



**Nick's
Journey
Through
The
Criminal
Justice
System**

**GOING TO
POT**




Nick's thoughts – 6th September 2004

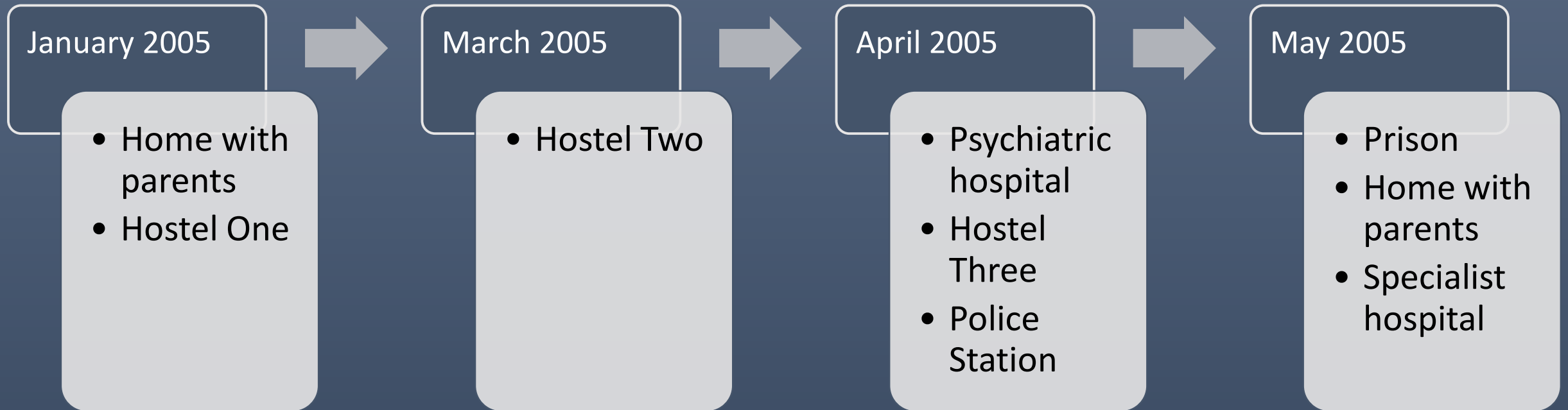
- I feel rebellious because I am completely out of my routine.
- I hurt myself - I hate myself.
- I hurt my cat and my Mum and then I feel sorry. I don't know why I hurt them.
- I'm embarrassed to see people I know.
- I don't think I can get better.
- Scared - I will not be like I used to be.

My story...

In January 2005 two things happened.

- My Dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Was abruptly evicted from my family home without any advance warning notice. 

Places I lived between January and May 2005...











My story continued...

- I began to self-harm by cutting my legs.
- I suffered from the lack of day-time structure and routine.
- I was taking a cocktail of medications.

Sertraline
Venlafaxine **Lorazepam**
Olanzapine **Diazepam**
Risperidone
Chlorpromazine

My story continued...

- I broke some flower pots and the police were called.   
- Then I was arrested and cautioned for carrying a knife for self-harming. 
- Finally, I was arrested after 3 members of staff tried to restrain me when I was very agitated. During that episode I kicked and cracked a glass door panel. I was charged with ABH and criminal damage.    





**CARRYING
DRUGS?
WE WILL
CATCH YOU...**

By increasing drug
control in Birmingham,
more CCTV, more
patrols, more
intelligence and
a better environment,
we are catching out all
the drug dealers and
pushers in the city centre.
If you are a dealer,
stop now.



My story continued...



I pleaded guilty to 3 counts of ABH and one count of criminal damage



Before sentencing I was sent to Winson Green Prison



After sentencing I was sent to Milton Park, a specialist hospital for people with autism

When would listening to my voice have made a difference...

In January 2005 it would have made a difference if social workers had asked me and my family about where I wanted to live rather than deciding I should move to a hostel.

