

Louise's story - from addiction to Community Builder in Kirklees

Louise was going through a difficult divorce and went back to live with her parents. She was drinking heavily and on long term incapacity benefits. Louise's relationship with her parents gradually broke down and they asked her to move out. Louise continued to drink heavily and was at risk of being made homeless when she found the Sober Living Project, a Community Links/WY-FI funded project in Kirklees.

They offered her a place on their rehab programme, as well as a place to stay at their peer-led sober living accommodation - Freedom House. Once settled, Louise began volunteering at The Basement Recovery Project in Huddersfield. And when her rehab was complete, Louise decided that her next step would be to apply for a place on WY-FI's Peer Mentoring course.



Community Links - Kirklees

The Sober Living Project/
Freedom House

The Basement Recovery Project



Louise loved working and studying, and soon after completing the Peer Mentoring course, she was offered a role at the WY-FI Project in the Calderdale Navigator team. Louise had a small caseload of beneficiaries to begin with, and gradually started lone working.

After six months, Louise successfully applied to be a Community Builder at The Basement Recovery Project. A new job gave Louise the added confidence, as well as the financial stability, to look for her own place to live and move out of shared accommodation.

How WY-FI's Personalisation Fund helped...

Louise was awarded a Personalisation Fund payment from Kirklees to help towards the legal costs of her divorce and house sale. Louise also used some of the payment to join a local gym and start improving her health, wellbeing and self-esteem.

"Don't give up. Things can get better."

About the WY-FI Project

Our vision

By 2020 adults with multiple needs in West Yorkshire should have the opportunity of:

- a settled home
- positive health and wellbeing
- access to education and employment, and
- trust in a positive future

Ethos

Individuals with multiple needs:

- are supported by Navigators who build trusting relationships over time and who are service neutral
- receive person-centred support to achieve their hopes and aspirations, and
- inform future delivery models and innovation

What we do

WY-FI supports people who are not engaging effectively with services and are experiencing entrenched needs in **at least three** of the following four HARM areas:

- Homelessness
- Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol
- Re-offending
- Mental ill-health

Working together

WY-FI does not deliver services but works with existing local services to co-ordinate and work together effectively to fully meet individual needs in a person-centred and co-ordinated way via a Multi-Agency Review Board (MARB)

Louise

Before WY-FI

Louise was going through a divorce and living with her parents. She had become dependent on alcohol, was unemployed and on long term incapacity benefits.



Homelessness

Louise's parents had asked her to move out and she was at risk of being made homeless.



Addiction

Louise was dependent on alcohol, having gone through a difficult divorce from her husband.



Re-offending

Louise didn't have any offending/re-offending issues.



Mental ill health

Louise had ongoing issues with anxiety and depression.

Joining WY-FI
April 2017



Chaos Index Score (also known as NDTA score) is an assessment undertaken by a navigator to establish whether an individual will benefit from WY-FI support against a series of need criteria. This is repeated regularly to measure progress.

The Navigation Team in Kirklees have supported Louise to:

- Complete a rehab programme
- Start volunteering and training
- Gain full time employment
- Move out of shared housing and into her own rented accommodation
- Join a local gym

April 2018



Homelessness

Louise now lives in private accommodation and successfully manages her own tenancy.



Addiction

Louise completed her rehab programme and is now in recovery from alcohol dependency.



Re-offending

Louise continues to have no offending/re-offending issues.



Mental ill health

Louise's mental health is much more stable and she is looking forward to the future.



Outcome Star Score is a self-assessment tool for beneficiaries to measure their distance travelled.

Louise is an example of how supported recovery can transform a person's life.

From divorce, addiction and unemployment, Louise is now stable in recovery. And she has a new job helping other people turn their lives around.

After WY-FI