has been needed*") as he would not have achieved any of the tasks he had originally set out to achieve.