

Beyond Male Role Models Video Transcript

CAILE: I looked up to my father, and my father was very criminally active. That's the only way I could put it, was very criminally active. It was knives, guns, drugs, the whole works. But I've seen my dad do it my whole life. 12 months, and that's [INAUDIBLE] gets. Although now he's been in and out. Five years, six, sevens. Fours. And his last time in was a 15, so, actually, again, I looked up to him at first.

I looked up at-- because that was my role model. Do you know what I mean? Your father's your-- so I thought, oh, what he's doing is great. Didn't know his influence was actually bad. And I grew up thinking, that's the right thing to do. And i'm like, hold on a minute, that's not the right thing to do. Then I started developing my own child, and I'm like, I'm sitting here in a jail, and I'm doing exactly what my dad's done to me. I says no way, I need to get out of the situation, and stop doing that to him. And I didn't like when my dad was doing it to me.

JOE BRYERS: quite a lot of the young people come from areas that have a lot of poverty and whatever else, you know? And a lot of the young people have just been brought up in a life of crime, you know? They don't know any different. It's just the way it is for them. So actually, our job is to let them know that, you know, that isn't the life you have to live.

There's opportunities, there's decisions that you can make. You have the ability to properly change your life for the better, if you wish to do so.

PAUL MCDANIEL: Some of our young men have difficulties in terms of their education. Some of them had difficult educational backgrounds, and some of them have special educational needs.

Some of the young men that we're working with also may be coming from a background of, you know, their siblings or families have been many conflicts or issues that have impacted on their lives whilst growing up. It doesn't matter that they can trust you. They've had a life where sometimes trust has been a key issue for them.

JANINE RYAN: And sometimes they don't quite believe that someone will be there, you know, and they're pleasantly surprised. Well, actually, that person who said they'd be there at 8:00 is actually there at 8:00 And for some of these guys, again, you know, they have been used to maybe being let down themselves in the past, so they expect that. And that goes towards as building that relationship.

DWAYNE: I've had trust issues stemming from my father, so when it comes to people working with me, it was like, all right, yeah, you can work with me, but it's whatever innit. Because I'm always used to them up and going. But for Paul, he's actually been there continuously. So the trust there, I trust him-- I would trust him with my life.

GEORGE EPSWORTH: How [INAUDIBLE] to the shop to get some garlic bread. If you lie to a young person once, you might as well retire. That's the end of your career, as far as I'm concerned. And, you know, I've been playing at this game for a long time, and I've never knowingly lied to a young person.

I suppose that's a respect thing, because what we try and do, and I hope we do it as well as we can, is we try and respect the decent young men. Some of them have done some really nasty shit, and we won't talk about that, you know? But have all done stuff we're not proud of.

MAN: When you're working with these young people, especially that have had lots of different things going on in their lives, judging them is the last thing that they actually want. Making any forms of judgement, and especially if they are expect-- or suspect that you're judging them.

SHAUN MURRAY: I started as a service user, so I was originally one of their boys. They've been reading people and adults [INAUDIBLE]. So they know when somebody cares about them, they know when somebody's giving them a lip service. I think you need to become that person.

You almost become, like, that annoying, bad brother. It's a role you play that I've never really had, and it's a role you play that they always try and seek for, because normally they would respect you and they'd admire you, but they know where the line is, and they know they care about you.

BLAIR: Everybody in the centre. The folk that run it, they've all been in the situations we've been in, so they know the thought of it, and they're just like, people that come in and judge you. They wouldn't judge you, or anything like that.

KRIS: If I've got a problem, I can't really speak to anybody, but I can talk to George or Sean. I can just phone them up if something's bothering me, and they will give me advice. They'll even come up to see me. You know, take me on a drive and speak to me. And that's why I feel confident coming here, because there's a lot of support.

ALI: Anthony. What's the best-- well, he's a bit street. I mean, he's not the average guy with a tie. So to me, he's just-- yeah. Cool. He doesn't look down, I suppose. I think that's the word I'm looking for. He doesn't look down on me. And some people do. And him-- and he'll ask me, he'll call me and say, Ali, so how's it all going? It's just nice to have that. You know what I mean?

PAUL MCDANIEL: All right. Next question, guys. Have you ever been in prison? It's a known fact that one member of staff can do a good job, but it's never going to be as good as two or three members of staff, because you don't get as diverse kind of a range of what you do get with other members of staff. And you're right-- some people just get on better with other folk, or have a connection somewhere.

So Yeah, you do form strong bonds, strong relationships with individuals, and that can be the difference between them changing their lives sometimes. Not that they wouldn't trust the other member of staff, but perhaps they just-- there's something that clicks with somebody, and you've got to take that on and run with it, and get the best of everything from it. Yeah, [INAUDIBLE].

CAILE: I think the staff are excellent. What they do is magical. For the boys-- mostly the staff, for all the boys that have been here themselves, I think that's where they get their connection. The fact they have been here has an effect on that dynamic. Maybe it's a mental link, a relationship of connecting stuff. It's good.

DWAYNE: If you ain't got patience, and you're one of them people where you want to give up on the young person quickly, then, no point in bringing you further. You can't give up on them. You need to be persistent.

KRIS: Well, [INAUDIBLE]. But the other friends, you know what I mean? That's what makes it work, because their honesty. They don't talk rubbish to you. They tell you the truth, they'll tell you how it is, and they support you.

DWAYNE: Because without them, I don't even want to think of where I could have been. I just want to know-- I just think about where I am now, and that everything I've done in my life, I'm thankful for them, and I thank them because they help me to become the person I am today.

MAN: Yes, so it depends on the--

ALI: If I hadn't found these guys at all, I'd probably be back in the hospital again, or doing something-- not-- I wouldn't be in college, that's for sure. Because I would have took too much on, and just exploded. But, again--

KRIS: They've done a lot for me. If it wasn't for George and moving on, I'd be probably back in prison, just now. So I'm thankful for everything he's done. I want-- it's wonderful what they've done for me. To be honest, I see life in a different way now. And the amount of help they've given me is unreal.

ALI: I'm a lot better now. I'm taking my medication, and I wasn't before. And that's just because I've had support.

PAUL MCDANIEL: Last question here is do you want to make positive changes in your life? Yeah, I mean, they've not had a father figure in their life, maybe they've not had somebody who actually listens to them, and cares about what they're telling them. And that's a great skill. that the guys have, you know? They won't speak over them, they won't be the person who always talks.

They'll have a bit of banter, and what they're creating there is that kind of role model, that then the young people, and we see it time and time again about when we're asking the guys, what is it you want to do? What do you want to do, you know, for a job, or whatever? And quite often the answer is I want to do what you're doing, and it's that exact thing that we'll try and create there about, life of crime isn't what it has to be.

Look at him. This guy's-- he's living his life. He's got a house, he's got a wife, he's got children. He goes out and enjoys himself. Still has a beer. That's fine, that's OK. But he does it in an appropriate way, and that, for me, is a role model. You know? It's about somebody looking up to somebody else, and wanting to mimic what they do. And hence the reason of get young people that have been service users, you know, work in the organisation, who are doing a fantastic job. And that's a role model.

SHAUN MURRAY: I love this job. I love-- I love seeing the boys [INAUDIBLE].

MAN: OK, OK. Fourth time, then?

SHAUN MURRAY: Now, why would you say that? Do your cognitive behaviour group work, do your budgeting, do your [? Barclays ?] money skills. Do employer [INAUDIBLE]. Set them up for the rest of their life. Build that strength and resilience they're going to need to deal with the horrific childhood. That's my passion. And hopefully they're sorted out better.