

Molly

Molly has been homeless on and off since being released from a custodial sentence. She has spent time in temporary accommodation and hostels but keeps being recalled to prison.

Molly keeps being recalled because she was missing appointments with probation. She had a place in temporary accommodation but wasn't staying there because, on release from custody, she had to self-isolate in her room due to Covid. She struggled with this and opted to be homeless instead, which led to being recalled by probation because she was not residing at the accommodation.

Molly is vulnerable. Other adults take her money from her and encourage her to use substances. She uses crack cocaine daily.

Simon, who works at the supported accommodation where Molly lives, is her Trusted Person. When Molly was referred to Counting Every Adult (CEA) while still in custody, Marie from CEA picked up her case and worked with Simon, giving him any support he needed. Simon is experienced at dealing with services and only needed limited intervention from Marie.

Marie arranged a professionals meeting to make a plan that would work for Molly and would consider her wishes. Marie wanted services to plan for Molly's release from custody to give her the best opportunity of maintaining her accommodation and liberty. One thing that was identified during the meeting was that nobody had asked Molly what she wanted, what she felt she needed and how this could be achieved. Marie stressed that this is an important question that needs to be asked.

After release, a discussion was had with Molly around what she wanted and how best she could keep the accommodation. She suggested what she needed was robust set of rules to follow. She also asked for support to access mental health treatment, substance misuse services and budgeting.

Molly moved into the accommodation and did well, following the rules that had been set out.

Her probation licence ended and this meant that probation were no longer able to recall her if she missed an appointment or left the accommodation. The Covid rules were also relaxed and this all helped Molly to maintain her accommodation.

Simon helped Molly to get her benefits in place and Molly agreed it would help if the accommodation could hold her card and give her the money in small amounts. This helped Molly avoid relapsing back into drug use.

Some headlines

Molly has ...

- completed a maths course and a budgeting course.
- the correct medication and it is supplied in a blister pack so that she doesn't get confused.
- been referred for a mental health assessment.
- asked to help clean the office at the supported accommodation

She is now...

- taking part in a gardening project at her supported accommodation.
- paying her rent and not spending the money on drugs or alcohol (a very positive change!)

The future

Molly still needs support to budget and is spending all her money within days of getting it.

The supported accommodation is wanting to look at move on accommodation already for Molly. Various options have been discussed from supported to her own social housing property. Marie advocated for not rushing Molly into moving on before she is ready, because she has been homeless and in and out of prison for a lengthy time and this is the first settled period that she has had in a long time.

Molly has done so well that she is now back in touch with her sisters that she has not seen for 20 years and they came to visit her. She remains in the accommodation nearly 8 months later and move on plans are starting to be looked at.

Molly's trusted person Simon was already very skilled in working with people with complex needs and working with other services. Support was given by CEA to help Simon build a network around Molly and get services communicating with each other and working together on what Molly wants.