

#NOMORE | A MOTHERWELL CHESHIRE CAMPAIGN

County Lines - Survivor's Stories

As a child growing up in Newcastle, Harriet suffered domestic violence at the hands of her brother. She started spending as much time as possible away from home and missed a lot of school. She developed friendships with older teens and was exposed to alcohol and drugs, which eventually led to the start of an addiction.

Harriet was approached by a member of a local gang. She was offered money and free drugs and alcohol in return for picking up drugs and dropping them off. It wasn't long before Harriet's addiction grew. She was forced into prostitution alongside drug-running, none of which she was paid for.

She became one of the thousands of British children in this country exploited through 'county lines' drug trafficking.

This abuse continued for a number of years until she was eventually arrested, recognised as a victim, and referred to the Unseen Women's Safehouse.

Caseworkers at the safehouse quickly took care of her immediate health needs and ensured she had access to medical care, sexual health clinic, and drug and alcohol services. She also received support to access counselling to help her start to come to terms with what she had been through.

Harriet has her whole life ahead of her and is determined to rebuild it.

Source:

<https://www.unseenuk.org/our-impact/unseen-stories/harriet-s-story>