



In an ordinary house, on an ordinary street, lived two boys. But when their mum met a new partner, she started going out from morning until night. So the boys were left on their own for hours.

The boys were hungry and cold but they didn't know who to ask for help. Luckily their neighbour, Delia, was there to take food around and put money on the gas and electricity meters to keep them warm.



A few days later when Delia went to check on them she was shocked by what she saw in their house. It was disgusting. The boys slept on mattresses with no covers.

The house was bitterly cold again, there was no heating and even the dog had more to eat than them.



One evening a few days later the boys heard a knock at the door. It was Delia. She had seen their mum go out that morning.

She saw the boys had been crying.

"Where is she?" they asked. "Why doesn't she love us?"



Delia knew she had to ask for help for the boys. They weren't being looked after and she had to do something.

She decided to call the NSPCC. She spoke to a trained counsellor who was able to give her expert advice.

Delia felt a huge relief when she phoned. She knew she'd done the right thing for the boys.



After Delia had called the NSPCC, things moved quickly. The police and Children's Services helped – the boys stayed with their grandmother until another safe place was found.

The boys no longer had to suffer in silence.

"I saw one of the boys the other day. He was totally different: clean, happy and well-fed. He walked up to me and gave me a big hug and said: 'I'm happy now. My brother is happy now.'

They're building their relationship with their mum again which is good. I'm hoping maybe one day they could be back together.

For the time being they're happy and safe and that's the main thing. Calling was the best thing I ever did."

Delia