



John is 17. He is unemployed and one of the invisible homeless. He grew up in Glendale (See Learning Outcome 4) and is currently moving around between friends and relatives, or sleeping in closes in his neighbourhood.

At home he received no benefits and the strain that this placed on the family led him to be put out of the house. John is unwilling to go to a city centre hostel and wants to stay in his own area.

His parents have long-term alcohol problems and from an early age John has had to care for his younger brother and sister.

He began to truant from school when he was 11 and by the time he was 15 he had become a school refuser. He has difficulty with reading and spelling and has no qualifications. His girlfriend helps him as best she can.

To cope with the fear of territorial violence and to combat bullying, John became part of a local gang. They club in money to buy cheap alcohol and get drunk in the woods near their area. He carries a knife for protection. John is worried because one of his friends stabbed another boy in a recent fight and they are expecting a revenge attack. His friend has been charged with attempted murder and is on remand.