

MEMBER CASE STUDY

Anawim

The needs the woman presented with when she arrived at Anawim

Accommodation

Health

Mental wellbeing

Attitudes, thinking and
behaviour

Education, employment
and training

Finance, benefits and
debt

Drugs and alcohol

Children and families

Domestic violence

Prostitution

About the Womens Centre

Anawim exists to support women with multiple and complex needs across Birmingham, enabling them to lead stable and fulfilling lives with their children and families. To do this they help and support women over 18 who are involved in and around prostitution, offending behaviour, drug abuse and sexual exploitation to move their lives forward. They provide viable alternatives to custody which increase self-worth, recognise potential and offer hope. They aim to keep families together where appropriate; to empower each woman and child towards independence, regular employment and dignity. To raise each woman's self-awareness, trust and responsibility towards herself, her children and the wider community and ensure the wider community are better informed about issues affecting the client group. They work towards restorative and reparative principles, delivered in a safe woman only space.

The circumstances the woman was in before being in contact with Anawim

For most of her life Nicky felt like her mum didn't love her, but fortunately she was brought up by her Nan who did show her love. Sadly when Nicky was 12 her Nan went back to Jamaica. Nicky felt abandoned and started acting up, missing school and staying out late. From then on she lived with her uncle as he mum wasn't interested in her.

Before she turned 14 she was put in a care home after running away from home and being caught by police. At 14 she had a baby and was put in a mother and baby unit, but continued to get into a lot of trouble. After some time she met her second child's dad and moved into his house. But eventually had to move away because of the abuse that she was receiving from him. She got into using class A drugs and took up shoplifting to fund this habit.

She ended up in prison, scared but tough on the outside. After release she was arrested a few months later. Her kids were being looked after by her family, she felt lost and could see no way out.

After moving in with her fourth babies father she was determined to get clean because she didn't want to be pregnant and on drugs. She had to go into rehab to stabilise her methadone habit. She did get clean, but unfortunately this didn't last and it ended up that her daughter was taken to live with her grandparents in Poland.

She was caught again for shop lifting and was sent to Anawim to do her court order.

Anawim

The impact that Anawim had on the woman's circumstances

Nicky took Maths and English courses plus a Crisis Programme course for helping people get back into work. She did a two week long work experience at Cadbury's and learnt employability skills.

She also had the opportunity to go to Fircroft College to do a mentoring course and drug awareness course.

The woman's circumstances now

Nicky is now at college and things are looking up for her.

Those involved helping her

Anawim, Crisis, Fircroft College.

The woman's personal account of what happened

"I always knew that was not my life, the drugs, living everywhere. I am now in a better place thanks to Anawim and Crisis. I want to give something back to say thanks to all who have helped me get to where I am today. I am at college doing business skills and administration course and I have the possibility of a full time job at Cadburys. Things are looking good. I have not yet reached the light but not far to go."

Find our more



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