

*"It started at home":*  
Prevention of Youth Homelessness,  
An Exploration of Mediation in  
Networks of Care and Place  
Attachment

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COUNCIL

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# Starting at home: conflict and housing insecurity

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How do young people become at 'risk of homelessness'?

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How are we responding to this issue?

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Does mediation work? What do we know about mediation?

# Aims and objectives

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The project aims to critically examine mediation as an approach to youth homelessness prevention. Specifically to:

1. Empower young people to voice their experiences of mediation and conciliation services as a mechanism to prevent homelessness.
2. Explore the role of networks and familial ties in mediation and conciliation responses to youth homelessness.
3. Investigate conceptualisations of home and feelings of ontological security in young people's journeys through mediation and conciliation services.
4. Consider the implications of young people's experiences of mediation and conciliation services for the prevailing conceptualisations of homelessness prevention.
5. Identify implications for mediation and conciliation services and homelessness prevention policy more widely.

# Research Design and Methodology

## Young People

- Experience of mediation and 'at risk of homelessness'
- 16-25 year olds
- Biographical participatory interviews
- Network mapping activity
- Accessed through range of statutory and non-statutory organisations

## Mediation Workers

- Semi-structured interviews
- Across the sector through Local Authority Housing teams, Social Services, Third Sector support delivery organisations, Youth homeless organisations
- Mediation in a range of formats including workshops, one to one sessions and longer-term drop-in sessions

## Key Informants

- Semi-structured interviews
- Based in policy and practice
- Wider impact of prevention services

