

Helping Dylan find his way

He's done nothing wrong, but throughout his life he's been abused, insulted and left feeling worthless.

Thirteen-year-old Dylan and his mum Angela suffered years of physical and mental abuse. Dylan's father, a paranoid schizophrenic, often refused to take his medication, resulting in delusions and psychotic rages that led him to treat his wife and son extremely harshly behind closed doors.

Dylan and Angela were referred to Barnardos after Dylan's father

was finally admitted for prolonged psychiatric treatment and Dylan broke down and told his soccer coach who had inflicted the dreadful bruises on his arms and legs.

Our family support worker, Lisa, quickly recognised that Dylan was both physically and emotionally traumatised. An intelligent boy, his father's abuse had left him feeling worthless. He is now receiving

regular counselling and she is working with both him and Angela to help get him back on track both at home and at school.

It would be all too easy for Dylan's future to be shaped by the abuse he has suffered and lead him, like others, into a future of drug and alcohol abuse or even juvenile crime, but we hope that with our support it is possible to give Dylan the opportunity to put the past behind him.



Beginning to trust again

The bewildered and terrified little girl we first met is slowly gaining strength and rebuilding her trust in adults.

You may remember seven-year-old Yasmin and her mother Daria from our summer appeal. Last year they were forced to flee their family home and the domestic violence inflicted by Yasmin's father.

It's been some months since Yasmin came into Barnardos' care after her mother's suicide attempt. She is still living with our carer Yvonne and her progress is encouraging. She has settled in at school, made friends and is showing promising academic potential. The physical health problems acquired as a result of the neglect she experienced have received appropriate medical care and with the exception of her badly infected teeth, which will require long-term on-going treatment, she is now a strong and healthy young girl.

Yasmin continues to attend sessions with one of our counsellors and becomes emotionally stronger day by day.

