**Name of Project: HARP Connect**

**Lead partner: St Mungo**

**Borough: Hounslow**

I was referred into the HARP Connect Service by my Probation Officer as he knew that I had no fixed address and was sofa surfing with some friends in North West London. My housing was really unstable and at any moment I could have been asked leave. I was released from prison in September 22 and my Probation had completed a duty to refer to Ealing Council, however they were unable to support me.

I met my current support worker, at my Probation Office in October 22. She completed my assessment with me and once the assessment was over, she told me that I had been accepted onto the HARP Connect Service. She informed me of my housing options based on my age (over 35) and that she would start looking for shared accommodation in the private rented sector or supported accommodation for me. I told Alicia that I would be open to living in my area, but as I had friends in North West London, my preference would be there. Alicia gave me the phone number for StreetLink, just in case I had to rough sleep.

Alicia began completing referrals to supported housing providers. She told me about the St Mungo's staging post in Enfield and asked if she could refer me. I said yes and this was sent over to the staging post. In November 22 I got a call from a worker who arranged an assessment with me. As I had no money to make my way to the staging post, they met me in North West London and supported me with the cost of travel. On the day of my assessment, I moved into the staging post. I'm in a really nice self-contained flat with garden access.

I have scoliosis which causes issues with pain and mobility. A month into my stay at the staging post I was supported to register with a GP who is just round the corner. I'm planning on getting a fit note from my Doctor as I don't feel able to work at the moment. This will also help me apply for the limited capability element of universal credit.

Once I have lived at the staging post for three months, I will be entitled to the one bedroom rate for housing. My support worker will be assisting me to look for private rented accommodation in February 23 and will apply for grants for household good so I can set up my flat.