

“It started at home”: Prevention of Youth Homelessness, an exploration of Mediation in Networks of Care and Place Attachment

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Aim: Critically examine mediation as an approach to youth homelessness prevention.

Specific Aims:

- Empower young people to voice their experiences of mediation and conciliation services as a mechanism to prevent homelessness.
- Explore the role of networks and familial ties in mediation and conciliation (M&C) responses to youth homelessness.
- Investigate participant ideas of home and feelings of ontological security.
- Consider implications of participant’s experiences of M&C services for the prevailing conceptualisations of homelessness prevention.
- Identify implications for M&C 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 across Wales
- Biographical participatory interviews and **network mapping**
- Accessed through range of statutory and non-statutory organisations

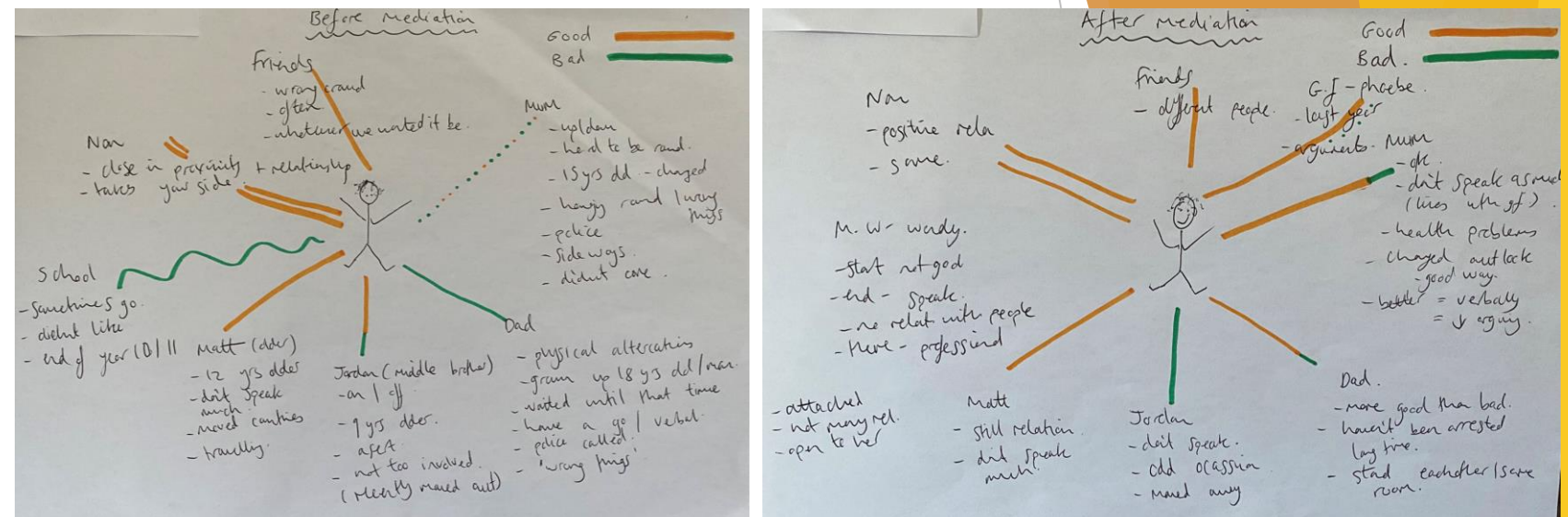
Mediation Workers

- Semi-structured interviews
- Wales-based Local Authority Housing teams, Social Services, Third Sector support delivery organisations, Youth homeless organisations
- Mediation formats: workshops, one to one sessions and longer-term drop-in sessions

Peer Researchers (*pictured right*)

- Previously trained by researcher and Shelter Cymru
- Involved in initial conception, analysis and write-up

Case Study: Network mapping activity



- Producing sociograms (example above).
- Network interaction between the young person and network actors including family members, school and professional support services.
- ‘Before’ sociogram: network interaction including strengths/weakness of ties prior to mediation support. Young people reflected on childhood conflict in the home and subsequent family breakdown.
- ‘After’ sociogram: refers to each network representation post mediation support, demonstrating the impact of the network as a whole and on individual actors.

Next Steps

Coding, network analysis, reflection on role of family mediation longer term and consultation with peer researchers.

Key Themes:

Conflict and Power

Networks

Care



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