



## Good News Story

Stuart was referred to Clued Up through his Criminal Justice Social Worker 5 months ago. At this time, Stuart was facing the very real possibility of receiving a custodial sentence due to an historical minor offence and a failure to complete the requirements of various Community Payback Orders.

On meeting with Stuart for the first time, it was immediately obvious that the prospect of spending time in prison was causing him massive amounts of stress and anxiety. Stuart reported to suffering sleepless nights, having a poor appetite and suffering from bouts of low moods and depression. He also spoke of living in a severely overcrowded home which was a contributing factor to his low moods.

Through mutually agreed planned work, Stuart and I worked on several areas of his life. Through his engagement in this work, Stuart was able to better manage his substance use by using safer practices and increasing his knowledge of substances. We also began to take steps to gain Stuart and his partner their own tenancy.

When Stuart felt that he was able to maintain and manage his substance use better, he asked to move onto working on some employability goals. These included improving his interview skills, developing an effective CV and gaining appropriate training to achieve his aspirations.

Stuart has now been employed in a full time role for 9 months and has secured his own tenancy, which he shares with his partner. On returning to the courts, the judge could see the massive turnaround Stuart had made and the effort he was putting in to making his life better for himself and his partner, and decided that the case should be admonished with no further action taken. Understandably, Stuart was overjoyed with this decision. He is extremely grateful to Clued Up for supporting him to make positive decisions and can't believe how he managed to change his life for the better so quickly.