



Warwickshire & West Mercia AFC CJS Remember Veterans Project Case Studies



Veteran Y

Brief History/Background to the case:

Veteran Y is a 32-year-old male. He has a lengthy offending history, primarily for offences of theft, released from custody, on licence on 26th September 2016.

He is originally from the Kidderminster area and resides in the town. He has a limited employment history, having last worked as a welder in Halesowen from 2013-2015. Unfortunately, the business folded and he has been unemployed ever since.

He served in the armed forces with the Worcestershire Regiment from 2000-2003. Although he relatively enjoyed serving as a soldier, he feels that, with hindsight, he joined up too young. He developed an alcohol problem in the army but this has not been an issue for him for the last three years. Unfortunately, following the loss of employment he began to use heroin intravenously. He is one of four brothers and appears to be highly susceptible to pressure and influence from two of them, whom are more criminally minded than he is. I believe that it was his brothers, who introduced him to heroin.

Y has a somewhat volatile but at times supportive relationship with his parents, both of whom reside outside of the locality. It is necessary to note that he has two daughters although contact is not maintained; and there is no social services involvement.

Outcomes achieved & Objectives completed. Describe what has changed / improved:

The main objectives of intervention were as follows:

Y is an IOM offender. He is identified as an individual whom presents a significant risk of offending and is being intensely managed as part of the 'Operation Himalia' scheme.

1. Housing

Released from Prison Custody to a flat in Kidderminster belonging to Rooftop Housing. He has been a tenant of theirs for over a year; in October, a meeting held at his flat to re-iterate tenancy compliance and positive behaviour. There are no current concerns although Rooftop have made it quite clear to him that were he to continue using cannabis at the flat they will have no hesitation in evicting him. There are no rent arrears and the situation is stable.

2. Drug Use

Prior to his most recent period of incarceration, he was using heroin on a daily basis. There was no drug use whilst in custody and has continued to abstain. To his credit, he is co-operating with Swanswell, and is on a methadone prescription. However, his use of cannabis has increased considerably with him using up to £10 worth of the drug per day. Interestingly he does not view such use as being problematic but is aware of the risks this may pose to his tenancy.

3. Employment, Education & Training

Such has been his progress since release from prison, that we jointly made a decision to refer him to our Job Coach, Phil Sherwood at Carden Street. Y appears to have a strong work ethic and is eager to occupy himself constructively. He has attended three workshops in Worcester and I understand will be engaging in 1:1 work around CV building and sourcing employment opportunities. This is very positive and if such commitment continues, I believe that it is only a matter of time before he works again.

4. Attitudes

Although history would suggest, given entrenched patterns of offending behaviour, that he is criminally minded, he does appear to have a positive set of personal values and beliefs. He was quickly identified as being ideal to work with our mentor, Steve Tonry. He has engaged positively with Steve during individual 1:1 sessions with NLP forming the basis of such intervention. One cannot underestimate the importance of such work and the impact upon YY is noticeable. However, this has not been without issue in recent times as I feel that YY is struggling to come to terms with alternative thinking skills and behaviours. He continues to persevere, and is now able to see the benefits of a positive future. Steve's expertise and assistance has been of enormous help and support in the attempt to turn YY's life around.



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A referral and contact with the Remember Veterans CJS hotline for veterans, and he was very grateful for this opportunity and felt that this is what he needed to compliment the support that he is currently receiving.

Summary:

I am of the belief that YY's involvement and progress with us since his release from custody has been nothing short of remarkable. He is an individual who only previously engaged occasionally, offended regularly and was vulnerable to negative influence. He no longer uses heroin, is in good health, is maintaining his property, co-operating with agencies under the IOM umbrella and has not re-offended. He keeps his brothers at arm's length and can see a positive road ahead. Naturally, there is still some distance for him to travel but with our support and his value of it, the foundations for progress are in place increasing the prospect of positive outcomes.

Feedback from Client:

"YSS have been brilliant. You have always been there and been there for me to talk too. I appreciate what you have done and thanks".