



***Having grown up in a broken dysfunctional household, Colin found the early years of his life very hard, economically things were also tough, he couldn't look to nothing other than a good square meal. There was no money for anything else.***

## *Here's Colin's story...*

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Colin was a very confused and angry child, fighting was his pastime, he soon realised this was the one thing he was good at and quickly grew a reputation among his peers, Money was still so difficult to come by. From the age of eight he was often sent to deliver small packages to people in exchange for money. It wasn't until he was eleven that he found out these packages contained cannabis. Once enlightened to this, life took a change for the better, he now had access to finance.

Colin was a bright young boy, but his temper got him into untold trouble at school, home and on the streets, but instead of deterring him he thrived off it because it made him more popular and got him the attention he so desperately craved. Life really changed for Colin at around fourteen, he was expelled from school and sent to a support centre, which he left because the streets were providing better enjoyment and opportunities to make money, he was now involved in all kinds of crime. He was so sought after, local businessmen used to make orders to him for stolen goods and he would always oblige them, burglary was now his full time profession, every morning like clockwork he would go and burgle a house, factory, petrol station anything, there was no fear.

The thrill of the chase, the excitement of living on the edge consumed him. At sixteen his mother decided to move for his safety, she was worried that the things he was getting into would end up killing him or see him go to prison for a long time.

The move was a culture shock for Colin, he had made a substantial reputation for himself in Hackney, now he had to do the same in this new environment, Walthamstow.

Coming to Walthamstow was gradual because the lure of Hackney kept calling him, however he soon settled down and began to continue his trade in Walthamstow. Still in his sixteenth year Colin and some friends were involved in a fight which left a man fighting for his life, Colin his co-defendants was arrested for attempted murder.

The case against him wasn't strong and he only served a little time on remand. This never deterred him, crime for him grew to armed robbery, again he was arrested, remanded, but was found not guilty. These warning never stopped him, he was a law unto himself, He continued to do street robberies and sell drugs to get money, again he was arrested, in fact many times, however always released, now he believed in his own hype. Three experiences of jail and still he wouldn't learn. Colin finally went back to jail for eighteen months for GBH with Intent. He speaks very openly of his past cocaine and cannabis use, his owning of two guns, his acts of violence and total disregard to law and his open hatred of the Police. His life is very incident filled and this small write up of it wouldn't do it any justice.

He says he had an experience with GOD and attributes his miraculous change to that event. Now he spends his life warning young people of the dangers of

gangs, the streets, Police and the vicious cycle that their actions lead them into. Its a winding spiral of bad, worse and indescribable. He recognises the situations young people find themselves in, he himself says he was a product of his environment, and so are many of today's youth. Without the correct guidance, just like Colin, you become a law unto yourself, but like him its just a matter of time before the walls come crashing down.

Colin is one of the most approachable human beings you can ever meet and once in his presence you soon realise he is very experienced and vastly knowledgeable and he is using this in his work to assist young people in their situations and to aid them unto bigger and better things. He believes too many young people are walking around with their eyes wide shut, living in one of the most disadvantageous times for them. They need help and he would do anything to get them that help.