

What to watch



Britain's Child Drug Runners

CHANNEL 4, 10.00PM

◆ We've all seen the headlines about county lines and the way in which vulnerable youngsters are groomed into the drugs trade, but Rebecca Coxon's hard-hitting and distressing report for *Dispatches* brings home the bleak reality of the lives of these children.

From a 15-year-old girl picked up in a trap house to a devastated mother explaining how her 16-year-old son became sucked into the life at 13, *Britain's Child Drug Runners* paints a dark picture of a world where children are easy prey and it's one small step from smoking a joint to ferrying drugs on well-worn town to country routes. "I didn't think I was being groomed - I thought I was selling a bit of weed and getting some money and clothes," says 15-year-old Daniel, who has worked county lines since he was 11.

Yet the film makes clear that it's not just those who have slipped through the cracks who are at risk - the trade affects everyone from the well-to-do to the too-often-ignored. There is some hope among the



New start: Jaiden has managed to escape and rebuild his life

horror as we hear from those such as 16-year-old Jaiden who have managed to rebuild their lives, but

the overall tone remains sombre. This is an important if harrowing watch. *Sarah Hughes*

