

Eliza



Eliza grew up in a single parent household. Her mum had a string of partners come and go from her life and domestic violence was a frequent occurrence.

Eliza's mum was alcohol dependent. When she was 12, Eliza came home from school to find her mum had unexpectedly passed away. She ended up living with various relatives until she was 16.

She moved to Bristol from her home country and put in a claim for asylum. She was young and very vulnerable when she arrived and ended up being exploited by the men she met. She experienced domestic abuse, sexual violence and racial abuse.

She turned to street sex working to survive. She has had 2 children but both were removed. At the time, she was regularly drinking up to 5 liters of cider a day and was arrested many times for drunk and disorderly behaviour.

She finds it hard to trust professionals but this is slowly improving through proactive and consistent interactions with a key worker.

She does suffer with her physical and mental health and sometimes forgets to look after herself. She will stop eating and as a result, her physical health deteriorates rapidly. She finds it hard to regulate her emotions and struggles with basic life skills like budgeting and paying her rent and bills on time. She is very vulnerable and quite impulsive which means she remains at risk of exploitation and concerns have been raised about her safety in her current accommodation.

After years without an immigration status and the restrictions that come with that, she has recently been granted leave to remain.

She has been engaging with a therapeutic setting more regularly with support of her key worker and they are helping her apply for the benefits she is now entitled to receive. She loves cooking, especially foods that remind her of her home country but until recently, she was rarely able to afford the ingredients she needed. She would quite enjoy working in a community kitchen when her physical health allows it.

