"It started at home":

A critical examination of family mediation as an intervention to prevent youth homelessness.

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Starting at home: conflict and housing insecurity

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

How are we responding to this issue?

Does mediation work? What do we know about mediation?

Aims and objectives

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

#youthvoice #homelessnessprevention #FEANSTA24

Key Themes

Conflict

Care

Home

Networks

Sadie*, 16 years old

Experience of trauma and family deaths

Mediation aim to repair relationship with Grandmother

Process of self-acceptance after being a 'looked after child'

Moved to supported accommodation

Multi Agency support network involved

*Name changed

Before mediation

Bad.
Good.

"Picked"
Argued
to save relationship
moved.
Nan - didn't leave my
room

PRU - Didn't go.

Harry

Good
relationship

Don't
know
him

Dad

Sadie

Bestfriend

Didn't get
on.

Kiss ✓

Lived with
her for a
bit.

Sister

Mum - Ability
to cope
wasn't good.

Distant

Not so much
~~Has~~ control

After mediation
~~wwwwww~~

Bad.

Food

Not seeing
eachother
can cause
arguments.

Nan

New ways
of speaking.

DRU - left school.

Harry.

Very controlling
and abusive.

Sadie

Dad

Liss

Mum

Taeya

Bestfreinds

Lyn
(MW)

"pushing" me to do mediation.

Reggie*, 18 years old

Mental health issues

Process of improving support network after being released 'on bail'

Accessed through wellbeing service

Mediation with both parents

Before mediation

Good ▬ (orange)
Bad ▬ (green)

Friends
- wrong crowd
- often
- whatever we wanted it be

Nan
- close in proximity + relationship
- takes your side

School
- sometimes go
- didn't like
- end of year 10/11

Mum
- up/down
- had to be round
- 15 yrs old - changed
- hanging round / wrong things
- police
- sideways
- didn't care

Dad
- physical altercations
- grown up 18 yrs old / man
- waited until that time
- have a go / verbal
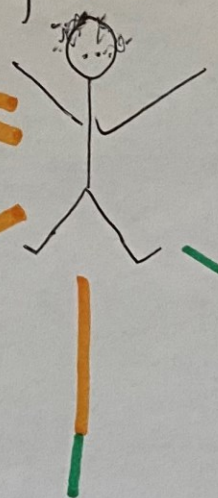- police called
- 'wrong things'

Matt (older)
- 12 yrs older
- don't speak much
- moved counties
- travelling

Jordan (middle brother)
- on / off
- 9 yrs older
- apart
- not too involved
(recently moved out)

After mediation

Good ————— (orange)
Bad. ————— (green)

friends
- different people.

G.f - phoebe.
- last year
- arguments - Mum
  - ok.
  - don't speak as much
    (lives with g.f).
  - health problems
  - changed outlook
    - good way.
  - better = verbally
    = ↓ arguing.

Nan
- positive rela
- same.

M.W - wendy.
- start not good
- End - speak.
- no relat with people
- More - professional

- attached
- not many rel.
- open to her

Matt
- still relation.
- don't speak
  much.

Jordan
- don't speak.
- odd ocassion.
- moved away

Dad.
- more good than bad.
- haven't been arrested
  long time.
- stand eachother / save
  room.

'Unmaking' to re-making home...

- Baxter and Brickell's (2014) home unmaking conceptualisation
- Type of home being unmade using Gurney's (1990) influential work on harmful home and tole of ACE
- Home unmaking is continuous, it is not a singular evemt
- Home unmaking and making are not mutually exclusive. Necessary to unmake home to remake
- Role of grief poses a barrier to home making
- Reconcile these feelings of loss, grief and hurt to move forward through the home making journey

Home

Summary and Next steps...

- Final stages of thesis
- Three empirical chapters focusing on networks, care and home
- Current interest in the research across academia, third sector and government

Diolch yn fawr iawn!

Questions....

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