



Joe's Story



Joe was a bright and attractive boy who usually did well at school. He went to a good school and had a large circle of friends where he was simply 'one of the lads'. As he grew older, Joe found himself easily distracted at school and didn't really try very hard. Despite his natural ability, he didn't revise for his GCSEs and didn't perform as well as he expected. He wanted to carry on at Sixth Form but needed to relocate to a different school because his grades weren't good enough for the school he attended.

At his new school, the novelty of being 'the new boy' made Joe feel important. Joe wanted to give the impression that he was generally pretty awesome so he started to do things to get noticed. He flirted with the girls, showed off for the boys and behaved in a way that he thought made him look more 'grown up'. He smoked cigarettes and started drinking alcohol. The tricky thing for Joe was that he liked to feel that he was popular but had a bit of an anger issue. When he drank he became louder and more aggressive and would often provoke people to become quite angry with him.

As the months passed at school, he became less popular. His behaviour became annoying to his classmates who he liked to go out with and one by one they started to avoid his company at social events. Sixth form finished and many of the people he knew went their separate ways, off to college or university, or in pursuit of jobs. Joe was at a bit of a loss as to what to do with himself but after a while, he got onto a course at a local college. However, Joe had formed some difficult behaviours that were hard to shake off. He was still smoking and drinking – it was the drinking that really proved his greatest problem. By now, Joe had taken to going out drinking alone. On one occasion when he'd had too much and his behaviour had been bad, he got into a fight: a serious fight which resulted in him being admitted to hospital for treatment.

In time, his wounds healed but his behaviour didn't improve. Joe continued to drink heavily and regularly. He would even drive around when he had been drinking and not surprisingly, he was followed by the police when his driving indicated a problem with his judgement one day. He was pulled over, breathalysed and found to be over the limit. He was banned from driving for two years.

Needless to say, he dropped out of his university course and relied on his mum and dad to look after him at a time when his friends were becoming more independent from their parents. His dad was able to help him get a job at his place of work which meant that he was able to travel to and from work with his dad and his dad was able to keep an eye on him while he was there. In many ways, he had become more of a child than when he had joined the sixth form as he was in need of such close care and support from his parents.