

## Back in Control Project

### Case study

#### Morgan's story

Morgan is an asylum seeker, originally from Nigeria. The issue arose when he was advised by his church pastor to ring ICOS for support regarding issues with his landlord. Morgan was in debt he had fallen behind with his rent; he was forced to work for his landlord for free. "I owed the landlord a couple of month's rent and every day he threatened to throw me out of my rented accommodation." Morgan was deeply traumatised and scared when recalling the threats, he faced. According to Morgan "the Senior Project worker at ICOS, contacted me immediately, she rang Migrant help as to be honest I did not know what an asylum seeker was. ICOS advised me to present myself at The Home Office. I did not know anything about the indefinite leave to remain status that is needed in order, to stay in the United Kingdom." We contacted Morgan to find out the help he required, and the Senior Project worker advised Morgan that they would help him complete a letter that needed to be sent to the Home Office. In the letter we clarified that Morgan did not know that he could seek asylum until it was suggested by his Senior Project worker. We also helped Morgan with help to apply for furniture through Sunderland Council and were advised that he did not qualify because Morgan did not have a National Insurance number and was not receiving benefits. We kept him up-to-date and informed him that we had asked different charities shops to find out if they had any furniture they could donate. We carried out extensive research and advised Morgan he would be able to buy furniture and food for the upcoming months through the Red Rose Hardship fund. Morgan also stated, "I needed food for myself and my family, it was a very difficult time for me and my family." Therefore, we contacted the Citizens Advice Bureau who issued Morgan with food vouchers in order, for him to get food from the local food bank. We asked Morgan if there was anything else, he currently needed. Morgan stated, "I could only apply for the Red Rose Hardship Fund only once, I have a family to feed." He also added "I was issued with an Aldi orange voucher worth £50 and a phone mobile top up. Morgan stated he was very happy to receive the food vouchers from Aldi because "the food vouchers and food parcels rather than accept the food from a food bank, gave him more choices, for himself and his family." He also added "It gave some dignity back to me." Morgan also added that "he was feeling positive about the future and

that “he made the right decision in contacting ICOS, in the future, I hope to find a job which will enable me to provide for my children.” We advised him to keep in contact with ICOS. We also contacted Morgan on frequent occasions for updates on how the final interview with the Home office was progressing. The Home Office wanted to know the reason why he was claiming asylum, now the home office will send their answers to the solicitor and the solicitor will review, sign and send back, his lawyer says he has a strong case Morgan stated, “I feel more positive now because my lawyer has given the evidence of everything that I am claiming. I feel more at home since coming to ICOS, the organisation has helped me a lot. I am grateful for the help I have received. Coming to ICOS has had a positive impact on my life. I feel as if I have got my confidence back, this would not have been possible without the help and support I received from ICOS.”