

A day in the life of a front line worker

Young adder it's your birthday,
You're turning one-year-old,
And here is just a snippet
Of the stories to be told!

We started off just eight of us
Council, Streetlife, EPS,
Not forgetting Blackpool football club,
And of course the NHS.

Referrals came in thick and fast,
And soon we had 1 each.
And when we got the go ahead,
To our clients we did reach.

We joined the other agencies,
And worked great as a team,
Some we had some issues with,
And some were just a dream!

So every morning, early doors,
We'd switch our mobiles on,
And wait for all our messages,
We didn't wait too long!

“I really need to see you,
I’ve been locked up in a cell
Can you come and get me,
And my story I will tell!”

“My head is full of evil thoughts,
The voices are so real,
They’re telling me to do things,
I don’t know how I feel”

They’re telling me to end my life,
I can’t go on much more,
They’re telling me to shut you out,
I really need to score!”

So then we’d check our diaries,
“When would be good to meet?”
It was time to move appointments round,
We’d be run right off our feet!

I’ve got to be at housing!
Someone really needs a bed,
We’ve just come back from Streetlife,
They were thankful to be fed!

Just one hour of warmth and food,
Has made life seem so much richer,
We’ve found the strength to carry on,
“Now do you get the picture?”

So Thursday is a special day,
It really is a treat,
It's time for Duke of Edinburgh
We never admit defeat!

We clamber in that mini bus,
With Rob sat at the wheel
We're looking forward to a picnic lunch
It's just a 3 quid Tesco deal!

We're joined here by the Adder Police,
Dave, Mark and all their crew,
We're waiting for the time to come
To capsize their canoe!

We're building their relationships,
They've been fraught within our time,
We're learning that they're on our side,
And to forget the life of crime!

We've helped them with their finances,
Money's gone in such a flash,
The DWP's on speed dial,
To Ash and his stash of cash!

They've supported them with bank accounts,
Provided them ID,
They've even given training schemes,
And attended MDT!

Well then it comes to sexual health,
The subject's quite taboo,
We screen them and we educate,
And provide condoms for them too!

We really need a bit more time,
And we need to push the LARC, we need to bring them up to date,
And get them out the dark!

"I won't get pregnant standing up,
My condoms are too small,
I cannot catch chlamydia
And pubic lice can't crawl!"

So as the hours go speeding by,
And our plans have gone astray,
We feel we haven't accomplished much,
At the end of a busy day!

When we take a look back,
To see how far we've come,
We've only taken baby steps,
And the journey's nowhere done!

It's been hard to find their hidden strength,
And give support and hope,
But sharing just a little time,
May encourage them to cope.

Every day's a constant fight,
With their chaos and their drama.
You can see the battles going on,
Underneath their strengthened armour.

There maybe only 8 of us,
That's just a tiny team,
We've helped young people realise,
That they don't have to dream.

We've walked a path, side by side,
And strengthened them within,
We've given some empowerment,
To show where to begin.

And one day we will all look back,
And think of our Young Adders
We'll see how much their lives have changed,
As they started climbing ladders.

Some may never reach the top
They'll stay close to the bottom,
But the strength they used to take a step,
Will never be forgotten!