

A case study: Jack's Journey

Jack was referred to us in October 2021, 6 months after his prison release, having served a life sentence for murder. A qualified joiner, he had left behind all his tools down south following his relationship breakdown, so we covered a tank of petrol to collect them all. His construction site safety card had lapsed, so we arranged and paid for the renewal. He had lost his right-to-work documents, so we obtained his birth certificate.

We re-wrote his CV and letter of disclosure and applied for jobs. Soon he was back in work with a local construction company, with a new drill that we'd obtained a grant for, and brand new work clothes, thanks to a donation from a local church.

The contract ended in the new year, coinciding with a move from temporary into permanent council accommodation, albeit unfurnished. Having spent his last money on carpets, Jack was too proud to reach out for support, and it was only by chance that we discovered he was sleeping on the floor. We were able to source essential furniture via our hardship fund, and to cover top-ups for his utilities.

Jack's mum was terminally ill, his mental health was in decline, and we feared for renewed substance abuse. We were no longer fully confident of his work-readiness, and sought the support of another partner charity who offered him a short labouring contract, to test if he could return to work sober each day. Happily he did.

In May 2022, we placed Jack again into permanent work with a recycling firm. He worked a full week until his mother passed away. Jack says he knows she was glad to see him: "...get my life back together and we spent a lot of time together. She also got to see me get this job and I know she was really proud of me. I'll make sure I keep making her proud."