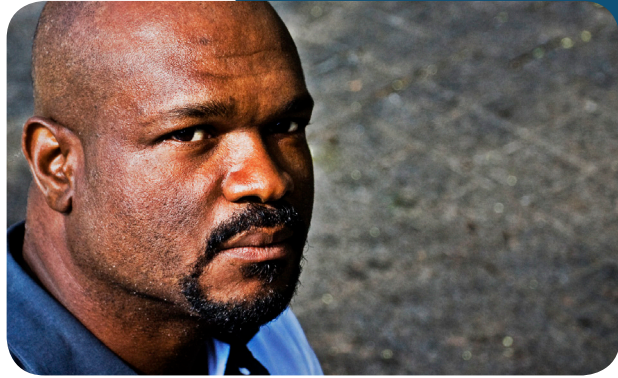


“Our life is pretty rubbish at the moment...



...there is just not enough money to go around and that makes me feel guilty but I can't do anything about it.

I love my kids but they don't make things easy...especially Liam. He brings nothing but trouble to my door and I've told Fiona that if it carries on I'm leaving. I have done my best with him but at the end of the day he is her son and not mine and he is at an age where he can go it alone – sometimes I tell her 'It is him or me'...

Shireen and Lewis are good kids but they seem to think that money grows on trees...Shireen is going through a stage where she won't get out of bed in the mornings and that is causing stress because the school are always on Fiona's back – I leave her to get on with it because she knows how to deal with them.

Fiona deals with all the family stuff and the school stuff...she likes it that way.

I bring in a bit of extra cash when I get can a bit of work in the local pizza place and that is the only thing that keeps me going at the moment – the extra money means that I can get down to the social club and have some time away from the family – without this I would go crazy but Fiona doesn't understand that and it causes a lot of rows ...she is always winding me up.

The house is a real mess, but what is the point in keeping it tidy if it is all falling apart...we avoid letting anyone in the house because it looks so bad and the upstairs is even worse...

It would be good if I could get back in with my family, because I know that they would just love the kids if they got to know them...they would be able to help us out with all sorts of things... babysitting, and help with the kids home work, that kind of thing...but Fiona won't hear of it because she thinks they look down on her.

I want a better life for Fiona and the kids but we are trapped and...

...I can't see a way to make things better.”

Steve Evan's story

F1.2₁