# Key Themes

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## Networks

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## Conflict and Power

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## Care

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# Sadie\*, 19 years old

Experience of mental and physical abuse within the home

Mediation aim to repair relationship with father

Process of self-acceptance

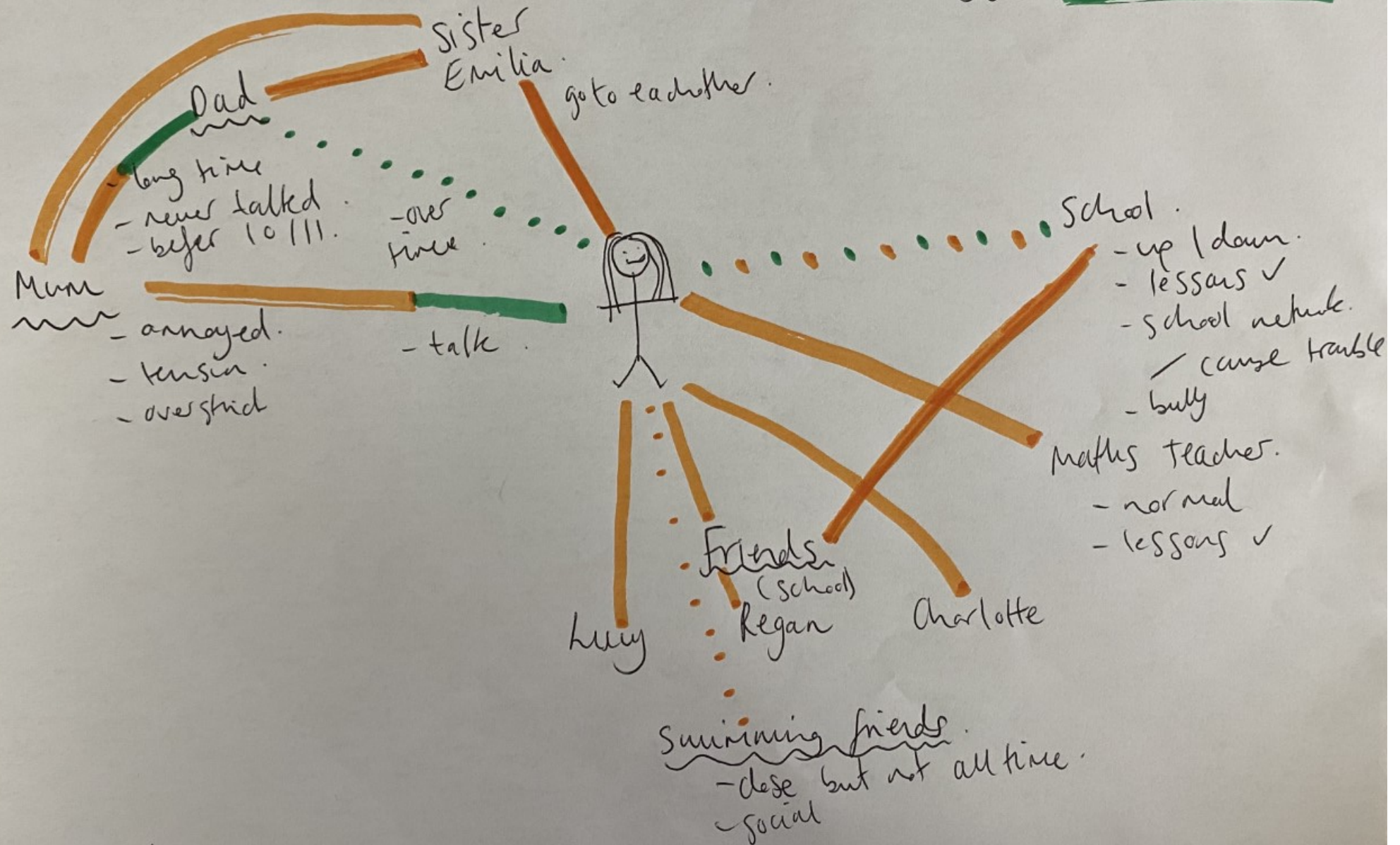
Child protective services

Social Service intervention

# Before Mediation

Good

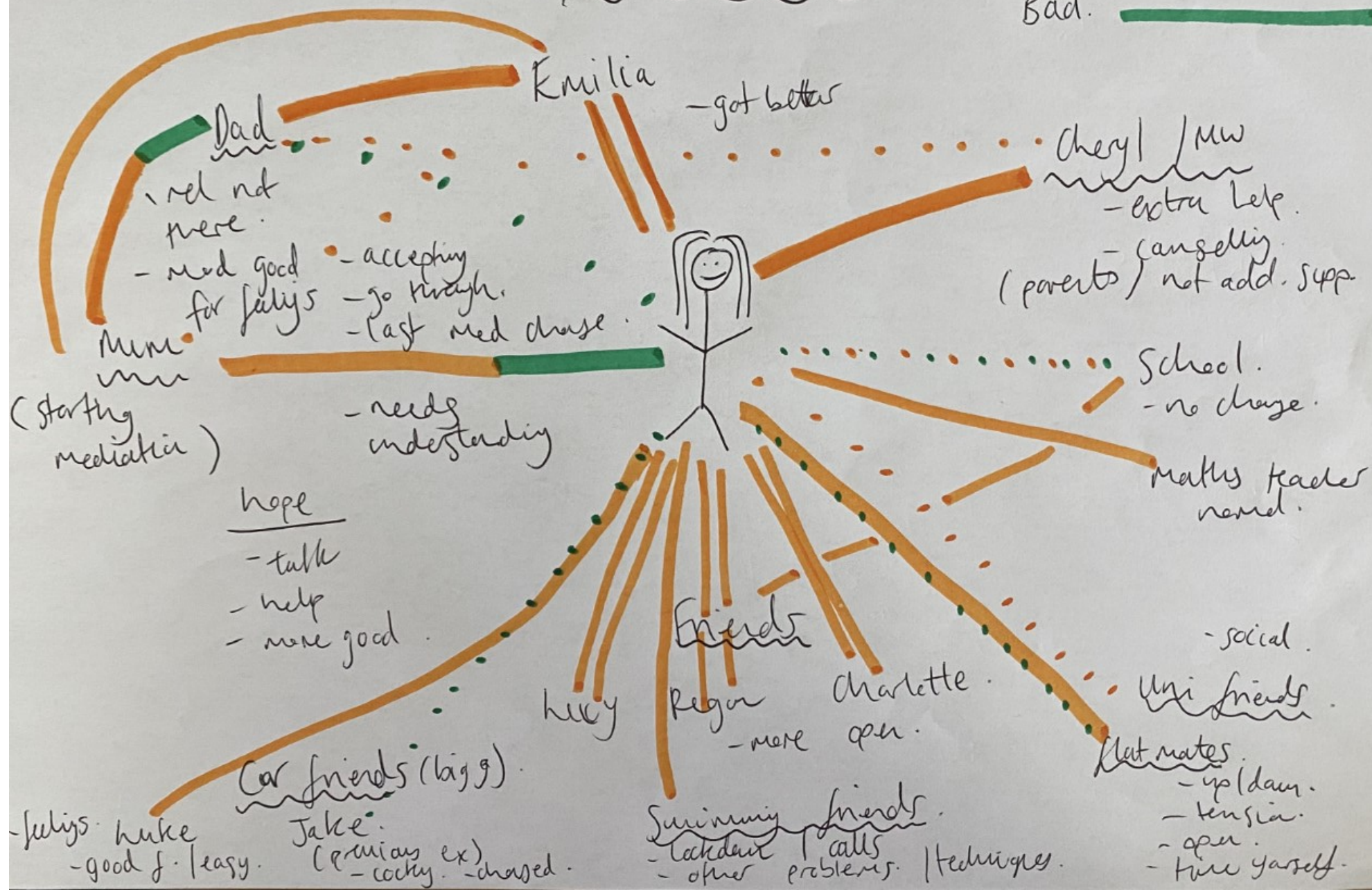
Bad.





