

STAFF STORY



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A Bridlington man who spent six months in a supported housing service following a period of homelessness is drawing on his experiences to help others.

Now a Sanctuary Supported Living project worker, Lewis Pockley first became a supported housing resident after coming out of a four month stay in hospital for mental health treatment. He had previously gone through an eviction.

Following arrangements between his hospital ward, the community mental health team and local council, Lewis was referred to Sanctuary Supported Living's The

Haven, which supports adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

It was there that Lewis, 37, was able to find stability and routine, with a safe place to call home and support to access training and education.

During his six months at The Haven, Lewis volunteered at the Citizens' Advice Bureau, before going on to university to study biomedical science.

While at the service, Lewis was also able to put his 10 years of work as a chef to good use by preparing mouth-watering dishes for

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himself and his fellow residents, and made many friends that he is still in touch with to this day.

It was an experience that had a profound impact on him and, after regaining his independence, he looked into becoming a project worker and was thrilled when he was successful in applying for a post.

Today, five years after his six month stay at The Haven, Lewis has used that time to help others develop their independence. He currently key works with nine residents, all with complex needs that resulted in homelessness.

His former keyworker is now his deputy manager, while the same local service manager that ran the service when he was living at The Haven as a resident remains in post, heading up the team Lewis himself is part of.

He said: “Things are very different; I was in a very dark place five years ago, but now I actually look forward to a new day. My time at The Haven played a huge part in the positive direction my life took. When I promote Sanctuary Supported Living’s services to the agencies responsible for referring residents, I often tell them my story.”

