

Case Study 4

A lady approached me at the drop in who had just returned to the area after 10 years living & working abroad however her relationship had broken down and had no choice but to return to the UK. She had been back around 3 weeks and was lodging with friends, she had already managed to secure employment but this was not due to start for another 4 weeks. She was looking at properties to rent also. She had tried to claim Jobseekers allowance in the interim but had come up against a brick wall due to the immigration rule on any non UK national including returning British citizens being excluded from claiming any benefits for the first 3 months from the day entering the UK.

She was extremely short of money she had only returned with little cash which had run out already, she had given her friend some cash for her stay and food etc. She didn't know how she was going to live until her job started and being paid the first wage which was at least another 4 weeks away. She didn't know how long her friend would be able to put her up on no contribution and was worried she may ask her to leave leaving her homeless.

Unfortunately there was no way around the 3 month residency rule the only solution I could think of was to try certain charities. I looked up some charities especially focusing on charities for women and located two that we could apply to. I filled in the online applications with the client as both needed to be referred by a welfare organisation rather than the client themselves giving explanations on her circumstances and her hardship.

The same day I received an email from the 'Fund for human Need' charity stating they had approved the application and would award her a grant of £150 and would send a cheque out to her immediately.

This would at least buy her a few more weeks worth of stay with her friend until her job started and her circumstances would improve.

We also discussed other in work benefits she could claim once she had started work ie tax credits and housing/council tax benefit. I advised her to submit an application for housing with the local authority aswell as her looking for private rented properties.