# After Mediation

Good  
Bad.





# Reggie\*, 17 years old

Mental health issues

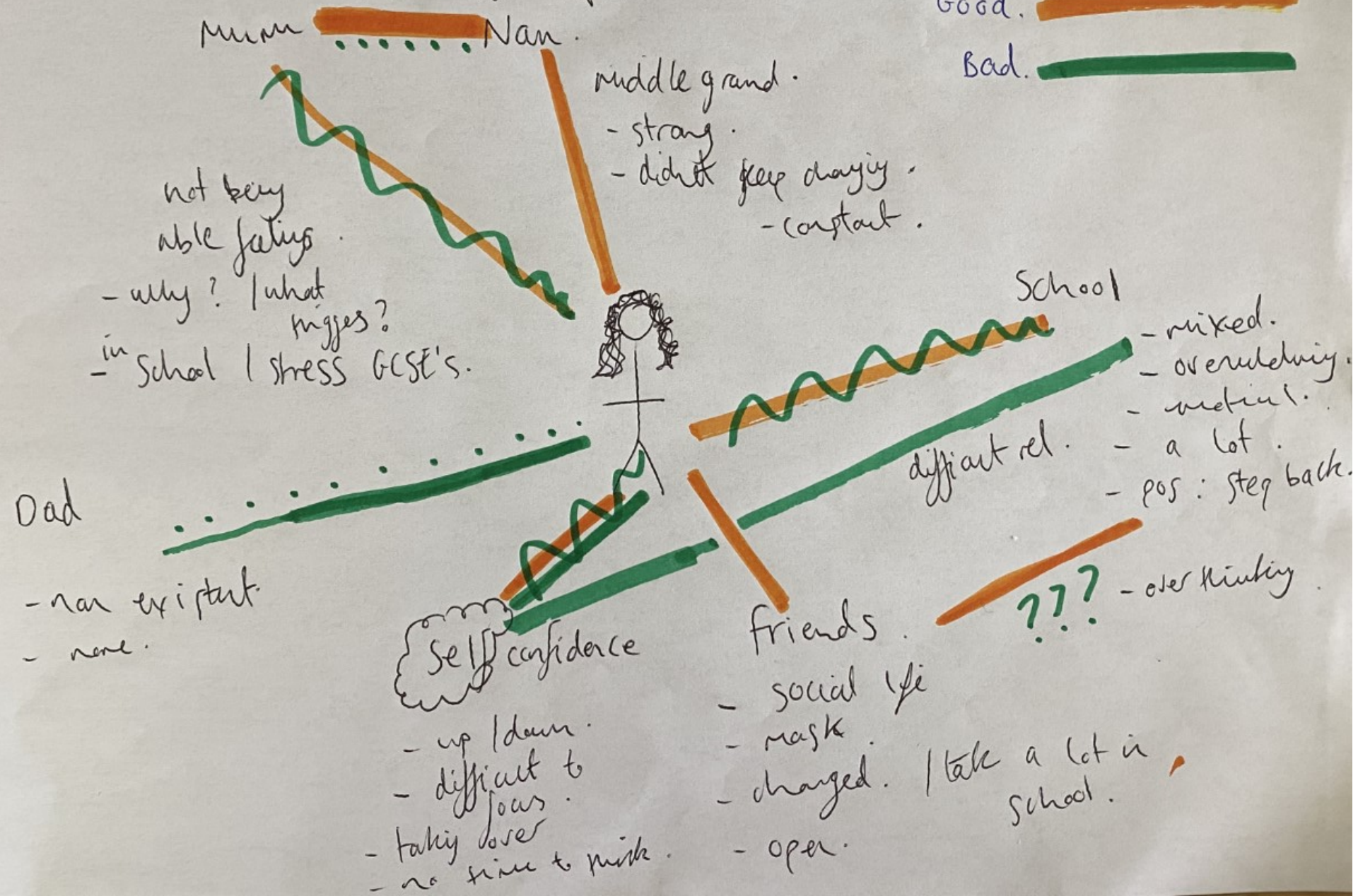
Process of improving support network

Accessed through and referred by  
General Practitioner

Mediation with one parent to improve non-  
existent relationship

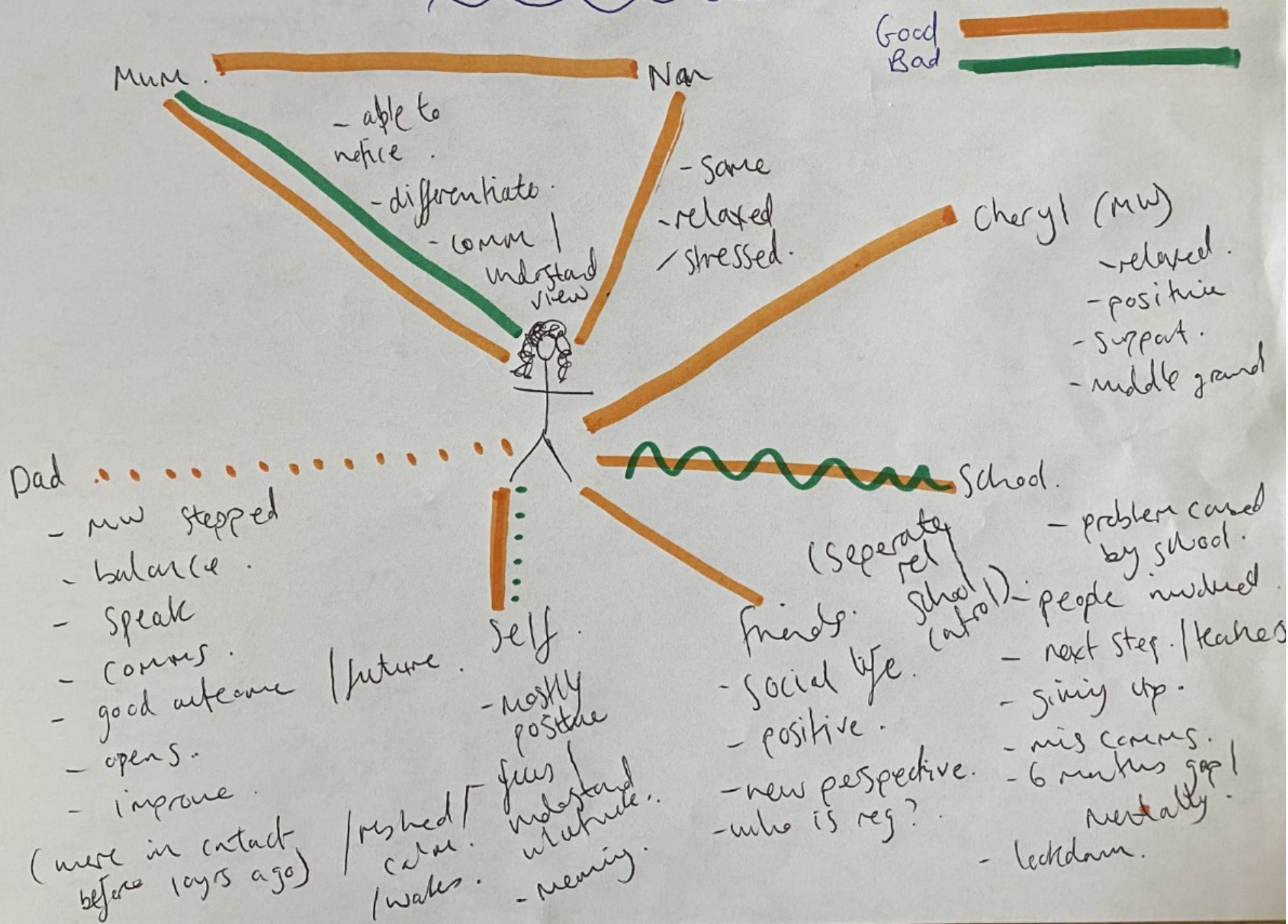
# Before mediation

Good.   
 Bad. 





Good  
Bad



# Summary and Next steps...

- Network activity promising
- Understanding of the impact of mediation for the longer term
- In the midst of fieldwork
- Aiming for: 30 young people and 15 mediation workers
- Group of key informants across the sector
- Impact of the research
- Current interest in the research across academia, third sector and government



Diolch yn  
fawr iawn!

Questions....

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