

SAFE PLACES

We found that these things could prevent the journey or make it safer. The points at which they could help are shown on the map.

- A** Having the right people around you, either socially or within services.
- B** Being able to access family support or mediation.
- C** Knowing about services that can help.
- D** Having good life skills and awareness of risk.
- E** Having help from services to find somewhere else to live and to form new support networks and goals.

WE RECOMMEND:

01. A national programme of youth work should be developed and funded to provide safe spaces for all young people, but especially those who are disengaged from school and statutory services.
02. The role of pastoral workers and PSHE classes in school should be valued and protected.
03. Information about runaway services should be displayed in public transport hubs and shopping centres, alongside phone charging points so that young people can ring helplines and other people who may help them.
04. Local authorities should make sure that young people get a chance to talk to an independent person about why they ran away. Young people (and parents, if appropriate) should be offered follow up support that meets their needs.
05. Commissioners should ensure that services are funded for long enough to enable young people to develop positive relationships with workers, and that young people have a say in shaping services.
06. Services that support young people who are 16 or older and homeless should try to include arts and sports activities, alongside job search, or link up with others who can, to strengthen social networks.



"Then I got charged with burglary at 16 and she got really mad, said I was a bad example to my little brother. So I got kicked out for good."



"My Dad died when I was 7 and I got kicked out of school at 14 so I got into smoking weed. Mum would go off on one whenever the police came round. She's been kicking me out since I was 15."



"I started chilling with mates, sitting up all night. But then it got a bit tricky, their girlfriends weren't happy and mates got touchy about it."



"So I'd walk round for half the night and then get my head down in a park or something. It was pretty cold and I didn't sleep much."



"Weed took the edge off, made things seem better. But then your money's gone and your problems are back."



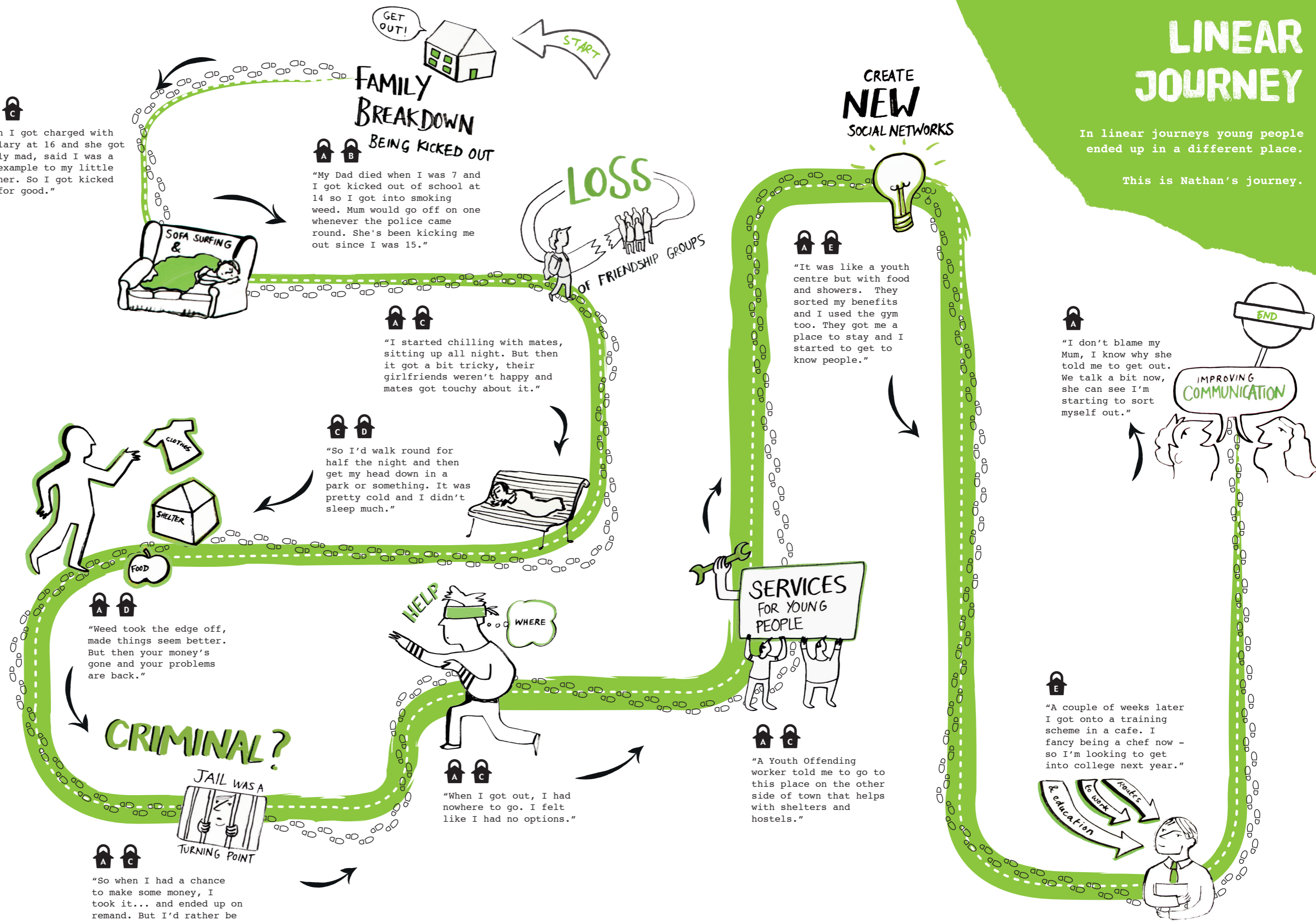
"So when I had a chance to make some money, I took it... and ended up on remand. But I'd rather be in prison than homeless."



"A Youth Offending worker told me to go to this place on the other side of town that helps with shelters and hostels."



"A couple of weeks later I got onto a training scheme in a cafe. I fancy being a chef now - so I'm looking to get into college next year."



LINEAR JOURNEY

In linear journeys young people ended up in a different place.

This is Nathan's journey.