

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)
6th February 2024 – Orbit Business Centre, CF48 1DL**

CTM Case Studies - 2024

BCBC – Case Study A

A became known to support services after a Prisoner Pathway referral was sent by Parc Prison. A was not previously known to the area, but had no Local Connection or links elsewhere. A had served 3 years and 9 months for manslaughter and released in 2017. He had been part of a violent drug related gang in his previous area and killed a man during a bike chase.

A has various mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, EUPD and ADHD. He has a tendency to self-harm extremely dangerously, which has been a risk both in and out of prison.

When released, A secured various placements in supported TA and eventually a longer term supported accommodation project – the Kerrigan. However, he could not sustain any accommodation for the long term due to his behaviours, mental health and self-harm. A was referred to Housing First (HF) due to his complexities and managed to secure accommodation with an RSL. However, he did not last there long before being evicted, again, for behavioural issues.

A has re-approached the LA multiple times over the last 6-7 years, and has continuously lost placements in both temporary and supported accommodation, meaning his life has been completely unsettled. Whilst being unsettled, A acquired an XL bully type dog, which has further reduced the housing options available to him as he refuses to be accommodated without his dog.

In 2020, during the peak of lockdown, A was placed in holiday style TA, with intensive HF support. He settled there for a while, and was engaging with HF well. However, as he became more settled, the behavioural issues and disruption to neighbours became a real problem and he was consequently asked to leave by the accommodation owner.

In 2022, A was placed in a hotel, who agreed to accept him and his dog, agreeing to monitor behaviours with the support of HF. Again, A settled there, but various move-on barriers meant that he was struggling to secure PRS accommodation or even accommodation via an RSL, e.g. affordability of PRS and having a potentially dangerous dog. A maintained this TA with the intensive support of HF, until an incident on the 09/02/24, where A's dog became aggressive with him at the hotel, resulting in him recently leaving the hotel.

As mental health, self-harm, behavioural issues, substance misuse (cannabis) and ownership of a dangerous dog mean that he is a very complex individual who is very difficult to accommodate for more than a few weeks / months at a time. We are continuously working with RSLs to try and make the HF pathway work, to secure accommodation first and build that wrap around support. However, with the new legislation around XL bullies, which has led many RSLs to change their pet ownership policies, it is becoming almost impossible to find a suitable option. A will not rehome his dog, who he deems a support animal. A has threatened to seriously harm himself or end his life if/when his dog is ever removed from him.

HF are continuing to work with A and we hope to continue supporting him until a home is found. However, this case study highlights just one of many cases where an individual's complexities and circumstances mean that housing options are non-existent.

MTCBC - Case Study B

B was previously categorised as having 'intensive' support needs, but has reduced to 'high' needs. B was either street homeless or sofa surfing, was in very poor health, he weighed around 8 stone and was injecting heroin. B was involved in criminal activity to fund his substance use, his family had cut ties with him and he had disengaged with all support services.

B had previously been very close to his Mum who sadly passed away and B began a cycle of self-destruction.

When Hannah and Kelly met with B, he was on a bit of a high, he'd spent time with his sister, had been mostly free of substances and was feeling really positive. Obviously B's journey hasn't been plain sailing, there has been lots of ups and downs along the way and there's lots of challenges ahead for B.

B's support staff have real concerns for B once he leaves supported TA. Although B has done really well with managing his money, paying his PC and looking after his personal hygiene, the main concern for B in having his own tenancy would be that he's very vulnerable to people staying with him and potentially leading him down the wrong path again. B used to do lots of sofa surfing with friends and acquaintances and there is a worry that B wouldn't be strong enough to say no to people asking him to repay the favour, especially those newly released from prison.

At present, staff do the gatekeeping for B, he can just say 'sorry, you can't come in – that's the rules' and staff will enforce that for him. He likes the rules and feels safe knowing that staff are there to set boundaries. He has said 'Jo and Emma are like my Mum's here'. Staff worry that B won't be able to set boundaries in a home by himself. Another worry is that B is quite vulnerable to financial exploitation due to receiving over £1500 every 4-weeks in benefits. This makes him a target even in hostel, so without the support of staff to protect him from that, there is a worry he'll be exploited without the protection of support staff helping him budget and safeguard his money.

RCTCBC – Case Study C

C is 42 years old and is currently residing in supported TA. C has resided there for almost 3 years.

C experienced an extremely abusing childhood with his dad and uncle receiving 17 life sentences between them. His housing history is a mix of sleeping rough, prison and TA. C uses substances e.g. cocaine and cannabis and also has prescribed medication. C is often seen wandering the street with needles hanging out of his arm and his bottom exposed.

C is well known to statutory and third sector services e.g. police, probation, RCT Housing Dyffodol, HOS, etc. C can be very childlike and walks around with a Micky mouse toy and also dresses as a superhero, however when he turns he can be very aggressive.

Offences include attempted assault on mother, damage to mother's home, assaulting a security guard at TA and exposing himself to children.

Many attempts have been made to help and support C with his mental health, substance and trauma. The HOS team tried to assess him whilst in prison in 2023, however could not complete the assessment as when they started asking about his childhood trauma, he refused to answer any other questions.

His mother manages his finances and when C was asked where would he like to move to C replied he wanted to stay in TA as his home.