

Stans's story



After tackling the drug and alcohol addiction that had plagued his life for years, Stan got extra help from BCHA's Floating Support service. *Floating Support helped me clear away the wreckage of a chaotic past life-style, he says.*

I got treatment for drug and alcohol addiction at the age of 33 after living a life ruined by substances that had taken me to prison on numerous occasions and a few institutions. During that time I racked up a lot of debts and had bailiffs chasing me.

After completing treatment, I moved into a dry-house for eight months and then progressed onto gaining my own flat through the rent deposit scheme. I remained clean and sober for 18 months now. A lot of people do not understand what it takes to get through all this and come out the other side, and misjudge us. But we are just people who have made some mistakes in life and are trying our best to get on.

Since I have been in my own flat the Floating Support workers have been instrumental in helping me work through all the stuff I had just ignored all my life. I am not a silly person but I had absolutely no idea about things like paying bills, setting up accounts with energy suppliers etc.

All this stuff was new to me. My support worker sat down and went through it all, giving me lots of help. We have slowly chipped away at resolving all my old debts by getting in touch with the relevant people. Outstanding tax bills were weighing very heavily on me and my support worker came with me to the tax office, where we managed to get nearly £50,000 worth of debt removed. Another time, with an outstanding fine, which the bailiffs were due to enforce, my support worker got in touch with some people, we wrote a couple of letters and got the matter sorted by me paying a small amount a week.

All this help has enabled me to try living a normal life and concentrate on my college, where I am studying Health and Social Care so that one day I may be able to help others who are going through some of the stuff I went through.

I still see my support worker weekly and she helps with all sorts of issues. These people do a wonderful job and I am personally extremely grateful for their help.

