

Sent: Saturday, 10 December 2005 6:03 PM
To: Committee, Mental Health (SEN)
Subject: Improving service to mentally ill people

Hi,

My experience with my son's problem of schizophrenia due to early use of marijuana has left me a bit devastated.

He was obviously not well, hearing voices, becoming angry, confused etc. We could only get him seen to at hospital if he became a danger to others or to himself. He was finally violent, as foreseen, and admitted to hospital. He is now on a community treatment order, with injections of anti-psychotic medicine. He was admitted twice to Prince of Wales Hospital for the same thing. He is now responding well to treatment. Thank God.

But we had to go through hell, and worry about his future for months before anything could be done. The threat of violence to me and others, as well as his safety in the community were ever present.

I see mentally ill people living destroyed lives in the community, and nothing is done to fix them, unless they get violent. This is very silly. Why not fix up these people who have obvious problems, and can not live normal lives. The law is incorrect by not helping these unfortunate people.

Find the money by all means, but make it easier to have people placed on community treatment orders as soon as possible. This method works very well.

Yours Sincerely