



The Greens are looking for a home

Heartbreak hotel

A programme following homeless families makes for powerful viewing

Part of BBC's No Home season, *Evicted* is being screened 40 years to the month after Ken Loach's ground-breaking and hard-hitting *Cathy Come Home* was first broadcast.

'I wanted to look at how much has changed for homeless families since *Cathy Come Home*,' explains BAFTA award-winning director Brian Woods. 'And remarkably little has.'

Starting in January this year, the film crew followed the Green, Walker and Marriott families as they underwent the draining process of moving from one temporary home (in most cases, a B&B) to another.

Through the eyes of the children, we see their heart-rending struggle to deal with adult anxieties about where they will end up.

At the beginning of the film, Charlotte Walker tries hard to be the responsible older sister. By the end of the film she is

being bullied and becoming resentful.

Brian admits that, at times, it was hard for the crew not to intervene, especially when Charlotte, 13, and her family were shivering at a bus stop at 6pm on a Friday with nowhere to go.

'We were just about to say, "We'll pay for a B&B"', when a friend of theirs turned up with some money,' says Brian.

Throughout filming it was another youngster, 15-year-old Sarah Marriott, who caused Brian the most concern.

By the end of *Evicted*, the teenager had spent seven months in temporary accommodation. Her B&B had no cooker, and Brian was stunned when Sarah revealed how she 'cooks' a can of sausages and beans on the radiator all day, to heat up by teatime.

To add to her problems, Sarah had to leave school after being put in a B&B 20 miles away. Brian believes this could have catastrophic consequences.

'Sarah's a bright girl who would do well,' he says, angrily. 'But she's been stuffed by the system.'

Martina Fowler

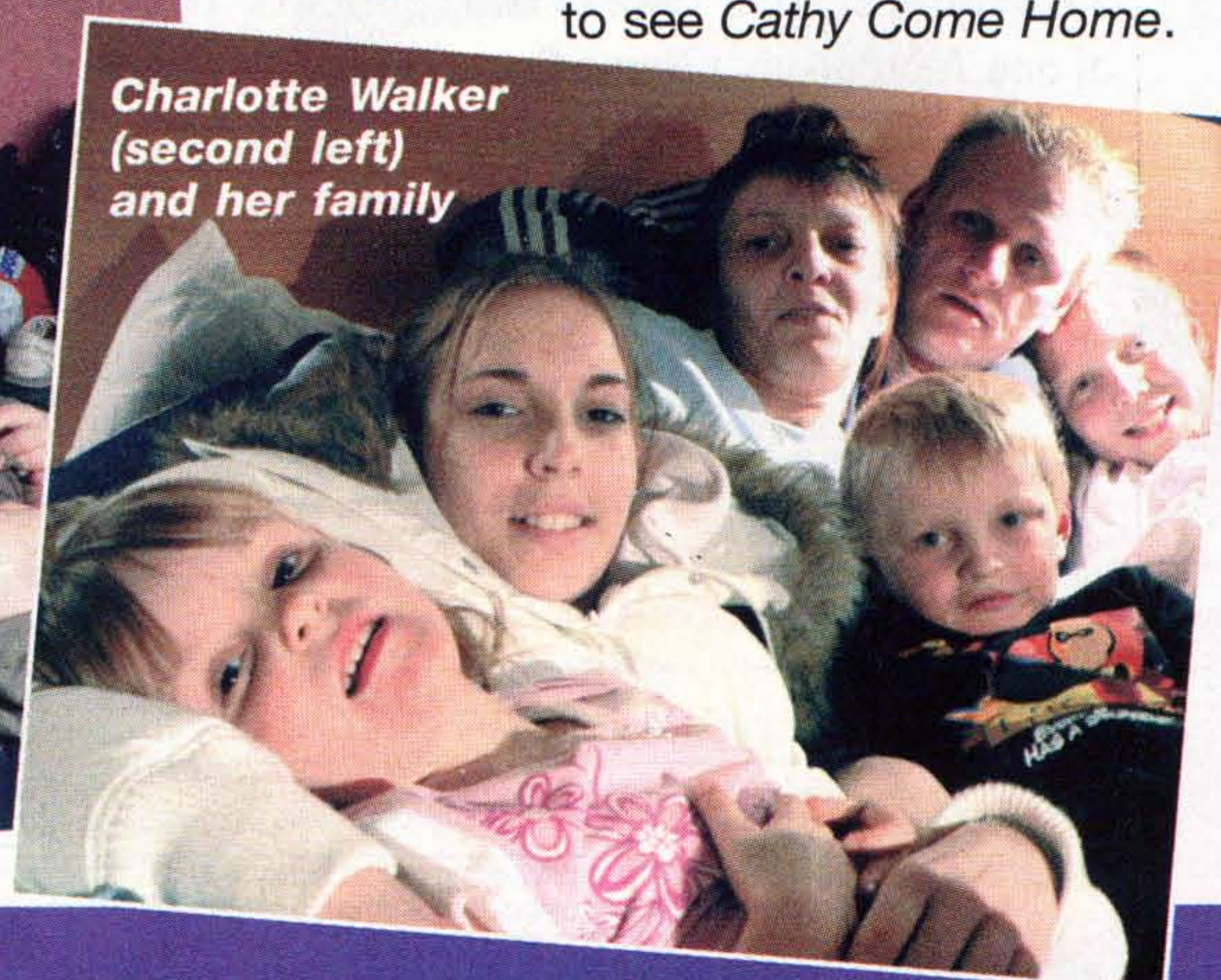
● Other programmes in the season include a *Skint* special, *Lifeline* and *Moving On*. There's also another chance to see *Cathy Come Home*.



Sarah Marriott cuddles her brother Daniel

DOCUMENTARY

Evicted
BBC1 Wednesday



Charlotte Walker (second left) and her family