



Shaneka and Shakier >> 09

Shaneka was referred to GAP by her midwife at the local Sure Start Centre because of overcrowding conditions within her family home; she was pregnant with her first child at this point.

After being interviewed Shaneka was offered a flat here at GAP and moved into her own home for the first time in October 2006. She settled in well and met regularly with her support worker in drawing up her support plan. In February she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy.

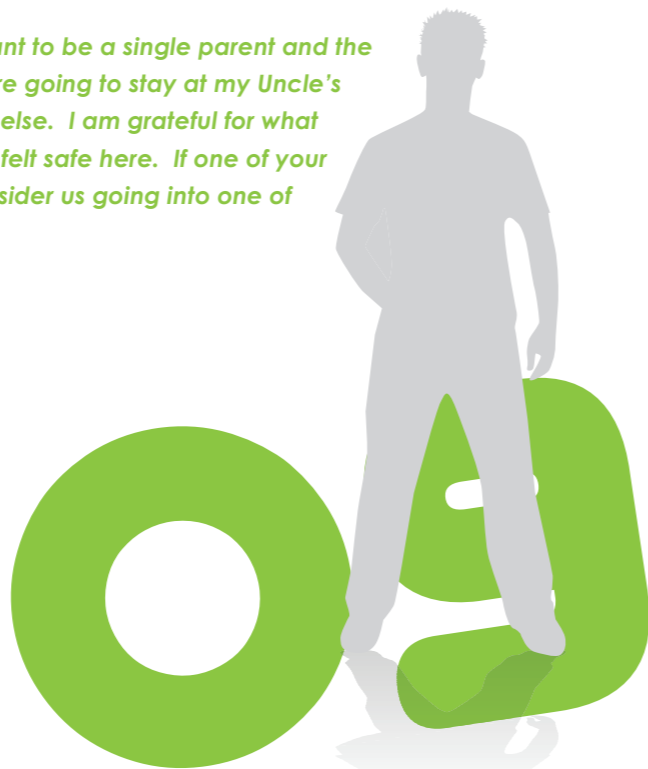
When Shaneka came to GAP she wasn't in a relationship, however as time went by she and the father of her baby became involved again. Shaneka needed the support of her boyfriend while her baby was small, but in accordance with the house rules at GAP, Shakier had to leave by 11pm each night. All of our couples' placements had been taken up, so we were unable to offer them accommodation together at the project.

Shaneka felt she could no longer stay at GAP, as she wanted to live as a family, so she wrote to us giving notice.

"I feel I have no choice but to leave as I don't want to be a single parent and the father wants to help me bring our baby up. We are going to stay at my Uncle's for 5 weeks then we will have to find somewhere else. I am grateful for what you have done and wish we could both stay as I felt safe here. If one of your couples' flats becomes available would you consider us going into one of those in the future?"

Shortly after receiving this letter a couple were successfully resettled into their own accommodation, therefore making available a vacancy for Shaneka, Shakier and their baby to live as a family, and all are doing well.

Viv Michell
Project Manager



Nadine's Story >> 10

Bethany Project, Leicester

The Bethany Project provides accommodation for women (with or without children) who are vulnerable or need a supportive environment where they can develop their skills and confidence, which will enable them to move on to independent living.

Nadine's Story

"Before I moved into the Bethany Project I was already living in a youth hostel. When I lived at the YMCA I was told that after I was 20 weeks pregnant I would have to move. I got my place within the Bethany Project when I was 27 weeks and 3 days pregnant. Since moving in here I have been able to sort myself out. In respect of being able to share my feelings and thoughts, I can now talk about these without feeling worthless and useless. I can also talk to other parents about what to expect when Noah, my baby, arrives.

"Whilst I have been in here I have been able to sort out all of the problems I was having with my baby's father, and now we are due to start our mediation process.

"I now have the support and help I needed in the past. I feel that all the problems that have happened since finding out about Noah have been solved in a better way as I have the support of the staff and the other residents should I need it.

"In the future I would like to go back to college and get on a course for counselling others who have been through the same kind of things as me. I am also going to be re-starting my driving lessons in September. I am really looking forward to having baby Noah in the world, and be able to watch him grow up from a baby into a man."