



NAME: Aaron

CHARGE: Bladed Article

AGE AT SENTENCING: 20 yrs old

SENTENCE: 12 Months: Reading

“On release from Reading, I made contact with the Chrysalis Programme as I had not finished it. I was really pleased when they came to see me and discussed a way that I could finish off the bits that I missed”

“I have stopped drinking, moved away from drug taking and broken away from some of the so called friends that I used to hang out with. The Chrysalis Programme really made me decide that I wanted to be a leader and not a follower and take control over my life” Aaron’

Background

Aaron’s early years were pretty normal, until the death of his sister’s dad which had a devastating effect on his mother.

Aaron’s life change when due to the increasing difficult behaviours and relationship with his mother he was placed in foster care at the age of eight.

He remained in foster care for the next eight years until he was 16 years old. Aaron completed his schooling, leaving at age 16 with 3 GCSEs.

How did you get into Trouble?

Aaron had been the subject of bullying and been ‘beaten-up’ by some of the older lads that were in a ‘gang’ and who lived in the same area. He started feeling apprehensive, worried & vulnerable when out on his own.

As a result of these attacks, intimidation and bullying, he ‘foolishly’ decided that he would carry a knife to protect and defend himself from the gang members that had been making his life a misery.

Before Aaron had further confrontations with the ‘gang’, he was subject to a random stop and search’ by the police as part of a routine local policing initiative. Aaron was found in possession of two bladed articles. These were two kitchen knives; a bread knife and a smaller paring knife.

Although this was Aaron’s first offence, carrying a ‘Bladed Article’ is seen as so serious that only a custodial sentence will do and he was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.

Why did you choose to do the Chrysalis Programme?

Aaron came along to The Chrysalis Programme with no expectations, as he had been given a last minute place and simply felt that it was better than sitting in the cells.

Aaron said:

“A couple of the ‘guys’ had said that it was different and that it got you thinking. So I thought I would give it a try”

What was your experience of the Chrysalis Programme?

Aaron says:

“The Chrysalis Programme, was not the normal classroom stuff & really got me thinking about the choices I was making in my life”

“I even started looking forward to the next session which is a first for me, as I didn’t really feel as I got anything out of many of the training courses that I had previously done”

“I was disappointed when I was unable to complete the course and decided that once released I would get in contact and see if they would help me to finish it”

Now that you are released!

On release, Aaron decided to make some major changes to the way he had been living his life. He has stopped binge drinking and stayed away from pubs/bars to reduce his alcohol consumption, and stopped taking illicit drugs. He has also broken away from his previous group of ‘mates’.

Aaron feels that he would like to help others make changes in their lives and once he has completed the programme he would like to be trained to be a Chrysalis Facilitator, so that he can help others to change to.

How do you see your future?

“I am excited about my future and realise that being a leader and not a follower gives me control over the choices I can make in my life.” Aaron