

# YOUTHFUL JUDGEMENTS

## When I went to Court

On the 7th January I went to court for criminal damage, theft; A.B.H., my solicitor was saying to me that I will get three months, and do half of that and I will be out in one and half, but when I went into the court room the judge said I will give you six months and you will be out in three months which was not bad.

I went down to the cells, waited until the sweat box came to pick me up from court to take me to Feltham Y.O.I. centre. When I got there I got put on Osprey - a wing for people when they first come into the prison. Then, after two days, they allocated all the people that came in with me, but I did not get moved because I saw one of my mates who was working on the wing, so he got me a job working with him.

I was on Osprey working one morning when I got a visit. When I got back one of the officers said "pack your stuff you're moving to another prison". When I got to the other prison, which took about twenty mins to get there, the prison looked like a holiday camp. In the van there were five of us. We all started laughing because there was no fence around it. We went into the reception and the officers gave us keys to our own rooms and said we can wear our own clothes. I thought there's something not right here because we have just come from a closed prison to an open prison which was madness.

So for the first week I had a bad temper because I was trying to adapt to this weird place. Every time one of the officers tried to talk to me I would start shouting and swearing at them. After a week I started to get to know the place and getting used to the rules and the general running of the place. I went on education. Every time we had maths or English or something like that I did not like it because I could not do the work they gave me, so I talked with one of the staff from education. She explained why I could not do the work I'm given. In the end I went to classes got help with maths and all the others I could not do and now I look forward to it.

I will be getting moved to another prison because this one is changing to an adult prison. I think I prefer to be here because it's an open prison, but sometimes I prefer to be in a closed prison because then I know I'm in prison because it's twenty four hour lock-up,

but in this place I don't know whether I'm in prison or on holiday because it's all open and there's no fence around.

*Lennie L*

## A lot of Attitude

I was in Reading Remand Centre just after the Reading Riot, it was mostly bang-up apart from meals; the meals weren't anything special. Apart from that we had kit change which we was issued 2 pairs of boxer shorts or pants, 2 pairs of socks, 2 towels and 2 sheets to last us one week. We was allowed 1 shower a week, the rest of the time we had to wash, shave, eat and go to toilet in one cell - 2 people in a cell. I did get the chance to see the wrecked association area before they done it up. Eventually they started getting 2 landings at a time out on exercise, which lasted for one

hour. The screws (officers) had a bad attitude towards the inmates all the time. There was a lot of noise coming from other cells from where inmates were fed up of being locked up. We used to have night screws playing football on the landing, the ball often hit people's cells doors. Eventually they started giving us Association in a small old gym which the adults use to use when they were there. There were one landing at a time in Association. In the Association room there used to be one TV and one table tennis table which was usually full of a queue. Every day at least 3 times a day, a riot alarm would be going off from where inmates were fighting! I can't think of any good points about Reading, apart from its easy to get to. Eventually Reading has been sorted out. Still a lot of attitude!

*A Appleton*



Paul Kidd-Hewitt