



Good Practice – Nominee

Chris Long – Turning Point (Sub-Contractor- APM)



Reason for Nomination: Exceptional Quality of Work and Dedication to Transforming The Lives of Customer That Far Exceeds Any Reasonable Expectation.

An example of Christopher's work with customer PSHL96255 (in his own words).

"R" was identified at an IOM meeting in Scarborough as the number one target for the police in terms of offending and the highest scorer on the gold band of IOM. He was due to be released three weeks after the IOM meeting, so I agreed to a joint visit with IOM police and "R's" Offender Manager to HMP Humber.

"R" engaged well at the prison visit and it was decided that I would take him onto caseload as an 'end to end' IOM client; in so doing "R" was entitled to a 'premium service' from both IOM and myself.



“R” had been an entrenched offender with most of his adult life spent in prison; he readily acknowledged that his offending was linked to issues around substance misuse and a reliance on his family, who are part of a well-known criminal fraternity in Scarborough. His offences ranged from petty theft to dwelling burglaries and violence.

I met with “R” on his day of release and liaised closely with his IOM police offender manager – it transpired that “R” had been using Buprenorphine illicitly whilst in jail and was now physically and psychologically dependent on it. We discussed the negatives of re-engaging with drug using in the community and I contacted the local prescribing service to arrange an appointment advocating on his behalf the next day (“R” was subsequently prescribed a reduction programme of Subutex).

Harm reduction was of paramount importance as “R” was a historic Opiate/Benzodiazepine and alcohol user with known historic IV drug use. I delivered overdose response awareness and ensured he had access to BBV testing for HCV and HIV/AIDS at local services.

Dental hygiene was something also long overdue and it took several weeks after helping “R” to register with a local dentist that he was finally seen. “R” struggled with literacy and it needed a ‘hands-on’ approach to support work for any appointment with benefits and healthcare agencies.

“R” had remained abstinent from illicit substances for approximately two months (whilst still on a reduction programme) but related to me that he was still experiencing cravings from time to time and could not foresee a life without some sort of mood altering chemicals – he had remained abstinent from alcohol in this time as well. With this in mind I helped facilitate access to mutual aid support groups where “R” was able to gain identification and a therapeutic value from his peers. He attended regularly and became enmeshed in the local recovery community.

As the fog of many years drug use began to lift “R” began to experience guilt and remorse over some of his actions in active criminality – particularly the dwelling burglaries of the old and vulnerable. ‘REMEDY’ restorative justice had only just been instigated in Scarborough at this time and I gently suggested to “R” that maybe this would be a way forward to help alleviate guilt. A time was set for him to meet and make amends to a former victim of his burglary.

“R” was incredibly nervous on the night of the arranged REMEDY meeting; I was able to sit in on the process and offer support to “R” merely by my being there. It was an emotional evening and “R” broke down and cried in front of the elderly woman who had bravely sought to attend. I am sure that it was a watershed moment that night and that “R” would find it increasingly difficult to return to his criminal ways. He arranged to pay back every penny of what was taken that night.

Employment seemed the next logical step in “R”s recovery and the momentum came from him, but I attended interviews at employment agencies and explained the rules around disclosure etc to support him. I prevailed upon Police to support my work with “R” by paying for a passport that he needed to register with job agencies. “R” acquired temporary work but nothing seemed to last or go anywhere in terms of long term employment. We sat down and discussed what it was exactly he wanted to do – landscaping/gardening was his answer. With this in mind I contacted the local council



helped “R” fill out a volunteers application form. “R” had never really worked apart from occasional labouring jobs with his brother but he saw the value of voluntary work in terms of raising his self-esteem and self-worth and giving meaning and structure to his day.

He was fortunate enough to gain work as a volunteer with the council (who knew “R’s” offending history) and “R” settled into an enjoyable summer of work in the parks in Scarborough. Six months later a paid position became available and I encouraged “R” to apply – he did and successfully!

“R” still works for Scarborough Council and has now moved to a smaller town nearby, away from old haunts and old acquaintances. He is still drug free and as far as I know happy and content. I occasionally ask IOM police if there is any intelligence on him and they always say the same thing: “No, nothing,”

Ed: In writing up the above case study, Chris was too modest to highlight that fact that much of this work (inc. attending N.A. meetings and participation in the restorative justice process) was undertaken during his own time at evenings and at weekends.

