

A mother's pain

Gill was desperate to stop her son using cannabis. She came to Drugline for help, but our counsellor soon realised there was little he could do for her son until he sought help for himself. So the counsellor concentrated on helping Gill, who, like so many other relatives and friends, needed support just as desperately to cope with her son's drug abuse.

The counsellor explored ways to help her control her feelings and anxieties. Her pain was always raw and at times she was in total turmoil. Week after week she would return home from a hard day's work to be confronted by chaos and a house full of youths smoking dope.

Her son was oblivious to her feelings and suffering. He claimed she didn't understand him and just wanted her to get out of his life.

Gill's counsellor could feel her anguish, it was so deep. She felt she was losing her son. He could dull his senses with cannabis but whenever he did, his mother could take nothing to relieve her pain.

Family and friends urged her to throw him out but somehow she found an inner strength not to resort to tough love and resolved to cope and stick by him.

Throughout her counselling sessions Gill's son never stopped using cannabis but somehow she found ways of improving their relationship and making their lives together easier. Drugline helped her look beyond her son's faults and dependency and reach out to his better side.

Names have been changed to protect identities.