



“Yes, I did steal a play station from my mate...”

...and I got in to trouble with the police. He gets everything and that year I didn't even get present from my mum. The only thing that I got for Christmas that year was £20 from my nan ...the other time I got into a fight at school because the other lad was calling my mum names...making fun of us and saying that we were scruffs...my mum told me to give him a good hiding if he said anything about our family – so I did...it takes me half an hour to get to the youth offending team on the bus and I don't have the money to get there...they say that they will give me the bus fares, but that's no good to me 'cos I don't have the money in the first place to shell out.

I go out every night so that I don't have to be in the house, sometimes I don't even go home after school because there is no reason to. I usually get my tea around a mate's house or get some chips if I can blag some, or I go without. I usually stay out as long as I can because I don't get on with my mum's boyfriend and he likes a drink at night so I keep out of his way.

I used to get in the neighbours shed with a coat over me, but they found out and rang the police, they thought I was trying to nick stuff. A few times I haven't realised that it was even morning, and have gone there straight from school.

The neighbours all complain about me because I have got pissed a few times in the street – but what else is there to do? I can't go to the youth club any more cause I'm banned from there.

I feel awful most of the time – tired, fed up, freezing cold and I can't stop coughing – I can't go to the doctors though cos my mum said I don't have one. We moved house a couple of years ago...

... so I'm not sure
where to go now.”

Liam Evan's story

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