Video script

Jobless young people think they have nothing to live for

It is an issue that Blackburn shares with towns and cities across Britain but it's a problem that lies hidden because the young people it affects are trapped at home and in silence.

Chris' downward spiral began when he was excluded from school at fourteen, he never went back, for eight years there was nothing in his life but lie in bed, drink and depression.

Chris: “I just got into a routine basically, staying in bed until about 3 o’clock, sleeping the day away, I’d say I were depressed then and then I got out every night to just drink because I just got into a vicious circle and couldn’t get out of it.

Long-time youth unemployment in this part of Britain has almost trebled since the start of the recession, research by the Prince’s Trust Charity suggests that for one in ten, unemployment leads to mental health problems.

A door opened for Chris when he became a volunteer to charity for young homeless people in Blackburn.

He works part-time in a home for troubled teenagers and studies in his spare time.

Chris speaking: I love it, I’m helping them you know, because they’re in a similar situation I was myself and it’s the best thing I have ever done.

Chris knows he’s one of the lucky ones, he’s found a way out can look forward to the future but there are plenty of others who need help.

What is becoming clear is that the young people suffering from mental health problems are also the ones the least likely to ask for help, that’s why in a town like Blackburn no one can be quite sure just how many young people are suffering in silence everyday.

Note pour l’examinateur: Pour la première phrase on entend “Burn shares with towns and cities across Britain”, la première phrase a donc dû être coupée, le sens est donc “It’s an issue that Blackburn shares with towns and cities across Britain”