



Mat Crozier

**Include Youth
Young Voices Project**

In the JJC:

“It was all right...I was 16, I thought it’d be worse, locked in a room all the time, but it was sweet”

“I was 15, I thought it was all cells

“I thought it’d be all screws. That they’d come and crack you, beat you— but staff are dead on”

“People told me you get beat, get something stuck up your hole if you bend over to get the soap and all.”

“It was sweet, it didn’t bother me – just because I knew people who’d been there and people in there”

In the YOC:

“I thought ‘F! I want to go to Woodlands!’ I’d heard about it, about up here and stories made up about it – like about Prods getting bullied, crap like that, but it wasn’t that bad”***

“I dunno, I didn’t know what it’d be like – I didn’t really have any fears or worries, it was just the point of being here that I didn’t like – but I thought it’d be worse.”

“I was s*ing myself”***

“It becomes normal being here, so it doesn’t work just locking you up.”

“At times I actually enjoy jail, it becomes a way of life, you get your 3 meals a day and all, you get used to it. And your safe from paramilitaries”

“You get used to it, prison becomes like your second home.”

JJC: “Missing my wee brother and my sister”

“You don't have as much family contact and you're only allowed a few [visitors] in at a time.”

“Not being able to go to tech, getting thrown off my course – you're only allowed off so many weeks, so I won't be allowed back.”

“You can't do stuff you want to do, see girls, have a drink, smoke, take drugs.”

“No craic – well you do have craic, but it's not the same as being with your mates on the street. If you don't have a laugh it wrecks your head.”

•YOC:

“It’s melting, locked up most of the day – some of screws are ok, but some are eejits, think they are something.”

“That’s the fing worst – you get locked in for 24 hours, out for dinner just.”***

“You can get locked 23 hours if the staff don't like you”

“Some staff abuse their power in here. You can get made to feel really small by the screws, call you names and all.”

“The worst thing about being in here is not being allowed to smoke”

YOC

“Health care is sh in here – I took a Chlamydia test 2 or 3 weeks ago and they haven’t even got back to me yet...I’m still sitting here worried, not knowing”***

“You can't always get to see a doctor when you need to – you have to request it in the morning and it could be a couple of days before you get to see one.”

JJC:

“There’s a nurse in here, you get to see him whenever you need to”

“You get looked after in here.”

YOC

“I haven’t been down yet, to education – I’ve been in 3 or 4 weeks.”

“I’ve been in 3 ½ months and I haven’t had any education. I’d like to, I can’t read or write.”

JJC

“The teachers here make time for you, give you help when you need it.”

“I wouldn’t have got any GCSEs if it wasn’t for being in Woodlands”

“Young people at 17 need more education, need to be helped ... the school in here’s better than outside.”

YOC:

“Some wind you up so you’ll crack, so they can lock you in your room. They’ll say things to get you, to wind you up, like about your Ma, that they know’ll annoy you.”

“They should use your first name – it’s like talking down to us using our second name... but we have to call them “Sir”, or “Mr Whoever””

It’s about playing ball just – if you keep sweet with them, then they do with you too...but at the same time you can never win, because at the end of the day you’re always going back to your cell and they can take your TV, leave you in there, just to show you who’s boss.”

JJC:

“The staff are good, dead on...they don't be cheeky, they don't push you to try and get you an adverse [report]”

“They don't provoke you – they do that in the children's home, wind you up to get you to crack up”

“Staff work with you more down there [JJC] – here they don't give a f [YOC]”***

“But here [YOC] they're not trained it dealing with children, juveniles.”

YOC:

“See the way they [staff] get on in here sometimes, it makes you...see some people in here, they way they are it might make them throw a rope up.”

“See if you get treated badly, like getting locked in your room all the time, you get angry and it makes you worse”

JJC:

“Here [in Woodlands] you get treated with a bit of respect - so you give respect back.”

“You listen to staff in here ... because they treat you with respect...I reckon everybody in here treats you with respect. You listen to them because they're trying to help you, because if you don't listen you learn nothing. That's what they're here for, to help you.”

“Get treated better here [JJC] ... you get treated with a bit of respect, so you give respect back – up there some think they're better than you.”

“You’d get treated badly if you made a complaint...all the screws would make a wer out of you.”***

“I wouldn’t complain no matter what, they could do anything to me and I wouldn’t complain – you just don’t. Well unless they raped me.”

“You can’t complain, who are you going to complain to – this isn’t like Woodlands, all nice!”

“We’re not touts, we’re not gurney bastards, you just take it on the chin.”

“You get out more in Woodlands than you get out here [YOC] – out of your room and outside”

“The whole jail’s short staffed and that means we get locked in our cells more – if there’s only one [staff] on the landing, they’re not meant to let you out.”

