

# Patrick



Growing up with a mum suffering from a lifelong illness, Patrick was a young carer. This had a big impact on his childhood and his education. The school found his behaviour difficult to manage and he was excluded a number of times. He has had long periods with no education at all.

He was groomed by a group of older boys on his estate to run drugs for them. He inherited a drug debt which led to gang members targeting his house. He was made to leave his home to protect his mother.

He moved to the Foyer where he was further exploited by some of the residents. His drug dealing escalated and he became tied in with County Lines and big drug gangs.

He is constantly at risk. He has been shot at in the street and was also stabbed once.

He struggled to maintain his place at the Foyer and was eventually arrested. He exhibits signs of anxiety and depression but receives no mental health support, mainly because the referral times have been too long.

He is trying to change path and improve his life. He is into fitness and healthy eating a lot. He also writes music and raps in his free time as a way to deal with his trauma and anxiety.

He has recently pled guilty to the charges against him and received a 5-year suspended sentence. He is now back at home with a tag, living with and looking after his mum.

He needs steady employment as part of his recovery. He did a stint at Royal Mail but lost the job due to the pandemic. This knocked his confidence back quite a bit.

