Childhood Neglect: Improving Outcomes for Children



"I love Jim, and he loves me...

He lives with his mum just now, but when our baby's here we'll be getting our own house. Jim's going to get his other children to live with us and we'll be a proper family. He isn't like my mum and Darren - ok he likes a bit of a smoke just like me, but we're not junkies, we know how to say 'no'.

Darren is a bit of a creep, Jim says he's a good bloke, but he's really bossy to my mum and all of us - I'll be glad to be away from him, although I am worried about the other kids. They could come and stay with us sometimes though.

I know I'll be a good mum not like my mum. I'll make sure my kid goes to school and gets qualifications and a good job and a house and car. I couldn't keep up at school because I missed too much when I stayed at home to help with the little kids. Anyway, the teachers didn't like me and the other girls didn't like me - they called me fat and smelly.

I'm fed up with social workers always coming round - they never helped my mum one bit. The nurses are the same. Jim says I should make sure his baby is all right so I did go, but the nurse was really nosy and cheeky about my weight.

If everyone gets off my back I'll be fine."

Michelle Henderson's story