

## "Five Years Without a Home – One Life Transformed"

We are deeply proud to share the inspiring and courageous journey of *LA*, a resilient woman who spent five long and difficult years living in a camper van after losing her previous home—an experience made even more isolating by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, *LA* was living on the margins of society, with no fixed address, no security, and no access to basic comforts that so many of us take for granted. She faced not only the physical toll of homelessness but also the emotional and psychological burdens of prolonged instability.

When *LA* came into contact with our supported housing service, her situation had reached a critical point. She had been asked to vacate the campsite where she had been sheltering, forcing her to sleep in her van on public streets and behind the local veterinary clinic—places where she was frequently moved on by authorities. This constant uncertainty and exposure left *LA* feeling anxious, invisible, and trapped in a cycle she couldn't break on her own.

Our supported housing team immediately stepped in to provide *LA* with the wraparound support she desperately needed. We helped her safely dispose of one of her vans, which had become a liability due to the lack of MOT and road tax. The vehicle had also been served with a notice of disposal by the local council, adding legal stress to an already overwhelming situation. Removing this burden was one of the first steps in giving *LA* breathing room to begin her recovery.

When *LA* moved into our supported accommodation, she was grappling with severe anxiety and long-standing mental health challenges, compounded by years of displacement and social disconnection. Our team worked consistently with her to stabilise her mental wellbeing, connect her with appropriate mental health services, and review her welfare benefits to ensure she was receiving her full entitlement—something that is often overlooked but can be a lifeline for people navigating housing insecurity.

We also assisted *LA* in developing a realistic and empowering plan for her future. One of her goals was to secure a permanent home, and with the support of our staff, she began actively bidding on housing each week—a task she completed with quiet determination and resilience. We provided letters of support for her housing application, reinforcing the importance of securing safe and sustainable accommodation for her continued wellbeing.

On April 1, 2025, *LA* moved into her own permanent home—a beautiful one-bedroom bungalow with a peaceful garden. For the first time in five years, she had a front door of her own, a bed she could sleep in without fear, and a space to call her own. Her transformation

was both powerful and deeply moving—not just a change in housing, but a reclaiming of dignity, stability, and hope.

In LA's own heartfelt words:

*“I really couldn't have done this without the help and support of your organisation. I will never be able to thank you enough for all you have done and supported me with. To be going into my own home after five years is emotional.”*

At our core, supported housing is not just about providing a roof over someone's head—it's about walking alongside individuals during some of the most difficult moments of their lives and giving them the tools, advocacy, and compassionate care to build a better future. LA's journey is a testament to the transformative power of supported housing, and we remain committed to empowering others just like her—because everyone deserves a place to call home.