

# Housing Support

## Carol

Carol is 52 years old and can at best be described as a victim who is learning how to survive.

Carol has recently moved into a one-bedroomed semi-detached bungalow type tenancy located in a desirable estate in the South-West of Scotland.

Carol has two grown up children, her daughter Jane is studying to be a psychologist and keeps in regular contact, unfortunately her son Brian who is married and has children does not.

Carol has previously held several tenancies which, unfortunately she has failed to sustain. This is due to several reasons, the main concern is her use of alcohol and offending behaviour which has led to several spells in prison; once for two years (2004) for attempted murder of an ex-partner, recently she was on remand for attempted murder (stabbing an ex-partner), the charges were dropped and she was liberated in June 2006.

As you will gather from the above alcohol plays an important part in her life, and her choice of partners is usually men who themselves have an alcohol problem; which on many occasions has led to violent confrontations resulting in spells in Women's Aid hostels, hospitals or custody.

During one incident Carol jumped from an upstairs window to escape being assaulted resulting in her breaking her hip, damaging her pelvis and being left with a shortened leg. She required a hip replacement two years ago but due to her alcohol abuse or being in custody this operation was not performed until July of this year.

In August 2006 Carol agreed to Sacro providing her a support service, in particular befriending, assisting her to engage with agencies that have an interest in her welfare, budgeting and resettlement.

Carol suffers from Depression, Arthritis, hearing loss and alcohol abuse, at times she finds it difficult to manage activities of daily living, her GP has prescribed her; anti-depressants and sleeping pills. Occasionally she will accept counselling for her alcohol abuse.

Carol has made significant changes to her life and with the support from her Sacro worker she is sustaining her tenancy, managing activities of daily living and re-building her life, although she still uses alcohol she has managed to reduce her dependence. She is recovering well from her recent operation and has a positive outlook on life.

Carol's support continues and is directed at building and increasing her confidence and self-esteem.

### **Dumfries & Galloway Housing Support Service**

