

Jeremy Palmer – Statement in support of Burlington Street Supported Housing and Detox

Before I found DHI, I spent a lifetime battling addiction to class-A drugs, struggling with alcohol problems, in and out of prison, and by the time I was released, I was homeless as well.

In 2012, I decided enough was enough. I was bailed on license after a three-year prison sentence, and I wanted to get clean. As part of my bail and license conditions, I had to engage with DHI's criminal justice team, and the sessions I had there really turned my life around.

DHI was the opening of a door to a whole new life. My children were in temporary foster care with my sister at the time, but because I was able to do my detox in Bath at Burlington Street, I could have regular contact with my kids – and this meant the world to me.

DHI helped me become more independent. After completing my detox, I moved into Barton Buildings, which DHI also ran. They provided drop-in visits to make sure I was doing well but gave me the freedom to ensure I was prepared for an independent future. I took cooking classes, started the HAP – or Home Achievement Programme – which significantly contributed to my long-term recovery and became ready to re-enter society as a new, better man and a productive member of society. All of that was possible because of what DHI did for me.

DHI gave me my life back. And when I was ready, I wanted to give back a little bit back to them, so became a Peer mentor to help other people who might be in a similar situation to myself. This was very rewarding because others could see the change in me. An opportunity came up for an apprentice roll with Reach completing an NVQ in housing. I passed with flying colours.

Now, I live in my own home, have full custody of my two beautiful children and have done for over nine years, and have been employed by DHI within the Reach Service for the last decade! I regularly support others facing issues with drugs, alcohol, and homelessness and know the value of the support.... not just for me, but for my children