

Ahmed



Ahmed was born in the UK but his parents originally moved here from Syria. When Ahmed was 5 years old, his father was deported, leaving him, his mum and 3 siblings to fend for themselves.

His mother became depressed and started self-medicating with drugs. This means that Ahmed grew up in a volatile environment and surrounded by criminal activity until he and his siblings were removed and placed in foster care. He was 9 years old then.

As a consequence of his early childhood experiences, Ahmed struggled with attachment issues and this has led to numerous breakdowns in placements. At the same time, school found his behaviour increasingly challenging to manage and this has led to multiple temporary exclusions until he was eventually permanently excluded.

He went to a Pupil Referral Unit when he was 14 years old. There, he met other young people involved in crime and was groomed into joining them. He quickly became exploited by drug dealers and started running county lines.

At 16 he was arrested on a drug offence and was placed in a secure unit. Having had to fend for himself from a young age, he is very street savvy and enterprising but tends to be drawn to high-risk activities. He finds it hard to engage with his peers and doesn't trust anyone who he perceives to be an authority figure. He exhibits traits of neurodiversity but has never been assessed. He struggles with his mental health and self-medicates with cannabis.

He has recently been moved to semi-independent living, but with little education or employment prospects, he finds it very hard to imagine a positive future. He is creative and his dream is to launch a brand of clothing using his designs but struggles to make plans to make this happen.

He struggles to live off his personal allowance and with no established network of family and friends, he often feels lonely.

