

## The Foyer: Luis's story

My mum had me when she was about 18, so my mum and dad were quite young parents. And when I was about four, they split up. Mum was drinking all the time, arguing all the time, did put me in a dark hole, because, I supposed, the person I look up to the most, I was always angry. One day, we had a big argument, a big row, and I ended up getting kicked out and arrested. So I couldn't go back home. So I asked the council if I could move to The Foyer.

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I think it was for the best that I moved here, and she was able to focus on herself, by herself, and not have me in her hair all the time as well. Life before The Foyer, for me, it was a little bit rough. I didn't feel like I was really going to get anywhere.

I felt relieved when I was offered a place here. I was quite excited. This place does make you feel a lot more comfortable. Safe space for anyone. The first time I moved here, I did have a little bit of problem with drugs, and the day that I robbed the café, probably the worst days of my life. I was really down bad for money, so I ended up smashing the window, took all the alcohol and money. I then left, got drunk and regretted it later on, big time. I ended up getting a hefty fine for that, and a year on probation as well. And I will not be making a mistake on that ever again. I can happily promise that.

Now, I've got good people around me, like Sam, my support worker, he's more like the angel on my shoulder. It makes it feel like it's a home. It's warm. It's nice. It's cosy. It's good. It's really good to be able to speak to someone about my day-to-day life. I'd say I've definitely changed a lot, mentally and physically. I'm not doing any more drugs anymore. Just me being in a more positive place has helped rekindle my mum's relationship, I suppose.

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I became the resident president because I've lived here twice now. The staff had helped me a lot, and I feel like it's kind of a way of giving back to them. Just grow as a person, as well as helping the other residents out as well. It's like a stepping stone for people that have had a hard life, and they want to work on their self to build themselves a better life. The Foyer has given me everything I need to succeed in moving into my own flat. I do tenancy training as well, so it gets you prepared for when you do want to move into your own flat.

I'm extremely determined this time to make it work. I do feel like I will be able to live a stable life and earn a stable income. I do think I'll be able to succeed in life. From the type of person I was before moving here to who I am now, I am very proud of myself. Yes, I have come from a proper dark place and found light at the end of the tunnel.

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