

COVENTRY L&D trial site – August 2014

One to One Journey

by Mala Dhakk, Health Inequalities Manager (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) – Anthony Nichols

42 years of age

Male (Mr K)

Protected Characteristic – Disability

This case study describes the journey of a 42 year old male whose offending behaviour commenced around 1998 and his experience with a Liaison and Diversion Service. Mr K was assaulted and as a result suffered a permanent and debilitating injury and has a glass eye.

PERSONAL JOURNEY

Mr K had happy childhood. He liked school and was a champion athlete for cross-country running.

Started his working career at the age of 17 and everything was going well for him in his life until the age of 22. Mr K got into the wrong crowd and starting to drink. Stopped his athletics as he had a hernia and had to stop running.

Mr K committed his first offence and was arrested and charged for fraud. Mr K received a Community Order. He was also taking amphetamines.

In 2001 Mr K was attacked and hit with a broken glass bottle in his face and lost his left eye. Entrenched in the criminal lifestyle, four months after losing his eye Mr K was arrested for driving whilst disqualified. At this time he was homeless. Mr K saw his GP and was assessed and diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Mr K went to prison this time for driving whilst disqualified. In 2012 Mr K moved back to Coventry and met his partner. Mr K stopped the criminal activity, got a job, and stopped drinking and taking drugs. They have a child

together. Mr K was under the watch of the Offender Management Unit at this time who were monitoring the vehicles in his possession and established a high profile relationship with him.

Mr K was arrested and went to prison for Domestic Violence Section 39 for Common Assault. As part of the Social Services care plan Mr K was advised that there would be limited access when the baby was born. There were a number of similar incidents and allegations of domestic violence, assault and drug use.

'Life has more downs than ups but with the right help and support – I'm beginning to find myself again'

ARREST HISTORY AND FIRST CONTACT WITH LIAISON AND DIVERSION

Mr K through the support of the Offender Management Unit had first contact with the Liaison and Diversion team after moving back to Coventry and being arrested for common assault.

Mr K's history of offending behaviour began in 1998 and continued until the early part of 2014 and involves serious acquisitive crime involving cross-border car crime and burglaries.

Liaison and Diversion (L&D) and Offender Management Unit agreed that a new joint approach was needed to support Mr K going forward. Mr K's mental health needs were not assessed until the L&D team considered an assessment to identify a pathway. By partnership working Mr K's history was discussed and it was agreed that a referral into counselling specific to the PTSD would be helpful.

LIAISON AND DIVERSION ENGAGEMENT

The L&D team assessed Mr K's mental health needs and took into the written narrative that Mr K had undertaken for social services which revealed his offending behaviour had begun around the time of the assault .

The L&D team arranged a face to face visit with the offender manager and the L&D practitioner. An L&D assessment was undertaken and confirmed that Mr K was experiencing PTSD due to his attack.

Establishing a connection between this and the offending behaviour; leading to nightmares and low self-esteem and associated feelings of anxiety, fear and self-blame about the disfigurement.

'I should have been able to look after my home and stand up for myself'

OUTCOMES

The L&D practitioner referred Mr K for one to one counselling after the Mental health assessment identified and assessed a need for PTSD support.

Mr K has been able to find secure and supported accommodation with the help of L&D

Mr K is undertaking a college course for plumbing so that he is able to get a job and support himself and eventually have his own business

Has regular contact with L&D and Offender Management Unit and is still fully engaged

No drug abuse

No offending.

'Without L&D – I wouldn't have had the support that I needed. I would have been homeless and in prison again. With L&D support my life has stopped being purposeless and the team have given meaning to my life and to stop offending.....'

Mala Dhakk
Health Inequalities Manager (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire)
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