“You should be out for at least an hour everyday, even if you’re locked – but you might not be if staff don’t like you.”

“At Woodlands you can go to the gym everyday, football, swimming everyday – here [YOC] it can be once a week just”

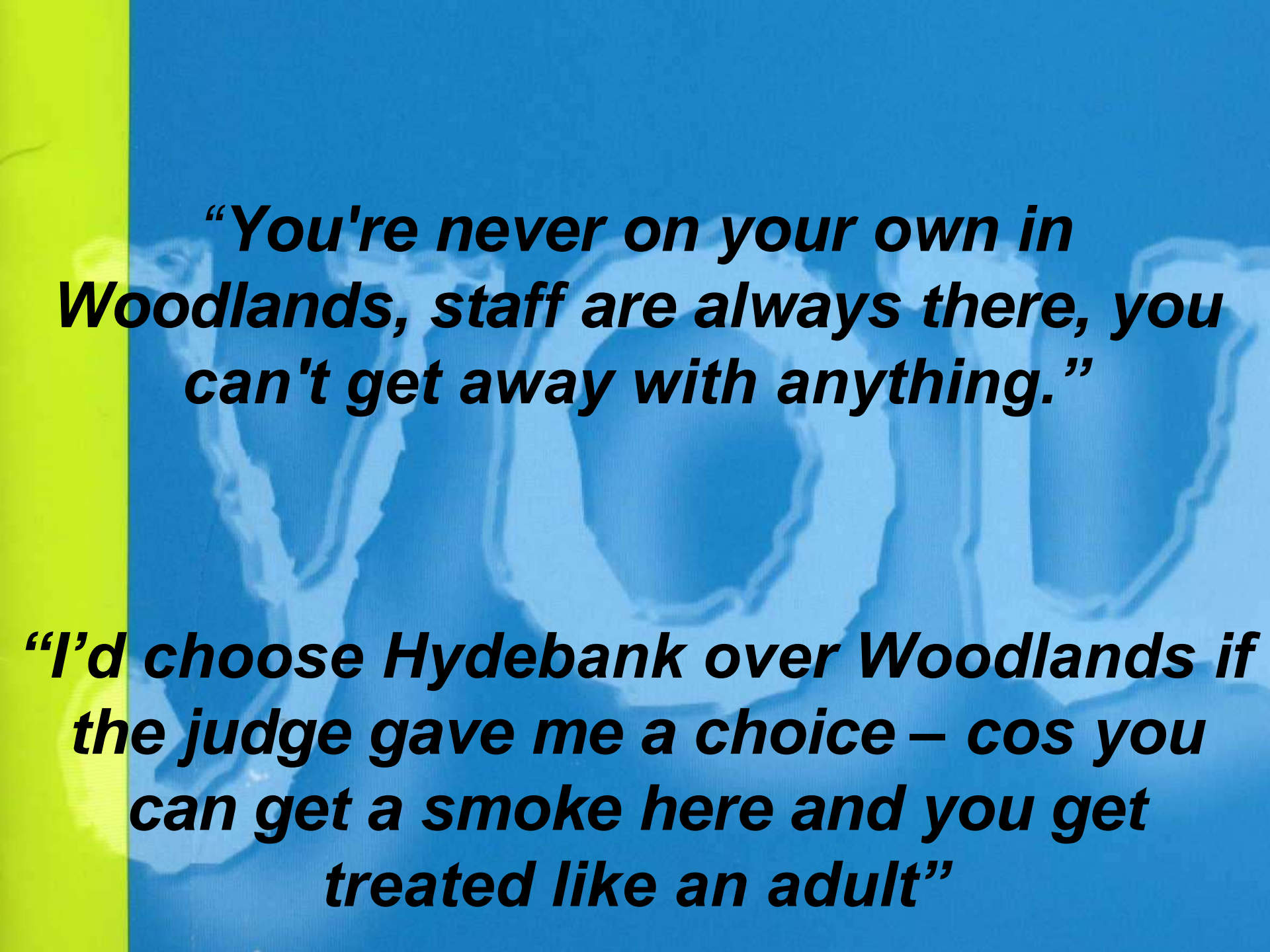
“In the JJC you get to go swimming, you're out longer, out in the living room, watch TV.”

“In Woodlands you get treated like you're just born, a wee child – anything sharp's gone, taken from you – you're not allowed pens and pencils even”

“The staff there [JJC] aren't disrespectful, just... you feel like a wee kid.”

