

Focus on: Partnership Working in Bradford

Andy's Story

At the time of the referral by **West Yorkshire Police** Andy was residing on the vulnerable persons unit at HMP Leeds serving a short sentence for breach of his Sexual Offences Protection Order. Over 5 years Andy had been sentenced for 6 different sexual offences and had breached his Sexual Offences Protection Order on 5 occasions.

On release Andy was homeless, drank high levels of alcohol (120 units per week), had frequent visits to A&E and failed to meet the requirements of his Sexual Offences Protection Order which meant he was taken back to court and returned to HMP Leeds to await trial.

Positive Partnerships

Andy was initially referred into WY-FI following a meeting between the **WY-FI Navigator**, a contact at **Probation** and the **Positive Futures team** at HMP Leeds.

Andy was 68 years old at the time but when the **Navigator** first met him he was struck by Andy's childlike joke telling and constant need to repeat his history. The **Navigator** liaised with **Adult Social Care** to carry out a mental capacity assessment for Andy. The **Navigator** also met with the **Court Liaison Officer** and Andy's **lawyer** while the judge remanded Andy in custody to allow for a separate assessment of cognitive functioning to take place. The **Navigator** arranged for a **Consultant Forensic and Clinical Psychologist** to prepare a court report of the assessment to support Andy's case.

The mental capacity assessment found that Andy lacked capacity to retain and understand information, weigh up risks and communicate decisions. This meant that Andy was not able to make informed decisions about accommodation or care arrangements. The cognitive functioning assessment concluded that Andy was suffering from Korsakoff's which manifests in memory deficits, confabulation and lacking insight.



As a result of the partnership working Andy was housed in an appropriate **care home** on release and allocated a **social worker** to fully assess his needs.

A supportive Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) was put in place at the care home to prevent Andy from leaving without an escort while extra funding was secured for **1:1 support** and a **male carer**. An **Independent Mental Capacity Advocate** was also arranged to represent Andy.

Andy is now housed appropriately, is abstinent, has not re-offended and has more stable mental health. Andy has also managed to reconnect with his brother who now visits him at the home and in general he feels contented and happy for the first time in a long period.

Without partnership working Andy's Korsakoff's and lack of mental capacity may have been overlooked and he could have continued to be a frequent offender.

"Prior to WY-FI, Andy was a 'revolving door person' at HMP Leeds, now he is settled and doing well" -Karl at Probation

"The enthusiasm and direct skills of WY-FI to assess, co-ordinate and implement multi-agency workings have brought undoubted success here" -Nicola at West Yorkshire Police (Public Protection)

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Patrick's Story

Patrick was sofa surfing and using heroin, crack cocaine, legal highs, alcohol and cannabis when he was referred into WY-FI. Patrick was also on a Public Protection Order and did not engage with services. Patrick had been asked to leave services in the past due to his attitudes and behaviour.

Positive Partnerships

The **WY-FI Navigator** worked hard to build a trusting relationship with Patrick which laid the foundations for Patrick re-engaging with services. The Navigator introduced Patrick to a **range of local services and groups** to find the ones that worked best for him. One of the groups helped Patrick to address his substance misuse and since attending he has stopped using heroin, crack cocaine and legal highs. Patrick has also reduced his cannabis use by half.

There were concerns about where Patrick was staying so the Navigator went with Patrick to see the **housing team** and secured a property for him. The **Navigator** also purchased some furniture via WY-FI's Personalisation Fund to help make Patrick's new property into a home. Patrick's new home also included a low level **support worker** to help with Patrick's ongoing needs.

Patrick is now much more positive about the future and believes in services again.



Derek's Story

Derek was living in a shared supported tenancy following an eviction but was struggling to engage with housing support. He'd also had some benefits stopped and had difficulty making ends meet. Derek had a history of repeat offending and had offences relating to theft, drugs and a serious sexual assault. Derek used alcohol and cocaine and, as a result of the drinking, suffered from advanced liver disease. He also suffered from depression and had anti-social personality traits.

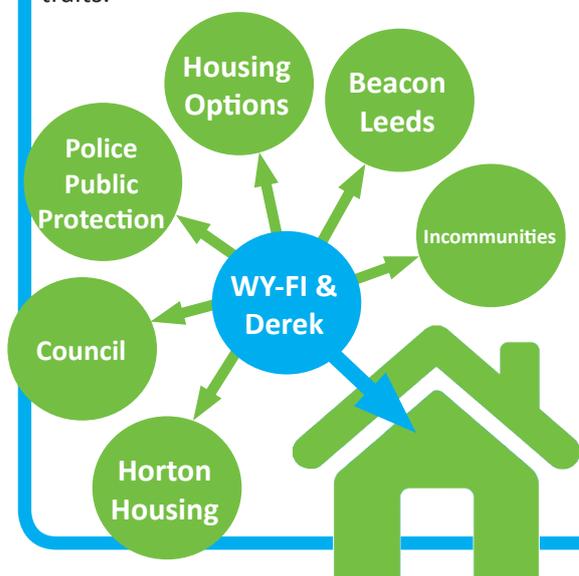
"WY-FI is very beneficial and do more than I could ever expect. It would be a shame and a massive loss if WY-FI were not around. I've never had this quality of support in my life, never judged and feel valued" -Derek

Positive Partnerships

The **WY-FI Navigator** advocated on behalf of Derek when he was struggling to work with his initial **supported housing provider**. The **Navigator** then referred Derek to a **housing support service** and worked closely with the **housing support worker** to ensure he received the help he needed.

The **Navigator** supported Derek with his benefit claims and appeals to help him to get on top of his finances.

Following a robbery and assault on Derek the **Navigator** liaised with **Horton Housing's New Start Service, Housing Options, Incommunities, Beacon Leeds Housing Service** and **Police Public Protection** to facilitate a move from Bradford to Leeds. Since moving area Derek has felt safer and happier and following involvement from the **Navigator** he now finds it easier to engage with services.



The names have been changed to protect the anonymity of the individuals

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