

## **Short case study – January 22**

This month, I have been reflecting on two good pieces of joint work between the Manna advice service and other agencies, both requiring specialist legal input.

My client Sergio became homeless after losing work last year. He is an EU citizen and has been in the UK for just over 5 years. He had 'pre-settled status', which is awarded to EU citizens who have been here for less than 5 years to enable them to remain in the UK after Brexit. Because he did not have full settled status, he was denied access to Universal Credit. However, as he is now eligible for settled status, we referred him to a legal charity called Here for Good, which is dedicated to ensuring the rights of EU citizens in the UK post Brexit. Here for Good quickly found a solicitor for Sergio who was able to take on his case, and within a week of applying he was awarded settled status by the Home Office, which gives him an indefinite leave to remain in the UK. Sergio's outreach worker who had been supporting him with temporary accommodation was able to help him to re-apply for Universal Credit, and this time he was successful. We in the advice service are currently assisting Sergio to find long term private sector accommodation.

My client Lucian is also an EU citizen. His case is a little more complex as, despite being in the UK for more than 20 years, he does not have ID and so has not been able to apply for his settled status. He also does not have pre-settled status and so is currently undocumented under the post Brexit immigration system. We have been liaising with the relevant embassy to get Lucian emergency ID, and his case has been taken on by a solicitor at our local community law centre. Meanwhile, the local outreach team have also been able to provide temporary accommodation, meaning that Lucian is no longer sleeping on buses, as he was when we first started working with him.