

To whom this may concern,

I am writing in support of Mr. Brian Cloy to provide context regarding the significant challenges he has experienced throughout his life and the impact these have had on his mental health and overall wellbeing.

Mr. Cloy has endured extensive physical and psychological abuse over many years. These traumatic experiences have had a profound and lasting effect on his life, contributing to periods of imprisonment, addiction, and involvement in criminal behaviour. It is important that these circumstances are understood within the context of the severe trauma he has experienced.

Mr. Cloy has been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. His condition can be significantly affected by situations that many people would consider routine aspects of daily life. Tasks such as shopping, being in loud or crowded environments, meeting new people, and engaging with unfamiliar services can trigger heightened anxiety, emotional distress, and destabilisation of his mental health.

As a result of his past experiences, Mr. Cloy also experiences a deep lack of trust in members of the community and organisations that are intended to provide support. This mistrust presents a substantial barrier to engaging with services and maintaining consistent support, despite the potential benefits these services may offer.

In my experience supporting Mr. Cloy, it is evident that his behaviour and difficulties should be viewed through a trauma-informed lens. He requires patience, consistency, and a compassionate approach that recognises the long-term impact of the abuse he has endured. Continued understanding and appropriate support are essential in helping him manage his mental health, build trust, and work towards greater stability and independence.

I hope this information assists in providing a fuller understanding of Mr. Cloy's circumstances. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

*Natasha Higgins*

*Lead Practitioner for Housing First, Dumfries & Galloway*