

Case Study: Deborah

Deborah was a victim of domestic abuse who was referred to WY-FI+ during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was struggling with addiction, homelessness, mental ill health and offending. Debbie was also vulnerable due to her mental state and had a history of suicide attempts.

Homelessness: Deborah was housed in short-term accommodation after being forced to leave her previous tenancy due to domestic violence. She received a £1000 fine for breaking COVID lockdown rules during this time and was at risk of eviction if she continued to have visitors to her flat. She was only paying rent sporadically.

Addiction: Long-term addictions to heroin and cocaine meant that Deborah had numerous cycles of hospital admissions for infections in her legs and was physically unwell. Deborah was also alcohol dependent and was drinking excessively, with occasional weekend use of spice or cannabis as well.

Physical/Mental Health: Deborah has a previous history of serious suicide attempts and has been ventilated twice due to overdoses. Deborah's self-esteem and confidence were very low due to her infected legs. Deborah's mobility was poor due to the ulcers.

Contact with WY-FI+

Wy-FI Navigators have worked extensively with Deborah to engage her with recovery services and build up her relationships with the District Nursing Team who provide wound care.

Key outcomes

- Deborah is engaging well with all services
- She has reduced her drug and alcohol use and stopped injecting drugs. She is still receiving a methadone prescription and regular advice around harm prevention
- Deborah's physical health, wellbeing and mobility has improved. She attends community appointments for treatment of leg ulcers and wound care
- WY-FI Navigators worked in partnership with Specialist Nurses at St James Hospital and supported Deborah to be assessed and treated for Hepatitis C
- Deborah's confidence and self-esteem are improving
- WY-FI supported Deborah to engage with her key worker and she has received no further warnings or police call outs.