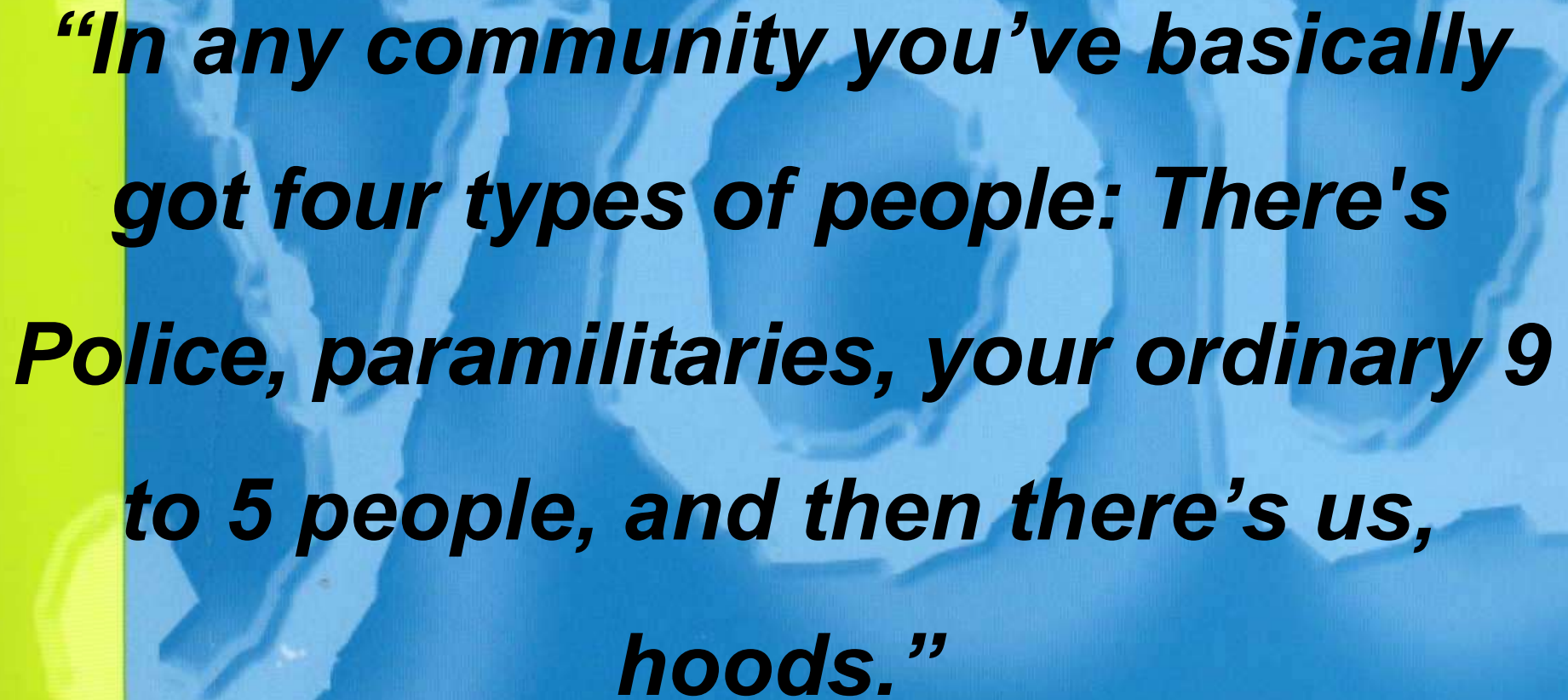
“The main thing I didn't like about Woodlands was being treated like a child.”

“See if you say a bad word in Woodlands, you get an adverse [report]. In Hydebank you don't get given an adverse for swearing or stupid wee things, you don't get treated like a child.”



“You're never on your own in Woodlands, staff are always there, you can't get away with anything.”

“I'd choose Hydebank over Woodlands if the judge gave me a choice – cos you can get a smoke here and you get treated like an adult”



“In any community you’ve basically got four types of people: There's Police, paramilitaries, your ordinary 9 to 5 people, and then there’s us, hoods.”

“Jail just makes you more determined not to get caught and when you get out, ones look up to you, buy you carry outs, girls love you.”

“They think thinking will make a difference, make you see the “error of your ways”, but you’ve got a long long time to think and you think about what you're going to do when you get out.”

“In here [YOC] it makes you worse...angrier, more likely to do crime when you get out – it does your head in here, makes you feel more against the police, more against the system.”

“Why not work one on one, or two on one to try and rehabilitate them – find out why they committed the crime. In prison they should try to figure out why you did it, but they just lock you up and hope you’ll think about your actions.”

“They spend £37 grand a year keeping one person in jail, but they could spend 15 grand a year getting someone a job and it would work better, it would stop them doing anymore [crime]. They could try to get you more qualifications, offer more things for you to do, other classes.”



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