



Survivors Stories DVD

Audio Transcripts: Johanne

Johanne Short Clip

Mum used to say to me go to bed before Doug came home. And then I'd lay in bed and I'd hear the key go in the door and then you'd hear voices raising and then you'd hear smashing and then he'd drag her from room to room. Wrap telephone wires around her neck, carving knives. She used to put rollers in her hair at one time and he would pull the rollers out of her hair. And I'd be upstairs listening to it and sometimes I'd try and stop it.

I'd just go into the bedroom and say, "Just leave my mum alone." And because the door was locked and because I wasn't very high, there was bolts on the door, I used to get a chair, lean on the side, open up the door and go and get help from the next door neighbour. Because if I didn't go and get the help then my mum would have been battered basically.

No, I didn't want to go to school. I wanted to stay at home and protect my mum, as much as what I could and if I did go to school then I couldn't concentrate because I'd be wondering about what would be going on at home and what I'd be going home to.

Sometimes mum wasn't always there, so then I'd go looking for my mum because I didn't want to be in the house on my own with Doug. So I used to go looking for her round the streets basically. But nine times out of ten it was nearly every day that he used to beat my mum. So that was how my life was.

He beat with a bamboo stick, I was about nine when he did that. And it wasn't until I went to school and the school noticed I had bruises and then I was taken into care for a while. And then there was a court case and Doug wasn't allowed back into the home. But mum had him back and it just continued. But because of the court case and the situation, he hated me even more and because he hated me, every time I tried to protect my mum, and if mum wasn't there, then I'd get it worse because I'd tried to stop him hitting my mum.