Wes Cunliffe transcript

**Wes 0:04**

I realised three males were following me. I was like, yeah, they're coming for me. They put their hoods up and masks on. As I went to pull for my weapon, they already had weapons out on them.

The minute you pick up that knife and you put it in your pocket, you either end up using it or one gets used on you. Either way, it doesn't end well.

…

**Alex 0:37**

What was your life like before the stabbing?

**Wes 0:41**

Mum had issues with alcohol, with substances. So it ended up being me and my two younger brothers. And it got to the point where I had to do things which ended up bringing money in, because obviously money was spent on other things. So yeah, I was involved in drugs. I was involved in dealing. And don't get me wrong, the money I was getting was okay, because I was able to buy food. I was buying my brothers clothes and taking them to school.

**Alex 1:09**

Did you carry a knife yourself?

**Wes 1:11**

At first, no. It was only at the point where you see these older males from different areas, carrying weapons, carrying guns, carrying knives. At that point I was like, okay, I need to now carry more weapons because I'm very vulnerable.

**Alex 1:26**

Can you walk us through the day that you were stabbed?

**Wes 1:30**

I had my package. And I took it to an out of area. And as I was making my way back with another package, I realised three males were following me. I got on the train coming back and I could just see three boys completely staring at me. They put their masks on.

That's why I jumped off the next train and the three boys jumped off and followed me. I ran and they chased me. As I got cornered, I went to pull for my weapon. They already had weapons out on them. So I just got my bag, I put it in front of me and I tried to defend myself.

Then all of a sudden, I remember blue lights turned up, police turned up. A couple of the boys ran off - I know two of them got arrested and I'm not sure what happened to the third one. I was breathing heavy, I was very disorientated. And the police officer said, 'You alright, mate? You alright?' I looked, and I just felt a hot, then a cold, then like a tingling down my left arm. As I looked, clearly I've been stabbed. All my left arm was red and it was dripping. A big pool of blood was on the floor and literally just dripping out of my fingers and out my side. And I just remember I was fading, I was wobbling like this. All I remember was a police officer got this thing and radioed in for assistance. And I just remember waking up then a couple of days later in the Cardiff hospital

I woke up and my grandparents were there. I could just see the fear in my grandmother's eyes. And my grandfather could see it as well. And that upset me a little bit because... the last people you want to hurt really is your grandparents.

My grandfather said to me, 'Watching the doctors perform, to try and save your life, my grandson... That knock on effect that it has on the family really made me... it made me really sad.

I couldn't make sense of none of it. The doctor said to me, 'Look, the reason you're alive is because there was a bystander in a home watching this happen and called the emergency services.' That was the reason I was alive - because the call was made in time.

I was in hospital five days. There were some concerns about maybe some of the organs might have been damaged. I had to have crutches because I couldn't hardly walk. I just sat at home - just sat there loathing, feeling sorry for myself. I felt guilt, shame. I was very embarrassed. I was also still scared, thinking that these people who did attack me might come again. I went to more of a darker place at that point, because now, at this point, I'd been injured - I can't do my sports, no-one's gonna employ me. So all that turmoil was going on inside of me.

**Alex 4:27**

Your younger self in that position, knife in pocket, backpack on, comes to you now. What would you say?

**Wes 4:33**

I say to these young people, do you know the impact that this could have on other people in your life? Not just on you, but the people surrounding you as well? The impact of that - I said what affect it had on my grandparents, the effect on my brother, even on me to this day. I take off my top and those scars remind me of what of what I did and what could have happened.

With young people today, I will say the same thing. Do you know where you're going if you do this? Because the minute you pick up that knife and you put it in your pocket, you either end up using it or one gets used on you. Either way, it doesn't end well.