

## Julian's Story

# 'Caritas Anchor House supported me... now, I have somewhere that I can call home'

Julian, aged 33, moved into Caritas Anchor House's assessment hub in mid-January.

Six weeks later, on 28th February, he was delighted to receive the keys to his new home. Julian shares his story.

"I had a room in a house-share which came with my construction job. The rent would be deducted from my wages. But my wages never came.

"I worked unpaid for six weeks and kept asking when I would receive my money, but was told to leave. With nowhere to go, I had no choice but to sleep on the streets. I slept

mainly in well-lit passages and public places with CCTV. I thought I was less likely to be attacked if passers-by could see me.

"When I moved into Caritas Anchor House I was so relieved. I finally had a stable roof over my head, and could stay long enough to get my life back on track. I knew I would never be back on the streets.

"The best thing is knowing that you can get all the support you need here, and how nicely you are treated. Zainab [my support worker] has helped me so much. She encouraged me to apply for a job at a popular restaurant chain, and helped me

prepare for the interview. I was invited for a trial shift which went well, and was offered the job!

"What I am happiest about though is that Caritas Anchor House supported me in reaching my main goal - to have somewhere I can call home. Today I went to pick up my keys. I will be renting privately, and because Caritas Anchor House helped me, I know what happened before won't happen again.

"When you go from being homeless to moving in to your new home, it's a feeling I can't easily describe. I am so relieved and finally feel safe and stable."



Julian pictured receiving the keys to his new flat from his support worker at Caritas Anchor House, Zainab