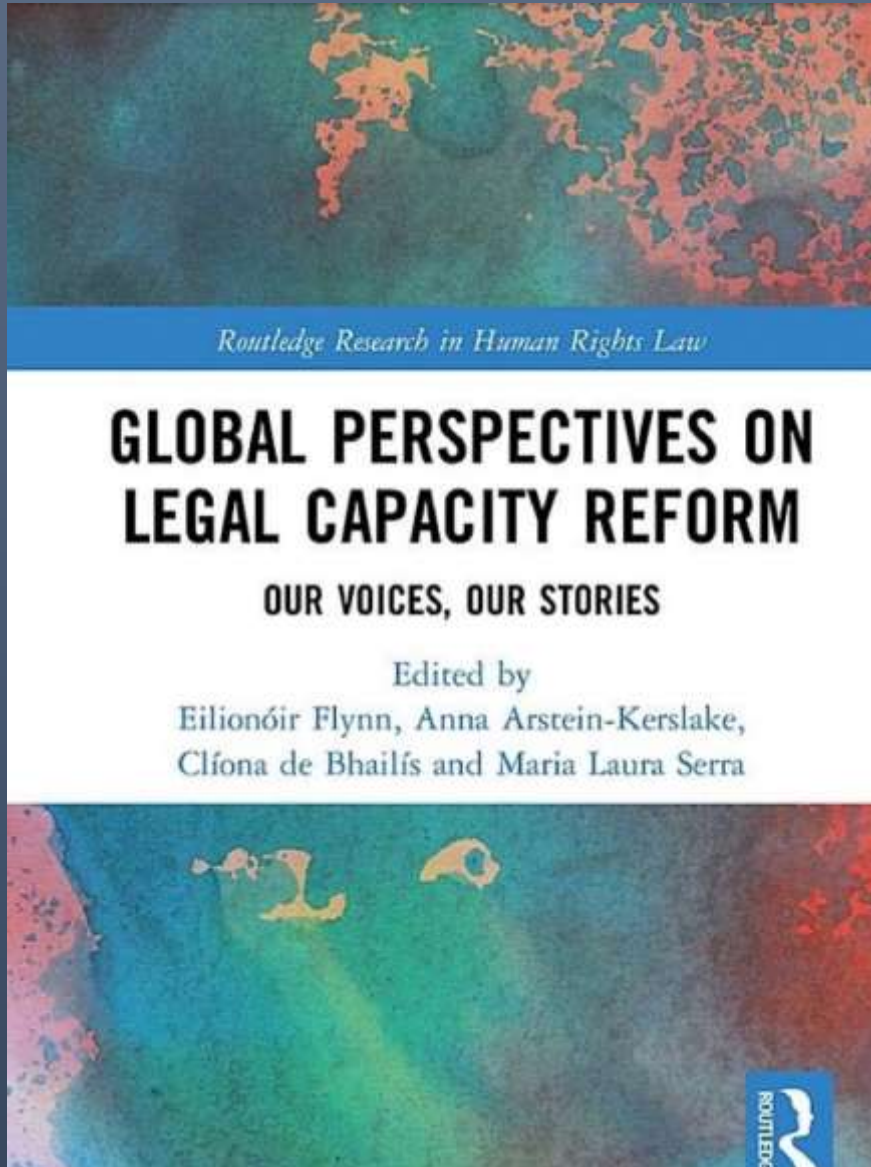
In 2004 when I was prescribed medication it would have made a difference if I had been given information about the medication and asked if I wanted to take and understood the effects of taking it.

In April 2005 it would have made a difference if I had received legal advice at the police station before accepting a caution for carrying an offensive weapon when I was carrying a craft knife.

In May 2005 it would have made a difference if I had felt able to question the advice of the solicitor who told me I had to plead guilty when I appeared at the Magistrate's Court.

When would listening to my voice have made a difference...

- Failure to listen to Nick missed opportunity to identify best way to support him
- Multiple points where a different intervention would have diverted Nick away from CJS:
 - Health and social care services
 - Police officers (arrest)
 - Custody staff (detention)
 - Court
- Significant long term personal and legal consequences could have been prevented if better decisions about Nick's care and how to support him had been made



Thank you for listening



More information:

- <https://ercvoices.com/participants/nick-nell-chloe/>
- <https://autisminjustice.org/Stories/nick's%20story.html>



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